



Perkins Pond Protective Association

The Perkins Ponder

Spring 2010

2010 Spring Meeting

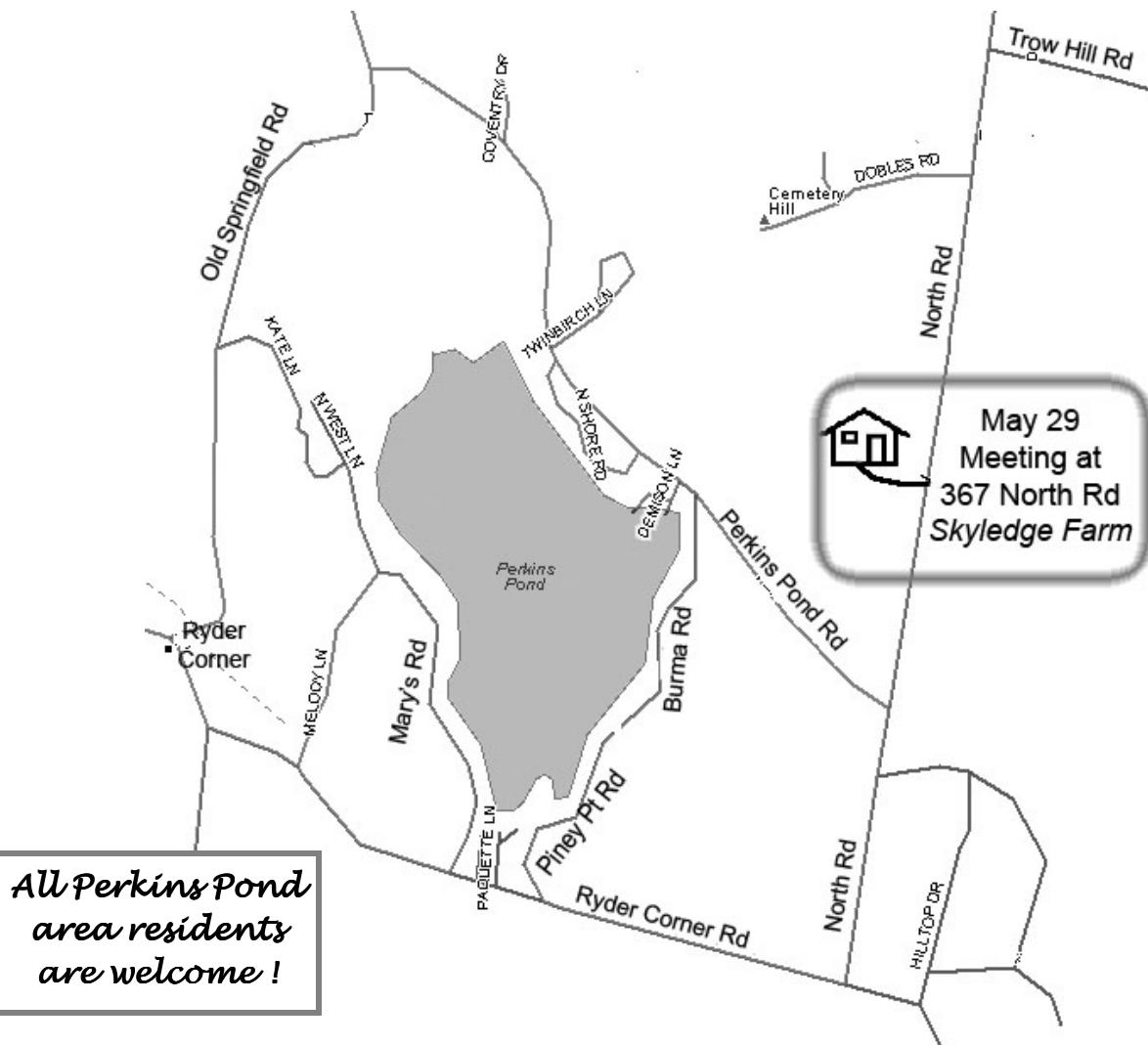
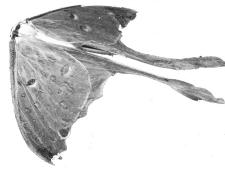
Sat. May 29

10 a.m.

**367 North Road
John and Christie Brooks**

603-763-8722

Please park in the arena.





Water Carnival Host Needed This Summer

Why are there no pictures of the water carnival in this issue? For the first time in ten years, the carnival did not take place last summer because no one volunteered to host the event.

It's This Easy:

Everything is already on file for that person willing to host the party. The shopping lists already exist. Phone numbers are there for where to get the tent and porta-potty, how many hamburgers to order, the people to deliver certain items, etc. Even the list of volunteer jobs is already made. Many people are willing to help. What's needed is one responsible person to make it happen, and a waterfront yard to gather in. The usual schedule is a boat parade in the morning, followed by a pot-luck lunch, and an afternoon of fun, games, and water adventures.

DID YOU KNOW?

The water carnival pays for itself and often makes a profit due to donations and raffles.

NH Boating Certificates



To operate a boat with over 25 hp in New Hampshire, the pilot is required to have a "Safe Boater Education Certificate." Those under age 16 may operate a boat with over 25 hp only when accompanied by an adult with a certificate. NH Marine Patrol has been enforcing these regulations vigorously. The certificate is awarded for completion of the Safe Boating course. More information and course schedules are at

[http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/ss/
boating/index.html](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/ss/boating/index.html)
or phone 888 254-2125.

Perkins Pond Memorabilia



Orders or Questions:
Paula McDonough
617-909-5735

Please Support the Perkins Pond Protective Association

The Association has been meeting for over half a century for the purpose of protecting the Pond. It conducts activities and seeks to influence and educate for pond protection. It holds two meetings a year open to all who care about Perkins Pond, and has sponsored events such as the Water Carnivals.

The shared nature of the pond causes many of the same forces to affect all of us, and the activities of each of us affects many. If you live, vacation, or own property on Perkins Pond, then protection of the pond means protecting the value and enjoyment of your property. Please support the Perkins Pond Protective Association with your dues and participation.

Please Support this Newsletter

The *Perkins Ponder* is published by the Perkins Pond Protective Association. It reports on the meetings and activities of the Association. It provides news and education about many events and issues affecting the Perkins Pond community, and encourages everyone to help protect the pond. Additionally, it aims to entertain and to showcase interesting Perkins Pond lore.

If you find the information in this newsletter valuable, interesting, or entertaining, then please join and support the Association. The newsletter is distributed to all the Perkins Pond homeowners, but less than half the households support it by paying annual dues.



2010 PPPA Dues \$25 per family

Bring to Spring Meeting or
Send in Enclosed Envelope

PPPA Treasurer
Holly Leonard,
26 Mary's Road
Sunapee, NH 03782

What does the Perkins Pond Protective Association Do?



- **Water Quality** is key to protecting the pond. Most PPPA projects support this goal. The Perkins Pond Protective Association tests, monitors, and documents water quality on a regular basis and for special studies.
- **The Sewer Project** aims to bring town sewers to Perkins Pond. The PPPA assisted the state with a survey of septic systems and a Diagnostic Study, developed and distributed educational materials, and confers regularly with town officials about this goal.
- **Alien Weeds** can destroy a body of water. The PPPA conducts a program to monitor the weeds in Perkins Pond and educate on ways to keep alien species out. It also put up the banner and posted information for incoming boats.
- **The State of NH** affects the Perkins Pond community in many ways. The PPPA collaborates with the Dept. of Environmental Services about water quality, and monitors and alerts residents to changing regulations in areas such as boating, licensing, and shoreline protection.
- **Town of Sunapee** zoning, taxes, road maintenance, and sewer planning affect everyone. The PPPA acts as a focal point to advocate for Perkins Pond homeowners to the town. Its influence helped to get local roads accepted as emergency lanes, and septic planning sponsored on the town warrant.
- **Major Projects** to protect the pond have been organized by the PPPA. The sewer project is one example. A couple of decades ago, the PPPA created the outlet at the end of Piney Point Cove to keep water flowing through the pond.
- **Participation** with sister organizations, such as Weed Watchers and the NH Lakes and Lake Sunapee associations, provides training and information to the PPPA and leverages its influence at the town and state level.
- **Education** by the PPPA about all these topics provides accurate information to the Perkins Pond community and promotes practices that protect the health of the pond.

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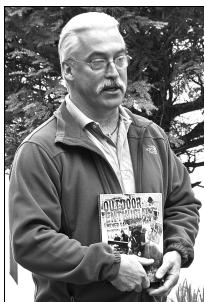
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PPPA Meeting Reports

Fall 2009 Meeting



President Gary Szalucka

Bill and Diane Sinatra hosted the fall meeting on September 5, 2009.

Gary reviewed the history of the sewer project. The project was approved for design, but will eventually go back to the voters for implementation approval. This will require a 2/3 approval vote because the town will be taking out bonds.

The town is preparing to update a sewer plan that was done several years ago. Landowners are being asked to grant easements for the sewer installation and future maintenance. Meeting attendees discussed the project and the requested easements.

Peter Platt thanked Gary and Robin for all the effort they had invested in moving the project forward to the current point. The meeting heartily agreed. Gary thanked Holly Leonard who works in the town Water Department for all her help. He also described how pond resident and former Selectman Bill Scharff had been instrumental in getting the ball rolling and helping to organize project allies.

Chris Domian presented information about a weed mower that the Association might purchase. The device attaches to the stern of a boat to cut weeds in the lake. It has a wide blade like a hedge trimmer. Attendees raised a number of issues about the desirability and effect on the lake of cutting weeds. Paul Rox moved and Ann Watkins seconded that the proposal be tabled until more research is done. This passed on a voice vote.

Gary commented that members might consider the role of the Association in protecting water quality and enforcing regulations. Currently, Gary directed that people with questions about specific activities should call the proper organization to check the rules. He distributed a booklet from the NH Lakes Association, entitled *Help Protect New Hampshire's Lakes*, which lists contact information for every waterfront-related organization.

Gary reviewed a 1-page list of "Perkins Pond Rules," especially good to pass to renters, and a map updated by Claude Leavitt to show all the waterfront landowners.

Pond resident Steve Priest described the "Outdoor Enthusiast" book that he has written. He said that he would autograph and would contribute his profit to the Association for any copies purchased by pond residents.



Spring 2009 Meeting

Steve and Cathy Priest hosted the spring meeting on May 23, 2009. Photos on this page are from that gathering.

President Gary Szalucka and Vice President Robin Saunders reported on the Perkins Pond sewer project. In Sunapee's spring election, voters approved by only 38 votes to appropriate \$300,000 to design and bid the project. Gary, Robin, and others had worked with town officials to facilitate endorsements and educate voters.

Gary reported that six water quality tests would be done during the year. Robin reported on the Water Quality Summary for 2008, which is available on the NH DES web site. Water quality has generally been holding steady. Robin reminded attendees that fertilizer and fireworks both introduce phosphorus into the water and encourage weeds.

Robin and others expressed concern about erosion filling in the pond. Jack Curley observed that the road grader keeps widening the roads and pushing the grade out further. Jack moved and Steve Curley seconded that the Association send a letter to town officials, asking them to curtail the amount of disturbance to the edge of the roadway. Most attendees agreed that this was a problem, but it was suggested that a more low-key approach would be more effective. The motion was defeated on a voice vote. Gary offered to talk with the Road Agent person to person on this topic.

Robin suggested that the erosion topic could be tied in with the NH DES Water Study which identified runoff from roads as a concern. Gary gave a brief history of emergency access on the roads and pointed out that the town is not obligated to do as much as it does to keep the roads passable in the winter.

Members applauded and thanked Marion Leavitt for leading the Weed Watchers over the past seven years. Paula McDonough is taking on leadership of this project.

Chris Domian reported that he and Gary had provided samples of Perkins Pond fish to NH DES for mercury content testing. Mercury is a poison that affects the nervous system. Although Perkins Pond turned out to be below average in the mercury content of the fish, restrictive guidelines should be followed about eating them.

John Lovell reported on his research concerning dredging of ponds. He was told that the state of NH would not give a permit for any dredging, and if it did give a permit, it would cost one million dollars. The state told him that they had never allowed dredging of any lake.

The Association thanked the McMahons for having hosted the water carnival for two years. Gary thanked Paul Pratt for putting up the sign at the boat launch which cautions boaters against bringing in milfoil. Claude Leavitt moved and Dick Quinlan seconded that the Association contribute \$100 to the NH Lakes Association. This was approved on voice vote.

Green Luna Moth



Song Sparrow Babies



Baby Oriole



Downy Woodpecker



It is finally April and showers teeter intermittently between rain and snow. But Spring is persistently trying to push her way into Perkins Pond. She is being met with some resistance, but the native residents are heartily cheering her on.

She is pulled to Perkins Pond by the nightly serenade of the tiny Spring Peepers chorus. Perkins Pond's amphibious menagerie anxiously and sluggishly awaits her warmth. Returning feathered residents are preparing to welcome her with their beautiful songs of life and love. The tightly concealed buds are positioned to spectacularly burst open to dazzle the awakening insects upon her arrival.

We humans appreciate Spring most of all because, along with the blossoming flora and awakening fauna, we can enjoy once again our slice of heaven on Perkins Pond.

Yellow Argiope Spider



Pink Lady's Slipper



Bullfrog



Yellow Water Lilly Flower



Horned Bladderwort



Northern Harrier



Blue Gill Sunfish

Center: Loon



Blue Gill & Small Mouth Bass

Perkins Pond's Naturalist

Thanks to Paula McDonough for these words and photographs. This black and white newsletter does not do justice to the beautiful color photos. These photos are samples from many that Paula has taken at Perkins Pond and organized into several album volumes. If you're wondering about a Perkins Pond plant or animal, Paula is the person

Weed Watcher Needed

A Weed Watcher volunteer is needed to monitor the area behind the island. The job requires a leisurely trip around the edges of the water in your canoe, kayak or rowboat several times a summer. You'll consult with the other Perkins Pond Weed Watchers to learn what to look for. Questionable weeds can be sent to NH DES for identification.

To volunteer or to verify a suspicious weed, contact Paula McDonough at 763-0195 or 617-909-5735

Weed Watchers are on the lookout for alien or exotic species. Most of the weeds along local shores are native. Lily pads, pickerelweed, arrowhead, and tape grass are most common and while occasionally a nuisance, they are of some benefit to our lake's quality.

The alien or exotic weeds are ones that are not native to NH lakes, have no natural checks and balances, and grow quickly and wildly out of control, potentially choking the shore and lake, clogging boat routes, and diminishing property values. These include purple loosestrife, fanwort, and especially variable milfoil. Variable milfoil is initially submerged and has a thick stem and a fine fernlike quality.



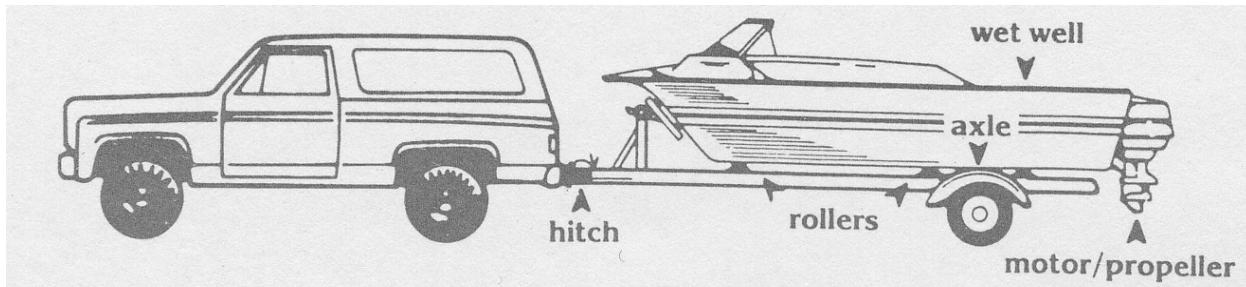
Don't Let Alien Weeds Sneak In

Here's some tips from the NH Boater's Guide to prevent exotic weeds from sneaking in on your boat and trailer. The diagram of locations to clean comes from NH DES.

- Inspect your boat and trailer and remove any weeds before leaving any water body.
- Drain your motor, wet well, and bilge on land before leaving a water body.
- Empty your bait bucket on land before leaving the water body.
- Never release live bait or live animals from one water body into another.
- Rinse your boat, trailer, and equipment. Use a garden hose or preferably high pressure hot water.
- Air dry your boat and equipment.
- Flush the engine's cooling system with hot water.

Ski Craft

Ski craft continue to hold water when you remove the craft from a lake. To avoid transporting weeds, flush the motor for 90 seconds before launching to a different body of water. Ski craft have a spot that's made for attaching a hose for flushing. This should be done on land away from the destination body of water.



Aquatic weeds are often found attached at the locations indicated. Please remove and dispose.



Ice Out

Gary Szalucka reports that the ice disappeared from Perkins Pond on April 4. Since 1869 there are only five earlier dates. Here's the earliest ice-out dates. Data for this decade are Perkins Pond and the others are for Lake Sunapee. The latest date is May 14 in 1888, probably due to a volcano eruption in Japan five years earlier.

Year	Date	Year	Date
1921	29-Mar	1910	6-Apr
1946	29-Mar	1922	6-Apr
1945	1-Apr	1949	6-Apr
1884	2-Apr	1991	8-Apr
2006	3-Apr	1948	9-Apr
2010	4-Apr	1981	9-Apr
1903	5-Apr	2000	9-Apr



Great Blue Heron
Colt's Foot Flower
Button Bush Flower
with a Plant Bug
Spotted Salamander



Creel Notes By Guide Islefish Anytime



The date that will not be forgotten anytime soon is Friday, February 12, 2010. It started out like so many other beautiful ice fishing days, but ended, well, not so beautifully.

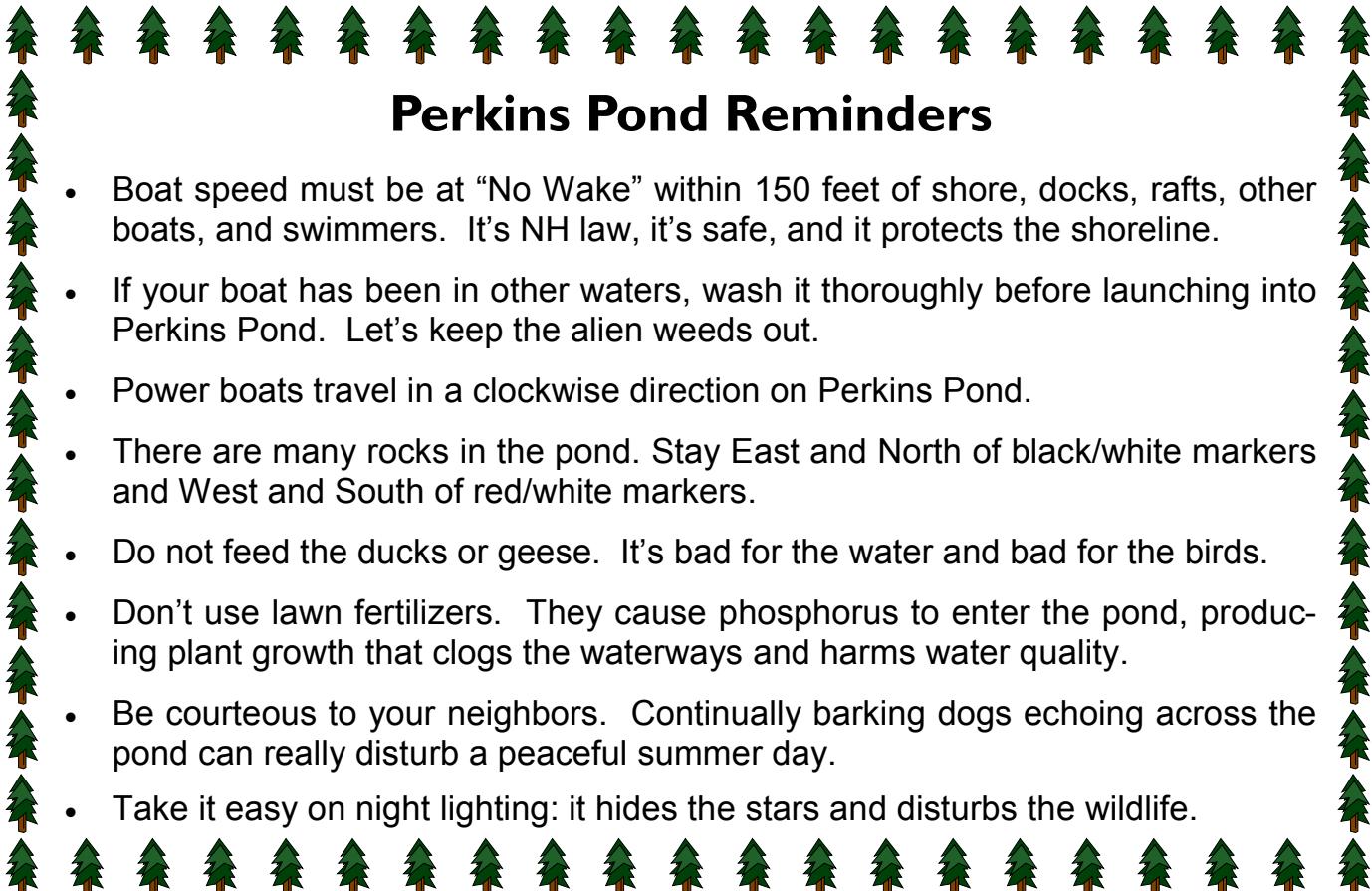
My fishing partner this date happened to be home for a few days vacation from his assignment in Afghanistan where he serves as the United States contact for the Department of Agriculture coordinating work there with counterparts from other countries. He's had a chance to have some great experiences there including working with those serving in the U.S. military and meeting Senator Clinton and President Obama on their visits to the country. I typically glaze over when he starts talking about his meetings with the dignitaries.

Anyway the conditions were excellent as we left Perkins Pond and headed to my "secret spot" on Ledge Pond. The weather was mild and the skimobile trail hadn't been ridden on in several days. It's nice to be the first one on the trail, and on the ice. We fished for several hours and had the opportunity to try out our new Nils hand ice auger. A nice portable unit for walking into remote locations and it rips through ice rather quickly as we found out. Fortunately for me as Guide we had an abundance of flags, food, coffee, cigars and conversation. We arrived back at my house shortly after 4 pm and my partner said good bye to my wife because he was headed back overseas in a few days. He and I then went to the boat launch to load the ski mobile into his enclosed box trailer. ***Then it happened!*** As I watched him drive his ski mobile up the trailer ramp his skimobile track started to spin on the ice. Then, it suddenly caught, and in an attempt to hold on tight he accidentally hit the throttle. **Catastrophe struck.** In a scene that I can't help but play over and over in my head I saw him go airborne sitting on the machine and then slam the top of his head into the cross support of the trailer. It was horrific and chaotic all in the same moment. The machine continued through the other end of the trailer, which fortunately we had also opened, and struck the tailgate of his truck.

He had been thrown from the machine and was now on the ground bleeding profusely from his head. I hurried to pull him up on the trailer, use my hat to apply pressure to the top of his head, and keep him talking so he didn't go unconscious. Then my intense scramble started in order to find one of our two cell phones packed in the gear to call 911. Finally, the police and ambulance were on the scene. I was at the emergency room with him and watched as the doctor gave him 16 stitches to close the skin under his scalp and then 22 staples across the top of his head to keep his scalp closed. We joked about all the time he had been in Afghanistan and hadn't received a scratch. I never told him but for a split second I thought I had lost him for good just after the accident happened and he lay there bleeding on the ground motionless for what I'm sure was seconds but seemed like an eternity. Fortunately I'll be able to fish another day with my favorite fishing partner, and brother, Gary.



Till next time keep a tight line.



Perkins Pond Reminders

- Boat speed must be at “No Wake” within 150 feet of shore, docks, rafts, other boats, and swimmers. It’s NH law, it’s safe, and it protects the shoreline.
- If your boat has been in other waters, wash it thoroughly before launching into Perkins Pond. Let’s keep the alien weeds out.
- Power boats travel in a clockwise direction on Perkins Pond.
- There are many rocks in the pond. Stay East and North of black/white markers and West and South of red/white markers.
- Do not feed the ducks or geese. It’s bad for the water and bad for the birds.
- Don’t use lawn fertilizers. They cause phosphorus to enter the pond, producing plant growth that clogs the waterways and harms water quality.
- Be courteous to your neighbors. Continually barking dogs echoing across the pond can really disturb a peaceful summer day.
- Take it easy on night lighting: it hides the stars and disturbs the wildlife.

**Perkins Pond Protective Association
77 Piney Point Road
Sunapee, NH 03782**