



Perkins Pond Protective Association

The Perkins Ponder

Spring 2004



Do long shadows on the dock mean it's spring or fall?
Is the boat headed in or out? This one is fall, 1960.

Fall 2003 PPPA Meeting

Tom and Ann Gallagher hosted the Perkins Pond Protective Association meeting on August 23, 2003. This newsletter reports on that meeting and also includes additional news and articles.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Gary Szalucka. Gary then introduced Amy Smagula, the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) Clean Lakes and Exotic Species Program Coordinator. Amy attended the meeting to speak about the progress of the pond Sanitary Survey and provide a status report.

Sanitary Survey

Amy is in charge of a survey of Perkins Pond residences that took place throughout the summer of 2003. This survey is part of the DES multi-year Diagnostic Study of Perkins Pond water quality. The survey focuses on four major areas:

- Natural background, such as the characteristics of your lot
- Land use
- Tributaries
- Septic systems.



Perkins Pond Memorabilia

Contact Scott Sanders
603-763-9255
mem@perkinspond.org

2004 Spring Meeting

Sat. June 5

10 a.m.

118 Mary's Road

Jeff & Pam Gentile and Kevin & Kim West

603-763-3399

Come by car or canoe.

No boat docking available.

Please bring chairs.

Survey Responses

Amy stressed that the more information obtained, the better and more accurate the survey results would be. At the time of the fall meeting approximately one-third of the pond's landowners had completed the survey. At the current time, Amy reports that more surveys were done during the fall, and now 60% have responded. Amy urges anyone who has not yet taken the survey to contact her, as there is still time to submit survey responses.

Diagnostic Study

Amy discussed the three phases of the Diagnostic Study:

- Phase I, which was in progress during 2003, consisted of the sanitary surveys.
- Phase II will occur during 2004 and 2005. A full lake and watershed assessment will be completed. Volunteers will be needed to help with this phase.
- Phase III will be completed in 2005 when all the information obtained will be written up and a report presented to the association and the town.

Amy Smagula can be contacted at:

6 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95

Concord, NH 03302-0095

Phone: 603-271-2248

Fax: 603-271-7894

Email: asmagula@des.state.nh.us

2004 Water Carnival

Sat. July 17

Rain date Sun. July 18

More information in the next newsletter.

Fall Meeting (cont.)

Weeds and Water Quality

Phosphorus

Amy pointed out that high phosphorus contributes to weed growth. She reminded everyone not to use lawn fertilizers within 25 feet of the pond, and only slow release fertilizers from 25 to 200 feet back from the water. She identified dishwashing liquid and shampoo as two other high phosphorus contributors. Scott and Tamara Sanders advised that "Seventh Generation" company produces phosphorus-free products including a dishwasher gel that is non-toxic, non-phosphorus, and biodegradable.

Good Weeds

Amy said not all the weeds in the pond are bad and that some in fact help eliminate phosphorous and help remove other impurities from the water.

Weed Watching

Amy noted the association is the "eyes and ears" of the pond and it is important to report anything out of the ordinary. Examples include a sudden change in water odor, significant weed growth, or new slime buildup on rocks. Report problems, suspected milfoil, or other invasive species to a weed watcher volunteer (Tamar Sanders, Robin Saunders, Gary Szalucka, Chris and Holly Leonard, Jackie Bradley, Marian Leavitt, Tom Gallagher, and Chris Domian).

Weed Wacker

Gary advised that members concerned about weeds growing in the water near their property can use the association's battery-powered "weed whacker." Contact Gary directly. It was pointed out that anyone harvesting weeds should retrieve and remove from the water all the weeds they cut so they don't wind up on someone else's property.

Logging Activities

Concern was raised about logging activities occurring on the large parcel of land that runs parallel to Mary's Road and abuts Melody Lane. Amy was asked to forward a correspondence to the owner regarding land use regulations and forestry preservation information.

Boat Washing

Gary advised that two local marinas are offering boat washes, recommended if you take your boat off Perkins Pond to another body of water and then back. These are:

- Bob Skinner Sports, Rte 103 Newberry, 763-2303
- Brown's Auto & Marine, Guild Rd, Newport, 863-3322

Boat Washing Rewarded

Gary related a story about Perkins Pond residents who took their boat to a different body of water for vacation. Due to rain the vacationers only did a little boating, but still decided to use a boat wash before returning their boat to Perkins Pond. During the boat wash a volunteer weed watcher identified a piece of milfoil on the trailer of the boat being washed. Thanks to the use of good judgment by these neighbors the milfoil was found and cleaned off the boat before it found a new home here on the pond. They also, after completing the boat wash, went to a car wash in Newport and cleaned off their boat and trailer again. Talk about going the extra mile! Kudos to these residents, and many thanks from the association.

Motor Boat Activity

Amy was asked if the turbidity in the pond contributed to weed growth. She said it can transfer plant growth from one area to another, and pointed out that a 35 horsepower motor can disturb water depths up to 25 feet.

Several members asked that as a result of the high water boaters use more caution with their boat speeds. Members voiced concern over wakes being caused by boaters that appear to be coming closer to shore than normal and this is creating a concern, and a hazard. Owners should also notify renters about this issue.

Other Business

Election of officers was held. Scott Sanders made a motion to nominate the same board for re-election, and it was seconded by Robin Saunders. By a show of hands it was unanimous and the same board was re-elected.

Several members expressed a job well done on *The Perkins Ponder*. Gary pointed out that secretary Anne Vantine puts the newsletter together and thanked her.

Treasurer Suzanne McMahon reported that the summer party made \$9.71. Quite an accomplishment to stay in the black these days, but the association managed to do it. The association currently has approximately \$10,000.00 available which is currently being held in its checking account and certificates of deposit.

Gary said the Water Carnival was a huge success and had over 80 in attendance. The boat parade was also well attended. The association gave Gary a special thanks for holding the event at his home again this year.



Aquatic weeds are often found attached at the locations indicated. Boat washing can help remove them.

How Deep is Perkins Pond?

1939 Guide Islefish Anytime reports the following: For all you pond historical buffs, I happened to be reading the Fish and Game's *Biological Survey of the Lakes and Ponds in Sullivan County, Survey Report No. 8b*. This is in reference to a survey done of the pond on June 19, 1939. The pond's physical data is described as, "a natural pond," altitude 1,082 feet, with an area of 157 acres. The shores were described as 20% rocky, 80% wooded. The bottom was listed to have 10% gravel, 80% muck, and 10% rock, and vegetation was described as "scant." Water transparency was listed as 9 feet, and the deepest part of the pond was said to be 16 feet.

2003 At last fall's Association meeting, Amy Smagula of NH DES said a recent depth survey done by her group indicated that the deepest point on the pond was 9 feet. Fishermen cruising the pond with their fishfinders that measure depth can report similar findings.



Ice Out

Separate reports have the ice leaving Perkins Pond on April 13 or 15 this spring. Water skiers were seen by April 25. Here's the dates for previous years:

- 2003 April 22
- 2002 April 10
- 2001 April 29

The ice was declared out on Lake Sunapee April 18 this spring. On that day Artie Osborne, the town's official Ice-Out recorder, was able to motor his boat from one end to the other without hitting ice.



Ice skates and snow, but this boat is ready for ice-out.

Send Email Address

Want to get Perkins Pond news quicker? Give us your email address. You can update it at the June 5 meeting, or send email saying "Add me to list" to secretary@perkinspond.org

Why No Color?

We'd love to print the newsletter in color. We don't because it costs too much. It costs about 8¢ to print a black and white page, but close to \$1.00 per page in color. Occasionally we find a good sale or someone contributes the color, but that's why it's black and white most of the time.



*2004 PPPA Dues
\$20 per family
Send to Treasurer Suzanne or
bring to June 5 meeting.*

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*Smallmouth Bass**Muddler Minnow Fly**Brook Trout**Pickerel*

Creel Notes

by Guide Islefish Anytime

Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday I was putting my fishing rods away and pulling out my ice fishing gear, and now it's time to take out the rods again. Funny, my wife doesn't seem to get as excited about it as I do.

The 2003 Perkins Pond fishing season turned out to be a good one by all accounts. I had a chance to speak with several anglers who claimed to have done well landing some nice smallmouth bass. From all reports it appears as if the smallmouth have established themselves as the pond's "game fish," but there have also been notable reports of some good sized perch and pickerel.

Ol' JB and I finished off the fly fishing season with a late October trip to the Great North Woods in Pittsburgh. Seeing as JB hadn't previously been on one of my fishing expeditions (more commonly known as a "gruelathon") I decided to book us into a cabin that actually had heat and hot water which was nice after a long day of fall fishing. After unloading some of our gear at the cabin we decided to wet our lines at West Branch Pond, a.k.a. Terrell Pond Dam. The fish were rising everywhere, and by the smile on JB's face after boating several nice brook trout I knew I had made the right decision.

We spent the next morning canoeing and fishing the legendary Scott's Bog. It was a real windy day on which I managed to catch one nice brookie while JB had several hits.

After lunch, which according to JB is always promptly at 11:30, we went to Coon Brook Bog and encountered several other late season fisherman. The ever dependable "muddler minnow" fly made us the envy of the folks around us. Not necessarily a good feeling unless of course you're the ones catching the fish. The brookies caught here were small, but they had deep dark coloring and bright red bellies.

On our trip home the following day we stopped at Clarksville Pond in Clarksville ("where we tried to catch the last train..." sorry). We didn't have any luck here which we attributed to excuse number 15, "There are no fish in this pond." I never seem to run short of excuses.

I started out the ice fishing season with a trip to the Third Connecticut Lake with my brother the day after New Years. We fished this lake for two days and had a great time catching an abundance of Lake Trout. I can't explain how my brother broke two ribs while putting his snow shoes on, but needless to say one of us had to get all the gear on and off the ice each day. Hey, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother..." He more than made up for it by cooking some great shoreline meals and coffee.

During the rest of the ice fishing season my brother and a friend of ours made several trips to Maine and fished Eagle, Square, and Glazier Lakes. Nothing better than fresh salmon on the grill!

During the remainder of ice fishing season, JB and I fished Perkins Pond and had a great time. During the course of one day we caught about a dozen smallmouth. These fish put up a good fight coming up through the ice. JB caught one nice four pounder, and several were in the three pound range.

We ended the season with a trip to our "secret location" and caught some large pickerel. Needless to say, most all of these fish will be bigger next year because we use the "catch and release" methodology.

Charles Orvis once said, "It is not easy to tell one how to cast. The art must be acquired by practice." So practice I will. Until next time, have fun, be safe, and keep a tight line!

Loons

At the fall meeting, Robin Saunders reported that there were two loon living on the pond. She suggested people take special precautions not to disturb them and noted they're beautiful at any distance!

We hope to see the loons returning to the pond in 2004. Here's some more about loons.



Ocean Birds

Loons are classified separately from other waterbirds and are thought to be among the oldest groups of birds still living, with a history of 50 million years. Penguins are their closest relatives. Loons may be thought of as ocean birds who come to the lakes to breed. They spend their winters at the ocean. Young loons spend about 3 years at the ocean before returning to the lake to breed.

Diving

The skeleton and muscular system of a loon are designed for swimming and diving, but loons are more awkward on land or in the air. Many bones of the loon's body are solid, rather than hollow like those of other birds. These heavy bones make loons less buoyant and help loons to dive. The Loon Preservation Society reports that a typical loon dive is less than a minute. It may appear to be longer because the loon may put just the tip of its bill up to take a gulp of air and then sink underwater again.

Mating and Chicks

A loon pair likes to have a territory of 25-30 acres of water. Male and female cooperate building a nest close to the water or even surrounded by water on a log or sedge mat. In June the female lays just one or two eggs and both mates help incubate the nest. Chicks hatch within 25-31 days. For up to 8 weeks a chick stays close to the parents, sometimes riding on a parent's back.

Loon Information Sources

The Loon Preservation Committee, www.loon.org
Lakeside, The NH Lakes Association, March 2004
Animals, Publication of MSPCA, Fall 2002
The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds

Loon Calls

Loons are most vocal from mid-May to mid-June, with at least four distinctive calls. The tremolo indicates alarm, annoyance, or greeting. The wail is used for social interactions or contacting a mate. The hoot locates family members, and the male yodels to defend his territory.

Lead Sinker Poison

Lead fishing tackle has been poisoning loons. When a loon ingests lead, it is certain to die within a month. In 2001, NH enacted a law banning the use of small lead sinkers and jigs in freshwater lakes. Proposed legislation would extend the ban to rivers and streams, and ban the sale of lead sinkers and jigs in NH.

Mercury and Boats

Mercury from industrial emissions is also poisoning loons and reducing their reproduction success. One more danger to young loons is being hit by boats and jet skis.



Listen to the Loons

Hear the four loon calls at
www.loon.org/multimedia.htm
 NHPR audio program about loons at
www.nhpr.org/view_content/5025/
 (skip over other news at beginning)

Dump Hours

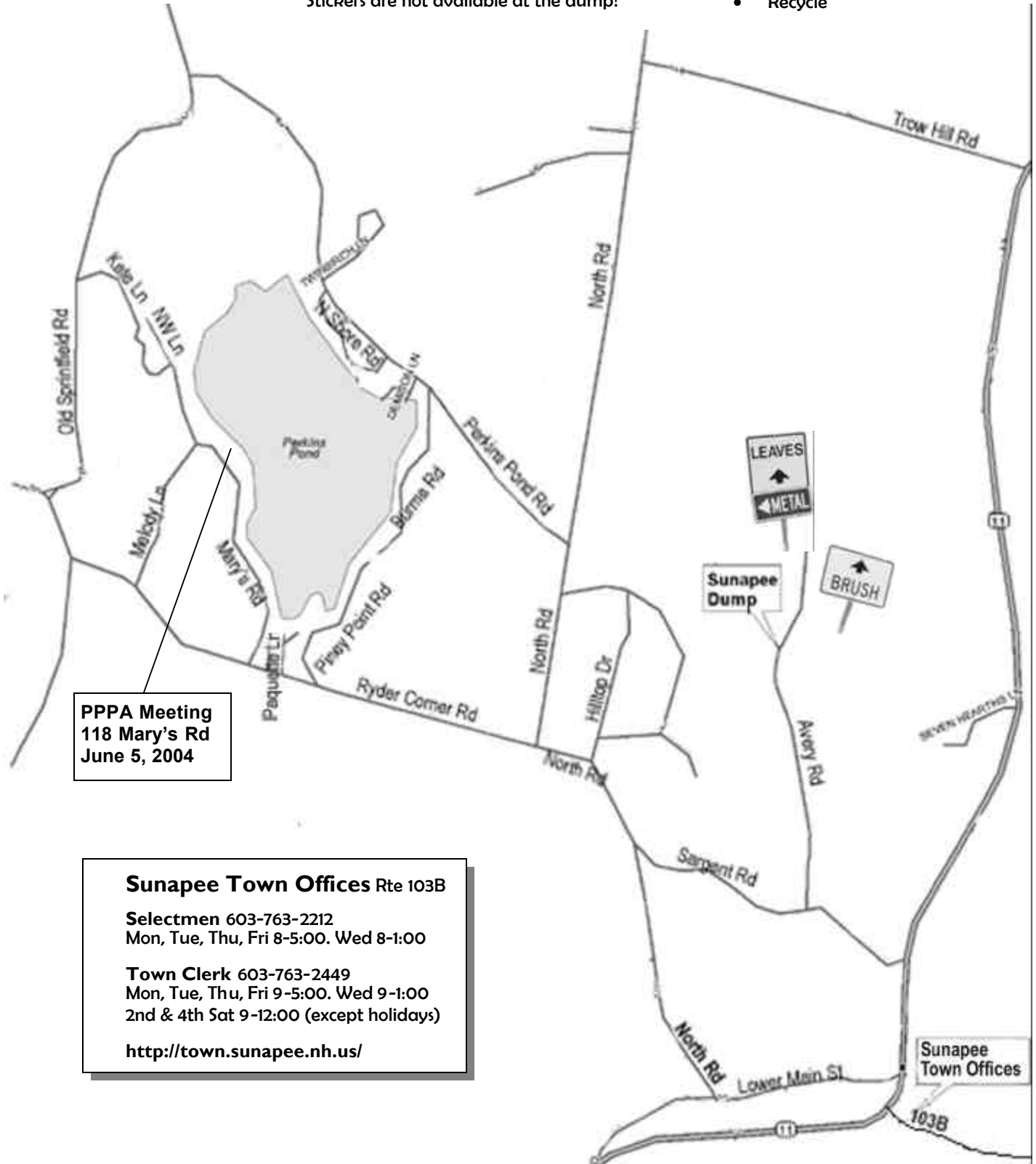
Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8-4:15.
Sun 8-11:45.

Dump Stickers

It's easy and free to get your dump sticker from Sunapee Selectmen Office (763-2212). Call to ask them to mail it or go in person. They need your license plate number. Stickers are not available at the dump!

Dump Items

- Spring cleanup
- Leaves and brush
- Charcoal and ashes
- Trash
- Recycle



This flyer was circulated at the fall association meeting by an anonymous dog. The newsletter editor was requested to include a copy of it in the newsletter.

On the subject of silence, here's a game for a lazy day: Park in a boat in the middle of the pond and count for how long can you hear no sounds of civilization — no cars, trucks, motorcycles, boat motors, airplanes, construction, people, dogs, chain saws, lawn mowers, etc. In spring and fall or early morning or late, there may be several minutes at a time of quiet, birdsong, frog chugs and fish splashes.



Howdy Humans! Deputy Dog here!

First I want to give a thankful tailwag to all the masters out there that take such good care of us. Perkins Pond is such a beautiful and peaceful place for us to live. No honking car horns, no traffic, no constant loud noises, etc.

But wait!!! Some of my cousins have bad manners. They talk and yell constantly, ALL day long. They talk to EVERYTHING. They sometimes talk just to hear their own voice!!! That upsets some of my other cousins and they start yelling back. Pretty soon, peaceful Perkins Pond isn't peaceful anymore.

(Oh, sorry!! For all you humans, you call dogtalk "BARKING".)

Now I love all my cousins and give them a hearty lick every time we meet up. But there is nothing worse to ruin a great dog-day afternoon than some chatterbox that just WON'T shut up!

Please masters, speak to them about their terrible manners. Don't worry, they know who they are, and their human neighbors do too for that matter. My keen hearing has picked up lots of growling from humans all around the pond who are getting very annoyed with all the dogtalk. They are starting to pin back their ears and show their canines! I am sure we ALL know what that means!

Please have your visiting (and renting) masters speak to their dogs, too. You never know what kind of manners my distant cousins will have. We dogs are prone to nervous chatter in new places. Don't forget to remind them of the leash law. We get cranky sometimes and will even snip at each other and pesky humans.

Let's get back to enjoying a peaceful Perkins Pond day. Only thing better is a nice long belly scratch!

I'll be seeing you around the pond!



Deputy Dog





One of many participants in the 2003 Water Carnival Boat Parade.

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