

## Minutes of the July 13, 2019 LAON Annual Meeting

**All of the slides presented at the annual meeting are posted on the LAON website. These minutes are a summary of this information. Please visit [www.norwaylakes.org](http://www.norwaylakes.org) for more complete information.**

Sal Girifalco welcomed about 55 individuals to the 2019 LAON Annual Meeting held at Norway Town Hall from 1:30 to 3:30 pm on Saturday, July 13, 2019.

Attendees were encouraged to **share their email addresses** if they had not yet done so. LAON's use of email addresses enable timely communication on important issues...and allows us to save on printing, postage and volunteer time to assemble, label, stamp and seal envelopes!

After introducing LAON Board members, Sal reviewed the **LAON sponsors (Ari's Pizza & Subs; Cafe Nomad; Crooked River Heating & A/C; Dow's Law Office; Edward Jones Investments; Granite Ridge Estate & Barn; Norway Lake Marina; Norway Savings Bank; Oxford Federal Credit Union; TD Bank; The Lake Store; White's Marina; and 76 Pleasant Street). Be sure to thank them for their support of LAON!**

Sal shared **some good news from the lakes.....**

Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) has been well received;  
Second watershed study completed;  
3 person water quality sampling team;  
Yellow iris work with large stands under control  
Watershed improvements continuing  
Good support from the Town  
3rd annual Boat Parade on Lake Penn (July 4)  
Fishing Line receptacle  
\*\*Increased support will enable increased prevention\*\*

,.....but also shared **some areas of concern:**

Invasive plants remain a constant threat;  
Some area to watch for water quality;  
Algae;  
Boat Wake;  
Swimmer's Itch

More detailed reports were given by LAON Board members on Yellow Iris; CBI; Eyes on the Lakes; Water Quality; and Watershed Surveys. Summaries of these reports follow.

**Lise Dietrich updated the group on Yellow Iris** (invasive species). These pretty showy flowers bloom from mid-June through early July. They have been prohibited for sale in Maine since January 1, 2018. The yellow iris propagates via seed or rhizomes. Stands of these flowers can impact the natural flow of water. They are controlled by collecting seed pods. Eradication is not an easy matter. In a very few places, conditions allow the placement of a benthic barrier, which blocks sunlight and kills the plant. In most other locations, we are working with the state on a pilot program of cutting foliage to exhaust the rhizomes. If that doesn't work, then we will consider the last approach, and applying aquatic-labeled herbicide, which would be applied by someone licensed for such work. Mitigation activity and plans for 2019 include: **inventory** (full shoreline survey and inventory was completed during the period June 22-July 7); **Containment** (most sites mitigated/flowers removed, foliage cut back by June 28; **Elimination** (repeated cutting thought summer to exhaust rhizomes); **Monitoring** (remove benthic barrier near dam; previous elimination sites and full shoreline)

## **Tish Carr presented the CBI update**

During the period May 24-July 10, 2019, a total of 1,093 boats were inspected. Of these, 319 (29%) were not from Lake Pennesseewassee. In 2018 the total boats inspected were 2,033 with 463 (23%) not from Lake Penn. Out of state boats came from MA, NH, RI, CT, VT, NJ, TN and OH). Of the top 5 lakes that were the last lakes visited by boats entering Lake Penn, 3 are infested with milfoil (Thompson, Sebago and Long). No invasive plants and species were found on the 1,093 inspected boats...good news!

The CBI team members this summer include Tish, Ray Gagne, Jerry Higgins and Larry Levesque and YOU (each of us plays an important role).

Tish showed 2 look alike plants: Variable leaf milfoil (invasive) and Bladderwort (native). She also shared a photo of a 2-for save where Eurasian milfoil and a zebra mussel were found on the same fishing line.

An important prevention for YOU, Friends and Visitors: ALWAYS CLEAN YOUR BOAT OF ANY PLANTS AND DEBRIS; DRAIN THE BOAT AND ANY COMPARTMENTS OF STANDING WATER; DRY THE BOAT PRIOR TO ENTERING ANY NEW BODY OF WATER

**Sal talked about Eyes on the Lakes - Our Next level of Protection.** This initiative has been led by Lynn Girifalco (who was unable to attend the annual meeting as she was at the LAON booth at today's Norway Music & Arts Festival). Since CBI can never be 24/7 or 100% foolproof, LAON is adapting a fun and easy training which allows you to be our "Eyes on the Lakes": In late summer, there will be a "Plant Paddle" training on gathering plants and use of "quick key" to identify possible invasive. The goal is to have an Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) on each lake (with one certified IPP leader, IPP team, eyes looking out for plants that do not belong. **Lynn will contact past attendees to set up a Plant Patrol in early August. Volunteers are needed!**

**The Water Quality update was done in two parts: Water Testing and Watershed Management.**

**Paul Shook presented results of water quality testing.** Paul, Steve Zeeman and Jim O'Brien are the team leading water quality testing initiative and test all four area lakes every month from May thru October. There were a number of key findings shared. Total phosphorus is generally declining/stable except for Norway Lake. Sand Pond's chemistry has improved when compared to historical averages and is in the best shape of the four area lakes. Dissolved oxygen drops off significantly in the later summer months. This is an indication of algae growing, then dying and falling to the bottom of the lake where it decomposes and consumes oxygen. Dissolved oxygen levels are important because they indicate the ability for the deeper waters to support life. **There is an opportunity for more volunteers to be trained in water quality testing.**

**Updates were presented for Watershed Management for North Pond and Lake Penn.**

**Sal reviewed key points from the North Pond Watershed Project.** The survey was done in 2016 with a remediation plan developed and because North Pond was classified as "threatened" (high phosphorus and more algae), it was eligible for grant. Volunteer hours led to high grant reimbursement. The worst sites found have been fixed or are being fixed moving forward. Sal introduced Jeff Stern, our Technical Advisor from the Androscoggin River Watershed Council (ARWC) who talked about the Residential Matching Grants. He told the group that there would be a planting buffer workshop sponsored by ARWC in late July. Watershed Best Management Practices (BMPs) are detailed on the LAON website. The lessons learned in the North Pond work are being applied to the work being undertaken for Lake Penn.

**Jim O'Brien presented information on the Lake Pennesseewassee Watershed Survey.** He explained the survey purpose: **Identify potential sources of polluted runoff, primarily in the form of soil erosion; includes all areas in the watershed that have been impacted by human activity. The survey is not used for enforcement purposes or finger-pointing!**

Jim shared some general observations on the 175 sites found during the survey. For state/town roads: culvert inlets and outlets need to be reinforced (armoring with rip rap), some ditch stabilization and removal of winter sand. For private roads: remove side berms; install diverters; stabilize/vegetate shoulder; add gravel.

Jim reported that this watershed team has 18 trained volunteers, 6 technical leads who have spent 10 survey days during the period May 21-June 30 representing approximately 100 team hours!

When looking at residential sites, the team looked for places where runoff could carry nutrients into the lake (steep or bare slopes; worn or poorly defined footpaths; erosion from roof runoff; eroded driveways). They will continue to recommend a number of best practices: diverters on paths and driveways; infiltration trenches; dry wells or rain gardens to capture roof runoff; infiltration steps; defined footpaths; erosion control mulch; eliminate or minimize raking; establish vegetative buffers; use no-phosphorus fertilizer. **SLOW IT DOWN, BREAK IT UP AND SEND IT TO STABLE VEGETATION!**

**Next steps for the Lake Penn Watershed project are: compile and analyze data; generate report; prioritize sites (Remediation Plan); apply for grants to cover a multi-year period; remediation (2 year period per grant). We will need sector leads, volunteer and equipment. We will also continue efforts to increase awareness among property owners.**

**Sal then updated the group on BOAT WAKE** which causes damage to docks and boats. It can also cause physical harm as well as erosion. There have been two wake boats from Fernwood Cove in Harrison (on Island Pond). There are 2 boats, 2 shifts (am & pm), 5 days a week. **Sal encouraged people to call Jim Gill, Director, at 207/583-2381 to express concern about these boats coming onto Lake Penn. A volunteer is needed to redo the map at the Kiosk to better show the 200 foot of shore mark.**

**During the Financial update, Tom Webster** reported that we are receiving dues at about the same rate as in past years. He reminded the group that when people who intend to pay, but forget or delay, LAON incurs expenses of printing and mailing reminders. Visit the LAON website for a breakdown of member contributions by lake and complete financial update.

**Susan Jacoby reviewed OUTREACH plans for LAON.** We will participate at

at the Foothills Food Festival on Saturday, August 10 from noon until 6 p.m. and at the 4th Annual Length of the Lake Swim on Sunday, August 18 at 8 am at Lake Penn. Volunteers are welcome to help out at these two events. Pat Daniels reminded everyone that LAON t-shirts, golf shirts and tote bags are available for sale. **Check out the website for more information on LAON merchandise and order forms!**

**The slate of officers was presented and voted on** as follows: Sal Girifalco/President; Jeanne Silverman/Vice President; Tom Webster/Treasurer; Pat Daniels/Secretary.

Minutes of the 2018 LAON ANNUAL MEETING were approved.

Sal encouraged those in attendance to **use AmazonSmile as a free and easy way to donate to LAON.** Amazon donates .5% of every dollar spent so whenever you are using Amazon, use AmazonSmile. You can find the link on the LAON website!

Those in attendance were supportive of keeping the LAON Annual Meeting on the same day as the Norway Music and Arts Festival.

**As a wrap up to this year's Annual Meeting, Sal reminded everyone to:**

Provide email address and put LAON's email in your contacts

Boaters (you and your guests): ensure boats, trailers, lines are free of plants; no wake within 200 feet of shore

Control erosion on your property

Organize an Invasive Plant Patrol

Get involved with LAON activities

Spread word to friends and neighbors

Pay your dues (Thank you!!!)

The meeting concluded at 3:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Daniels  
LAON Board Secretary

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!!!!**