



Dedicated to Marilyn Willard, 27-year MMLA Treasurer & Secretary, and Merrymeeting Lake Advocate for a Lifetime

2017 Lake News and Guide





The Merrymeeting Lake Association (MMLA) exists to help preserve the beauty and quality of Merrymeeting Lake, to work in cooperation with the New Durham government and community, and to encourage an active and fun community among lake residents.

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President - Bill Bassett
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Nancy Bryant	Chris Cairns
John Chapin	Susan Glenney
Sue Kowalski	Tom Mottl
Walt Silva	Russ Weldon
Open	Open

2017 MMLA Events

(details inside)

Roadside Cleanup

Sunday, May 28th

Fireworks!

Saturday, July 1st
 (rain date, July 2nd)

Annual Member Meeting

Saturday, July 8th

MMLA
 PO Box 468
 New Durham, NH 03855

Message from the President

I encourage all lake residents to join the Merrymeeting Lake Association to further our mission: “Preserve and protect the innate beauty, pristine water quality, and value of Merrymeeting Lake for future generations ...”. Your Board of Directors takes this mission very seriously.

Your membership dues and special fund contributions directly support the following important efforts that protect the lake:

- **Lake hosting:** Helps prevent invasive plants and animals from entering the lake
- **Water testing:** Monitors the water quality through weekly testing
- **Roadside cleanup:** Beautifies the lake environment by removing trash along the roads
- **Advocacy for lake protection:** Member of/partner with the NH Lakes Association
- **Advocacy for loon protection:** Member of/partner with the Loon Preservation Committee
- **Advocacy for MML watershed protection:** Member of/partner with Moose Mountain Regional Greenways

To further support the Association’s mission, your Board formed a Preserve and Protect Task Force in 2016. This group already has met several times and is working on a plan to inform lake residents on how everyone can play a part in the protection of Merrymeeting. Two task force members, Paul Raslavicus and Jeff Allard, also were the creators and presenters of the new Merrymeeting Watershed Overlay District, which was approved by town voters in March. They are wonderful examples for all of us and deserve our heartfelt thanks for their vision, enlightened thought, and perseverance.

VOLUNTEERS are the heart of the MMLA. There is no paid staff, and the Board of Directors alone can’t accomplish everything. Marilyn Willard, for whom this newsletter is dedicated, was a shining example of the valuable contributions each and every volunteer can make.

At last year’s annual meeting, dozens of members signed up to help in various areas, and they’ve made a difference. Still, more volunteers are needed. If you’d like to volunteer for an activity or committee – or possibly serve as a director, please attend the upcoming annual meeting or speak with any board member listed on this page.

I personally look forward to working with all of you in 2017 to preserve MML, not just for ourselves but for future generations. The generations before us did their part; now it is our turn. With your help, both our membership and achievements can continue to grow.

Bill Bassett
 President, MMLA

A Tribute to Marilyn Willard



The Merrymeeting Lake Association dedicates this newsletter to Marilyn A. Willard, who served as the Association's secretary and treasurer for 27 years. Marilyn passed away on August 11, 2015. She will be fondly remembered for her countless contributions to the MMLA; her hard work, positive attitude, and congeniality; and her love for the lake.

Marilyn began summering on Merrymeeting in 1952, when she was just a child. Her enjoyment of the lake led to her strong commitment to the lake association for which she worked tirelessly, updating and growing the membership base, collecting dues and managing finances, setting up for board and annual meetings, recording minutes, producing newsletters, sending out mailings, helping monitor water quality, and coordinating special events such as yard sales, socials, roadside cleanups, and boat parades.

Marilyn was our "secret to success" for so many lake association activities. Often assisted by her mother, Anne, and aunt, Adra, she was the glue that held the MMLA together over decades while presidents and board directors came and went.

The MMLA honored Marilyn with a Lifetime Membership and, in 2011, dedicated a plaque to her, which is displayed on a boulder near the boat ramp access and pictured here in remembrance.



Annual Roadside Cleanup – Sunday, May 28th



With approximately 50 people participating in a very successful event last year, the MMLA roadside cleanup will take place again this year during Memorial Day weekend. Please join fellow lake residents for this popular community service endeavor, and bring the family, too!

Volunteers are asked to meet at the Meetinghouse/Cove Cottages on Sunday, May 28, at 9:00 a.m. Each team will be assigned a section of Merrymeeting Lake Road, South Shore Road, or North Shore Road. Plastic bags and gloves will be provided for collecting and sorting trash and recyclables.

Coffee and donuts will be available, and every volunteer will receive a MMLA t-shirt in appreciation for assisting with this important initiative. More helping hands will create a cleaner lake environment for the enjoyment of all.

MMLA Membership on the Upswing

A significant goal of the MMLA Board of Directors over the past two years has been to grow the membership. We are happy to report that the number of paid memberships increased from 202 in 2015 to 248 last year. The Board of Directors will continue its efforts to increase participation in the Association, with a new goal of 275 paid memberships for the 2017 fiscal year.

If you haven't joined or renewed your membership for this year, please do so now. Simply send your \$50 dues check to MMLA, P.O. Box 468, New Durham, NH 03855, or pay online at mmlake.org.

MMLA Annual Meeting - Saturday, July 8th

To remain an informed and involved member, be sure to attend the MMLA Annual Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 8, at the Meetinghouse/Cove Cottages. Coffee and pastries will be available at 8:30 a.m., so come early and take advantage of this social time to meet and mingle with fellow MMLA members.

Agenda:

- Presentation on the NEW Merrymeeting watershed district
- Presentation by Moose Mountain Regional Greenways on their land conservation efforts
- Report from New Durham's Milfoil and Invasive Aquatics Weeds Committee
- Update on MMLA programs and finances
- Election of officers and directors



*See you at the Meetinghouse
on July 8th!*

Victory for Merrymeeting Lake Watershed

A new zoning ordinance was passed overwhelmingly by New Durham voters to protect Merrymeeting Lake and the surrounding watershed. This was an important victory for the lake, town, and entire region.

The ordinance promotes conservation of land in the watershed and encourages forestry and agriculture as means of maintaining open, undeveloped lands. Major provisions include a minimum lot size of 12 acres, with the intent to provide up to two acres for a dwelling and place 10 acres into "current use". This will minimize the tax burden and keep lands open for wildlife and the various forms of recreation already available. Other provisions include single-family dwellings only and restricted building on the skyline to preserve views around the lake.

The Merrymeeting Watershed Overlay District was the brainchild of Paul Raslavicus, a former Planning Board member and New Durham Citizen of the Year in 2015. Paul brought the concept to the Merrymeeting Lake Association and joined with Jeff Allard to finalize the design and wording. The ordinance, which was discussed at six public Planning Board meetings and two Public Hearings, was approved by the Planning Board for inclusion on the Town Warrant. The article was supported by many MMLA volunteers who helped get the word out to voters.



Water Quality Program and Testing Trends

For more than three decades, the Association's Water Quality Program has been monitoring the water quality and clarity of Merrymeeting Lake. Once a week from May to October, volunteers board a pontoon boat displaying the MMLA banner. Together, they work to collect water samples and record water temperatures at three sites on the lake - Broad Cove, Owls Head, and East End. Afterwards, the group conducts a series of lab tests.

TESTING RESULTS REVEAL FOUR LONG-TERM TRENDS:

- Increasing water clarity over 31 years of monitoring
- Decreasing chlorophyll concentrations over 31 years of monitoring
- Decreasing color concentrations over 30 years of monitoring
- INCREASING** phosphorus concentrations over 28 years of monitoring

Two main contributing factors to the increase in phosphorous are old or poorly maintained septic systems and fertilizer use. Let's all help to reverse this negative trend by properly maintaining septic systems and not using fertilizer. After all, if the pristine water of our beautiful lake deteriorates, that green lawn won't matter anyway!

If you're interested in volunteering or just riding along to better understand the process, please contact Mary Poston at 603-930-3062 or watertesting@mmlake.org. The testing generally is planned for Monday mornings but may change due to weather or volunteer availability.

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Lake Host Program under New Leadership

Stopping Aquatic Invasives



Merrymeeting's Lake Host Program is gearing up for its 15th summer! Coverage is increasing to roughly 12 hours per day on weekends starting Memorial Day weekend and to about 10 hours per day on weekdays starting in late June, with the program ending Labor Day. More volunteers are needed, and openings for paid hosts still may be available. Serving as a lake host is a great learning experience and a meaningful way to protect our beloved lake.

The MMLA recognizes and extends its sincere thanks to Sue Kowalski, who managed the program from 2009 to 2016, building it into the success it is today. Sue has passed the leadership torch to Marsha and Pat Chiumiento, the new volunteer point persons. If you're interested in becoming a paid or volunteer lake host, please contact Marsha or Pat at marshachiumiento@gmail.com or pchiumiento@gmail.com.

To date, Merrymeeting Lake is free of any invasive plants or animals, and boat inspections by lake hosts are critical to keeping it that way. Last summer 1,654 boats were inspected at the public boat ramp, and 14 specimens were removed from boats. Fortunately, all were identified by NHDES to be native plants. NH law (read below) now requires boaters to "clean, drain and dry" all equipment, so please remind all guests and/or renters to follow this important protocol.

The Lake Host Program is funded by the MMLA and a grant from the NH Lakes Association. You can lend support by being a MMLA member and/or by donating to the Water Quality Fund. And the next time you see a lake host on duty, be sure to stop and say, "Thank you!"

NEW LAW Boaters, Be Aware!

A new law went into effect on January 1, 2017, making it illegal to transport aquatic plants or exotic aquatic weeds to or from NH's lakes, ponds, and rivers on the outside of a boat, ski craft, trailer, vehicle, or other equipment. Because of the negative impacts of aquatic invasive species, self-inspections are required both before launching into and after leaving a waterbody.

3 Simple Self-inspection Steps:

CLEAN off any mud, plants, animals, and algae from boats, trailers, and other equipment, disposing of such away from the waterbody.

DRAIN the boat and water-related equipment away from the waterbody, including bilges, live wells, and ballast tanks, as well as drain plugs, valves, bailers, etc.

DRY everything (motors, live wells, bilges, and other equipment) that comes into contact with the water.

Violators are subject to fines ranging from \$50 for a first offense to \$100 and \$250 for subsequent offenses.



NEW LAW Anglers, Take Note

A new law went into effect in New Hampshire on June 1, 2016, banning the sale and freshwater use of lead fishing sinkers and jigs (lead-weighted hooks) weighing one ounce or less, regardless of length. The new law does not apply to lead core line, spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, spoons, poppers, plugs, or flies.

Anglers are encouraged to make the transition as soon as possible to safe, non-lead tackle alternatives, including tackle made of steel, tungsten, tin, bismuth, and other materials. "It's the right thing to do, not just for loons but for all wildlife that may ingest lead sinkers and jigs," says NH Fish and Game Department Fisheries Division Chief Jason Smith.

A loon, for example, will die from lead poisoning approximately two to four weeks after ingesting lead tackle. Senior Biologist Harry Vogel with the Loon Preservation Committee explains that lead tackle has been the largest cause of loon mortality in New Hampshire, with the state losing 124 loons from 1989 to 2011 because of lead sinkers.

Learn helpful tips and tactics for fishing lead free at wildnh.com/fishing/get-the-lead-out.html.



Loon Fun Fact

The common loon (*Gavia immer*) that lives on our lake is believed to be the most primitive bird on the planet, very close in body plan to the *Hesperornis*, an aquatic bird from 100 million years ago. Definitely not very "common."

In Remembrance



Dorothy E. Sullivan, 90, of New Durham, passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 15, 2017. Dottie arrived at Merrymeeting Lake with her husband Dan in 1972, beginning a love affair with Merrymeeting Lake that now spans three generations.

Aided by their children, the couple built their dream home on South Shore Road. They retired to New Durham in 1987, while also spending winters in Fort Myers, FL.

Dottie and her late husband were active members of the MMLA and the lake community, a legacy passed on to their children and grandchildren. Son Mark (Sullivan) and daughter Susan (Glenney) have been members of the MMLA Board of Directors for years. Many lake residents also are familiar with Dottie's grandson, Reid, who worked at the marina for many years, and granddaughters, Shawna and Corinne, who teach swimming lessons at the town beach.

Dottie is survived by her four children, Daniel, Mark, Greg, and Susan, and 10 grandchildren. The grandchildren honored her on her 90th birthday with a sign reading, "Grammie's Lake House – where cousins come to become friends."



Norman N. Merrill, 91, of Dover and formerly of Portsmouth, New Durham, and Hampton, passed away on Thursday, April 9, 2015. Norm enjoyed staying at his camp on Merrymeeting Lake as well as wintering in Winter Haven, Fla., after retiring from a 42-year banking career. Norm served with the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of World War II. He also served as Hampton's town treasurer and as a volunteer firefighter.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Mary C. (Anderson) Merrill, as well as the couple's four children and their families.

MMLA's Partners in Preservation

The MMLA is a proud member of three NH nonprofit organizations, each of which is committed to specific preserve-and-protect initiatives. A small investment of membership dollars goes a long way in supporting like-minded groups that can - and do - make a difference.



New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLA) is celebrating 25 years of protecting the state's lakes and surrounding watersheds for all generations. A strong advocate of education, program development, and effective public policy, NHLA fosters partnerships with organizations and individuals to champion protection efforts. NHLA's work with lake associations helps identify and minimize threats to lake water quality, with a focus on preventing the spread of invasive aquatic species. nhlakes.org

For more than 40 years, the **Loon Preservation Committee** (LPC) has engaged in research, monitoring, management, and outreach to safeguard New Hampshire's loons and their habitats. Their efforts range from floating loon rafts and roped-off nesting sites to loon rescue and recovery to the annual loon census. With a network of 1,500 members/volunteers, the LPC staff works to promote thoughtful human actions that can help restore and maintain a healthy loon population throughout the state.

loon.org



Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) was formed in 1999 to identify and protect important natural resource areas in Brookfield, Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham, Wakefield, and Wolfeboro. Its goal is to form greenways by connecting these protected lands. Benefitting New Durham, MMRG was awarded a 2016 LCHIP grant to conserve 115 acres at WidowMaker Farm through a donated conservation easement. The land will be open to the public for nonmotorized recreation. mmrg.info.

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways Conservation Action Plan

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways is conducting a strategic planning process for land conservation within its seven-town region. The effort has involved local visioning sessions, meetings with Boards of Selectmen, Master Plan reviews, and an on-line survey.

Representatives of the Merrymeeting Lake community were among approximately 40 stakeholders who studied maps of the natural resources within the region and provided feedback to help MMRG prioritize lands for protection. Interestingly, the land surrounding Merrymeeting Lake has many natural resource values, including exceptional water quality, productive forests, and excellent wildlife habitat, that make it prime territory for preservation. The MMLA looks forward to working with MMRG on land conservation in the watershed.

MMRG will present its final conservation action plan at a public gathering this summer. To learn more about MMRG and its planning process, visit mmrg.info.

Summer Activities in New Durham

New Durham Parks and Recreation Department again will provide recreational programs for residents of all ages this summer. For the younger set, swim lessons will be given at the town beach, beginning in late June and running Monday through Friday in three separate sessions. Field trips also will be offered and are open to the general public. Trips will require a minimum number of participants, so early sign-up is encouraged. The popular Fun, Games, and 5K will be back as well and take place on July 29.

Times, fees, and information links for all offerings can be found on the Parks and Recreation website at newdurhamrec.com. For additional information, contact Nichole Hunter, director, at 859-5666 or ndrec@newdurhamnh.us.

New Durham Public Library's Summer Reading Program will take place on Wednesdays during July from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. All children who have completed kindergarten through sixth grade are welcome to attend this free drop-off program, which will offer crafts, food, and activities based on the theme, "Building a Better World." In addition, entertainment at the top of three sessions will be open to the public: mime - July 12; puppets - July 19; and magician - July 26.

Summer lake residents can obtain a library card and take advantage of everything the library has to offer, including DVD and audio book rentals, downloadable books, free passes to a variety of local attractions and museums, a telescope for checkout, copy/scan/fax services, and more.

To learn more, visit the library's website at newdurhamlibrary.org, email newdurhamlibrary@gmail.com, or call 859-2201.

Town Website Redesign

To help stay connected with property owners and visitors, the Town of New Durham is redesigning its website to make it more user friendly and easier to navigate. Residents are encouraged to subscribe to "News & Announcements," which allows a variety of topics to be selected for receipt via email. Just visit newdurhamnh.us and click on "Subscribe to News" in the left-hand column on the Home Page. It's that easy to stay informed. If you have questions or comments, please contact the Town Hall at 859-2091 or email the town administrator at skinmond@newdurhamnh.us.

Local Contact Numbers

<i>Town of New Durham</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Town Hall 859-2091• Police Department 859-2752• Fire Department 859-3473• Transfer Station/Recycling 859-8080• Post Office 859-5200• Recreation Department 859-5666• Public Library 859-2201	<i>Services</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NH Marine Patrol 293-2037 <i>Area Hospitals</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Huggins/Wolfboro 569-7500• Frisbie Memorial/Rochester 332-5211• Wentworth-Douglass/Dover 742-5252	<i>Utilities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NH Electric Coop 800-698-2007• Eversource 800-662-7764• MetroCast 800-952-1001• TDS 866-571-6662
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Merrymeeting Marina at Your Service (603-859-2000)



The entire staff is excited for the 2017 season to begin at Merrymeeting Marina! We thank everyone for the constant dedication and support, as we couldn't do it without you, our valued customers! Please let us know what we can do to service your needs this summer.

Latest improvement The first time you stop by to fill up your boat, you're bound to notice the upgraded gas tank and pump system, which was completed this past fall. This is the latest of many improvements that have been made around the marina the past two years to both help protect the lake and better serve all of you.

Marina Services & Supplies

- Gas & oil
- Boating accessories
- Otter Island rafts
- Boat/jet ski repairs and maintenance (provided onsite by two dedicated mechanics)
- Moorings
- Dock slip rentals
- Winter storage (indoor and outdoor)
- Shrink wrapping

Treats, Sweets, and More

- Ice cream and novelty ice cream
- Assorted candies
- Water and soda
- Lake apparel, including hats, shirts, and sweatshirts

Secure Mooring = Secure Boat

As a result of a few severe storms last season, three boats were totaled when mooring chains broke under stress. The lucky boats were those that broke free but were rescued without damage. Please let us know if you would like a diver to check your mooring. It is far less expensive to have a diver replace the chain than to find your boat at the bottom of the lake or beached somewhere.

Have a Safe and Fun Summer!

Hours of Operation

Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day

Friday – Sunday
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Other Weekdays All Summer

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Sunday, October 8th

Last call for boats

Sunday, October 29th

Boating season ends
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