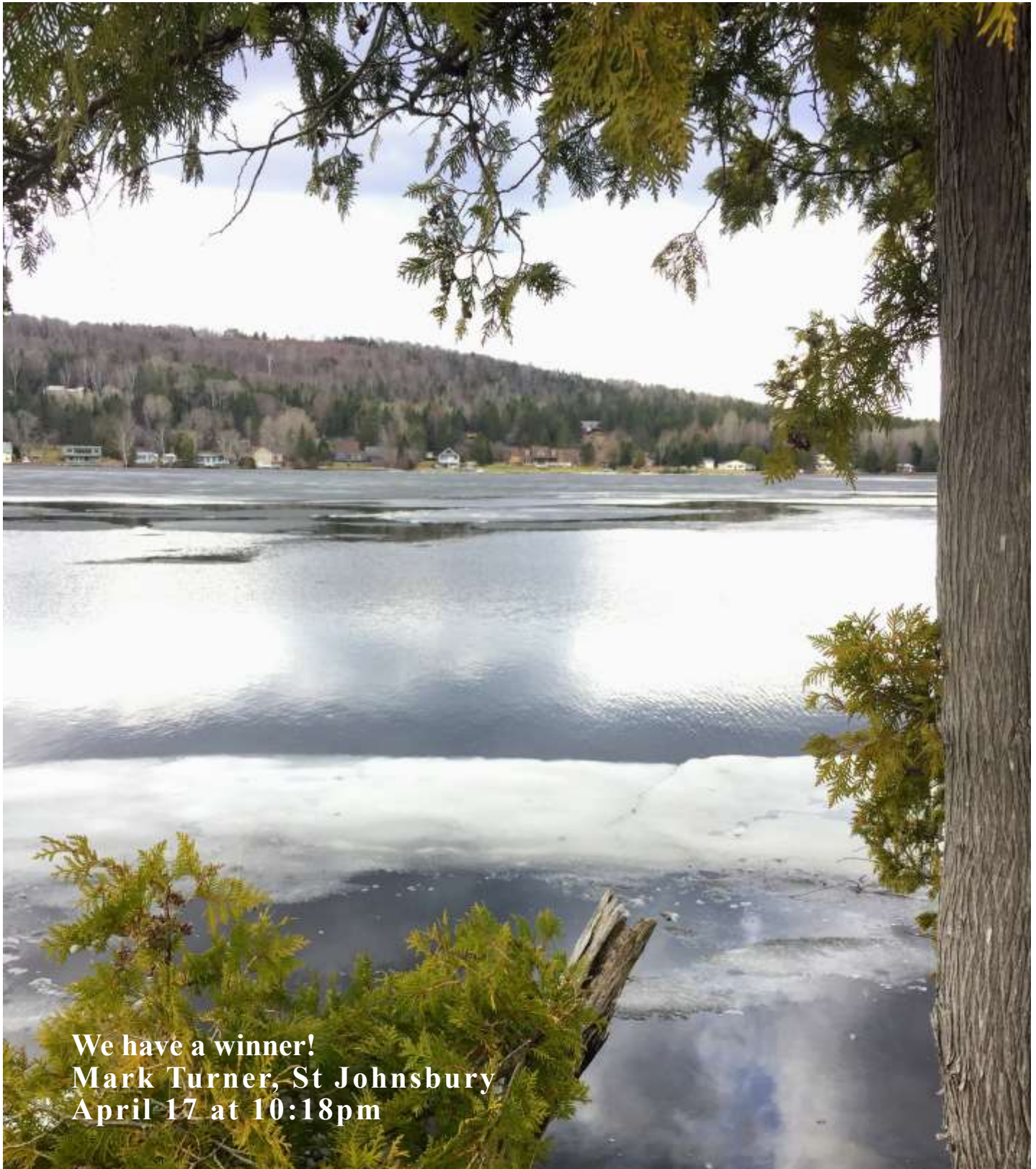


# JOE'S POND ASSOCIATION

Since 1921

Newsletter - Spring, 2023

Joe's Pond Association — P. O. Box 111 — West Danville, VT 05873



**We have a winner!**  
**Mark Turner, St Johnsbury**  
**April 17 at 10:18pm**



*Photo by Gretchen Farnsworth*

**Pres. Joe Hebert; V.Pres. Richard Gagne; Treas. Jack LaGue; Sec. Jamie Stewart  
Directors: Nicole Begin, Susan Bouchard, Peter Crosby, Larry Rossi**

The Joe's Pond Association newsletter is published each spring and mailed to all Joe's Pond Association members. We encourage our members to contribute articles and/or photos of interest for the newsletter or the website. To contribute, please contact editor Joanne Stewart at [joespondvt111@gmail.com](mailto:joespondvt111@gmail.com).

## 2023 JPA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- May 27 Spring Meeting, Pavilion, 10am
- June 13 Pitch, Pavilion, 4pm Jeremy Grenier, 802-505-0032
- June 17 Ham Dinner, Paige & Peter Crosby, 802-535-4949
- June 25 Sunfish Race\*, 1pm
- July 1 Annual Meeting, Pavilion, 10am
- July 8 Italian Dinner, Jeremy & Lori Grenier, 802-505-0032
- July 11 Pitch, Pavilion, 4pm
- July 15 Brooks Henry Band, 1pm—4pm  
Larry Rossi's camp, 2nd pond
- July 23 Sunfish Race\*, 1pm
- July 29 Pig Roast, Bo Keech, 802-684-3673  
Mary Anne Cassani, 802-684-2195
- Aug 8 Pitch, Pavilion, 4pm
- Aug 12 Pickleball Tournament\*\*, 10:30am  
Tom Segale, 617-909-0960
- Aug 19 Cocktail Party, Sue Yesalonia, 802-563-2977  
Nancy Buttura, 802-297-4146
- Aug 20 Sunfish Race\*, 1pm
- Sept 2 Fall Meeting, Pavilion, 10am
- Sept 12 Pitch, Pavilion, 4pm

\*Rain date: one week later, Susan Bouchard, 802-563-2716

\*\*Rain date: Aug 13

## GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

JPA Pavilion

Open to all members  
and all levels welcome

### Mah Jongg

May 31—September chill

Wednesdays, 1:30 pm

Kate Chatot: [kathleenchatot@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenchatot@gmail.com)

### Pickleball

Saturdays - 9am, Sundays -10am

Terry Guerlain: [tguerlain51@gmail.com](mailto:tguerlain51@gmail.com)

### Pitch

June 13, July 11, August 8

and Sept 12 at 4pm

Jeremy Grenier: [jermey@calmontbeverage.com](mailto:jermey@calmontbeverage.com)

### Yoga

Mondays, 10 am

July 10—August 7

Andrea Aimi: [andreaaimi@gmail.com](mailto:andreaaimi@gmail.com)

Please visit

***JoesPondVermont.com***

*For updates, info, membership renewal, Ice Out Tickets  
JPA directory, and lots of photos*

## President's Report



Welcome back and I trust everyone had a healthy and happy winter. Once again, we are looking forward to a busy and entertaining summer at Joe's Pond. We have a full schedule of dinners and events planned and hopefully everyone will take the opportunity to participate.

Last season we decided to space our dinners three weeks apart starting in mid-June instead of after July 4th. This proved to be quite popular despite enduring a rather cold evening for the chicken dinner held in mid-June. I would especially like to thank Marion and Garry Cairns and Peter and Page Crosby for hosting that event. This year they are planning a ham dinner.

2023 will bring some additional changes as long-time hosts Larry Rossi and Pamela Hebert have passed the torch to Jeremy & Lori Grenier who will take over the Italian Dinner. Joey Calcagni has retired as chief cook and Joe Cassani and Nick Taylor have volunteered to join the cooking crew. It is always gratifying to see new and younger members becoming involved in our Association. Sue Bouchard, our events coordinator, has a busy schedule planned again this summer so please check the web site and/or the newsletter for the full list of events. Also last year Pamela resigned her position on the Board as Water Quality Director after 17 years. We were very fortunate that Nicole Begin volunteered and assumed that position until the election to be held in 2023.

I want to thank Doug Martin for making the members aware that the State of Vermont plans on widening Route 2 with the possibility of some type of bike lane from the West Shore Rd to West Danville being included. We used the opportunity to request that the Town of Danville petition the State to reduce the speed limit in that area. Plans are still fluid and the project most likely will not commence until 2024. See the Jim Farnsworth article in the newsletter.

Last year we had our biennial lake inspection for milfoil and other invasive species, and I am pleased to report no milfoil was found. However, the invasive Common Reed and Purple Loosestrife were seen along the western shoreline in the main pond and in the channel area along the rail trail. Removal requires persistent annual cutting back and destruction of the stalks.

In late fall the boat launch ramp was repaired. We had notified the State the previous year of the deficiencies and thankfully, after inspecting the ramp, they agreed that replacement was necessary.

The use of wake boats for surfing has become quite controversial. The organization "Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes" (RWVL) petitioned the Department of Environmental Conservation to adopt rules and regulations limiting their use. At the time of this report no definitive decisions have been made, but it is anticipated there will be some type of distance from shore restriction in addition to a depth requirement. Also, wake boat sports may be restricted to use on a 'home lake' to minimize the chances of transmitting invasive species from one body of water to another. In February we solicited a poll from the membership which resulted in the members voting by 76% to support RWVL's recommendation of 1000 feet from shore restriction, which, if adopted, would effectively ban the use of wake boating sports on Joe's Pond.

Undoubtedly the biggest issue facing our Association in the past year was the cost of the July 4th fireworks display. The cost has more than doubled in the past few years. Last year the members agreed to pay \$10,000 and the board was notified in late fall that the 2023 cost would be \$12,500. Since the notification came after our Fall meeting the Board felt it was proper to poll the members using our email list to solicit their opinion regarding the future of the show. As always there were several suggestions, but the consensus was not to continue the fireworks given the current price. Whether this position will change can be discussed at our meetings this summer. Consequently, we are asking members, when paying dues, to give no additional donations for fireworks.

I would be remiss in not mentioning the book *West Danville, Vermont Then and Now, 1781 - 2021*. This history of our area was written by our former secretary Jane Brown, Danville Historical Society Director Patty Conly, and the late Dorothy Larrabee, and took eight years to complete. It is a compelling read, but what is most noteworthy is the awards it received. The Vermont Historical Society honored them with the annual Richard Hathaway Award for Excellence, and they also received the League of Local Historical Societies and Museums Excellence award. Truly a remarkable achievement.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their guidance and support. We have had to deal with some difficult situations this past year but have done so collectively. Also, a huge thanks to the many volunteers who continue to work tirelessly to make our social events, ice out contest, and other activities so successful.

- Joe Hebert

## Vice President's Report



Happy Spring! We are all looking forward to another great summer on Joe's Pond. As you all know we learned in October the cost for fireworks for 2024 jumped from \$10K to \$12.5K. We polled the members and with about 230 camps polled we received 124 responses with 71 voting to cancel the fireworks and 51 voting to keep the fireworks. I am sure there will be further discussion at the 2023 Spring Meeting on whether we opt back in for 2024. We did take a chance of losing our dates of July 3rd with a rain date of July 5th. If we decide to have them again in 2024 we will notify Northstar as soon as approved in hopes of reserving these dates. Enjoy the summer.

- Richard Gagne

## Secretary's Report



**Spring Meeting, 5/28/2022** started with the announcement of the three winners of the 2022 Ice-Out contest. Timothy Colgrove and John Reed, both of St. Johnsbury and Laurie Austin of St. Albans,; came within four minutes of the official time. Over 13,000 tickets were sold. In January of 2022 the cost of the fireworks was estimated to be \$10K and so the members were polled via email with 66% of the respondents voting to keep the fireworks. There was considerable discussion concerning the future of fireworks. Jack LaGue reported on the finances and stated we were in good shape. Emily Finnegan from the Lake Wise Program gave a presentation on how camps can slow down water run-off into the lake.

**Annual Meeting, 7/03/2022** had questions on how low the lake level was. Joe Hebert reported that we need rain. GMP said they know they need to keep the water level at an agreed upon level, but the State supersedes this with a minimum flow required to go over the dam. Camps were requested to be respectful, friendly, and keep the peaceful harmony of Joe's Pond given the political signs placed on camps. Dorothy Penar discussed the large algae bloom that occurred in the Hackett/Penar cove. It was announced that the State will be improving Route 2 from West Shore Rd to downtown West Danville beginning in 2023. Discussion happened on the increased costs (from 5K to 10K) of the Fireworks. The members admired the new tent sides for the Pavilion.

**Fall Meeting, 8/27/2023** began with the notice that the boat launch will be repaired on 10/3/2022 and will take 2 weeks to repair. Get your boats out before then! Applause and thanks were given to Pam Hebert retiring as water quality board member and was replaced by Nicole Begin until elections in 2023. Financially we will end up the year with a balance near \$40K. A new invasive species (Chinese Mystery Snail) was spotted in the lake and campers were advised on how to deal with them. Peter Crosby reported we have welcomed 8 to 10 new members. The costs for the 2023 Fireworks were unknown at this time.

- Jamie Stewart

## Aquatic Invasive Species Report



This report is a collaboration between Pam and our new water quality director, Nicole Begin, who assumed the position last July. This year's grant has been submitted to the state and the greeter program will be Father's Day Weekend and run through Labor Day Weekend.

This past summer, greeters inspected more than 175 boats from 130 different water bodies. The data was again

submitted to the VT Department of Environmental Conservation. No invasive species were found during inspections and boaters continue to be vigilant about keeping invasive aquatic species out of our water bodies. We again can report that no new infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil were found in any Vermont waterbodies in 2022.

Emily Vulgamore, aquatic biologist for Solitude Lake Management, conducted a survey on September 6. Emily noted that a total of twenty-five different aquatic species were observed with the aquatic plant community robust and healthy. No Eurasian watermilfoil was found, but two invasive species, Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife were seen at different locations on the Pond. Group efforts by the Farnsworths, Stewarts, Heberts and Andy Rudin have helped to control purple loosestrife in the wetlands near the LVRT. (Please see Gretchen Farnsworth's article about purple loosestrife on page 9).

Additionally, Jim Bernotas found a small population of Chinese Mystery Snails in the middle pond. He will continue efforts to remove and destroy the nonnative invasive snails, which can clog water intake pipes and outcompete native snails. Thank you, Jim.

New greeters are needed this year, so please contact Nicole for additional information.

- Pam Hebert and Nicole Begin

## Signs & Membership



2022 was another busy year welcoming a number of new owners to Joes Pond. It is always enjoyable to meet and greet new members to our community.

Most of our signs remain in good shape; however, a few do need to have the art work repainted which we will endeavor to have completed this summer. As of this time all of the signs are up to date to the best of our knowledge. My thanks, as always, to Thierry Guerlain for his work in painting the name slats and my thanks to the Road Captains who store signs over the winter.

- Peter Crosby

## Sunfish Race Buoy Setting



*Jamie and Marie Dimick*

## JPA Activities



It appeared everyone was happy with the 2022 schedule of events by having the first dinner in June then the following dinners every three weeks. Marion Beattie Carnes has agreed to put on another feast which will be a **Ham Dinner** on June 17 with Peter and Paige Crosby as coordinators for this event, so please contact them if interested in obtaining tickets. We are very excited that Jeremy and Lori Grenier will be taking over the **Italian Dinner** which will be held on July 8. Last year, some newcomers were recruited to help cook the chickens (see photo). This year, the **Pig Roast** will be held on July 29, so please see Bo Keach and Mary Anne Cassani for tickets. We will finish the season with our **Cocktail Party** on August 19 with Nancy Buttura and Sue Yesalonia as coordinators. All these events are a good time, so I suggest you reach out to the coordinators to obtain your tickets early.

This **Sailing** season, we had several new entries with some of the youngest sailors to date competing. Caroline and David Porter had their children, Sidney and Henry, who are 6 and 4, on board with them. It's exciting to see newcomers that are interested in the Sunfish Sailboat races. However, our experienced sailors won the Caledonia Cup again; Jack LaGue for the Singles Division and Lee Erdmann with his grandson, Charlie Roberts, for the Doubles Division. Please contact me if anyone is interested in learning to sail or be involved in the races.

Jeremy Grenier initiated a **Pitch** (card game) tournament last summer at the pavilion where Louie Cassani was the champion for the season. Jeremy will be coordinating more Pitch games this summer on June 13, July 11, August 8 and September 12. If you enjoy playing Pitch, please join the fun!

On Monday mornings during July and August, Andrea Aimi will lead a **Yoga** group at the pavilion. Kate Chatot has organized a group to play **Mah-Jongg** (tile game) on Wednesday afternoons (please see insert about Kate and Mah-Jongg). All levels are welcome and I encourage everyone who is interested in learning contact Kate Chatot.



*New generation of sailors:  
Jules and Lucy Chatot, Rob Stewart,  
Charlie Roberts, Grayson Demers and Joe Cassani*



*Nick Taylor and Joe Cassani*

**Pickleball** is one of the fastest growing sports and that is seen every Saturday and Sunday morning at the JPA courts. All levels are welcome and any new player that would like to learn, please contact Terry Guerlain.

It is always great to get more people involved with our events especially the younger generations. If anyone is interested in being involved in any of these events please let me know or talk to any of the coordinators to see where they need help. If you have any suggestions about future events, please contact me. A good example of this is Jeremy Grenier is organizing the band "Brooks Henry" to play on July 15 from 1-4pm on Larry Rossi's lawn on the 2nd pond.

- Susan Bouchard

**Our past organizers and chefs  
of the Italian Night Dinner  
are stepping down after  
many, many years of service.**

***THANK YOU!***

***Pam Hebert, Joe Calcagni  
and Larry Rossi***

### Mah-Jongg

Mah-Jongg is a tile game developed in China, and now played throughout the world. Kate Chatot has been teaching Mah-Jongg for many years at Joe's Pond, creating an active group of dedicated players. Kate enjoys teaching new players, so please join us at 1:30 on Wednesdays at the pavilion to learn the game and spend an enjoyable afternoon with your fellow Ponders.



*Kate Chatot and Norma Segale*

## 2023 Ice Out Report

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual Ice Out contest at Joe's Pond is in the books. At 10:18 PM on April 17<sup>th</sup>, the clock stopped when the block fell through the ice. The weather had been all over the place in the days before. The temperature around Joe's Pond had been in the 60's and 70's. The warm temperatures and the ice on the pond gave the illusion that the ice out and summer were just around the corner. Several days previously, the flag had blown over, but the clock was still ticking. There were 11,593 tickets sold this year compared to 13,436 in 2022. This year there was one winner. Mark Turner from St. Johnsbury guessed the exact time when the clock would stop. He will collect winnings of \$5,223.20.

Winter on Joe's Pond this year was as unpredictable as previous years. By Thanksgiving, the large pond had a skim of ice from north to south that persisted. The weekend after Thanksgiving, the first shanty was on the ice near the boat launch, and folks with parasails were out on the ice. Both seemed as early as they were last year. The depth of the ice varied widely. Many warnings about how fickle the ice can be were broadcast over TV stations and in newspapers warning that "no ice is safe ice". One incident on the north shore, behind the islands, a year-round resident found himself and his dog trapped in the ice-cold water and fragile ice. Fortunately, another year-round resident was walking on Sandy Beach Road, armed with her cell phone and camera. She dialed 911. Within minutes numerous local emergency vehicles arrived and were able to avoid tragedy. The resident and his dog were warm and safe in their home later in the day.

Larry Rossi and his crew expertly placed the block on the ice during the first part of March. The Ice Out Committee kept close watch of the conditions and made sure local vendors had plenty of tickets for sale. The committee members slogged through the mud to deliver and pick up tickets around Joe's Pond.



*Tangeni Dimick*

An innovative and creative way of promoting sales for the Ice Out occurred this year. Parent Bill Dimick donated 200 Ice Out tickets to the Waterford School as an opportunity for school learning. The teachers creatively used this donation to incorporate lessons in math, science, writing and geography. Tickets were filled out in the name of the Waterford School. In event of a win, it would be a school wide decision on how to spend the money. See the JPA Ice Out page on the web for the article from the Caledonian Record.

Just four days after the official end of the contest, as committee members were reviewing the contest entries



and sending information to the local press sources, the first boat of the season was launched on the pond from the boat access. Within minutes, the first water skier of the season was flying up the pond. It is wonderful to know that there are Joe's Ponders out there that can't wait for the water to warm up.

The Joe's Pond Ice Out Committee members would like to thank all those who purchased tickets and the vendors that made them available. Tickets for the 2024 Ice Out will be available at JPA meetings, from committee members, and can be printed from the JPA website. Online ticket sales will begin early in 2024.

-Diane Rossi, Mary Anne Cassani, Michelle Walker, Henretta Splain, Lisa Hebert and Larry Rossi

## Maintenance Report



Louie Cassani for filling in the cracks last fall.

New fencing may be required in some sections and will be assessed in the Spring. The microphone system in the Pavilion has been problematic and Jamie Dimick is helping us with improvements.

Regular maintenance will be on-going and we always appreciate input from the members. If you notice something that needs attention or think of a way to improve our facility, please do not hesitate to let me know. I can be reached at 802-684-3923 or contact any Board Member.

- Larry Rossi

## Cyanobacteria Report for Joe's Pond



For the past four years, Joe's Pond Association has participated in the Vermont Health's Department Cyanobacteria Tracker Program. Three sites on the Pond are observed by volunteers on a weekly basis from June to mid-September for any signs of cyanobacteria (commonly known as blue-green algae).

Cyanobacteria continues to be a problem at Joe's Pond. Blooms of Cyanobacteria were observed in two of the three monitored locations during the summer and fall of 2022. In fact, there was a very large bloom in late June during the height of the summer vacation season which required people to remain out of the water for a couple of days. There was a significant bloom in mid-October too. This late bloom highlights the fact that water temperature is not the main factor that causes a bloom. Runoff of nutrients into the Pond is the main condition that allows for cyanobacteria to bloom. This has been observed to be constant in some areas.

On a positive note, Emily Finnegan, Project Manager for Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation

District, kept very busy all summer doing shoreline evaluations for Ponders. Implementing all or some of Emily's "Lake Wise" suggestions will help mitigate the growing cyanobacteria problem. This summer, there are a number of projects around the Pond that will show how shoreline plantings can slow runoff and offer an aesthetically pleasing effect. Check the projects out as they are happening around the lake.

Remember, for the health of our lake, please:

- Do not fertilize your shoreline lawns
- Keep shorelines vegetated with native plants
- Do not culvert water into the Pond
- Use detention basins and rain gardens to slow rain runoff

Mowed lawns do not slow rain runoff. For more information on how you can keep our Pond free of Cyanobacteria blooms refer to the Water Quality page on the JPA website, or contact me.

- Dorothea Penar

### Vermont Boating Regulations

- A US Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Device (PFD) must be onboard for each occupant
- Vessels shall be operated at a no wake speed (or 5 mph) within 200' of the shore
- Vessels may not be operated faster than 5 mph within 200' of people, wildlife, other watercraft, docks, or swimming areas
- Anyone towed by a boat must wear a USCG approved PFD and the boat must have a spotter over the age of 12
- All navigational rules when encountering other vessels must be followed
- Trash and any potentially hazardous materials must be disposed of properly
- Make sure you have the appropriate safety gear to comply with your Vessel's Length Class

*For more information, please refer to the VT Boating Laws & Regulation Handbook*

## Welcome New Neighbors!

If you have not already joined the Joe's Pond Association, we hope you will do so. Dues are \$40 each year per camp.

We look forward to meeting each of you and welcome you to attend our meetings and events. See the Schedule of Events on page 2.

Joe's Pond is a special place—a community with solid values and lasting friendships that make wonderful memories through the years. We are happy you are here and wish you a wonderful summer.

## Property Transfers

**Boardman, Lucky & Jennifer** sold 3310 Rte 2W to Wayne & Rebecca Bushey, Brookfield, VT.

**Chase, Ted & Joyce, Barbara** sold 372 N Shore Rd. to Sean Joyce & Olivia Wakefield, Meredith, NH.

**Donlon, Cynthia** sold a share of 122 Edgewood Ave. to Lynn Zider, Barre, VT.

**Harris Family** sold 253 Old Homestead Rd. to Elaine Rossi, Woodbury, VT.

**Heinrich, Bruce & Christine** sold 108 Narrows Dr. to Nicom Coatings Corp, West Danville, VT.

**Segale/Woodhouse Family** sold 44 Clubhouse Cir. to Louis & Amber Monaghan, Manchester, CT.

## 2023 Directory

The printed 2023 JPA directory will be available at the Spring Meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, please email Joanne Stewart at [jpavt111@gmail.com](mailto:jpavt111@gmail.com) to arrange pick up of your directory at Hastings Store. The JPA website ([JoesPondVermont.com](http://JoesPondVermont.com)) has a password-protected link to the directory. For updates and corrections to the directory, please email the above address.

### Pickleball



*Runners Up of the 2023 Pickleball Tournament, Bob MacLeod & Robin Nicholson with their winning jar of pickles!*



## *Friends We've Lost*

**Allen, Mary**, 94, (427, 430 Old Homestead Rd) died on April 21, 2022 in St. Johnsbury, Vt. She was the owner and operator of the Hillcrest Nursing Home for many years and Director of Nursing at St. Johnsbury Health and Rehab Center. She and her husband Jack spent many summers on the Pond. She is survived by her daughter, Jean Brice.



school, marriage to his wife Florence, and Korean War service, Malcolm practiced family medicine for 50 years in Essex Junction, VT, continuing to visit the family camp at the Pond every summer. Malcolm is survived by three children, Jack, Douglas, and James.

**Button, Douglas**, 84, (156 Lemay Rd) died on December 3, 2022 in Whitefield, NH. Doug was a mechanical engineer who raised his family in Connecticut and moved to Vermont in 1997. An active hiker, camper, motocross, and mountain biker, Doug is survived by his wife, Marge, 3 children and 5 grandchildren.



**Parizo, George**, 79, (94 Sandy Beach Rd) died on June 15, 2022 in Springfield, Vt. George lived in Springfield his whole life and was a Machinist and a professional percussionist. He enjoyed hunting, camping, boating, snowmobiling, and riding motorcycles. A past president of VAST, George is survived by his wife, Patty, 2 daughters, Barbara (Roy) Williams and Diane (Joshua) Nicholls, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



**Calcagni, Joe**, 89, (175 North Shore Rd) died on March 18, 2023. Joe was a lifelong resident of Barre, Vt and was President of the JPA from 1981 - 1984. Joe and Jules Chatot started the JPA Italian Dinner. He was very active in the granite industry and the city of Barre and was well known for his overwhelming hospitality and warmth. He is survived by his wife Mary Jean and 5 children; Joey (Joni) Calcagni, Andrea (Robert) MacLeod, Joannie (Niall) McCallum, Matthew (Hilary) Calcagni, and Tony (Beth) Calcagni, 10 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.



**Rudin, Harry**, 85, (403 Old Homestead Rd) died on October 2, 2022 in Zurich, Switzerland. Harry graduated from Yale with a PhD in electrical engineering and worked for IBM in Switzerland. Harry spent his summers as a youth on the pond and there are many stories of the fun times. He is survived by his wife, Edith, five children, and his brother, Andy (Joyce).



**Donnelly, Barbara**, 91, (313 Old Homestead Rd), died on December 2, 2022 in Montpelier, Vt. Barbara grew up in Barre and was employed as a legal secretary. She and her husband, John, spent winters in Florida and summers on the Pond. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Tucker (Jeffrey) and 2 grandsons.



**Tassie, Stanley (Jack)**, 84, (210 Edgewood Ave), died on November 16, 2022 in Colchester, Vt. Jack worked in Europe for 12 years prior to moving to Sarasota, Fl where he owned and managed the Dolphin Lodge on Siesta Key. He loved Joe's Pond and hosting friends and family. His wife (Carole) predeceased him in 2004. Jack is survived by his daughter, Allison Srinivasan.



**Malcolm Paulsen**, 97, (445 Old Homestead Rd) passed away on May 25, 2023. A Danville native, Malcolm enjoyed idyllic childhood summers at the family camp. After graduating Norwich and UVM medical



## *Extended Family Members*

**Belville, Margaret K (Tootie)**, 93, mother to **Robert Belville** (148 Laperle Dr) died on 7/9/22 in Barre, VT.

**Cobler, Kelly**, 28, daughter to **Beth and Tony Stewart** (310 N Shore Rd) died on 1/20/23 in Anaheim, CA.

**Porter, Susan**, 74, mother to **David Porter** (422, 428 N Shore Rd) died on 4/11/23 in Randolph, VT.

**Woodhouse, Frank**, 86, father to **Jane Segale and Sally Woodhouse** (364 N Shore Rd) died on 7/6/22 in Natick, MA.

## West Danville History Book Wins Prestigious Awards

The recently published book, *West Danville, Vermont: Then and Now, 1781-2021*, has received two Awards of Excellence from the Vermont Historical Society. The Richard O. Hathaway award is given to individuals or an organization in recognition of outstanding contributions to Vermont history; the League of Local Historical Societies and Museums Achievement Award is given for outstanding work collecting, preserving and sharing Vermont history. Both awards were presented to authors Jane Brown and Patricia Conly in a brief ceremony at the Danville Historical Society on November 17, 2022. The Vermont Historical Society described the book as “visually appealing, easy to understand, and covers a wide range of topics, making it an excellent text for anyone interested in knowing more about the community’s collective history,” calling it a “high quality publication.” The book is available at Hastings Store or the Danville Historical Society at [book@danvillevthistorical.org](mailto:book@danvillevthistorical.org).



## Purple Loosestrife

Last summer purple loosestrife emerged as a threat to the marshy wetland areas of Joe’s Pond. There are several areas affected along the bike path, most heavily in the area surrounding Camp Swampy but also at the end of Sandy Beach Road. Loosestrife can quickly dominate vegetation in wetlands. A single plant can produce over one million seeds. If allowed to establish, it will choke out native plants that are necessary for a diverse habitat. Loosestrife does not provide suitable food, shelter or nesting sites for birds, amphibians or turtles. It can clog waterways and access to water. Decomposition of the leaves can raise the acidity of the surrounding water.

In areas that are accessible, individual plants can be pulled out or dug by hand. Removal of the flowers and seed heads will also help prevent spread. The plants and flower heads should be placed in plastic bags and disposed of at a landfill. Herbicides can be used but would need to be approved for wetlands and should be done by a professional. Early detection and removal are important to reduce spread.



Jim Farnsworth pulling purple loosestrife

-Gretchen Farnsworth

## US-2 Road Construction Projects

The Vermont Agency of Transportation has two roadway construction projects planned for the next five construction seasons.

The first project listed as Marshfield-Danville US-2, will start by the Maplefields-Irving Oil near the Plainfield/Marshfield town line, and will continue east along US-2 to a point just past the Park & Ride located across from Hastings Store in West Danville. Construction will start in Marshfield this spring and continue east for approximately 6.3 mi., rebuilding the subbase and new paving.

Simultaneously, a section of US-2 starting just east of West Shore Road and continuing east 1.3 mile to the bridge in West Danville, will be redone with 11-foot travel lanes and 4-foot shoulders, except for the westbound lane from the bridge in West Danville past the first pond and Point Comfort, which will have a 3-foot shoulder. Work will continue through the summers of 2023 and 2024.

- Jim Farnsworth



## Yoga with Andrea

Mondays, 10am, July 10—Aug 7  
\$14, free 16 and under  
Wear comfortable clothing  
Bring a mat or towel  
Beginners welcome

Contact: [andreaaimi@gmail.com](mailto:andreaaimi@gmail.com)

## Charles D. Brainerd Public Library

A raffle was held at the Danville Fair in August to celebrate our fifth year reopening anniversary. Items were donated by patrons, volunteers and local businesses. Ginger and Lee Erdmann’s grandchildren were the big winners. Lee has been a volunteer since we reopened in 2016. Thanks to all who make this a great success.

We also had our very first book signing with local author Heidi McCann and her book, *Whatever the Future Holds*. Heidi, daughter of Ginger and Lee Erdmann, spent her summers growing up at Joe’s Pond and her memoir is a beautiful love story with many references to Joe’s Pond. There are several donated copies in the library.

We will be open the same hours as last year, from 2pm—4pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We welcome donations of new books as well as new volunteers. Please stop by and say HELLO and browse our selection.

- Mary Anne, Susan, Joanne and Pam



## Lessons Learned from Vermont's Oldest Loon

By Eric Hanson

We banded 29 adult loons and 3 chicks in Vermont from 1998-2003 as part of regional mercury study and 13 more that were rescued and released since 2005. From those banded individuals, we have caught glimpses into a loon's life that we would otherwise never know: how they find a spot in a territory, the role of floater, non-breeding loons, the effects of mercury on loon behavior, and where loons migrate and disperse. We also are learning how old loons can live. In 2017, I received a report of a banded loon on Newark Pond: green over orange on the left leg and yellow over silver on the right. I banded this male loon in 1998, and he disappeared sometime after 2005. Twenty years later he had won his spot back in the Newark Pond territory. We saw him again in 2021 with a chick, making him at least 29 years old (assuming he was at least 6 years old back in 1998, the average age of first nesting for males).

From the Newark Pond male and his cohort, we have gained valuable insights into how Vermont's loons migrate to the ocean in winter and disperse on the breeding grounds. Our Newark Pond male flies directly to the Cape Cod region and has traveled an astounding 15,000 miles in his lifetime. Three deceased Vermont loons were recovered between Long Island and Cape Cod, migrating about 300 miles from their breeding territories (see map). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service used this migration information to guide loon recovery efforts after an oil spill killed over 500 loons off the New England coast in 2003.

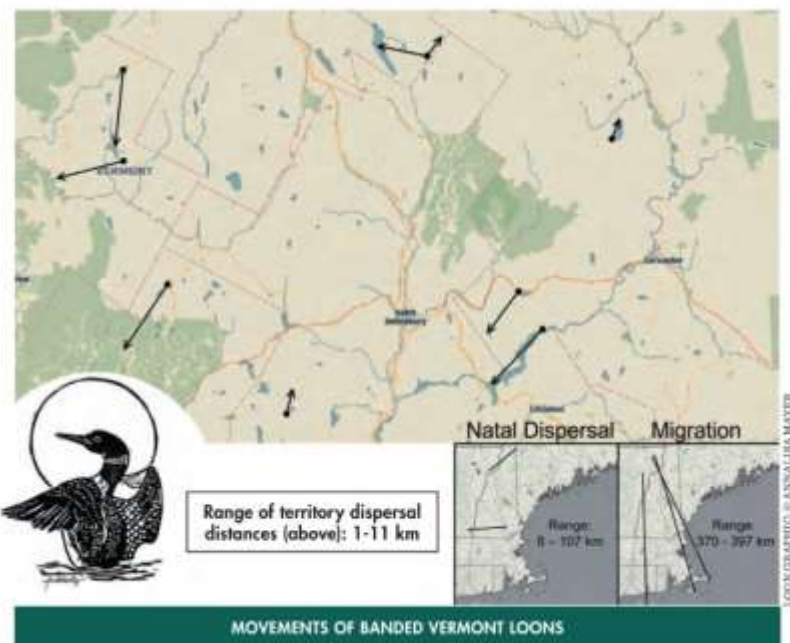
After fledging, the chicks make their way to the coast as well, usually returning to Vermont three to five years later and establishing within 20-40 miles of their natal lake. A chick from Molly's Falls Reservoir moved to East Long Pond, eight miles away, and a chick from Zack Woods Pond became a breeder on nearby Wolcott Pond. However, we have also learned that young loons do not always remain close to home. We discovered two long-distance dispersals when we recovered a loon on Stiles Res. in Waterford banded as a chick on Azischohos Reservoir in Maine, and a lead sinker mortality case on Sunset Lake in Marlboro, banded as a chick near Manchester, NH. Both loons were 15 years old.

A major discovery from following banded loons is that loons do not mate for life. Although a pair in Michigan has been together for 25 years, the average marriage is only four to five years before there is a switch in one of the mates. Over time birds often do not return because they either were evicted during a territorial dispute or died. In Vermont, we have re-observed 13 banded loons on different lakes all within 12 miles of the lake where the loon was originally banded (see map). Four of the birds settled on new territories that had not existed before (Fosters, Maidstone – North, Shadow-Concord, Somerset – North Islands), showing us that “experienced” loons are often the birds starting new territories.

Over the next several summers, VCE's loon conservation team plans to band additional loons primarily to test for malaria and mercury. The Newark male loon had relatively low levels of mercury, so we will not catch those loons again. The new bands will also allow us to follow some of our loons more closely. If you see a loon preen with its leg exposed out of the water and see colored bands, I encourage you to spend some time trying to determine the colors and note which leg. And, if you're on Newark Pond this summer, drift quietly near the loon pair and look for flashes of green over orange or yellow over silver. Bird 898-09100 (imprinted on the silver band) might teach you a thing or two about being a good partner, caring for offspring, and never giving up.



Photo by Abby Reisfnyder





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