



## ON THE POND

SUMMER 2015

### President's Message

Summer is here and activity around the pond is getting into full swing! Details on July Camp Association events can be found in this edition of the newsletter. In addition to the usual 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities, we also plan to host some additional family events throughout the summer. We'll be looking for some feedback on this at the annual Camp Association Meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

We will keep members informed of any new programs and events by email, on the association website ([www.NealPondVT.org](http://www.NealPondVT.org)), and through our Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/NealPondVT](http://www.Facebook.com/NealPondVT)

Feel free to reach out to me directly at [jpratt@nealpondvt.org](mailto:jpratt@nealpondvt.org) if you have any questions or ideas.

See you on the pond!

*Jackie Pratt*

NPCOA President 🐾

### NPCOA Membership

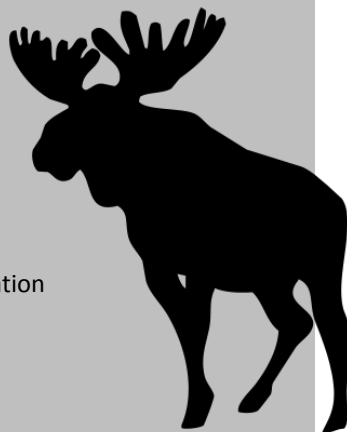
In recent years, the Neal Pond Camp Owners Association (NPCOA) has been working to increase participation in the association through creation of new programs and activities. While many camp owners maintain annual membership in the association, others decline to participate.

One question I've heard in regard to membership is "what's in it for me?" Here are just some of the things members can take advantage of that are not available to non-members:

- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Events** – The kids fishing derby and poker run are open to NPCOA members only.
- **Annual Membership Meeting & BBQ** – Have a voice in the direction of the association by participating in our annual meeting and voting on the issues at hand. Meet your neighbors and enjoy a family-friendly BBQ following the meeting.
- **Outdoor Movie Night** – A great time for all ages. Bring the kids and a blanket and lay out under the stars while enjoying a family friendly movie, snacks, and a campfire!
- **Ice Cream Social** – The ice cream social is a great mid-summer opportunity to connect with friends from around the pond.
- **Newsletter Subscription** – In addition to this summer edition, members receive newsletters throughout the year with updates on happenings around the pond.
- **Staples Discount Card** – As NPCOA members, this card will provide 5% off any

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 1 NPCOA Membership
- 2 Fourth of July Events
- 2 Annual Meeting Information
- 3 New Trash Rules
- 4 Other Notes



*Membership continued on page 3*

## Fourth of July Events

July is peak time for many of our members who will be busy with family gatherings to celebrate Independence Day. If history is any indicator, we'll have more guests on the pond over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July than at any other time of the year. This year's NPCOA-sponsored events are listed below:

- **6:00 – 11:00 am | Kid's Fishing Derby**  
The Carbonneau family will once again host their annual fishing derby for kids up to 14 years of age. Stop by their dock to register the morning of the derby.

Fish should be brought ALIVE to their dock on Boys Camp Road for official weigh-in. This catch-and-release derby is free to all NPCOA members and their guests.

Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories. All participants should meet back at the Carbonneau's dock at 11:00 am for prizes, snacks, and crafts.

- **1:00 – 4:00 pm | Poker Run**  
A family-friendly event! Boat to each of the five numbered docks indicated by a balloon/ball and pick up one card at each dock. When you have collected one card from each dock, meet back at dock #1 at 4:00 pm to determine who has the best poker hand. Prizes will be given to those with the top three hands.

Rules: One hand of cards *per boat*. This event is free for NPCOA members and their guests. Be respectful of dock owners and other boaters. No opening envelopes or trading cards. Please paddle safely and use an appropriate life preserver as required by law.

- **7:00 pm | Boat Parade**  
The boat parade will begin at the boat launch and proceed counter-clockwise around the pond. Get in the spirit of the holiday and dress your boat in the most patriotic decorations you can find! Nothing gets the crowd cheering more than good old red, white, and blue!

Please DO NOT throw or shoot anything from your boat during the parade.

- **9:00 pm | Flare Lighting**  
A horn will sound when it is time to light the flares. Each camp should place their flares in a safe location down by the water's edge for all to enjoy!

Please have a happy, safe, and healthy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and enjoy the fireworks! 🗨️

## Outdoor Movie Night

Join us for a fun family movie under the stars! The movie starts at 8:30 pm on July 11<sup>th</sup> at the McGuire Camp, 210 Boys Camp Road. Bring chairs, blankets, and adult beverages. Kids' drinks and snacks will be provided. Rain date TBD. 🗨️

## Annual Meeting Information

The annual Neal Pond Camp Owners Association meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 2015. We will provide updates on many of the questions posed at last year's meeting, elect leaders, and address a host of new topics including new regulations, possible changes to the bylaws, and other issues.

- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Business Meeting
- 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Association BBQ

This year we will have a special guest speaker at the meeting. Eric Hanson, Vermont Loon Conservation Project (VLCP) Coordinator and Vermont Center for Ecostudies Conservation Biologist, will offer up some information on our resident loons.

For the last several years, Eric has been actively engaged in monitoring and protecting the loons on Neal Pond. Thanks to Eric's efforts, we now have access to "Loon Nesting" signs that help prevent boat traffic from disturbing our loons during nesting season.

Despite the efforts of the VLCP, the pair of loons that regularly attempt to nest on Neal Pond have had several years in a row of failed nests. Eric will

*Annual Meeting continued on page 3*

## New Trash Rules

A new state regulation goes into effect at the Lunenburg Transfer Station on July 1<sup>st</sup> which requires residents to purchase special “town” trash bags to dispose of household garbage at the transfer station. These “pay-as-you-throw” bags will be available for purchase at the transfer station for a limited time and will be permanently available at Lunenburg Variety.

Small kitchen-sized bags will cost \$10 per package and larger barrel-sized bags will cost \$15 per package. Recycling will still be available at no cost, while large, bulky items and construction debris will continue to be priced per load. ☹

## 2015 Photo Contest

We are now accepting submissions for the 2015 photo contest! Email your best high-resolution pictures from Neal Pond in the following categories to [jpratt@nealpondvt.org](mailto:jpratt@nealpondvt.org) by July 6, 2015.

### Judging

Pictures in each category will be presented at the annual Camp Owners Association picnic on July 11<sup>th</sup>, where members will vote for the winner in each category.

### Categories

- People - Show us what you love to do at the pond and who you do it with.
- Landscapes - Did you catch a great sunset or a spectacular rainbow? Share it with us!
- Wildlife – Capture the moose, loons, herons and other animals that call Neal Pond home.

### Rules

Photos should be of the immediate Neal Pond area taken from July of 2014 to present, and must be appropriate for viewing by all ages. All photos submitted to the contest may be used by the NPCOA in a future Neal Pond calendar or on the [NealPondVT.org](http://NealPondVT.org) web site.

Please Note: we have run into some problems using low-resolution images for our calendar in the past. Please be sure to submit high-quality, high-resolution photos to avoid this issue. ☹

copy and print products from Staples. The Association will also receive a 5% credit for each purchase NPCOA members make at Staples when they show their card.

- **Access to Grants** – In 2014, the NPCOA was able to obtain a grant through the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds to provide 5 NPCOA members with discounted blue berry bushes to attract wildlife and protect their shoreline.

Quadrant officers will be visiting each camp prior to July 4<sup>th</sup> to collect Camp Owners Association dues and to sell flares for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July as well as tickets to the Camp Owners Association BBQ on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

We highly encourage camp owners to renew their membership to take advantage of all the things the NPCOA has to offer.

Dues remain at \$10 per year. The best deal is \$20 for dues, two flares, and two people at the cookout. Members may also mail a check for dues (along with your name, mailing address, and camp address) to:

Neal Pond Camp Owners Association  
PO Box 184  
Lunenburg, VT 05906

Neal Pond Calendars will be **not** be available this year due to price increases that put the cost of the calendars above the price cap approved at the Annual Meeting (\$10 each). However, bumper stickers are available for \$7 each. ☹

Annual Meeting continued from page 2

present some possible strategies that we can put into play to help our loons have a successful 2016 nesting season and will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the VLCP.

The meeting and BBQ will be held at the Monahan Camp located on the east side of the pond at 46 Lake Road, the same location as last year’s Labor Day weekend meeting. Special thanks to the Monahan Family for hosting us again!

Members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert item to the BBQ to share with the group. ☹



## Other Notes

- **Website Updates** –

www.NealPondVT.org has been updated to include information on all 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities.

The new website design is temporarily on hold while we evaluate options for obtaining non-profit status to receive free hosting.

- **Facebook** – Follow Neal Pond Camp Assoc. on Facebook at facebook.com/NealPondVT to stay on top of what’s going on at the pond and to keep in touch with your neighbors.

- **Personal Watercraft/Jet Skis** –

Please note that jet skis (a.k.a. personal watercraft) are prohibited on the pond. Be sure to remind guests and renters of this to avoid any problems this summer.

- **Neal Pond Gear** – Visit our online store for Neal Pond T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and more! Click the Neal Pond Gift Shop link on the left menu at www.NealPondVT.org

- **Boating License** – Please be aware that the state of Vermont requires all watercraft operators to obtain an official

boating safety license. The Vermont Boater Safety course can be completed online at [www.boat-ed.com/vermont](http://www.boat-ed.com/vermont) and the license fee is \$29.50.

- **Family Programs** – Do you have an idea for a family program? Reach out to me at [jjpratt@nealpondvt.org](mailto:jjpratt@nealpondvt.org) with your ideas and we can try to coordinate an event for late summer on the pond.
- **Other Ideas?** – Feel free to reach out with any ideas you may have for improving our pond, protecting our water, or just having fun! 🗣️