

LLPA NEWSLETTER, SUMMER 2011

The past year has been one of modest, but significant progress in our efforts to maintain and enhance the health and beauty of Laurel Lake. After years of negotiating, jockeying, studying, and politicking, all at significant cost in terms of effort and money, the Lee and Lenox Conservation Commissions (ConComs), each granted the LLPA an Order of Conditions (OOC) allowing a three foot lake drawdown last fall. In this effort, Ken Wagner, PhD, of Water Resource Services, LLC, served as a consultant to the LLPA in dealing with the questions raised by the ConComs and the public. The drawdown was accomplished, under the control of Roger Scheurer, who donated his considerable services. Unfortunately, the impact of weather and time constraints ultimately limited the drawdown to 30 inches.

The OOCs demanded a large amount of pre and post drawdown study of lake flora and fauna which, also at considerable cost, will be provided by Dr. Wagner and his associates. The post drawdown and other OOC required studies should be completed by the end of August. If the data provides the support expected, we will move forward with a similar request for a drawdown this fall.

Throughout the year we worked to inform and engage the town officials of Lee and Lenox in our efforts to get the towns to accept some direct responsibility for the resource the lake represents. We are pleased to have had our requests for \$2,500 in funding from each Town approved. That's the good news about finances. The not-so-good news is that \$5,000.00 will not cover half the expected costs. LLPA's fund-raising efforts will need to continue and those who care about the lake will be asked for financial support. Please note and act upon the donation request at the end of this newsletter. Continuing efforts will seek to solidify the relationship between the towns and the LLPA and create a source of ongoing funding.

On another front, the State is nearly finished with the repairs and modifications to the boat ramp and cross road drainage. When this is completed a hot water boat wash will be stationed at the boat ramp for the duration of the boating season. In addition to the wash station, the State will be funding monitors at the boat ramp to educate the public regarding invasive species precautions and encourage compliance.

So, overall, it has been a busy and productive year. Much has been accomplished. Much remains to be done. No good newsletter would end without three additional items:

- 1) An announcement of the **next LLPA General Meeting---June 30, 7:30 pm at the Lenox Community Center, on Walker Street.**—please make an effort to join us there.
- 2) An appeal for participation — please renew or begin your new membership! Or, go a step further: Your assistance would be welcomed working on occasional mailings, contributing to a newsletter, writing letters to the editor, or simply adding your ideas and expertise to our frequent Board of Directors' meetings.
- 3) An appeal for money. Dues alone will not sustain all the various activities and efforts. Nor will grants come easily without evidence of matching support or without expenditures. It takes money to get money. It takes money to support our lake's well-being. **Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the LLPA.** (The LLPA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.)

Please send your membership dues and contributions together with this sheet completed to:

**Laurel Lake Preservation Association
P.O. Box 512
Lenox, MA 01240-0512**

Yes, I want to be part of the solution.

_ Enclosed are membership dues; \$15.00 per individual \$30 per household.

_ Enclosed is an additional contribution of:

_ \$25.00 _ \$50.00 _ \$100.00 _ Other \$ _____

_ Please contact me and tell me how I can help.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

(very helpful in reducing mailing costs!)

Telephone _____

Thank you.