



The Chocorua Lake Association

Fall Newsletter 2011

November 2011

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President's Letter

Dear CLA Members,

Blessed with pretty extraordinary summer weather, we were rain free on all of our CLA events starting off on July 4th weekend with the CLA Community Picnic. This year was hosted by Nancy and Dick Fryberger with help from Townsend and Anne Zwart and Tish McIlwaihthe. After a hardy barbeque lunch, the 45 or so CLA members attending were lucky enough to view John Moir's absolutely fabulous collection of antique cars housed in a hidden-away, enormous garage on the hill. This collection arranged in immaculate rows, was organized alphabetically A to Z with each car maker represented by a letter; a unique and wondrous collection! (See photos). Our second community picnic on August 13th was also a big success, hosting close to 60 members and their families. It was once again, organized and officiated by Steve Lanou and Jeff Landesman. These picnics give us all a chance to come together, and to have fun and socialize with others one might not have seen otherwise. I might add though, that they are considerable work. So our thanks goes out to those who host, cook and help clean up, thank you!



Photo: John Watkins

In addition, CLA volunteers cleaned up the trash along Rt. 16 in July and this past Columbus Day. Many thanks to all who helped, (see article in this newsletter). Over the Labor Day weekend, the traditional Tennis Tournament, (see John Sedgwick's article) was held despite last minute rain. And the Grove picnic, as always, drew a hearty crowd topped with the Festival of Lights led once again by Tish McIlwaihthe. The boats were particularly festive this year and showed themselves off well around the big lake and on into the little lake.



The July CLA picnic was a smashing success, hosted by Nancy and Dick Fryberger with Townsend and Anne Zwart tending the grill.



The CLCF and CLA continuing to work together, celebrated our newest acquisition of Moose Meadows (formally The Chocolate Moose) on a cloudy Sunday afternoon. John Mersfelder - formally from the Tamworth Conservation Committee - gave an interesting talk to the assembled 25 or so participants about the importance of wetlands. This piece of land borders on one of the tributaries entering the lake, so it is a crucial piece in keeping the lake's water quality pristine. The wetlands surrounding and incorporating Moose Meadow are now almost all entirely protected by conservation easements. Additionally, this piece anchors a corridor of conservation lands from James Pond all the way around the north side of the lake to Rt. 16. The new bridge rails - another joint effort by the CLA and CLCF - are a vast improvement over the old dilapidated ones. Again, see newsletter article and photos. We will plan to hold our joint meeting in the upcoming spring.

I want to thank all our members for ratifying the new amendments to the CLA Articles of Association and By-Laws at the Annual Meeting. This update will put the organization in compliance with the new IRS and State of New Hampshire laws for non-profits. The CLA Board also welcomes four newly elected Board members, David Farley, Pete Lewis, Christine (Nomie) Cannon Fredericks and Bob Seston. As always, if you have comments or questions please feel free to contact any of us on the Board.

Cordially,

Harriet P. Hofheinz,

President, Chocorua Lake Association

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Grove Bridge



Crafted new bridge rails now adorn our “look to the Mountain” bridge in the Grove. Larry Nickerson, Jack Terwilleger, and Ned Eldridge took an old photo of the bridge circa early 1900s and replicated the current bridge’s rails into a work of art. Additionally, they are sturdy, elegant, removable, and replaceable when the Town decides to replace the bridge’s planking. We couldn’t resist showing off this newly perfected bridge with several photo shots contained in this newsletter. The rails have now had their first coat of stain carefully applied by Kate Lanou, Charlie Worcester and Pete Lewis. The rails will need another coat of stain next spring and after that every three years or so.



Thanks goes to all for such a masterful job! I suspect we will soon see these fine rails reflected on an upcoming New Hampshire Calendar. These rails should last us a good long time.

Charlie Worcester, Kate Lanou, and Pete Lewis hard at work preserving the new railings. Photos: John Watkins

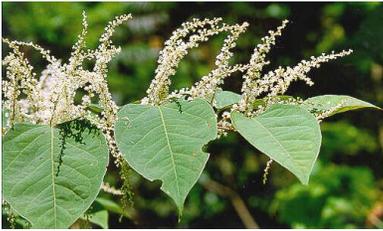


Grove and Island Kiosks

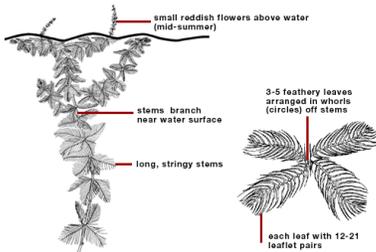
Additionally, Larry Nickerson has crafted two new kiosks: one for the Grove and one for the Island. They are made with a peeled cedar frame, a roof of cedar purlins with cedar shingles and a board ridge. There is a bulletin board attached to the frame covered with a Plexiglas panel to hold pertinent information for the public and residents alike. Larry says they are very much in keeping with the railings so that the look will all nicely tie together. What with the new signs (thanks to Art Baldwin), our two new lock boxes (thanks to John Roberts and Bill Whyte), our new bridge rails and kiosks, the Grove and Island areas have an updated and elegant look. We can now eliminate many of the signs scattered throughout these areas. We have also already collected a tidy sum this past summer from the lock boxes put in last spring. Again, a big thanks to Larry and Dwight Baldwin for masterminding this new look.



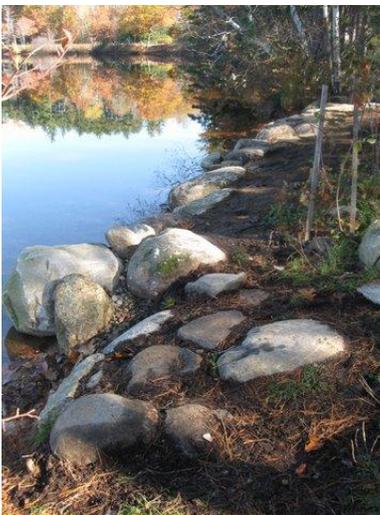
A Few Words About Invasive Plants - Diana M. Bailey



Japanese Knotweed



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Recent work at the Grove continues to reduce the impact of erosion from heavy foot traffic.

Most of us recognize these thugs, though we may not know their names or much about how they got here. Some you might recognize on the US Dept. of Agriculture's list of non-native invasives for New Hampshire: tree of heaven, garlic mustard, European barberry, oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, water flag iris, Japanese honeysuckle, and multiflora rose.

Japanese knotweed is one with which we are all too familiar right in Chocorua. It is native to Japan, China and Korea and was introduced from Japan to the UK as an ornamental garden plant in 1825 and then to the US in the late nineteenth century. Oriental bittersweet, also native to Japan, China and Korea, was introduced to the US in the 1860s, also as a garden ornamental. It is crowding out the native, American bittersweet which has almost disappeared in some areas. You can see how this happens if you are driving down Rte.128 in Massachusetts between Waltham and Newton. The vine climbs up into the tallest trees, smothering all other plants around, until its great weight causes the trees to uproot or lose limbs in high winds and heavy snowstorms. Soon we are left with a forest of oriental bittersweet - a monoculture.

A non-native invasive freshwater plant about which we are very concerned at Lake Chocorua, is the Eurasian Watermilfoil - "the dreaded milfoil" that is clogging lakes in various parts of New Hampshire. It is an attractive plant that is commonly sold as an aquarium plant that has been improperly disposed of. Some say it was introduced into the US from Europe and Asia in the 1940s and some say it came as early as the 1890s. It is very difficult to control and can drastically alter a water body's ecology by forming dense mats of vegetation on the surface that interfere with swimming, fishing, boating, and power generation and irrigation by clogging water intakes. We are desperately hoping it will not find its way into Lake Chocorua.

"Invasive, non-native, noxious" plants are those capable of moving aggressively into a habitat and monopolizing resources such as light, nutrients, water, and space, thereby choking out other (often native) species. To put this in perspective, at least 4,000 species of non-native plants occur in the wild in the US and most cause no problems. However, 80 or so of these cost us \$97 billion annually in crop failures, arable land loss, loss of economically useful natives, and in clearing efforts; not to mention the unattractive effect of losing decorative native plants to a monoculture of a noxious plant. We have a good example of a monoculture in the almost unbroken stand of Japanese knotweed that runs from just north of the Chocorua Dam Ice Cream Shop to just before the Lake, on the west side of Rte.16.

Japanese knotweed is found in 39 US states and six provinces in Canada, and is listed as invasive in most of them. The World Conservation Union lists it as "one of the world's 100 worst invasive species." One plant's root system can extend 23 feet horizontally and 10 feet deep. Even a back hoe has trouble removing all the roots and it can re-sprout from the smallest piece of remaining root. Its root system and strong top growth can damage foundations, flood defenses, roads, paving, retaining walls and architectural sites.

You may be aware that we are mounting an attack on the Japanese knotweed in the immediate vicinity of the entrance to the grove and south to the little lake. On a regular basis we are cutting down and bagging the weed in the hope that we can weaken it to the point where the roots can no longer sustain the plant. If you would like to join this effort, we welcome your help. Our sessions coincide with the trash

clean-ups on Rte.16, though any time you see knotweed in our area chopping it down and taking it away will speed its demise.

A Survival Guide to the Summer Feeding of 46 for 2 Weeks in Chocorua - Kate Lanou

Find out who will be in Chocorua on what days. Try to pin people down, so numbers are clear for food and beds. Try to not be too annoying.

Make a schedule of what family is in charge of dinner on what night. (Make sure it's not their first night there, or their last, or right after someone else has made pasta, because their signature dish is also pasta, etc.)

Before the week begins, shop for bulk items – like 25 lbs of flour and the double container of dish soap and olive oil. Buy 6 loaves of bread, which might cover breakfast and first family hike. Remember that 25 lbs of flour needs to be stored, creating a big mess as you divide it up into smaller containers. Note that none is left after 3 weeks.

When it's your turn to shop for dinner, ask if anyone has anything else to add to the list. Your 'simple' list (7 or 8 lbs of pasta, 5 lbs of chicken, 8 rounds of goat cheese, 6 peppers, 3 gallons of milk because you always need 3 gallons of milk...) becomes more complicated as people remember that we're out of crackers, strawberry jam, and that the toilet paper is too thin. Conversation overheard might include: "Did anyone check to see if there is unexpired baking soda? How much cumin is there? Do you think there is enough lettuce or beans available in the garden? Is someone making lemon squares tonight? Don't make squash again, please."

Enter grocery store with long list. Get cart, and then decide to take two. Wonder who buys ½ cartons of eggs while you attempt to balance four 18 packs on top of the 21 bananas in the front of your cart. Answer by-stander questions about what party you're shopping for or whether you're shopping for the month.

Squeeze both carts into the checkout line. Look enviously at the Express Line. Avoid eye contact or make cheerful small talk with person stuck behind you. Be surprised, and genuinely gasp when your credit card is charged \$450, and you don't even have any wine.

Load everything into car. Drive home listening to music you like, eating the special snack you got yourself since you're missing all the fun stuff going on that day. Enjoy the time alone because it's hard to come by. Be thankful that you didn't get roped into going to the dump first because then you might not have made it back for an afternoon swim.

Enlist help of anyone hanging around to unpack groceries. Try to sort out what goes to what house, what is for dinner tonight, lunch now, etc. Hide the cookies.

Since you have decided what's for dinner, you are in charge of making sure the ingredients, recipes and labor are available at the right time. Usually you need to start dinner by 4pm or have done earlier prep during the morning. Lots of people join in to wash, chop, bake, give advice, etc.

Converse with cousins. Find out what they've been up to since last time you saw them. Plan another painting project. Learn how to chop onions a new way. Add cutting board to the house Christmas list. Take out trash. Make sure dishwasher



During the July CLA picnic, members including Becky VerPlanck enjoyed a unique visit to John Moir's collection of antique cars.

has been run. Keep up with pots and pans as you go. Invite next generation of cooks into the kitchen. Find out what they care about. Turn on fan - it's HOT. Volunteer to grill - it's cooler.

Special events to make dinner interesting:

- Owen's birthday
- 50th wedding anniversaries
- Margaritas
- Steamers
- Michael, "Oh yeah, we wanted to go to the square dance, could we eat early?"

Corral children in charge of table setting. Stack all the plates and silverware on recently cleared kitchen table for buffet serving.

Sneak out to join others on front porch watching sunset, eating crackers, and watching children romping. (There are 16 in residence.) Romping includes balloon rockets, lacrosse, baseball, tag, Pounce, magic tricks, talent show practice, gymnastics, skipping, swinging, rehearsing a play, and dragging someone in a red cart.

Serve up: Ring bell and announce that dinner is ready. Be in kitchen to explain what's being served. Children line up first. There is plenty. Some things are hot. Try something new. Corn is on the table. Children sit on the porch. Older children can sit with adults. There are not enough seats for all at once, but first children are off by the time all adults are through the line, or someone is putting someone else to bed and will be down shortly.

Toast the chefs. Eat, converse, move seats after seconds to sit with someone else. Chat until it's dark. Serve dessert. Children return from Capture-The-Flag to have it. Run dishwasher when pots and pans are done. Thank the cousins on dish duty – about 5. Rinse and stack dishes that don't fit on top for second or third running of dishwasher.

Kids yell and play in the field outside, sun disappears, family crowd thins out. All as it should be.

Get up early to beat the crowd at breakfast...



In the Mixed Doubles finals, there were two parent-child teams! Anna and father Nick Hadden beat Emilie Smith and son, Nicholas Carusso.



In the Men's Doubles, Jere Burrows and Chris Keyes beat out Geoff Gill and Rick Perry.

The Chocorua/Tamworth Tennis Tournament

- John Sedgwick

In a break with tradition, the finals of both the men's and the mixed doubles were not held on the Helm court in Chocorua this Labor Day, but at the Taylor court in Tamworth, hard by the Sandwich border, or is it Vermont? The Helm court was thought to be too soggy after an all-night rain, but ah the Taylor court on its gentle hillside off barely marked back roads! It was indeed pristine, and both matches came off without delay under leaden skies that held off rain until play was done.

To the outcomes: the veteran Jere Burrows and strapping young Chris Keyes took the men's, their topspin power prevailing over the valiant and artful duo of Rick Perry and Geoff Gill in two tight sets, 7-6, 6-2. The first one set the tone, as the tie-breaker was decided when a fierce and devious topspin of Burrows just nicked the



Barbara Lloyd and Nella Helm cart between matches, as Eleanor Helm watches on.



net, and skidded past Gill's flailing racket for the winning point. Nasty! In the mixed, two parent-child teams went at it, with the steady, incessant play of Nick Haddon and his graceful daughter Anna rallying to defeat Emilie Smith and her titanic young son Nicholas, in a marathon three-setter, 2-6, 6-2, and then an unusual and tense 3rd set, 10-point tiebreaker 10-7, which copped the silver.

It was a spirited tournament, with nearly two dozen teams involved, including at least three spritely octogenarians, and many intrepid intra-familial duos. Once again, there was great enthusiasm for the round-robin portion of the festivities, an idea of Alex Moot's that was first tried last year with great success and is now likely to become the standard. It has a Virginia Reel quality, as all couples dance - as it were - with almost all others. And so it introduces a welcome social element - fun, in a word - to the rigorous and sometimes tense athleticism of the tennis.

As a member of the tennis committee that organized the tournament, I'd like first, to enter a note of appreciation to the remarkable Alex Moot, who returned from a vacation in Spain only to launch himself into the effort of pulling out the last teams needed to fill out the draw. And on that score, I'd like to enter a plea to contestants to be a wee bit more responsive next year and to reply promptly to the emails pleading for entrants rather than to wait to be yanked out of the woodwork by the hard-pressed committee. It is ironic that, with the many ways of making contact these days, from email to voice mail to Facebook to smoke signal, it seems harder than ever actually to penetrate to the point of eliciting a response. Maybe next year will be different?

But it is a wonderful thing, this tournament, and has been since its beginnings early in the last century. A chance to see people you haven't seen, to cross rackets instead of swords, to get a little exercise, to revel in how good you are, and to laugh at how astonishingly bad, in this pell-mell chase for a bowl you aren't likely to keep and are obliged to polish. Good stuff, all of it.

Potential Milfoil Infestation - Dwight Baldwin

A strong sentiment was expressed at the August Annual Meeting of the Chocorua Lake Association that our organization must move forward to minimize the potential of milfoil contamination in Chocorua Lake. To this end, the Milfoil Prevention Committee consisting of Jim Bowditch and Dwight Baldwin will formulate plans over the winter months to be implemented in the spring and summer of 2012. This will include activities such as asking for volunteers to help monitor the lake for milfoil, a training session for these volunteers, the posting of milfoil information on our new kiosks for visiting boaters and others to read. We shall get some milfoil literature posted before snow flies.

The Committee asks that you be thinking of ways that you might help in this monitoring effort to begin next summer and welcomes all suggestions of additional steps we might take. Please contact either Jim Bowditch (jrbowditch@yahoo.com) or Dwight Baldwin (dbbaldwin@comcast.net) with ideas and/or to indicate your willingness to help. We shall be contacting everyone again early next spring!



Route 16 Trash Clean-Ups



Amanda and Jamie Mudgett, as the CLA Patrol, keep the Grove looking great all year round.

The good news is that on both clean-ups this past season, we collected less trash; the usual stuff, but just less of it. Maybe, just maybe, some folks are getting the picture, but we still have work to do. Among the relics this fall over our Columbus Day sweep, we netted 1 mattress, 3 tires in various stages of decay, 1 shoe, a bathing suit, a tire wrench, and a used diaper. On the positive side, a sticker lauding, "love this place!", a Mt. Washington Valley Soccer Club cap and a Monarch butterfly - alive and beautiful. Thanks so much to those who come out so faithfully, it truly helps. The combined season's two events include: Jamie and Amanda Mudgett, our fearless leaders and Patrol, John Wheeler, John Roberts, Sandy and Peggy Rubel, Ed Roef, Dwight Baldwin, Art Baldwin, Charlie Worcester, Kate Lanou, Neely Lanou, Steve Lanou, Bob Seston, Anne Twitchell, Anne Zwart, Nancy and Dick Fryberger, Tisha McIlwaith, Michael Robbins, Diana Bailey, Mary Rubel, Peter Rubel, Harriet Hofheinz and some others that I may have inadvertently not included. Apologies! -- Harriet Hofheinz



Harriet Hofheinz, Dwight Baldwin, John Roberts, Bob Seston - and many more - lent a helping hand to restore the beauty alongside Route 16 by removing accumulated litter.

Chocorua Softball

Just keep hitting and running, nobody's ever out on the Wheeler Chocorua softball field! Once again, on Labor Day weekend after the tennis tournament is ended and before the Grove picnic, a great softball game is played. The sides are squared off with whoever shows up and are added to randomly as more come. Innings seem limitless and scores are high, everyone hits. There's a lot of cheering on by the peanut gallery particularly for some heavy hitters who often hit the ball clear out beyond the outfield. Dogs interrupt the game eager to retrieve the ball, fun is had by all, old and young, including the dogs.

Wildlife Notes - Fall

This summer seems to have been the summer of the moose. The moose family spotted last summer near Watkins Way could be the same family we have been seeing a lot of this past summer. Barbara Lloyd first spotted a mom and calf in the lilly pond in front of her house this spring. Steve Weld watched a young Moose wallow in the inlet's cool water on a hot day in July. He/she probably was submerged to protect from the incessant mosquitoes. Then again, in August joggers rounding the loop, encountered Mom on Loring Rd. and Pop was spotted in the Cannon's field early in September. I have heard the male bellow in the early spring and it is a mighty noise. Out of curiosity, I consulted my field guide as to how often a male Moose loses its antlers. It seems it is a yearly project that entails, when you think about it, a lot of growth in one year. "A bull's antlers begin growing in March; attain full growth by August, and are shed by breaking or falling off at the pedicel between December and February." Has anybody ever found any antlers on the ground?

Larry Nickerson reported seeing a mink near the Korson's driveway this spring. And a second year young bear was also spotted several times along Chocorua Lake Rd. this spring and early summer as were deer. Porcupines have been in evidence, peskily chewing where they shouldn't and pair of young raccoons frequented our porch and John Watkins' tent. Although the fox family dened in a different spot



As always, the annual Labor Day softball game in the Wheeler Field was well attended by three generations of players.

this summer, they were still in evidence near the Dean's house from time to time. Still no otters?

As to birds, it was a sad summer for the loon pair. Both male and female loons came back last April, the male first, and commenced their ritualistic mating dance, laid 2 eggs the first time which were abandoned by the pair close to their incubation time. They tried again, only to abandon the eggs again in mid-July. Whether something threatened them enough for them to abandon the nests twice (the nests were not in the same place) is unclear. Perhaps, the two sets of eggs were infertile. Within days, both sets of eggs disappeared unfortunately, before the Loon Society's intern could retrieve them for study. There were a number of loons seen on the lake later in August, but of course, we don't know if "ours" stuck around to socialize.



Other birds passing through such as eagles and ospreys were not as apparent as in past years. Only one sighting of an eagle was reported early this fall. The song birds usually heard in June and early July just weren't as plentiful as they have been in the past. Each year there seems to be diminished voices in the woods. Our thrush survey count was down as well.

As always, I look forward to your reports. Keep them coming! Harriet Hofheinz, hhofheinz@verizon.net

P.S. Just in: a delightful chipmunk story from Kate Lanou. It may sound familiar. "In August, thankfully after the biggest crowds, a chipmunk found its way into our house through one of many holes giving direct access to shelter, bedding, snacks and perfect nut hiding nooks. He was spotted in the kitchen helping himself to grapes, peaches, and tomatoes, carefully eating the flesh and leaving the skin behind. While chased out several times, the chipmunk continued to return – running the same pattern through the living room, up into the dining room, right through the pantry and straight ahead to the kitchen fruit basket. When discovered, he would wait to see if we were really serious, jump down off the table and retrace his exact path through the house and out through a gap in the storage room floor"!

Please contact me with sightings: hhofheinz@verizon.net



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If you would like to receive this newsletter and other CLA news and announcements via e-mail, please be sure to send your e-mail address, along with any other updates to your address and contact information to Bob Seston, RKSeston@gmail.com.



Photo: Anita Kunhardt



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