

Dear Fellow CLAPA Members,

With the New Year now with us, I wanted to share a few highlights of the CLAPA year just passed and point out some things to look forward to.

We ended the year with 165 dues paying members, a CLAPA record! Thank you all for being a part of our efforts to preserve and protect our lake.

Looking ahead to the coming year, **here are a couple dates to mark on your calendars for next summer:**

- Saturday June 6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lake Appreciation Day picnic. We hope to build on the success of last year's event and make this an annual celebration.
- Saturday August 15 – Annual Meeting, once again in the Woodbound Inn Ball Room. (And we promise to have a better video projector this time!)

Next, I'd like to recognize and thank our two newest Board Members, who joined the Board this summer and are already making great contributions. Mark LeBoeuf has volunteered to take the lead on our milfoil mitigation efforts and has also offered to serve as Coordinator of the Lake Host Program that we plan to put in place next summer. Nancy Amato has volunteered to be CLAPA's representative to the "Lake Advocates Network", working in partnership with NH Lakes to advocate for lake-friendly policies.

Thanks also to member Paul Zhitomi for offering to take over maintenance of CLAPA's website. Paul will be looking into making some improvements to the site, so keep an eye on the website at [www.contoocooklake.org](http://www.contoocooklake.org) for that.

Our milfoil chemical treatment this past summer was a resounding success. Post-application surveys found essentially no milfoil in the treated areas. Nonetheless, the fight against milfoil is a never-ending battle. Mark has already obtained approval for a grant from NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) to support any needed diving work next summer. But we expect/hope that the need for next summer, if any, will be relatively light.

As I mentioned, we will be initiating our Lake Host Program next summer. Our efforts to do so this past summer fell short due to unforeseen circumstances, but we're committed to making this happen next summer. Some of you volunteered to serve as Lake Hosts this past summer, and perhaps you'll consider stepping up again. We'll be sending out more details about this program and a call for volunteers in the Spring.

Lastly, following the success of the Lake Appreciation Day and Loon Paddles last summer, we're considering adding additional events to the CLAPA summer repertoire. We asked for suggestions at the Annual Meeting, and would like your feedback on which of the following options would be of interest to you:

- Boat races (kayak, canoe, sail boat)
- Sunset Social (rafting our boats together on the lake)
- Progressive Dinner
- “Bring a pie and say goodbye” (season-ending gathering with desserts)

Please send me a note at [clapalake@gmail.com](mailto:clapalake@gmail.com) with any feedback on these ideas, or which one sounds of most interest to you.

The Lake has been a winter wonderland so far this season, so let’s hope that the great early season winter weather continues for another couple months. And for those of you who consider that a grim possibility, fret not, the loons will be back before you know it.

Best Regards to All,

Mike Golibersuch  
CLAPA President