

PECK'S LAKE

PROTECTIVE

ASSOCIATION

PLPA Newsletter

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President's Message: Jim McCulley

Summer is in full swing! And so were the black flies and the deer flies! There's nothing that the PLPA can do about them, but we have been busy with many projects and activities to improve life here at the lake. And while time is flying – there's still a lot of summer ahead of us!

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about our efforts to address the issue of invasive plant species, and of our recent meeting with Brookfield Renewables to get an update on the integrity of the dams at the western and eastern ends of the lake. But these are just some of the projects we're working on to benefit the lake community.

Safe boating practices have been a theme for 2023. To increase safety and the protection of the shoreline, docks, swimmers, kayakers etc...we have undertaken a joint effort with the Peck's to educate all boaters (property owners and campers) about the lake rules governing boating on the lake.

By email, posts to the website, and personal outreach, we have been reminding all the lake's boaters to boat safely, be mindful of their speed near the shoreline, docks, swimmers, kayakers, canoers, sailboats, and of cutting in-between the designated "waterskiing" area when it is being used, or in the path of sailboats. You can find out more about the lake rules by clicking the "Lake Rules" link on the PLPA.org website. But as a reminder,

boats are prohibited from exceeding **5 mph within 200 feet** of the shoreline OR a docked or moored boat OR a dock.

Those who use motorized watercraft on Peck's Lake are also reminded that New York State Law requires ALL PERSONS OPERATING MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT, regardless of age, to take an approved safety course and receive a boating safety certificate by January 1, 2025. Persons 40 years of age or under are already required to have successfully completed the course and have a valid safety certificate in order to lawfully operate motorized watercraft in New York State. You can find more information, and a link to the state webpage, by clicking the "Lake Rules" link at PLPA.org. There you can find links to in-person and online classes.

Speeding boats aren't our only concern. Many have complained to me about cars, and particularly trucks, driving too fast on North and South Shore roads. As someone who walks their dog along North Shore, I know all too well that this is a danger. Last year we worked with the Town of Bleecker to officially lower the speed limit to 30 mph (from 50 mph). Thanks to councilpersons Dave Bartholemew and Shaun Croucher the town has begun installing 30 mph speed limit signs. We're working on getting more. The speed limit on lake roads located in the Town of Johnstown was already 30 mph.



"...there's still a lot of summer ahead of us!"

Do you have a contribution for the next newsletter? Email the editor, Patty Herrick at pah868@gmail



The deadline for the Fall edition of the PLPA Newsletter is Thursday, October 19

President's Message, continued

Increasing property tax assessments, particularly those located in the Town of Bleecker, are also a concern. Many properties at the lake had increases of 15% or more -- some substantially more. The Bleecker Assessor has offered to meet with representatives of the PLPA to discuss the equity of the assessment process – and we will try and schedule that meeting sometime in August or early September. We're also taking a close look at school tax disparities between properties in Bleecker versus those in Johnstown due to the differences in the equalization rates. You'll be hearing more about this in the future.

But everything is not doom and gloom! There's also fun things planned! Already there's been a lot going on at the lake -- we've had the annual fireworks display, the Caroga Arts Music Festival performed their yearly concert at the lake, there was a successful breakfast fundraiser for the Schoolhouse (which I'm told is likely to become an annual event), and a ladies hike -- just to name a few. In the coming weeks the PLPA's Summerfest Committee will be sponsoring a kayak/canoe race, cornhole tournament and face-painting, and a bonfire by the picnic area at West Bay. There will also be a craft fair sponsored by our more crafty Peck Lakers. **A complete schedule of events can be found by clicking the "PLPA Events" link at the new PLPA website (PLPA.ORG).**

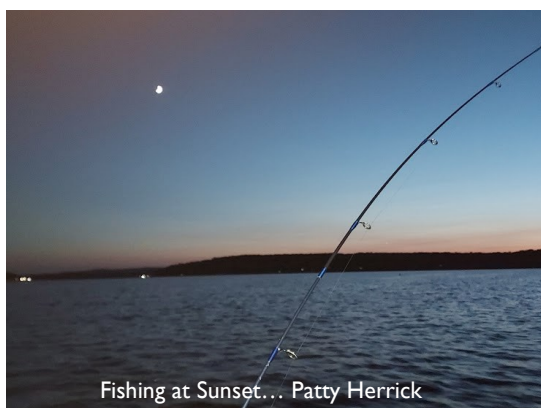
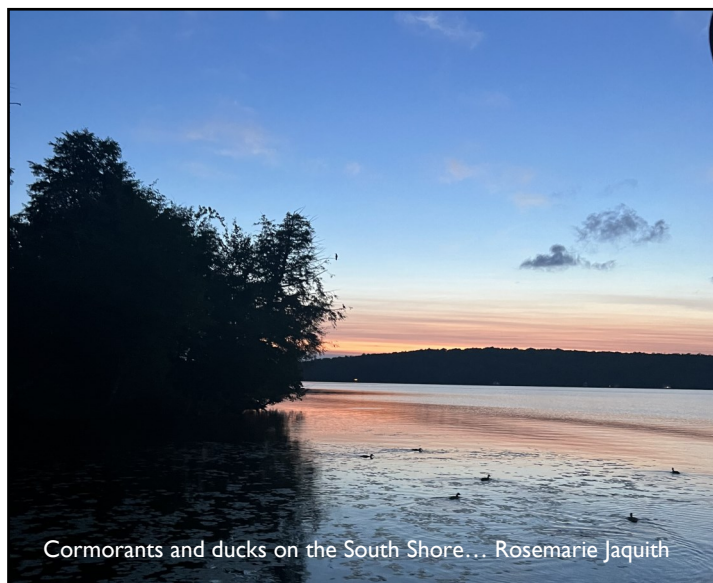
On the PLPA website, you'll also find lots of useful information as well as posts about current and planned events at the lake – including the schedule for the deposit container drives. To date we've had three successful deposit container drives. The total proceeds for the year so far are \$1,478.90. Thanks to all the volunteers who made that happen. And thanks, as well, to PLPA Vice-President Beth Flynn, who is sending out a "This week at the lake" email to alert the lake community of coming events.

I am frequently asked about the status of the lawsuit – and the update is that there is no update at the time of writing. The motions were argued by the parties on March 6, 2023, and we are still waiting for a decision from the court. We will, of course, let you know when we hear anything.

One last thing – there are still those who haven't gotten around to renewing their membership in the PLPA. We rely on dues and donations, as well as the proceeds from the container drives and other fund-raising events, to support the many programs and activities we offer to the lake community – **so if you haven't gotten around to renewing your membership (or joining), please do so.** Property owners and campers alike benefit from PLPA activities – you can find out more about what the PLPA does for the lake community by clicking the "About" link on the PLPA.org website. You can also pay your dues or make donations right on the website – or find out how to pay your dues by check.

In a few weeks we will be holding our annual meeting at the Marina – so if there's something on your mind, if you'd like to know more about what the PLPA is up to, or you'd like to vote for the slate of directors, I hope you'll join us. Also – in addition to relying on dues and donations, we also rely on volunteers, so if you see a call for help, we hope you'll consider volunteering, it's a great way to meet your neighbors and learn more about the PLPA. Hope you all continue to enjoy the rest of the summer!

Summer 2023



A Note About Fireworks

Following the July 4th weekend, I received more than a few inquiries and comments regarding fireworks displays at properties on the lake. I also saw the posts on the Facebook page reminding the Peck's Lake community to be respectful of their neighbors, particularly when it comes to the duration of fireworks displays, the time of evening, and the impact that these displays can have on their pets.

Personal (without a permit) use of "fireworks," or "dangerous fireworks," are prohibited by state law. Prohibited fireworks include "torpedoes, skyrocket and rockets including all devices which employ any combustible or explosive substance, and which rise in the air during discharge, Roman candles, and bombs." The state Penal Law states that "any person who shall possess, use, explode or cause to explode any fireworks or dangerous fireworks is guilty of a violation." Fines for a first offense are a maximum fine of up to \$500, and for a second offense up to \$1000. Sparklers are permitted in certain instances and in certain counties. It is my understanding that Fulton County does not ban sparklers.

The point is not to tell anyone what to do, or what not to do. The PLPA has no role in enforcing restrictions on fireworks. The point is only to remind everyone to be respectful and considerate of your neighbors and the lake community. For some, this is their home. Others, their getaway – so keep that in mind. Remember, sound travels far across the lake, not



everyone goes to bed at the same time, people have pets, excessive loud noises can upset some people. I expect that a little consideration will go a long way towards avoiding misunderstandings.

~ Jim McCulley

**Please . . .
don't feed
waterfowl.**



REGULAR FEEDING CAN CAUSE:

- Poor nutrition
- Spread of disease
- Unnatural behavior
- Pollution
- Overcrowding
- Delayed migration

Many people enjoy feeding waterfowl, but the effects of this seemingly generous act can be harmful. If you care about waterfowl, please stop feeding them . . . allow them to return to their natural habits.

Support Federal, State, and Private Organizations and their efforts to conserve waterfowl and their natural habitats.

For more information about the effects of feeding waterfowl, contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation office nearest you.

 **Keep wildlife wild.**

For more information, or to print a copy of this sign, visit the Region 3 Wildlife website at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/r3/wildlife/>

Ice Cream Social... Thanks!

Thank you to all of the Peck's Lake bakers and the supporters of the ice cream social. We had another great event with the Caroga Arts Collective event at the same time!

We have cancelled the Dock Box for this year due to lack of interest. We will try again next year.

Thank you,
Tammy Warner and Jane Sitterly
rtmaxdog@frontiernet.net



Infrastructure

Welcome our new mail carrier, Howard. He has been on our route since mid July, taking over for Amanda who is off to the Sunshine state.. Howie is coming up the curve quickly. Peck's Lake is the most complicated aspect of his route (especially packages), but he is grasping the concepts and I've been working closely with him, furnishing sorted cheat sheets to make things go as smooth as possible. Say Hello to him next time you see him. Also some of you may have noticed we now have an additional mail cluster(#4) on South Shore, which has the designation "X" This was added to accommodate the continued growth of people requesting boxes, and will also add capacity for more packages. We are currently waiting on the Post Office to install their proprietary locks, so we can put it into service.

As always, any issues or problems let me know and I will do what we can to try and resolve them.

~ John Dackow (jdack.plpa@gmail.com)



Saturday ~ September 2
9:00 am
Under the tent at the marina.

This Week at the Lake

There are lots of activities to enjoy this coming weekend, starting with a Bonfire at the West Bay Picnic area starting at 7:30 PM. BYOB! (The Boat Party has been cancelled for Friday evening). The Canoe/Kayak Race will go off at 8:30 AM on Saturday at the West Bay Picnic area, ably handled by Bob Wilson (551.427.1341). The Cornhole Tourney follows at 11:00 AM led by Tom Flynn (518.573.2406) at the Alice Peck yard across from the marina. Prizes and trophies will be awarded! Donna Coffey will be close by for face painting as well! The Peck's Lake Craft Fair runs from 10:00 - 4:00 PM under the Marina tent. Come and see our talented Peck's Lake artisans/artists. There is something for everyone! Saturday evening at the Caroga Arts Collective Jazz Fest there will be a PLPA Hospitality Tent at Sherman's starting at 5:00 PM. Come and join us - we likely will have the tent in the back of the property. To end the weekend, there will be a Boat Brunch on Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Bring a breakfast treat to share and BYOB. Please keep in mind boating safety. Cliff Wassel will be present to guide boats in safely.

Please be aware that these activities with the exception of the Craft Fair are weather dependent. The Summerfest Committee will make a final determination on Thursday in the event of rain/storms and send out notices through FB, PLPA.org and an email.

Beth Flynn
dayflynn@gmail.com 518.281.3279



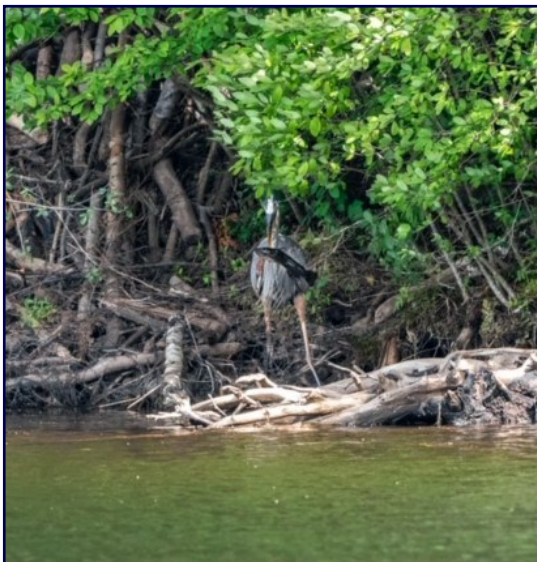
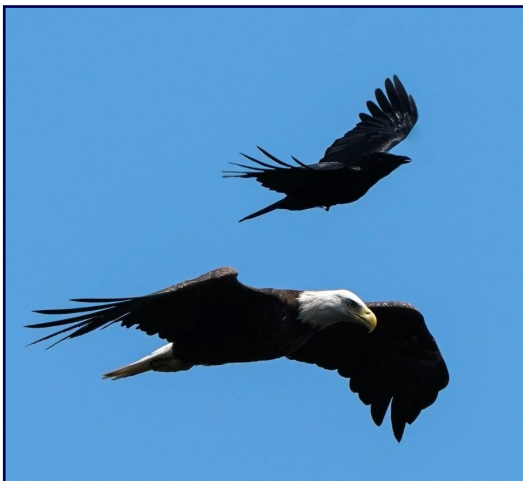
Beaver Bay Wildlife Shots

Our son Ben is an avid nature photographer. Recently he caught this series of shots from our house on Beaver Bay.

The arial “dogfight” shots he got of the bald eagle and crow were all the way from our place to the narrows outlet of the bay. The lens he has is quite powerful.

The heron speared this fish (bullhead it looks like) while standing on the beaver lodge which is 150 yards from our dock.

~ Tony Ward



Ladies Day Hike

June 10 marked another excellent hike and appetizer gathering for the Peck Lake Ladies! Twenty of us were able to get together with eight ladies trekking up to the Vly!

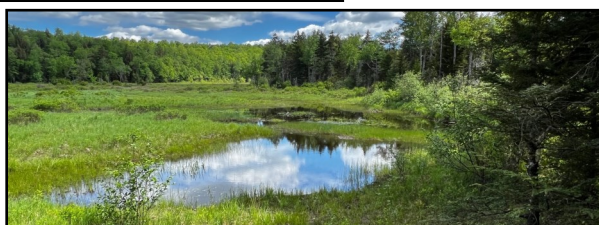
The format of hike first, “sip” later worked out well and it was commented by more than one of us, perhaps a tad bit safer that way. I enjoyed being the host location this year with Lorraine Carlson co-hosting and guiding me through to a successful event. An additional thanks to Val Nicotina who, even with her broken foot, came by early to help me get the tables and some snacks prepped while my co-hostess, Lorraine led the hikers through the woods. Each of us contributed with an amazing and delicious array of snacks covering all spectrums of savory, sweet, healthy and not-so-healthy!

I know I’m looking forward to many more events like this and will welcome the opportunity to be the host location again.

~ Heather Werner (323 North Shore)



Ladies
Day



2023 PLPA Membership

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2023, we hope you will soon! Can't recall if you renewed this year – no problem – send a note to plpaorg11@gmail.com and we'll let you know.

To join, or renew, follow the steps below:

1. Complete the Annual Membership and Donations Form at:

<https://plpa.org/dues-donate/>

Here, you'll designate your dues and any additional contribution you wish to make, and enter (or update) your contact information.

2. Send payment. You have three options for payment:

- a. Electronically, to pay via debit or credit, click on the "Donate" button at the bottom of the PLPA homepage, www.plpa.org
- b. Via Paypal directly to: donations@plpa.org
- c. Via check: Send your check, made out to PLPA, 1 North Shore Rd, Peck Lake, Gloversville, NY 12078.



June 30– Floating Cocktail Party

We had a good turnout to the first floating cocktail party of the summer with about 13 boats and 30 people. Party goers arrived by kayak, pontoon, and a shark boat!. The event was moved one day earlier than planned due to weather so we hope the next Floating Party will have even



Photo Credits: Beth Flynn



more in attendance. Lots of great appetizers being passed around all the boats made for a fun evening. I met some new faces I had not met previously which is always wonderful. Another good trend in the attendees was the 20-Somethings: yes we had about 10 in this age group which was good to see. We also had a few jump in the lake for a swim! Thanks to Clif Wassel, Shawn Croucher and Steve Atcheson for coordinating and directing the rafting plan as boats arrived and for all who made it out to the party!

~ Beth Flynn

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee Update

We are looking forward to a visit from Brian Greene from the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program at the end of July. He is an expert on identifying invasive plants in the lake. He will be able to travel around the lake with us to identify invasive and native plants that we see in the lake. Once we have definite identifications of the plants we will come up with a plan to deal with the invasive species.

In the meantime, it is important that we all continue to remove floating pieces of plants from the water and beaches near our homes. Even a small piece of a plant can root in the bottom of the lake. It is also important that we keep our boats clean. If anyone travels to another lake with a boat and then back to Pecks Lake, the boat needs to be cleaned. This includes canoes, kayaks, and fishing equipment. Also, please have any guests clean their canoes, kayaks and fishing equipment before entering the lake. Tammy at the Marina has offered the use of the wash station at the bathrooms at the marina. There is very hot water in the hose and brushes for cleaning.

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVES!
 THESE ARE NON-NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS THAT CAN CLOG YOUR WATERWAYS, DISPLACE NATIVE SPECIES, CAUSE SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE OR HARM HUMAN HEALTH.

AFTER TRAVELING ON ANY WATERWAY:

CLEAN	DRAIN	& DRY
 <p>ALWAYS Remove mud, plants, fish, and organisms from your boat and gear. Dispose of them in a proper trash container, or on dry land.</p> <p>IF POSSIBLE Spray boat and gear with hot and/or high pressure water such as at a car wash.</p> <p>No hot water? Wash surfaces using a garden hose.</p>	 <p>ALWAYS Drain water from hatches, boat wells, bags, bailers, and containers while still at the river or lake you are leaving.</p> <p>NEVER Release plants, fish, or other animals into a waterway unless they came from that waterway.</p>	 <p>ALWAYS Dry your boat and gear. Aquatic invasives need moisture to survive. If you use a towel, stow it to be cleaned and dried later.</p> <p>IF POSSIBLE Alternate two pairs of shoes to give footwear time to dry (when transitioning between water bodies).</p> <p>Dry your boat and gear thoroughly before next outing.</p>






FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TRIP PLANNING SUGGESTIONS:
WWW.NORTHERNFORSTCANOETRAIL.ORG

We have become aware of problems at the access points at the boat launches on the lake. The chains are not always being replaced when residents open them to launch their boats. These chains are critical for keeping unauthorized people from bringing their boats in that may be carrying in invasive plants and animals. If you see a chain down, please replace it and lock it.

Finally, we are putting together a group of residents that will monitor parts of the lake for invasive species. We will be taking part in the Adirondack Park Lake protector program. If you are interested in being a part of this group please contact Donna Coffey (DMMC40@aol.com) for more information.

~ Donna Coffey

Strategic and Long Term Planning Updates

Main action was coordinating meeting with Brookfield Renewable. As was reported in a recent email, 4 representatives, covering Dam Engineering, Compliance, Operations and Public Relations visited the lake on 7/21 and met with representatives from the Peck family businesses, as well as select PLPA officers, board members, and committee members.

The purpose of this meeting was to continue our efforts of having open and frank communications with them about many issues associated with the lake and dams.

A summary of topics discussed is as follows:

- We reviewed the recent Adirondack Explored article about dams, (which was a literally just a copy of last year's Times Union article) Since the article only presented one side of the story, had no new information from a year ago, BR was more than happy to present the other side, backed with technical data and facts by the engineer who actually does the inspections and reports on our dams.

The rating system used by the DEC is rather misleading as an "unsound" rating in our case is given based on a hypothetical design criteria due to spillway capacity compared with PMF(probable maximum flood) This is also referred to as 1000 year flood. (would occur once in a 1000 years)-

- o This equates to a hypothetical outflow of 15-16,000 ft³/second.
 - o To date, the largest outflow ever measured has been 1700 ft³/second which occurred during Hurricane Irene.(only 10% of what the standard calls for).
 - o During Irene, spillway still was only at 50% of rated capacity meaning there still was a 2x safety margin during the highest ever recorded flow.
- BR has proposed to the DEC for mitigation to the spillway capacity by lowering fixed spillway height and installing "trippable boards" that could allow for more flow, and better control. (a commonly used device at other dams BR operates) Currently BR is waiting on the DEC approval for this modification.
- For reference, some other details:
 - o the spillway is about 3 feet lower than the top of the remaining dam
 - o During height of Irene, the water's maximum level was still well below the top of the concrete dam
 - o This delta represented more than a 2x margin as many other areas of the land surrounding the lake would be shedding water at this point as well
 - o Helen Gould dam is an additional 4 feet above concrete dam, so overflowing this is not deemed a realistic issue since water would be shed many other areas never allowing water to rise to that level.
- Also discussed, the frequency of our dam inspections and maintenance
 - o Concrete dam is visually inspected 3 times/week
 - o Annual detailed inspection with time lapse photography also done
 - o Overall opinion is concrete dam is in good condition(compared to other dams BR operates) Upkeep has been performed as needed (such as spillway concrete work a few years ago to address minor issues before they became worse)
 - o Gould dam is visually inspected 1/week
 - o Gould dam has quarterly seepage readings taken from downstream instrumentations (since the 1980's) with very little difference noted
 - o Vegetation was cut back 10-15 feet last year
 - o An idea of a solar monitoring station for Gould dam was discussed as a way to have some real time data available.

Strategic and Long Term Planning Updates...continued

Invasive species have become a very hot topic, as many local lakes have been affected, and also taken certain counter-measures to combat this situation.

- Brookfield's has experiences on this topic in other lakes it operates and is actively involved with the Peck Lake committee investigating the topic
- BR is interested and willing to consider some financial contribution to mitigation once overall plan is better defined.

Operations questions and issues

- The issue of why it appears only one of the two dam valves is regularly used was addressed. BR has had divers examine 2nd valve, and found it needs some engineering upgrades, and has proposed these to DEC, and is currently awaiting approval for these upgrades. This work would be done underwater by divers with no impact to lake level. Likely timing is sometime in 2025.
- Control of lake level was also discussed with understanding that BR is willing to work with PL on attempting to keep level in the 6-12" level below spillway during summer and early fall, and once docks and boats are out, begin dropping levels to avoid ice damage. Raising levels after ice out has occurred. Obviously, this is very variable and weather dependent, but their willingness to work with us on this is appreciated.

Long term planning:

- BR sees hydro power as the most obvious and sustainable clean energy alternative for the upstate NY region. Currently own and operate more than 70 hydro plants state wide.
- It is committed to pursuing and driving this agenda forward
- As an example, the Ephratah plant has its capital plan approved going out for ~20 years, demonstrating a commitment on their part to retain hydro power in our region
- We also discussed how we at Peck's lake can help assist BR in promoting hydro, as well as any other relevant topics, as we have some people who are interested and connected in various business and interests that could potentially help.
-

As a matter of information, it was also discussed how large BR is worldwide, and the extent of resources they have at their disposal. As an example when discussing dam engineering, our local dam engineer has 4-6 colleagues within reach to collaborate with and bring in as needs dictate.

Overall, meeting was deemed a very informative and cooperative session and both parties agreed it was worthwhile and should be held again in future to keep lines of communication open.

J Dackow

Chairman, PLPA Strategic and Long Term Planning committees

Caroga Lake Music Festival at Peck Lake Marina– July 30



Over 140 people turned out on Sunday, July 30 to hear the Caroga Lake Music Festival on Tour.

CLMF resident artists entertained the crowd with works by Kyle Barrett Price, Jonah Poplove, Elgar, Schubert, the Beatles and more.

The weather was beautiful and the music was inspiring and fun!

For more information on the CLMF, visit the Caroga Arts Collective website at: carogaarts.org



Caroga Lake
MUSIC FESTIVAL

2023
SEASON



Photo credits: Kathleen Perrott

Visit us online:
plpa.org



Your Contributions Welcomed!

The next PLPA Newsletter will come out the last week in October. Anyone in the lake community is welcome to contribute an article, photo, piece of history or general thought! If you have something you'd like to pass along, please send it to me at pah868@gmail.com.

Enjoy the rest of your Summer!

Patty Herrick, Editor



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Deliver To:
