

## **GIA Winter Newsletter - Feb. 1, 2014 - Jim MacBride**

**1) March 8th Speakers' Presentation:** The topic will focus on septic systems and related water quality issues. Gary Spaulding is a key spokesperson for Advanced Onsite Solutions, located in Canterbury, and he works with both homeowners and contractors in dealing with wastewater systems and new technologies. Pat, as most of you know, is Executive Director of the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association, LWVA, and we work with her on the water testing project. Gary has conducted 3 public presentations on septic systems for the LWVA in the past few years. Pat is hoping to give us updates on the 2012 & 2013 test results and this data may be posted on the [winnepesaukeegateway.org](http://winnepesaukeegateway.org) interactive web site within a few weeks. Also, we will have discussion about the impact of seepage from septic systems and failed systems. Septic systems not only can emit E. coli, but nitrogen and phosphorus as well. Any of us can have our own shoreline lake water tested for E. coli and the Laconia Water Dept. may be the most convenient local facility. They charge \$17 for the test and they give you a sterilized 100 ml bottle to collect the sample. It must be brought to them by 1 pm, Mon. - Fri., and you should draw the sample on the same day. They are at 988 Union Ave., 524-0901 and also have a web site. A good method for those of us who may do this, would be to do a test in early May and then do it again in late August for a comparison.

**2) Water Test Project Sponsorship:** We will need to make a motion on 3/8 to allocate our standard annual \$500 in support of the 2 water test sites off Gov. Is., GI C & GI 5. These samples have been faithfully "pulled" by Alan Sherwood and Janice McKittrick, Welch Is., since 2010. Other GIA volunteers have pulled samples from other sites as well, including WINBGILD at the 180' deep spot in the Broads and WINBMERD at the 140' deep spot off Bear Is. Pat Tarpey operates this program in conjunction with UNH, Bob Craycraft. There is always a need for more volunteers and we will be seeking your help for 2014. It's not only a "good cause", it's fun to do!

**3) Legislative Update:** Last July 29th's Report cited 2 bills, HB 292 & 545, that were "retained" by the NH House from the 2013 Session. These were introduced for 2014. #545, relating to the rafting of boats, was voted on 1/8/14 as "Inexpedient To Legislate", means it's probably "dead". HB 292 was passed by the full House on Jan. 29, 171 to 120. It now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee for a financial review before it goes to the Senate. The key provision in 292 that modifies current legislation is to increase the funding for the control of milfoil & exotic aquatic weeds. The old law which earmarks \$7.50 from each boat registration fee will be increased to \$9.50, a \$2.00 increase. Hopefully this will pass the Senate and be signed by the Governor. There are other new bills for 2014 and we will update these in July., or sooner.

**4) Email Addresses and The Web Site:** If you have an email and have not joined the GIA list, please get on board! Also, if you have not signed on to the web site, [gilfordislands.org](http://gilfordislands.org), please do. Sue Colbert and Ripley Forbes have worked hard on establishing and maintaining the site and will be looking for enhancements for 2014. You can send your email address to me and I will send it on. [jimmacbride@msn.com](mailto:jimmacbride@msn.com).

**5) Summer Meeting:** It is scheduled for Monday July 28, 2014, 6 to 8 pm, at the Gilford Town Hall. Four (4) officers' terms expire this year: President, Treasurer, and 2 At-Large Board Members, R. Forbes & R. Holdaway. If you have any suggestions for a hot speaker topic let me or another officer know.