

Park Supervisor's Corner

To me, this is absolutely the worst time of year to have a desk job or be so busy that the leaves all fall before you get a chance to enjoy them. Life is short and if we don't get out and walk a trail or paddle a pond soon, we'll have missed the cleansing breath that fall allows us. No matter what the season, there is peace and tranquility in the woods and in the park – unless you're too busy to enjoy them or stuck in the office.

People were not too busy to enjoy the park in August. The summer weather finally showed and the park was packed every weekend and most weekdays. August more than made up for a very slow June and July. We were able to develop a parking area on Babcock Lake Road creating access to the White Lily Pond portion of the park. The gate will open there soon and the public will have access to an additional 118 acres. At this time the public does not have access to the pond itself. We are planning to put in a trail that will run through this property and connect with the existing Spruce Bog trail – what a great place this will be to explore on skis! Work is also being done to create a trail system at the Bennington Battlefield Historic Site. This extensive trail system will loop around the 200 acre parcel and incorporate sites that were significant to the 1777 battle. These trails will be outdoor history lessons. The Student Conservation Association did an outstanding job in September helping to restore part of Scout Trail here at Grafton Lakes, cut and develop the new trail linking that trail to Shaver Pond Road, and revitalize two park cemeteries. Liz and Andrea did a fantastic job organizing the SCA projects and overseeing it so it was a great success!

The park staff this summer was extraordinary. When situations arose there was always someone willing to step up and change their hours or work longer or fill in for someone else. The staff pulled together and even though many days could not be compared to a warm October one, each day had its “joys” to be working at the park. I hope you all found the staff this summer to be one of the best as well. We are still under the advisement that we will operate without a park manager at least into next spring. So, we are looking at and discussing improvements we want to see for next summer. Please share any thoughts you might have in that realm. We'll see you in the park enjoying the cleansing breath of the season – or in the office.

Take care,

John Lowe