

## Protecting Pearly Pond

**S**tudents have enjoyed picturesque Pearly Pond's idyllic setting for generations, lounging on the dock in the summer, kayaking in the fall or playing a game of pond hockey in the winter.

Recently, an excessive amount of phosphorus has affected the lake. Harmful blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) blooms cause low oxygen levels, which harms the fish and other aquatic life.

A 2012-13 Pearly Pond Association study identified likely sources of the problem: phosphorus in sediments, fecal droppings from geese, non-point sources from adjacent lawns, parking lots, inadequate septic systems, and runoff from State Route 119 and other roads that are directly adjacent to the lake.

A \$60,000 Watershed Assistance grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Watershed Management Bureau will help Franklin Pierce remove some of the possible sources of phosphorus from reaching the lake.

The University will install an iron-enhanced sand filter at the outflow of the wetlands that drain into the lake. Other solutions include the

installation of fences and use of border collies specially trained to harmlessly chase the geese away to limit the bird's population.

Lakeshore owners are also being educated about the importance of proper septic system maintenance. The Pearly Pond Association will work with private landowners to install rain gardens and vegetated buffers to intercept storm water runoff into the lake, and will install erosion control and rain gardens in a town-owned right-of-way on Kimball Road.

Students and other community members will have the opportunity to participate in semi-annual lakeside litter pick-ups with the goal of enhancing the health of Pearly Pond for all to enjoy. To get involved with the lakeside litter pick-up and efforts involved in restoring the water quality in Pearly Pond, contact Professor Catherine Owen Koning at [Koningc@franklinpierce.edu](mailto:Koningc@franklinpierce.edu). — *Alyssa Borelli '15*

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