



Wilson Lake News

October, 2012

Mission Statement: The Wilson Lake Association will establish and maintain a program that will reverse any trend of degrading the water quality in Wilson Lake and result in continuous improvement in water quality. The Association will also encourage all the Lake's stakeholders to be involved and support a cooperative effort to reduce or eliminate the impact of contaminants on lake water quality.

Wilson First to Host Collaborative Plant Paddle

Laurie Callahan of the York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project conducted two meetings during the past winter of people from local lakes who are concerned about keeping these monstrous plants out of our lakes. At one of these meetings, attendees agreed that getting volunteers on their home lakes was very difficult. It was decided to join together and help each other patrol the more likely sites on our lakes where invasives might be introduced.

The first Collaborative Paddle took place on Wilson Lake on July 19 when 2 Wilson Lakers, Gail Murano and Jeanne Achille, were joined by Laurie Callahan and Weed Watchers from Mousam Lake and Square Pond. Two of the Mousam volunteers even used snorkel gear to inspect our waters! Special attention was paid to the public boat ramp and canal area where invasives are most likely to be brought in on a boat or trailer. Laurie taught the volunteers how to use a "Quick Key" to help identify the category to which a plant belongs and how to look for key features which would cause it to be labeled "suspicious". After three hours of paddling and careful searching it was determined that the canal area and the cove at the north end, now known as "Misty Cove," are currently free of invasive species.

The collaborative team subsequently expanded to include volunteers from Pickerel Pond (which has been fighting the invasive species Hydrilla for ten years), Horn Pond, Rock Haven Lake, Little Ossipee Lake and Estes Lake.

Paddles were conducted in August on Horn Pond, Lower Mousam Lake and Estes Lake. It is hoped that these lakes will gain enough local support that each can have a Plant Patrol Team composed of volunteers from their own lake.



YCIASP volunteers on Wilson Lake

Invasive Aquatic Plants Too Close For Comfort!

It can't happen here! There's no invasive aquatic plants in Maine! Well, guess what? Three lakes, each within a 30 minute car ride from Acton know that it can happen here and has happened to their beautiful lakes. The York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project sponsored a kayak paddle on Lake Arrowhead in Limerick on August 13 where we saw Variable Milfoil up close. We saw their two DASH boats (Diver Assisted Suction Harvest) in action as the divers went below water

to pull the aggressive plants from the lakes bottom. The boats and divers work 8 hours a day for 6 days a week!

Another technique used to control the milfoil is to place benthic barriers, which are weighted tarps, on the plants to block sunlight. After 6 to 8 weeks they are moved to a new location.



Moving Benthic barriers to kill milfoil

Lake Arrowhead has had to form a special non-profit organization to help raise the \$70,000 needed each year to work to remove the milfoil. This year a program was instituted to allow individual homeowners to hire the boat and divers at \$500 per day to harvest the milfoil in front of



View from my kayak in the midst of milfoil!

their own property. One homeowner hired them for 3 days with no guarantee that the milfoil won't return in one or two or three years. Imagine how the property values have plummeted!

Those participants in this visit to Lake Arrowhead were frightened at the very real prospect of milfoil, or any of the other 10 common invasive plants, being introduced into our home lakes. We learned that nearby Belleau Lake and Balch Lake are also fighting invasive milfoil.

It can't happen here?? It certainly can, and will, if we don't take action. Visit VLMP.com to learn more.



D.A.S.H. Boat & diver

A Note from the President's Desk:

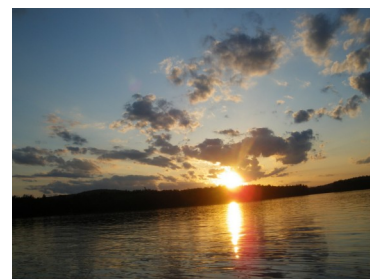
I accepted the President's position with both gratitude and trepidation. I feel grateful because the nomination indicated that the membership felt I was capable of the job and I knew I would be working with many Wilson Lakers who work hard to preserve the integrity of the lake. So many of our members have been leaders in the field of maintaining and improving water quality. They have given their time and energy to conduct complete watershed surveys (1994 and 2009), to test the clarity, temperature, and phosphorus levels and report the data to the Maine Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program, to control the level of the water at the dam, to organize statutory road associations (see Hawk and Eagle Road article), and to work within other organizations that benefit our lake. It is truly an honor to be a part of such an industrious group.

I feel the trepidation because maintaining water quality is a difficult job. Many things can affect a lake. I didn't give this a thought when I bought my home in 1999! I didn't know rain water and snow melt could harm the lake. I didn't know phosphorus could cause algae blooms which kill fish and increase other plant growth. I had never heard of invasive plants such as milfoil and hydrilla which have entered Maine lakes and severely affected recreational activities and reduced property values. I thought sandy beaches were cool and added to, not detracted from, the water quality. Now that I have learned more about these issues, I feel it is partly my responsibility to try to increase awareness of my fellow lakers, who may be resistant to changing their own concepts, of what lake front ownership entails. I am concerned about how to encourage others to learn how their behaviors on and around the lake affect everyone's investment and enjoyment, without alienating them.

It is my hope that by working together through the Wilson Lake Association, and the many other organizations, all of us will enjoy the benefits of having a beautiful lake at our doors and willingly accept the responsibility of maintaining it. Please take the time to become a member, if you are not, attend our meetings, if you are able, and learn how to protect your investment for our own and future generations.

Board of Directors:

- President: Jeanne Achille
- Vice President: Jeff Brown
- Treasurer: Ann Marie Nadeau
- Secretary: Celia Thibodeau
- Dan Orino
- Bill Pimental
- Teg Rood
- Glenn Wildes
- Betty Wildes



Our First Boat Parade!

The Fourth July ushered in the first of what is hoped to become an annual event. 28 boats met up in the canal near the public boat ramp with many of the participants decked out in red, white and blue as befitted the occasion.



Getting the lead boat ready!

Led by pontoon boat captain, Bob Dolan, the parade set out for a tour of the lake with music assembled by Gail Murano. The flotilla consisted of 20 pontoon boats, 8 kayaks and was joined en route

by a canoe and a paddle boat. Zig Janewski's kayak was chased around the entire lake by a large green crocodile!



Look out behind you, Zig!!

Many of the boats participating were populated by lake homeowners and their families and invited guests, most of whom had taken the time to dig out their patriotic colors from the depths of their wardrobes. We were further graced by visiting boaters who joined in the festive atmosphere of the day!



Distributing colorful leis!

Let's do it again next year.! If you'd like to be the lead boat let us know and we'll draw the names from a hat to choose.



Show your colors!!

Hawk and Eagle Road Associations Move Forward

Camp roads present special problems due to many factors including the natural terrain, soil conditions, and amount of traffic. In years past, the town took care of the private roads until the state prohibited it for fear of liabilities. Three years ago, Senator Richard Nass introduced legislation which allowed roads to form statutory road associations enabling them to apply for and receive grants and involve the towns once again in corrective measures.

As a result of watershed surveys, the erosion issues were documented and became the focus of a Maine Department of Environmental Protection 319 Grant funded by the Clean Waters Act.

The grant was written by Linda Schier of the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance and Joe Anderson of York County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Eagle and Hawk Roads on Wilson Lake, as well as Langley Shores Road and Abbott Road on Great East Lake have formed road associations making them eligible for the grant. The Associations are required to provide 40% of the cost for the repairs to the roads and have the authority to collect dues from homeowners to fund the projects. WLA has contributed \$500 to both Eagle and Hawk Road Associations to support their efforts.

Much credit must be given to Eagle Road President Dan Orino and Hawk Road President Al Peterson and their officers for the leadership they have provided. At the time of this writing, Hawk Road has completed phase 1 of their project which includes new culverts, drainage ditches and some paving. Eagle Road is in the process of obtaining estimates for their work and hopes to begin soon.

The grant is designed to be implemented over a two year period and includes requirements such as having

AWWA's YCC complete erosion control projects on private properties around Wilson Lake, not necessarily on Hawk or Eagle Road.

If you question the erosion issues on your shore land, you are encouraged to call Dustin Johnson, Project Manager for AWWA, to obtain a free consultation and Technical Assistance Plan and learn if you qualify to become a Project Host. Congratulations for a job well done by all the parties!



Riprap and rain garden installed on Hawk Road

Adding Sand to Beaches: The following information is excerpted from a brochure written by Wendy Garland of MEDEP and Joe Anderson of YCSWCD for homeowners on Square Pond. It applies to all of Maine's lakes.

Owners of waterfront property may sometimes want to bring in sand to replenish or enhance their existing beach. After all, many beaches were created this way in years past. However, we now know that adding sand to shoreline areas of a lake can have a huge impact on water quality, wildlife, and the natural beauty of shoreline areas. (It's also illegal.)

Dumping sand along the shoreline can contribute to significant problems in the lake, especially when carried out repeatedly by a number of property owners. Just like other types of soil, sand contains the nutrient, phosphorus. Phosphorous is food for algae. When sandy beaches wash into a lake, phosphorus is carried along and essentially "fertilizes" the lake. This reduces water clarity and feeds algae. The sand itself also decreases spawning habitat for fish and provides the perfect breeding ground for invasive plants such as milfoil

What does the law say about adding sand to my beach?

- The Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), which is administered by the Maine DEP, specifically prohibits sand being brought in from off-site to replenish an existing beach or create a new beach.
- **It is illegal to add sand to a beach area.** Landowners would be forced to remove any added sand and may be subject to fines and other enforcement action by the Maine DEP or Town.
- With a permit from the Maine DEP, landowners may be allowed to retrieve sand from below the normal high water line to redistribute on an existing sand beach. However, before doing so, landowners must also install permanent erosion controls to prevent future erosion of the sand. Contact the DEP for more information (207-822-6300).

You don't need to get rid of your sandy beach to be a good lake steward. . Take a close look at your beach and see if you can make any changes for the sake of your lake:

- Never – under any circumstances – bring in new sand to add to your beach.
- Slow down or divert upland runoff from your rooftops or footpaths away from the beach to keep sand from eroding.
- Think about the size of your beach and how you use it. Reduce the size if possible. Plant native shrubs and groundcovers in areas that are steep or that tend to erode. The York County SWCD can recommend plants for sandy areas. You can also keep off areas and let them grow back naturally.

Contact the York County SWCD (207-324-0888) or Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (603-473-2500) for free technical assistance. Staff can visit your property and provide ideas and resources to help deal with erosion problems and make your beach or other parts of your property more "lake friendly".

Septic Socials

What is a Septic Social?

It is a gathering of neighbors at a home hosted by a willing volunteer who provides casual refreshments. It will be a brief lesson about the workings of our septic systems and how they affect the lake presented by professionals in a fun and easy to understand format.

It is not a sales pitch designed to sell anything, but merely an information sharing, brief, friendly, gathering that should take no more than an hour. The 319 Grant mentioned above requires that WLA sponsor 2 of these Socials by the end of 2013. Don't be surprised if you are invited to attend one next year and think of it as an opportunity to get to know your neighbors a little bit better and find out something about how your septic system works, how to protect it and how to tell if it is working properly.

Not a member yet???

Join the Team!!!!

It's easy to forget to mail in dues which support those organizations who take care of issues that affect us.

It's never too late to send your \$20 dues to:

Wilson Lake Association

P.O. Box 162

Acton, Maine 04001

You may even find the envelope we sent last Spring floating around your desk somewhere!

Visit: www.wilsonlake.net

Next Board Meeting

The next WLA Board meeting is set for April 6, 2012 at 9:00 AM at 94 Peacock Road. All members are welcome to attend.

Next Annual Meeting

We are planning our next Annual Meeting for July 6, 2013 at the Acton Public Safety Building.

Going Green

WLA is interested in saving trees. In this frame of reference, we will welcome your opinion about receiving your newsletter via email..



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P.O. Box 162

Acton, ME 04001

To: