



Wilson Lake News

October, 2014

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 Lake has its own Invasive Plant Patrol Team!

On June 14, 2014 history was made when the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (MVLMP) joined with New Hampshire's Lay Lake Monitoring Program to present the first interstate invasive plant training program right here in Acton at our Town Hall. It was attended by 9 Wilson Lakers, among the 68 others from towns in Maine and New Hampshire, some of whom have agreed to become members of the Wilson Lake Plant Patrol. They wasted no time in setting to work to survey the littoral zones (that area of the water which is penetrated by sunlight) to identify native plants and inspect for invasives. The first paddle was conducted on August 11, lead by Laurie Callahan of York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project and covered the area around the public boat ramp on Young's Ridge Road. This area is the most likely place for invasives to enter the lake due to boats from other waters being launched. On September 6th and again on September 20th and 27th, team members ventured out and covered the entire shoreline.

Periodically throughout the growing season you will see groups or individuals in their lime green T shirts paddling the perimeter and peering into the lake looking for unusual plant growth. They are protecting the lake for all of us and you can join in at any time. It is not necessary to be certified to become a team member, although most volunteers have more confidence after taking the class one or more times. The classes are given throughout the summer by MVLMP at no cost to participants. And it is always helpful for homeowners to keep an eye on their on shorefront and report any unusual plants to your team for identification. FYI call Jeanne @477-0310 or visit www.mevlmp.org.

Local lakes with invasives include: Balch Lake, Belleau Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Spaulding Pond and the Ossipee River! It's nearby!



Third Annual Boat Parade Postponed Due to Storm

Our traditional Independence Day Boat Parade was interrupted this year by the approaching hurricane and moved to Sunday, July 6th. The undaunted boaters met in the canal by the boat ramp and, led by Ron and Rose Larose, proceeded around the lake perimeter, cheered on by many onlookers from the shore. This event has proven popular as a fun way to start the celebrations for the day and summer seasons. Most of the participants deck out their boats in traditional red, white and blue as befits the occasion although some show their creativity, like newcomers Bruce and Susan Chadbourne in their pontoon boat with a banner "City Slickers Move to Maine!" The enthusiasm of boaters and onlookers alike is contagious and gives Wilson Lakers an opportunity to share with their neighbors the joy of living on such a pristine water body.



A Note from the President's Desk:

The 2014 season has been one of the busiest for Wilson Lake Association I can remember. It started with much ado about the red buoys which WLA has been placing around the lake to indicate the 200 foot safety "No Wake" zone. With the absence of the buoys many of us are concerned for the safety of swimmers, paddlers of all sorts, and our vulnerable shoreline. How ironic that Maine does not require boaters to take a boating safety course, while New Hampshire does, and that the course is given several times a year right here in Acton by our own Bob Anderson. If you own and operate a motorized boat I encourage you to enroll in the class and earn a Boat Safety Certificate which is valid in all states requiring one, and is good for a lifetime.

Very exciting for me was the June 14th interstate Invasive Aquatic Plant Workshop as described on page one. Coordinated by the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance and co-hosted by WLA and other local lake associations, the workshop was conducted by Maine's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services. As a result of this event we now have an enthusiastic group of plant inspectors which you'll recognize by their colorful Lime green T shirts as they survey the littoral zones of the lake.

Once again, a successful and fun Boat Parade kicked off the busiest part of the summer season with almost 30 boats (depends who counted!) taking part. The postponed parade was colorful and very much enjoyed by participants and audience.

And the Annual Meeting, held on July 5th at the Acton Public Safety Building, provided an opportunity for members to learn what is happening in our area and that of surrounding areas. The meeting always provides an opportunity for members to address issues that are important to them as well as hearing from local organizations such as AWWA, Three Rivers Land Trust, and providing a guest speaker with information helpful to lakefront owners. This year our speaker was Marsha Letourneau who has a home on Square Pond, is a Board Member of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, and is also active in the York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project. She donates her time freely to local lake associations to help get their Plant Patrol Teams organized and has visited Wilson Lake several times to help us survey our waters and complete the paperwork that must be submitted following such inspections. I am very grateful to Marsha for the instruction she has provided as we get our own team up and running.

As a result of all the Invasive Plant Patrol's work, I am happy to report that this is the first year that our entire shoreline has been surveyed, most native plants identified and **NO INVASIVES HAVE BEEN FOUND!**

With more and more lakers becoming involved in Wilson Lake protection I feel more confident than ever that our lake is in good hands. So many of you realize the fragility of lakes and care enough to devote some time to its protection. It has been heart warming and a pleasure to work with you and I thank you for your efforts.

We now prepare for the onset of what has been projected to be a difficult winter and I wish you all a safe, healthy and prosperous time whether you brave out the cold here or retreat to warmer climes until we meet again in 2015.

Most sincerely,
Jeanne Achille

Board of Directors:

- President: Jeanne Achille
- Vice President: Jeff Brown
- Treasurer: Ann Marie Nadeau
- Secretary: Betty Wildes
- Linda Cote
- Arlie McGaw
- Heidi McGaw
- Dan Orino
- Bill Pimental
- Teg Rood
- Glenn Wildes

Heads up for Septic Survey Next Spring

The final requirement of the 319 Grant for Eagle and Hawk Roads is that WLA conduct a septic survey of all homes in our watershed. This will be a simple on-line survey to determine what kind of septic systems are in use, how often they are pumped, etc.

It is important to be aware that no one will be calling or selling anything to anyone who responds to the survey and it is hoped that all homeowners will take part.

All who respond will be entered into a drawing for a two person inflatable boat!

About those Red Buoys

For years WLA has been putting red buoys around the perimeter of the lake to mark the 200 foot safe boating zone. This year we learned that the state DEP no longer allows such buoys. Why? Because they were getting many calls from people complaining that their view was spoiled. Reluctantly, we pulled the buoys from the water.

We were also told that "No Wake" is no longer the proper term for the law requiring boaters to go slowly when within 200 feet of any shore. Now it is "Headway Speed Only." This is to accommodate the jet skis which must maintain a slightly faster speed to maintain steering control. The state then provided us with two new buoys which meet their requirements and they have been approved for placement at the opening of the canal to the lake proper and at the entrance to the cove at the north end.

The state's policy is that the onus for following safe boating laws is on the boater and yet the safe boating certification is not required of all boaters in Maine.

So what should you do if you observe someone boating in an unsafe manner? Take a photo or video if you can, or get their registration number, and call the Game Warden at 207-657-2345.

Note that because WLA is not a policing organization it is up to us as individuals to prevent dangerous practices on or around our lake.

From Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance:

AWWA has completed another active summer with the Youth Conservation Corps working on project sites to prevent storm water erosion from entering local lakes and streams, thereby polluting our water bodies. This year the crew of 5 local teens worked under the leadership of Project Manager Sam Wilson and Crew Leaders Jordan Shepherd and Seth Fogg to install Best Management Practices on waterfront sites. These BMPs are nationally recognized procedures to reduce the erosion from storms and snow melt and are very cost effective. A bonus of their installation is the aesthetically pleasing landscape improvements.

This year AWWA worked with the University of New Hampshire and NHDES to perform extensive water quality testing on our local lakes and rivers. Testing in the past has been conducted by volunteers from most of the local lake associations and their dedication has been greatly appreciated. However, the testing has been done differently on the various lakes, and some lake associations were having difficulty getting volunteers to go out on a consistent schedule and perform consistent tests. With assistance from Bob Craycraft of UNH, a pilot program was set up to work with the local volunteers from Horn Pond, Lovell Lake, Pine River Pond, Province Lake and Wilson Lake using the university's sophisticated technology and to perform the same tests on all the lakes throughout the season. Mr. Craycraft and interns Erich Berghahn and Casey Chalmers, along with the local folks providing boats, have been collecting data all summer, going back to the lab afterwards to analyze the results. By the end of summer, they will have enough information to compile a detailed look at the lakes over the course of the whole season and compare that data with previous and future years to see what trends are evident. WLA is appreciative of our volunteers: Dan Orino, Heidi and Arlie McGaw, and Diana and David Spahn.

At the same time, intern Tanya Dyson of NHDES Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) taught a group of volunteers from Wilson Lake and Lovell Lake how to perform similar testing on the Branch and Salmon Falls Rivers. These volunteers met every other week to sample water at four sites and test for Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature, Specific Conductivity, pH, and Turbidity. The results were sent after each test day to Ted Walsh of NHDES for analysis and comparison. It was quite an adventure for the group to be out in the field, using three different instruments for testing, and adhering to the precise protocols for obtaining valid results.



YCC Crew: Dan Crowley, Kris St. Pierre, Seth Fogg, Jordan Shepherd, Sam Wilson. Front: Justine Short, Jessica Phillips, Marissa Williams.



WQ testing on Wilson Lake: Arlie McGaw, Erich Berghahn, Jeanne Achille



VRAP Team: D. Spahn, J. Achille, G. & S. Thornton

Thanks to the work of the YCC, many waterfront properties on Wilson Lake have had projects completed to reduce erosion from entering our lake. In 2009 WLA completed a full watershed survey which identified many sites which would benefit from having some BMP enhancement and as a result we have all benefitted from a cleaner lake. There is still work to be done, however, to minimize the introduction of soil into the lake, as some owners have not taken advantage of the free inspection and Technical Assistance Plan that AWWA's Sam Wilson can provide. If you are unsure of the state of your property or want to have an expert take another look at it, please take advantage of this free program. Those sites that need work have the option of applying to become a Project Host Site which means the talented crew will install select BMPs on your property. The labor is free to the homeowner who pays only for the materials needed to complete the project. Every August the crew conducts a tour of sites where they worked during the summer and explains the work that was done. Donations are always welcome and enable AWWA to continue to provide this valuable service to the seven lakes in this inter-state region. Other funds are derived from public and private grants, the towns of Acton and Wakefield, and local lake associations. Wilson Lake Association is proud to be a supporter of AWWA and its YCC. Call 603-473-2500 for more information.

Want Wilson Lake Apparel?

Wilson Lake Association has established a connection with A & W Promotional Products in Arundel, Maine. They provided the T shirts for our Invasive Plant Patrol and several sample items such as T shirts, hats, hoodies, vests and coffee mugs which were available for display and purchase at the Annual Meeting on July 5. They have our logo on record and are willing to make items in any quantity at low prices for our members. This means any of us can deal directly with A & W and WLA doesn't have to be a middle-man. Their products may be viewed on-line at www.awpromotionalproducts.com. Or call Alan or Lorie at 207-985-2108.

Lost canoe: A gray canoe has been found floating free and it was beached at the south end of the lake. If you're missing your canoe, head to the southeast corner of the lake. If it is not claimed by the end of boating season, Al Peterson, the finder, will house it for the winter season.

ID Stickers: WLA has ID stickers from the Coast Guard Paddle Smart Program. These stickers are for small boats such as kayaks, canoes and paddleboards. If you missed your chance to obtain them at the annual meeting contact Jeanne Achille.



WLA Membership: It's a good thing!

It's never too late to send your \$20 dues to:
Wilson Lake Association
P.O. Box 162
Acton, Maine 04001

Visit: www.wilsonlake.net

Next Board Meeting

The next WLA Board meeting is set for March 28, 2015 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 11, 2015, 9:00AM, at the Acton Public Safety Building.

New Neighbors?

It seems that quite a few homes have been sold this year. If you have new neighbors please tell them about the WLA and tell us, too. We'd like to send them a newsletter and welcome them to our community.



Wilson Lake Association
P.O. Box 162
Acton, ME 04001

This year we have mailed the newsletter and AWWA's new booklet, "Clean Water and You," together. We hope you find both informative and will keep the booklet handy for reading by all members of your home and, if you rent your home or camp, keep it accessible for renters.

If you have moved and still receive the newsletter, please inform us so we can update our mailing list. If you still wish to receive the newsletter we will be happy to keep you on our list.

"Who knew?!" Some things I've learned as a lake front home owner.

- 1. Getting rain water into the lake as quickly as possible is not a good thing!**
- 2. Phosphorus, a natural fertilizer, is measured in parts per billion and is dangerous to our lakes.**
- 3. Feeding ducks is bad for ducks.**
- 4. Golf balls contain toxic minerals and will decompose over time releasing them into the lake.**
- 5. Some exotic non-native plants are invasive and will choke out a lake decreasing property values and cost thousands of dollars a year to try to control. They will almost never be eliminated!**
- 6. Owning a home on a lake is the best thing I've ever done. Well, one of the best!**