



Wilson Lake News

Spring, 2016

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.

Board of Directors:

- President: Jeanne Achille
477-0310/jach28@gmail.com
- Vice President: Jeff Brown
- Treasurer: Ann Marie Nadeau
- Secretary: Betty Wildes
- Linda Cote
- Arlie McGaw
- Heidi McGaw
- Dan Orino
- Bill Pimental
- Teg Rood

Next Board Meeting:

June 18, 2016 9:00AM

94 Peacock Road

All WLA members welcome

**Our Website:
Wilsonlake.net**

**Next Boating Safety Class
July 23, 2016**

Call Bob Anderson: 477-8588

Membership Drive:

Spring is the time that the Wilson Lake Association conducts its annual drive for membership. The annual dues of \$20 does many things that help protect our lake. We purchase materials for our invasive plant watchers, We pay lab costs for testing the samples drawn bi-weekly to track water quality. Costs to maintain our own equipment come out of the treasury as well. We occasionally pay qualified experts to help us learn how to better care for the lake. Your dues also pay for memberships in organizations which help protect Maine's lakes and help the WLA advocate for lake issues. Finally we strive to keep everyone on the lake connected through the printing and mailing of the newsletters, maintaining the website, and the Annual Meeting.

We are very fortunate that our lake has remained invasive plant free while many of the lakes in our area are fighting to control plants such as Milfoil, Hydrilla, European Narrow Leaf Naiad, and Curly Leaf Pondweed. The efforts to control these weeds cost the homeowners thousands of dollars a year and are ongoing from year to year. Your dues are vital for us to continue our efforts to detect any invaders before they take root and spread.

Please join our efforts and become a Wilson Lake Association member by sending in your dues today.

Boat Parade-July 4, 2016-10AM-Meet at the Youngs' Ridge Road Boat Ramp

As we have for the past 4 years, we will celebrate Independence Day with a boat parade around the lake. The leader of the parade will sport the banner and all other boats will fall in line as we toot, whistle, holler and shout our way around the lake in a slow parade as close to shore as comfortable. Our record number of boats is 32. Let's see if we can break this record.

It seems each year we have a larger number of on-shore cheering spectators, too. So join in the fun in any way that works for you! Check off the box on the membership form to be entered in the drawing for this year's leader.

Septic Survey:

If your septic system is within 250 feet of the shoreline you should have received a survey from AWWA in the mail in March. Thanks to those of you who took the time to return it by April 15. As promised, the name of everyone returning the survey was entered in a drawing to receive a \$100 gift certificate to Willy's Ale House. Congratulations to Debbie Marathon whose name was drawn from all responders.

Notes from the Prez:

Ah, Spring!! We look forward to getting our camps or homes ready for the coming recreational season. We've waited all winter here in Maine or elsewhere and most of us are anxious to get our docks, boats, fishing lines, and, yes our bodies, into the water.

It is also when your Lake Association hopes you are thinking about the value of your lake and how much it means to you to know that the quality of Wilson Lake water has remained stable over the years. We are already busy with meetings of our own association and other organizations which help us protect our investment.

You can do your part by joining in one or more of the many activities which require volunteer time and effort. For many of you, this is difficult and we understand that many time constraints prevent some folks from active participation.

By taking the simple step of sending in your dues of \$20 along with the membership form on page 3, you can be an important part of what the lake association is all about: protecting Wilson Lake.

Communication via Emails:

An important change in communication policies brings WLA into the 21st century. We will take advantage of the timeliness of internet email and send out information to those on our email list such as events and news as they occur. This will help to keep members current with what's going on. Of course, we will continue with our newsletter twice yearly and maintain our website with current information as well. In addition, for those who use Facebook, there is the Wilson Lake Living blog which will post current information which concerns the lake and other Acton news.

We realize that we have a responsibility to keep your emails confidential and promise that we will never share or sell our lists to anyone. Many of you have already given us your addresses and we appreciate your trust. Sometimes when folks are in a hurry to jot them down, they are hard to decipher and you may not receive the email. (About 6 on our list are undeliverable.) Therefore, we ask that you take the time to email your address to us at: wilsonlakeas@gmail.com or jach28@gmail.com or send it, clearly printed, with your dues.

Wishing you all a healthy and safe summer on the lake!

Jeanne

Don't forget to call AWWA (603-473-2500 for help with erosion concerns. If we all had our landscapes evaluated we could literally save tons of phosphorus from entering the lake. Get your free technical assistance plan and/or become a project host and have the YCC do the work!

History of the Wilson Lake Association:

We all are familiar with the accumulation of paper around our homes or work sites. Imagine file cabinets and boxes of lake related minutes, agendas, publications, watershed surveys, etc, etc. that one inherits when one becomes president of a lake association!

On May 21 at 9:00AM the Board Members will gather in my garage attic to go through as many of these papers as possible. No doubt there is stuff there that warrants preservation and stuff that warrants disposal. It is our hope to digitize as much as we can and keep it available electronically for future historians to peruse.

If this is an activity you'd enjoy, please come join us!

Old Photos?

The thought arose at our last meeting that many of you may have old pictures lying around in albums or boxes that you might like to share. If so, email (or snail mail) them to me with captions of your choice and we'll see if we can create a nostalgia page on the web site and perhaps occasionally include some in the newsletter.



2014 AWWA/YCC Crew



Loons gathering for migration

Membership : Your Dues Help Protect Your Lake!

I want to help protect and preserve Wilson Lake for future generations and enclose my 2016 contribution of \$20. (Please make checks payable to Wilson Lake Association.) A more generous donation is always welcome and will help WLA work to protect our lake!

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Lake Address _____

Telephone _____

Lake Telephone _____

Email address _____

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

___ Please put my name in the hat to be leader of the parade!



July 9, 2016 Annual Meeting 9:00 AM What's growing in my lake?

Come to the Annual Meeting at the Acton Public Safety Building on Route 109. In addition to a short business meeting which will include the election of officers, we plan to gather specimens from Wilson Lake and help you learn to identify what's growing off your shoreline. We will also gather some of the "bad guys." those invasives that are growing in lakes alarmingly close to us, so you can see them up close and personal.

Meet some of your neighbors who have taken the time to attend the Maine Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program and go out periodically to inspect our littoral zones for any signs of invasions. The littoral zone is the part of the water penetrated by sunlight where plants are able to grow.

This meeting is a great opportunity to meet the people who devote a lot of time to caring for the lake and also to bring up any issues that are important to you.

What Happened to the Dam?

A recent conversation with Road Commissioner David Winchell, Jr. indicated that he and his crew are working on construction of the new dam for Youngs' Ridge Road. He expects to place Jersey barriers and sand bags to block the water while the old dam is replaced. They will also remove the old culverts under the road and replace them with new ones which he has already purchased.

The road will be closed for approximately three hours while it is dug up for this installation, and traffic will be re-routed to Newbridge Road temporarily.

Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, the work will be completed and the problem of lake water seeping under the old dam will be eliminated. It will also make the task of controlling the water level in the lake easier for the volunteers.



The water level in the lake is unusually low this Spring due to the limited amount of snow and rain. Please use extreme caution when launching your boat and remember that submerged rocks will be closer to the surface and present hazardous conditions to boaters. As always, maintain headway speed (NO WAKE) when within 200 feet of shore. This means the entire canal from the ramp to the opening into the lake proper is a SLOW zone!



**PO Box 162
Acton, ME 04001**

To:

The Trickling Trouble—Sam Wilson- AWWA Program Manager

Septic systems play a huge role in your life at camp. If you're using a toilet, shower, dishwasher or virtually any other water using device then you likely have a septic system. It wasn't always a common practice. Many older homes used to pump liquid waste directly into the lake, and there was often an outhouse.

The whole function of a septic system is to remove the unseemly process of waste management from our day to day lives. Waste goes into the system, solids drop out, a scum forms at the top, and the majority of effluent is drained into a gravel and sand bed called a leach field where it filters slowly back into the groundwater. Pump every few years and repeat. It's simple, mostly invisible and keeps us from having to wonder what kinds of things may be living at the bottom of the outhouse hole, or spend millions of dollars on a wastewater treatment plant and sewer lines.

For a septic system to function properly that leach field needs some vertical height to drain the wastewater. If it's sitting in the groundwater, there's no space to filter out the nasty stuff before it reaches the water. Effectively that means water in the lake is getting hit with untreated sewage. That's problematic if you are trying to maintain high water quality. It's *highly* problematic if you're drinking and swimming in the same water your septic system keeps pumping raw sewage into.

The second thing needed is what's called a bio-mat. This is a layer of "live" soil under the leach field. Sand and gravel are great for draining effluent, but because of that ability to allow wastewater to drop down, they're pretty bad at filtering. Coarse sands just allow too much phosphorus and bacteria to pass through them and right into the groundwater. A bio-mat, with "normal" soil made from decaying organic materials has bacteria in it which can feed on the excess nutrients, and "stick" to phosphorus, holding it in the soils and allowing clean water to pass through.

In general, septic systems are relatively easy to maintain. Be careful with the amount of solids going down your drain. Scrape dinner scraps into the trash before washing. Don't flush feminine products, paper towels, or anything else that can't be easily broken up. Make sure to have your system pumped regularly. Every 2-3 years is a great place to start for typical use. And talk to the company pumping you out to learn if you should be doing it more often. The more frequently you pump out your system, the cleaner the effluent leaving it will be. Keeping all of these tips in mind can save you a major headache down the line, and keep the lakes cleaner for years to come.

As part of a grant with the Maine DEP, AWWA surveyed homeowners within 250 ft of the shoreline to determine how effective and well maintained the wastewater systems are on Wilson Lake. This will give us a better idea of how much phosphorus is entering the lake from wastewater systems, and if wastewater systems need to be addressed more holistically on the lake. More refined analysis will come soon, but overall most systems look like they are well maintained and, surprisingly, relatively new. For more information about the septic survey on Wilson Lake, keep an eye out for the results of the survey coming later this Spring.