



Wilson Lake News

Fall, 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:

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477-0310/jach28@gmail.com
- Vice President: Jeff Brown
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Romac Orchards/Goat Hill—It affects us all!

Above the eastern shore of Wilson Lake sits Romac Orchards, crowned by Goat Hill. Many of us have been taking our families to pick apples and enjoy the beautiful view from the summit. This property has been for sale for several years and Three Rivers Land Trust is working "...to pioneer a strategic new approach to conservation....The immediate task is to mobilize resources to conserve the spectacular 240 acre site... known as Goat Hill..."

"The Goat Hill/Romac Orchard campaign will kick off a broader, longer range vision to create a conservation area of roughly 2,000 acres in Acton and Shapleigh, owned by five contiguous landowners, who are all willing to work together toward conservation of this special place...this would provide further protection for our watersheds and lakes, in addition to conserving even more land for future generations of working farms and forests."

"The 240-acre Romac property is available for conservation for \$730,000. The Town of Acton is contributing \$100,000 toward purchase of the spectacular hilltop, as a result of a favorable bond authorization vote. Maine Farmland Trust has pledged \$200,000, A farm buyer has made a down payment on purchasing the farm and forest for \$265,000. To meet the deadline and purchase the property, **Three Rivers Land Trust must now raise an additional \$180,000...**"*

We can all help by making a pledge of \$500 or more, or contributing smaller amounts that fit our personal budgets. For information on how you can help, please contact: Ruth Gutman at 207-370-4191, or threeriversmembership@icloud.com

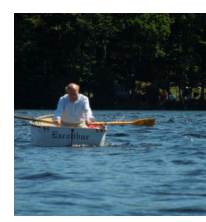
*quoted text from "Save Goat Hill" a Three Rivers Land Trust brochure created for this campaign

Next Board Meeting:

March 25, 2017
9:00AM

94 Peacock Road

**All WLA members
welcome**



Septic Survey:

You can visit our website to read the complete report compiled by Amy Arsenault of AWWA. Click on the Projects Page to read it.

Thanks to all who took the time to complete the survey and send it in. This project completes the requirements of the Maine 319 Clean Water Grant which helped with road fixes on Eagle and Hawk Roads. The grant was obtained by the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance and served to prevent storm water erosion from reaching the lake and polluting the water we all love so dearly.

Have you had your septic system pumped recently?

President's Message from Jeanne
Musings from my dock:

It's Sunday, September 25, about 9:00 AM. I'm sitting on my dock with my steaming coffee mug resting on the table and my flute on my lap. There is no one on the lake or anywhere in sight. Not even a loon. A gentle breeze is sending tender ripples floating across the surface of the lake to the cove at this north end of Wilson Lake.

Summer crowds are gone, many boats have been pulled from their moorings and stored away for the approaching winter. Some remain, rocking ever so slowly with the tiny currents. The warm September sun shines over the landscape and reminds me to relish this moment. I can't bring myself to lift my flute and disturb the serenity of the silence.

How rare...how peaceful...how blessed.

Priceless!

HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL WINTER. SEE YOU IN THE SPRING!



Volunteers:

Many of the "chores" that need to be attended to in order to increase our enjoyment of time at the lake are handled by volunteers who put in their time and efforts and receive no recognition. You know your officers and Board members but do you know who puts out the "Headway Speed Only" buoys? It's Heidi and Arlie McGaw. Who transports the water quality testers from UNH every other week? It's David & Diana Spahn, Heidi & Arlie McGaw, Bob Seckar or Susan Chadbourne. Who paddles the lake looking for those terrible invasive species that have entered nearby lakes? We have a team that includes Wayne & Sharon Reetz, David & Diana Spahn, Jeff Brown & Rachel Haft, Isobel Michaud, JoAnn & Wayne Perks, Heidi & Arlie McGaw, Celia Thibodeau, Jeanne Achille, Linda Sango & Annie Fullagar (neither of whom have homes here but love the lake), Brian Achille, Susan Chadbourne and Margaret Sitarz. Dan Orino has taken the annual water quality certification test for years and only recently retired from those duties. He will be replaced by Rich Chevalier in 2017.

Be sure to give your thanks to any of these folks. They are your neighbors and they take care of our lake.

AWWA has a new Project Manager:



Meet Amy Arsenault. She is a recent graduate of the Environmental Program at the University of New Hampshire. Amy began working this summer for AWWA and has now taken over for Sam Wilson as Program Manager. Her main responsibility will be helping homeowners improve their lakefront landscapes in order to protect water quality. Amy will design a site-specific Technical Assistance Plan (TAP) for your lot. She will oversee the Youth Conservation Corps who are trained to install BMPs which slow down the erosion of soil and the pollutants carried by the soil to the water. We've talked for years about the service the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance provides for lake associations in this area. One of the critical issues facing us is maintaining the wonderful quality of our water. Most people realize this is not to be taken for granted. It is natural for lakes to decline in quality over centuries and this process is rapidly increased by we humans who build homes and use the lakes for our own purposes. With wise management we can slow the process down and still enjoy our waterfronts. This is one just way AWWA is so supportive of our lake effort.

With close to 200 homes around Wilson Lake and a free TAP visit available, it is hard to believe that only 18 homeowners have become Project Hosts, 29 TAPs have been completed and 69 BMPs installed since AWWA began in 2005. Remember, the YCC will do the work for a small donation, a fraction of what the time is worth. You simply provide the raw materials. The YCC crew provides free labor. And we all benefit from the clear water!

Call Amy at AWWA—**603-473-2500**—Tell her you want to protect Wilson Lake!

Meet Your Neighbors:

Did you know that John Flood and Patti Perkins of Point Road have a beautiful vegetable and flower garden on Peacock Road? Every summer they work in this garden, sell the produce at the little white cart and send 100% of the money raised to India.

In Patti's words: "John and I are very grateful to everyone who visited our stand and bought vegetables, flowers and eggs this summer. Thus far, we have sent about \$2500 to the Living Hope Schools in West Bengal, India, where my brother has worked for the past 30 years. John and I were lucky enough to visit the schools in 2013 and see first hand what the donations provide. The 415 children, some of the very poorest in the world, receive tuition, a uniform and a hardy noonday meal at the three Living Hope Schools. In addition, your money helps pay for the staff, medicines, a weekly visit from a local doctor and vocational training for young men and women in the community. Parents receive medical attention, are educated about good nutrition and are counseled in ways to keep their children safe from sex trafficking in the area. You are making a permanent and positive difference in the lives of these children. We thank you for being the best of neighbors and for your continual and generous support."



We have our own heroes right here on Wilson Lake!

On July 23, 2016, a hot Saturday afternoon, some local family members living by the boat ramp noticed that a person who had been floating leisurely in the canal, toward the boat ramp, suddenly looked in distress. A couple of the guys swam out and pulled an elderly gentleman from the water. The man's pfd had ridden up and entrapped him, causing him to turn face down in the water. He was not breathing and had turned blue. CPR was performed on him while others called 911 and waited to direct the ambulance. The man's family did not realize he was missing as they had just checked on him. When EMT's arrived he had started breathing again and he was transported to Southern Maine Medical Center where he recovered after a couple of days stay. He was visiting from Hawaii and after a few days was able to return to his home.

This story has a happy ending and is a reminder to us all that we must be vigilant and safety conscious at all times. Thanks to everyone who was in the right place at this time of need and for their quick action that saved this man's life.



Some of the "Rescue Crew": D. Boissoneault, R. Filion, S. Filion, S. Gaudette, H. Asari, C. Asari, A. McGaw, E. Gaudette, P. Gaudette

The Invasive Plant Team: You know they're all around us! Those aliens, I mean! Lake Arrowhead has Eurasian Milfoil, Northeast Pond has European Naiad. Belleau Lake and Balch Lake, the Ossipee River all have Milfoil. Picerel Pond is, hopefully, free of Hydrilla after years of chemical treatment and loss of all plant life.



H. McGaw with "P.N."

We are paddling to protect our lake: to try to catch any small invasive growth before it can take hold and multiply. We now have 6 floating case scopes to help view the bottom of the lake. Please feel free to call Jeanne to borrow one. Consider taking the training workshop given by Maine VLMP and become certified. It's a huge help, even if you only patrol your own shoreline.

To make a little bit of a challenge, I have "planted" the exotic "Plastegon Noodlius" out there. Three of our lakers have located it and received a Wilson Lake cap as a reward. Keep your eyes open for "P.N." (it does move around) and other wicked, nasty invaders.

There's no SURE way to prevent an invasion but we must take a pro-active stance!

Let's do something fun! Like BREAKFAST!

The majority of homeowners on Wilson Lake come from "away." It's only natural that you arrive and quickly are involved with plans to open the camp, get ready for guests and rarely get to know any but your closest neighbors. In an effort to develop a community of caring, wonderful people, we would like to invite you to mark your calendar for a Breakfast Social in 2017. This event is in the planning stages and you will learn more in the Spring issue. However, we hope this will be an event that you will attend and bring your entire family, friends and guests. Stay tuned for more information!



**PO Box 162
Acton, ME 04001**

To:

“Close Call”

This summer, in the afternoon on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, my wife, my six-year-old daughter and I were boating on our pontoon boat in the middle of the lake. We were swimming off the side of our boat and just relaxing, enjoying the weather and being on the water. We were about fifty yards from another pontoon boat where the people on that boat were doing the same thing.

My daughter and I had just gotten out of the water and I was standing in the middle of my boat facing the other pontoon when a Sea Doo went speeding between me and the other pontoon. As I watched, it did a wide turn, then came directly toward me, moving pretty fast. At the last moment it veered around my stern and passed by no farther than ten feet from my boat with the driver smiling and waving. My daughter and I were just minutes ago swimming in the water in that exact spot.

The operator turned around and came back to tell me he thought we were somebody else. I told him we had just been swimming there and that was a really dangerous move. My wife told him that boaters here usually stay a safe distance away from each other and that is, “Kind of our policy here.”

I was too shocked to be angry at the time and the people on the nearby pontoon, who were also surprised at what had just happened, called out, “That was crazy!”

This is a perfect example of how NOT to drive your boat. Boats should always be at least two tow rope lengths distance from each other if they are driving with any speed and the drivers should always be aware of their surroundings anytime they are on the water, even if they are just floating on the lake. Also, it’s always a good idea to give pontoon boats plenty of space because people are often in the water swimming or floating alongside them.

Again, I have never seen anyone drive like this on Wilson and I think that is what makes our lake more enjoyable than other larger, busier lakes. However, I just want to put this out there as an example of unsafe operation, and an FYI to be alert for that kind of operation and, also, as a “Thank you” to all of those boaters who operate safely all summer long.

Enjoy your autumn and winter and “See you next summer.”

Bill Pimental, Peacock Road

Ed: This is a good time to remind everyone: **No one under sixteen** is allowed to drive a personal watercraft! (Jetski, Ski Doo, Sea Doo, etc.)