



# Wilson Lake News

## Spring 2018

*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: vacant
- Rich Chevalier
- Linda Cote
- Arlie McGaw
- Heidi McGaw
- Dan Orino
- Teg Rood
- Glenn Wildes

### What's Growing in My Lake?

Enclosed with your newsletter is our new booklet which was created to help you and your family/friends/visitors to learn to identify the aquatic plants that are growing on your shorefront and around the perimeter of the lake. We on Wilson Lake are so very fortunate that we have a lake that is free of invasive aquatic plants, as well as having good quality water.

Lakes all around us are struggling with the problem of eradicating, or even controlling, invasive plants. The cost for doing so is enormous and on-going. The value of property on these lakes plummets. We are naïve to think it can't happen here. Thus, it takes a community effort to be on the watch for any new plant. If we can catch it immediately we can prevent it from gaining a stronghold and proliferating.

One person on Great East Lake noticed a milfoil growing near their boat ramp. By carefully harvesting that one plant, the lake was saved! That's why we all need to be vigilant and knowledgeable about our own lake.

Please read the booklet often and keep it handy. Encourage others in your home to read it, as well. It is printed on water resistant paper so take it with you when you go out in your kayak or other boat and use it to help you identify what you see.

This booklet was paid for with your dues. Please be sure to join WLA and send in your check or look on-line at our website for Pay Pal. This is a new way to join the Wilson Lake Association and we hope to have it up and running by the time you receive this newsletter.

As always, your Association is working hard to protect our lake.

### Next Board Meeting:

**May 12, 2018**  
**9:00AM**

94 Peacock Road  
All WLA members welcome

**Breakfast Social:**  
**June 30—9:00-11:00**

**Annual Meeting:**  
**July 7—9:00-11:00**  
**Public Safety Bldg!**

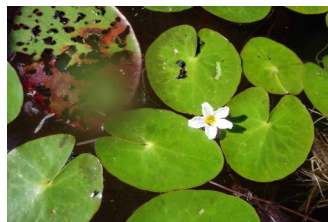
**Our Website:**  
**wilsonlake.net**  
**Email:**  
**wilsonlakeas@gmail.com**

### You Can Help!

- ◇ **Read the booklet** - **Look for "Plastigon Noodllus"** - **Take the VLMP Class**
- ◇ **Learn what's growing in front of your property** - **Attend the Annual Meeting**
- ◇ **Send in your dues** - **Ask for help** - **Join a Paddle** - **Read the Newsletter**



Pipestem



Little Floating Heart



Pickerel Weed

## President's Message: On My Soap Box

### Why is attendance so low at WLA's Annual Meeting?

I've heard that a comment from a laker who does not attend the annual meeting was, "I don't want to be told what to do with my property." Really? Well, that concerns me. Apparently our message is being heard or perceived very differently than we wish to deliver it.

WLA is not a policing organization, nor do we wish to be. We claim no authority to tell anyone what they must do on their own property. We do wish, however, to educate landowners about the best proven methods to protect their investment and maintain the health of our beautiful lake so that we can pass it on to future generations. We try to help with information and cost-sharing!

To achieve that end we work hard to stay informed of the latest scientific research by attending conferences and being a part of other lake related organizations. We look for speakers who can share their knowledge and experiences with our members through our meetings, website and newsletters.

Sure, we get it that you want to come up to your vacation home for fun and relaxation on the lake. So do we! The reality is that lakes suffer from abuse and neglect, as well as the natural tendency to fill in, and the property values decline accordingly. Is it worth it to take some time out of our recreational activities to learn about caring for our investment? I believe it is!

So much for my venting! It's my lake, and it's your lake. I care and I'll continue to work for its preservation as long as I can. Your interest will keep me and the other volunteers going. It sure would be nice to have you along on this journey.



**Protecting a lake takes lots of work. Wilson Lake Association gets help from many other support organizations. Most depend on individual donations and grants to further their efforts to keep up with the developing science of lakes and how to best protect them. Here's a list of some of those organizations that we depend on:**

**Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance \* Lake Stewards of Maine: Volunteer Lake Monitors Program \* Maine Department of Environmental Protection Lakes Environmental Association \* Maine Lakes Society\* University of New Hampshire Lay Lakes Monitoring Program  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project\***

**\*These particularly are delighted to have individual financial donations! Consider one or more when you do your charity budget.**

### **Cost Sharing Pilot Program Gets Another Chance;**

**WLA wants to help you correct your erosion issues. Once again we will cost share up to \$100 for materials if a Wilson Lake property warrants remediation. Become a Project Host of AWWA's Youth Conservation Corps (Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance/YCC).**

If your property was identified in our 2009 Watershed Survey as having an erosion problem, or even if you're not sure if you have an old or new problem, call Amy Arsenault at 603-473-2500. Amy will schedule a time convenient to you, and come to your property to assess the state of your land. If this visit determines that you could become a project host for the YCC, we'll help you pay for the materials.

Clues about issues include slopes with rills or gullies where water rushes into the lake taking soil with it, exposed roots, undercut shore banks, or bare areas where water sheets over the land. If you have no buffer at your shore you can be sure that soil carrying phosphorus is leaching into the water and promoting excessive plant growth somewhere in the lake.

A buffer is a 10 to 20 foot strip of vegetation at the water's edge. It's purpose is to slow and absorb the water from storms or snow melt. It serves a very valuable function as the phosphorus is used by the terrestrial plants rather than the aquatic plants. The vegetation, often on a raised berm, helps the water filter into the ground, too. This vegetation does not need to grow high and impede your water view to be effective. There are many native plants that adapt well to this purpose. You can find a comprehensive list of appropriate plants at the Acton Town Hall or go online to [maine.gov/](http://maine.gov/)

### **Why are we making this offer?**

WLA has historically helped homeowners take care of their property because what happens on one person's land affects the lake for all of us. Before phosphorus-free fertilizer was readily available, WLA purchased bags and offered it for free for anyone who felt they just had to fertilize their lawns. Now, most of us have dispensed with lush, green lawns in favor of more natural ground covers, or have opted to purchase phosphorus-free fertilizers at our local stores.

**If you've been holding back on making your property "lake friendly," now's your chance to do so and save money at the same time! Springvale Nurseries will speak about "Landscaping for a Healthy Lake" at our Annual Meeting on July 7, Public Safety Building!**



## Why is Province Lake Green?

It's hard to believe this photo was taken by Jon Samuelson, home owner on Province Lake and treasurer of AWWA, on **November 16, 2017!** Province Lake is often plagued with cyanobacteria blooms but they are usually a summer occurrence.

The study of cyanobacteria is more recently receiving attention from scientists, including Dr. Jim Haney of the University of New Hampshire in Durham. He has been working with AWWA and local lakes to learn more about limnology, the study of inland waters. He has theorized that the recent October and November blooms on Province have been caused by the severe storms we've had with unusually powerful winds which have churned the waters and sediment, releasing the bacteria which had settled in the bottom.

The danger of "cyanos" is that they are toxic to humans and pets. Dogs swimming and drinking have suffered death and swimmers have become very sick. A solution to the problem has yet to be determined but it is important to make people aware that the bloom exists and the water should be avoided until the bloom settles down.

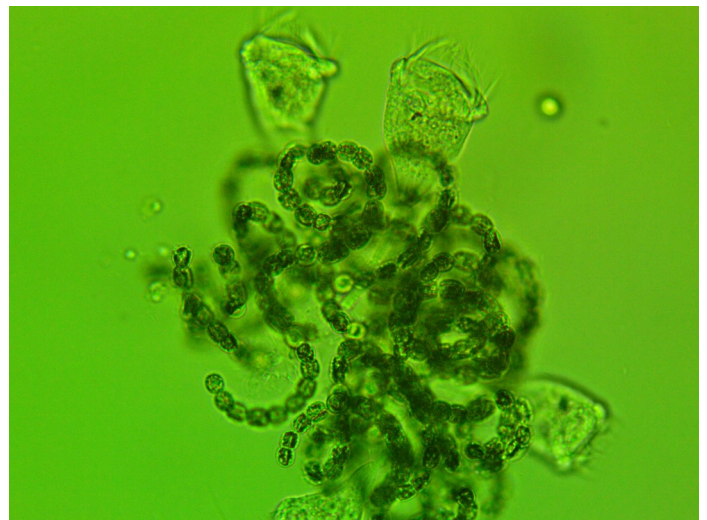
All lakes have cyanobacteria to some degree and we on Wilson Lake have been having routine testing completed on a bi-weekly basis for the past two years. Usually blooms occur during hot spells in shallow waters.

There are various strains of cyanobacteria and I have included a microscope picture of Anabaena which we found on Wilson Lake last August. If you are boating and notice specks of yellow in the water column there's a good chance that it is some type of "cyano." If a bloom is occurring it is pretty clear to see, though probably not as obvious as this one on Province Lake. You can be confident that we would post notices around the lake, on our bulletin boards, our website and send emails to those of you who have provided us with your email addresses. It's a good idea to make sure we have your correct email address as some of your emails have been returned as undeliverable.



Not so fun when a bloom like this shows up on your lake!  
And in November!!

We are indebted to Stephanie Thornton of Lovell Lake who comes every two weeks when we do our water quality testing. She takes samples of the lake water and examines them under a microscope to determine what cyanos are present and how dense the population is. Stephanie does this as an outreach of AWWA and the NHDES.



Interesting little critters, aren't they? A colony.



One innocent little critter. NOT!

## **It's not all Gloom and Doom! There's lot to do in the summer in Acton: Breakfast Social, Boat Parade, Water Fest, Kayak Races, Plant Paddle and more.**

We are very fortunate that, to date, Wilson Lake has no invasive species, and we're working very hard to keep it that way. We, also, have not experienced "cyano blooms" and that's partly because of the depth of our lake and the fact that so many shorefronts are protected by buffer zones. We have very few sandy beach areas around the lake, too, and that's a good thing. Creating or adding to sand beaches is illegal in Maine for an important reason. Phosphorus, a sticky molecule, attaches to sand and washes into the lake with every rain event. Everything we do on our land affects our water quality and though many people don't like being reminded of the fragility of the lake, it's a reality and we're all involved in protecting the entire lake.


There are reasons to celebrate and come together to share our good fortune. You are invited to attend our second annual **Breakfast Social** coming up on June 30th from 9:00am to 11:00am. No business, just getting to know one another as we did last year. You are encouraged to bring your visiting family and friends to this event. It will be a pot luck and if it's anything like the first, there will be plenty of delicious food to share. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided and we hope you'll bring a dish to share, lawn chairs, sunscreen and a fun attitude. 346 Peacock Road at the Brown/Haft home. Thanks to Jeff and Rachel for hosting this event!

Other events on the calendar include a **lecture series** sponsored by AWWA and co-hosted by the Acton Library and the Gafney Library of Wakefield. There will be one per month from March to June and the site will alternate between Acton and Wakefield. Upcoming lectures are May 19, (Wakefield: Loons) and June 21, (Acton: Healthy Lakes). Talks begin at 2:00 and light refreshments will be available.

And for the kids and families, WLA will co-host a **Water Fest**, sponsored by AWWA on July 28. This will be held at the Turntable Park in Wakefield, Route 109. More information is available, on wilsonlake.net and the AWWA website. The **Mary Grant Nature Preserve** is a lovely site to visit with its Fairy and Gnome village, Story-Book Walk and hiking trail. Other events here include the Town Picnic, and Pumpkin Carving Event. Watch for information about these events on Facebook.

WLA will host a **Plant Paddle** on August, 11, This will be a guided event led by Laurie Callahan of York County Invasive Aquatic Plant Project. She will teach us how to use the Quick Key to look for invasive plants and we will explore the littoral zone of the canal and adjacent shorelines. You do not need experience to join this paddle. Watch for more information on wilsonlake.net to register for this event. We especially want to encourage young folks to join this interesting paddle.

Don't forget, too, that **Goat Hill** on H Road is now open to the public and has a parking area and hiking trails as well as picnic tables and gorgeous views of Wilson Lake and Square Pond. Thanks to the Three Rivers Land Trust, the Town of Acton and its residents for enabling this land to be conserved.



### **Annual Meeting: July 7, 2018—Acton Public Safety Building**

We're happy to report that we will return to the **Public Safety Building on Route 109** for our Annual Meeting. We were not able to convene there last year and apologize for any confusion for some folks.

This meeting is important for several reasons:

Members get to learn what their association is doing to help protect our lake.

New officers are elected by members

Invited Speakers give informative talks about lake related topics.

This year's speaker will be Mike and/or Kelly from Springvale Nurseries in Sanford. (S)he will talk about "Landscaping For a Healthy Lake." Emphasis will be on native plants that require little care and help prevent run-off from entering the lake. They hope to bring samples and may even have coupons that will enable you to save 10% when you buy your plants at Springvale Nurseries.



## Membership : Your Dues Help Protect Your Lake!

I want to help protect and preserve Wilson Lake for future generations and enclose my 2018 contribution of \$20. (Please make checks payable to Wilson Lake Association.) A more generous donation is always welcome and will help WLA pay for the **Aquatic Plant Booklet, cost-sharing plan** and continue to work to protect our lake!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Please print carefully. Many emails get returned because we couldn't read your address correctly. Better yet, send it to: wilsonlakeas@gmail.com

Send to: Wilson Lake Association  
P.O.Box 162

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



**Did you miss the 2017 Breakfast Social? Don't miss it again!**  
**Last year's social event of the season was a pot luck breakfast at the Brown's home at 346 Peacock Road.**

**Bring your family, your guests and your visitors. All are welcome!**

**June 30, 2018 (Rain Date July 1) at 346 Peacock Road  
9:00AM to 11:00AM**

**Independence Day Boat Parade: Kick off at 10:00AM from the Canal - Look for the lead boat with the banner and line up for our Annual Parade. If you have a CD player on board and would like to borrow a disc of Sousa's marches, call Jeanne—477-0310**



### Finding "Plastigon Noodlius"

Oh yes, it will be out there somewhere! While you're out having fun, keep your eyes open for this virtual invasive plant. Originally the idea of Donna Davis of Province Lake, Jeanne has created two and introduced them to Wilson Lake.

Why? To encourage you to look for plant growth and have some fun at the same time. Join those who have discovered this plant and bring it to Jeanne to claim your reward. (Call 477-0310)

First time finders will be awarded a Wilson Lake cap as their reward. Wear it proudly!





PO Box 162  
Acton, ME 04001

## Wilson Lake Association Could Really use your help!

There are a lot of little things you could do to help us protect our lake. None require a great deal of time although the input makes a big difference. Please consider joining the team:

- Become a member of the Board of Directors. Usually 4 meetings a year from March to September.
- We haven't had a Secretary for 3 years! It just means taking the minutes at meetings.
- Attend the Annual Meeting: July 7, 9:00AM Public Safety Building—"Landscaping for a Healthy Lake"
- Join the Invasive Plant Patrol. We have guided paddles, small group paddles and individual paddles. We'll teach you what to do and even give you a T Shirt to let others know that you're a contributor.
- Obey the Maine Lake rules. Especially Headway Speed Only, NO WAKE, within 200 feet of shore. That includes the entire canal area from the ramp to the main opening to the lake and the whole shore line.
- Keep the lake and shore line trash free. Carry In and Carry Out.
- Have your property evaluated by AWWA for storm water run-off. Call Amy Arsenault at 603-472-2500 for a free Technical Package. If your property needs remediation by the YCC, we'll match materials cost up to \$100!
- Carry a trash bag when you take your walks and pick up any trash that you see.
- Walk your dog(s)? Please pick up their poop. It washes into the lake and really makes a difference.
- Wash, Clean and Dry: Boats and all gear when going from one lake to another. This is a BIGGIE!



## Fun on the Lake! Kayak Races to end the season!

We invite you and your family members who love to kayak the lake to join in some kayak races. The event will be held on Saturday, September 1, at 10:00 AM. That's Labor Day Weekend and many of us will be having guests to wind up the summer season.

How about taking a little time out on Saturday morning to take part in some kayak racing at the north end of the lake? If enough people of all ages are interested, we'll have age categories and conduct these sprints just for fun!

Young or not so young, we encourage you to enter and take part. Since it's our first try at this we hope you'll be understanding of our organization of the event and participate with an easy attitude!

It will be very helpful if we know ahead of time, who's participating and how old each participant is. Think about who'll be visiting that weekend and encourage them to take part. There will be information on the web site and a form for registering. We'll send emails to those who have supplied theirs (some are illegible and don't get through to you. If you're not getting any emails from us, please send your email address to: [wilsonlakeas@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonlakeas@gmail.com).

On-lookers may line the course and cheer on their family members or friends as they paddle the short race course which will be marked with colorful pool noodles!

More to come on this event!

