

WILSON LAKE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

*There are places I remember
All my life, though some have changed
Some forever not for better
Some have gone and some remain
~The Beatles In My Life*



Join us at...

Website: <http://wilsonlake.net/> Facebook: *Wilson Lake Association*

Email: Wilsonlakeas@gmail.com

Board of Directors 2023

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David & Diana Spahn- *Plant Patrollers*

Margaret Sitarz- *Board Member*

Membership in WLA: Your Dues Help Protect the Lake!

I want to help protect and preserve Wilson Lake for future generations and enclose my 2023 contribution of \$20 (Please make checks payable to Wilson Lake Association). Additional donations are always welcome!

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Lake Address: _____

Send your dues (\$20) to Wilson Lake Association, PO Box 162. Acton, Maine 04001 *or* through PayPal or credit card at <http://wilsonlake.net/>

SAVE THE DATES!

4th of July Boat Parade

- Meet at the outlet cove (boat launch) at 10 am
- **Annual Meeting—9 am Sat. July 8th at Nadeau (Old Acton) Airfield**
- Bring your lawn chair and a smile

Letter from the Lakeside

Welcome to the 2023 season at Wilson Lake, especially for those newly joining our community! For newcomers and old timers alike, we would love to **see you in person for our annual meeting July 8th** at Nadeau Airfield off of 109.

My name is Isobel & I have had the honor of being part of the WLA board for five years now.

In that time span, a lot has happened on the Lake and in the World. For many of us, our vacation spots transformed into remote offices and we had the opportunity to be more involved. I am so grateful for everything our board has accomplished, with each member donating dozens if not hundreds of hours of volunteer time over the years.

We've accomplished a lot, but as I've said before, **with greater use of the lake comes greater responsibility to be its stewards**. If the pandemic illustrated anything, it exemplified that **local involvement** is essential.

Governor, state legislator, and even school board decisions can dictate our daily lives. And in an accelerating world where ChatGPT writes better than most and AI plagiarizes artists, being part of a community has never been more important.

Last season, our goal was to complete our decadal watershed survey or "snapshot" of the lake. With the help of many volunteers, AWWA, and Maine DEP, we accomplished this. Full results from the survey can be found at our website or at [2022 Wilson Lake Watershed Survey Report](#).

Our goal this year is to begin addressing our "hottest" issue spots. From the survey, we identified **68 erosion sites** that directly impact Wilson Lake. Of these, **10 were high impact** to the lake, 54 were medium impact, and 4 were low impact.

We will be addressing **high impact sites first**, as these spots were identified to have the worst impact on soil erosion and therefore water quality. Of the high impact sites, about 6 of them are directly related to route 109 and therefore under the jurisdiction of the Maine DOT. We are currently drafting a letter to the DOT to address these issues and push for remediation.

If you would like help in reducing runoff on your property, please read the watershed report recommendations and reach out to us for help! **Most issues (medium to low) are projects that can be easily & cost-effectively addressed**, while also improving lakeside landscaping.

For newcomers & old timers alike, Wilson Lake's three major threats will always remain: 1) Invasive plants 2) Run-off/Erosion & 3) Algae blooms.

Join us in being part of positive impact, not just part of another AI algorithm.

~Isobel Michaud

Who says sunsets are just for summer? Fall & Winter 2022



**Thank you to all who shared photos
on Facebook!**



The ABC's of a Healthy Lake

All lakes are part of an ecosystem and are vulnerable to damage from natural events and human action. Wilson Lake has been a clean, healthy lake, but it is also fragile. Here are some basic things that we can do to ensure that our lake remains viable:

- A. Avoid phosphates (e.g. phosphate fertilizers).
- B. Be careful what goes into the water.
- C. Check for Invasive plants.

What is the problem with phosphates in the lake? Phosphates promote algae growth. With as little as 10 parts per billion of phosphate in a lake, an algae bloom can result. This sucks the oxygen out of the water and kills the lake, the fish and plants (called eutrophication). The most common sources of phosphates are fertilizer and sand. Fertilizer around the lake should be phosphate-free. Run-off during the rain will wash phosphates in the sand directly into the lake. This is why sandy roads, driveways, and beaches are a threat to our lake. Our Lake Association is working with the state and Town of Acton to reduce the run-off from our roads. You can work with AWWA to reduce sand run-off from your driveways and yards. The Maine DEP is a good resource for anyone interested in learning more.

We all need to be careful to avoid polluting our lake. Oil and gasoline and automobiles do not belong in the water. Golf balls and fireworks have been proven to leach harmful chemicals into the lake. Each camp needs to maintain their septic system so that we are not leaking sewage into the lake. Have your oil tank and lines inspected to assure no leaking oil.

Invasive plants have ruined a few nearby lakes. Once an invasive plant takes off in a lake it's impossible to remove it. Reducing the invasive plants to allow boating is an incredibly expensive endeavor for all the homeowners around the lake. The best way to protect our lake is prevention. Invasive plants are transported from one lake to another on boats. Boats should be washed thoroughly after leaving another lake before entering our lake. There are signs at the public boat ramp reminding boaters to carefully inspect their boat before placing it in the lake. We all need to learn which plants are native to our lake and check for invasive plants at our camp's waterfront. The Lake Stewards of Maine is a great resource for anyone interested in help identifying plants in the lake. Our Lake Association also sponsors education programs for you.

Here's how we can learn more about protecting Wilson Lake:

Contact the Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance (<https://awwatersheds.org/>) to get a free property inspection and ideas for making our camps more lake friendly.

Learn about how our camps impact the lake from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (<https://www.maine.gov/dep/homeowner/index.html>)

Some great videos to identify invasive plants in Maine lakes can be found at the Lake Stewards of Maine website (<https://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/resources/videos/>)

~Jeff Brown

Spring 2023 Water Quality Report

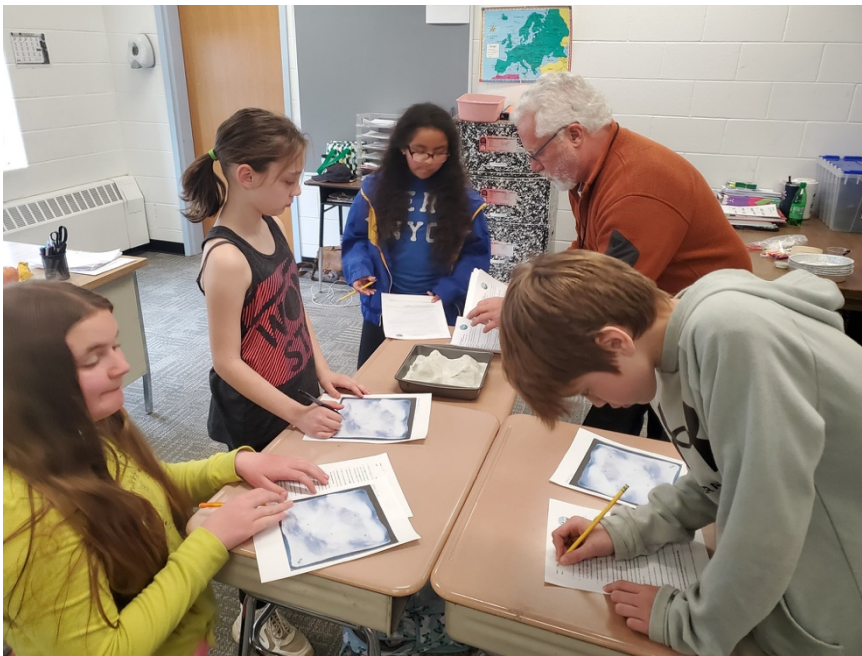
Every two weeks May-September, I sample the water conditions with a Secchi disk and probe connected to a meter through a communication cord (come to the annual meeting this year to see all the gear in person!). The tests are done in the deepest part of the lake called 'the basin'. It's ~44' deep on the east central side of the lake. Field sheets are completed and submitted to LSM, who record water quality data for lakes across Maine.

Ice-in last year was December 25th. Ice-out was April 12th. The first water quality readings took place on May 13th. The Secchi disk reading was 6.45 meters down (21.2 ft) which is ~1 meter less than last year (7.5m) and about half a meter less than 2021 (7.05m). We believe the heavy rain fall was a major contributor to the lower clarity reading. However, there was also slow winter snow melt this year (and thus good soil infiltration) which is an ease to the pollutants entering the lake from runoff.

Water temperatures

The water temperature at the top of the water was 60.26 °F; 55.22°F at 5 meters; 49.10°F at 7 m and 44.96°F at 13 m (42 feet, close to the bottom of the lake). When the ice melts, the cold water on the top drops to the bottom and causes the lake to turn. The thermocline changes its location in the water because of this action when the lake turns. Thermocline is a steep change in water temperature and a layer between this area. The thermocline is between 4 to 6 meters. These readings are like last year at this time.

Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) require annual certification for lake water quality testing personnel. Certifications will now be conducted here on Wilson Lake for York County with an LSM representative. The host will be Mark Camire along with the use of his pontoon boat.



Rich Chevalier volunteered this spring, as local 6th graders learned about aquatic plant and animal life. He was also instrumental in establishing Wilson as a spot for Lake Stewards certification classes. Thank you, Rich!

Oxygen readings

The oxygen reading on top of the water was 9.3 ug/L, 5 meters – 9.6 ug/L, 9 meters 9.1 ug/L and 13 meters 7.9 ug/L. The readings are somewhat close to each other which means this is the time of the year the water is circulation top to bottom called ‘spring turnover’. Later in the year there is little oxygen at the bottom. Typically, the reading is ~0.4ug/L.

The *Gloeotrichia echinulata* (Gloeo) reading is zero which is a good sign as Gloeo is a colonial cyanobacteria species that can lead to toxic blooms when there are too many nutrients in the lake. Fortunately, there are none found. The lake is very clean.

Run-off remains one of the major concerns for pollutants entering the lake. For example, the last big rainstorm on May 1st delivered 4.38” of rain washing out the shoulders and ditches on Route 109 and at the end of Hawk Road. That sand and gravel entered the stream that feeds the lake. Many other places also washed out in the Wilson Lake Watershed. These run-offs, including phosphorus from fertilizers and roads, enter Wilson Lake from driveways and areas that are not infiltrating into the ground before reaching the lake. Learning about your land property and lake water quality will be a benefit to the natural resources around all of us.

In other news, there will be three surface grabs this year testing for pollutants. One at the basin (deep part of the lake) and the other two will be at major streams that enter the lake from the Wilson Lake Watershed. The stream locations are at the south and southwest sides of the lake.

Have fun at the lake this year. Stay safe. ~**Rich Chevalier**

Plant Patrol Update

At this time, Wilson Lake continues to **be free of invasive aquatic plants**, while several other lakes in Maine **are newly infested**. For example, this June 2023, *Utricularia Inflata* (Swollen Bladderwort) was found on in Mousam Lake’s Ash Cove.

We have been stressing the importance for each of us living on the lake to be aware of the plants in the vicinity of our own properties, and we are happy to see that this is paying off. This year we have already received several calls to investigate suspicious plants that Wilson Lake property owners have noticed. Thankfully, all turned out to be native plants. **Continue to watch your own shoreline as this year’s plants emerge, and your invasive plant patrollers will be out too. If you see a suspicious plant DO NOT pull it out, but label it (e.g. with a buoy) and reach out to us to inspect it.**

If you would like to learn more on your own, please visit our website or lakestewardsofmaine.org has an online video course, Invasive Plant Patrol 101 Part 3, “Will you know an aquatic invader when you see it?” is very informative. ~**Wayne & Sharyn Reetz**

Wilson Lake’s Water Level

WLA’s goal is to maintain a consistent lake water level during the recreational boating period from late May to mid-October. During these months, we keep the lake artificially high with the use of the dam. It has been a wet springtime and the watershed has been well charged with water.

The dam was closed for the summer season. As a reminder, the dam is opened fully in mid-October to prepare for the winter ice and to allow fish movement. ~**John Nadeau**

Loons

Two loons have returned to the lake for this spring's mating season when the loons are quite territorial. No nesting activity has occurred of which we are aware, for a number of years. There can be many reasons for this, including loss of nesting habitat or even "a retired pair of loons."

If you know of a loon nest attempt this year please call John Nadeau at 781-504-3143. He and Ann Marie are the Maine Audubon Loon Counters on Loon Day in July when all the loons in Maine are counted at exactly the same time, rain or shine. Part of the count includes the location of any active nesting sites.

Last summer (2022) only one loon was on Wilson Lake from 7:00 to 7:30 am during the Maine Audubon Annual Loon Count. Several more loons arrived later in July because loons raising chicks on other lakes continue to be territorial. Loons apparently like Wilson Lake's clean water, great fishing and courteous boaters. The Loon Count has taken place for over thirty-five years and indicates that the loon population in Maine is stable.

Thank you for not chasing them with motorized watercraft and keeping your distance even when paddling. ~**John Nadeau**

In memory of...

Richard F Hoyle 9/30/33-10/5/22

During the summer of 1961 my parents, Richard "Dick" and Jackie Hoyle were on a quest to find a lake front camp. They had friends on Lovell Lake and after a weekend there decided they needed one! Little did anyone know that when they purchased what is now 74 Falcon Road that their lives would be forever marked by the friends and experiences associated with "camp." The dirt road led to the Lee's camp, our camp, the Pierce's and the Hayford's. The descendants of those original camps, the Flayhan's and the Cook's are still here. So, 61 years later the Hoyle's are still the newcomers on the street.



My father took to camp like the proverbial duck to water. Our first trip was on Labor Day weekend and it was freezing. But as he took the old Lyman wood boat out for a ride, his grin was ear to ear. He and Don Cook became inseparable summer buddies, and no adventure was too crazy! Over the years, there were countless water ski variations from dragging up to six people

behind the boat to a child on my dad's shoulders. There was dark hide and seek, the Acton Fair and walks to Joe's store for penny candy.

When it was time for the Wilson Lake Association to meet, signs would go up and dad's boat would go around the lake to let people know it was coming up. I know my dad was involved for several years and he was always proud that the lake was healthier than many in the area.

Over the years there were many changes. My dad's six kids became nine as the Lamphiers joined the family when dad married Sandie. It was the two months a year at camp that made us the family we are today. It was there, on the water, that we bonded with each other. At camp it was one adventure after another, and the head honcho of antics was Dick Hoyle.

~Catherine Toomey

And to all those we've lost from the Wilson Lake community these past few years, thank you for the lake we inherited! In preserving Wilson, WLA works to preserve the memory of those who loved the lake before us.

If you'd like to have a lost loved listed in one of our bi-annual newsletters, please email us at Wilsonlakeas@gmail.com

**Wilson Lake Gear is here! New designs and material coming soon!
Short and Long Sleeve T's, Sweatshirts, and Children's too!**

Classic Design

<https://www.bonfire.com/wilson-lake-classic-design/>



"Sunset" Logo

<https://www.bonfire.com/wilson-lake-sun-and-water/>



Check out our website or FB to click on links and get your WLA gear today!