

WILSON LAKE NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024

Preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known. - Carl Sagan

If you can't be in awe of Mother Nature, there's something wrong with you. – Alex Trebek

Join us at...

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

Email: Wilsonlakeas@gmail.com



Board Members 2024

Eric D. Cook- *President*

Isobel Michaud- *Vice President*

Ann Marie Nadeau- *Treasurer*

John Nadeau- *Erosion Control*

Lisa Flayhan- *Secretary*

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Lisa Orino-*Board Member*

Rich Chevalier- *Water Quality*

Jeff Brown- *Board Member*

Diane Hansen- *Board Member*

Teg Rood- *Board Member*

David & Diana Spahn- *Plant Patrollers*

Margaret Sitarz- *Board Member*

Sadie Walsh- *Board Member*

Membership in WLA: Your Dues Help Protect the Lake!

Annual dues will be raised in 2025 to aid in our efforts to keep Wilson clean

I want to help protect and preserve Wilson Lake for future generations and enclose my 2024 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/>



New Website in the Works

We have invested in a total revamp of our Wilson Lake website. Stay tuned for the unveiling and in the meantime, we ask for patience in using our current website. More to come!

Letter from the Lakeside

Fellow Wilsonians,

I wanted to write a different article from my usual about runoff. I reached out to the Mousam Lake Association and spoke to its President about the issues they are having with Swollen Bladderwort. It is scary, and it is a cautionary tale. I hope that all of you reading will take the risk of transferring invasive species more seriously and pass that concern on to your friends and family that may bring boats to Wilson.

Last year Swollen Bladderwort was found in Mousam. They found it everywhere in the lake, mostly at the 3-4 foot level, but in some places down to 16 feet and mostly concentrated in coves.

Left unchecked the swollen bladderwort will crowd out and kill other plant life and eventually fish as well.

Mousam has an active remediation program using DASH, or Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting. Basically a big vacuum on a boat with divers will go around and suck up the Swollen Bladderwort. This kind of remediation is, as you can imagine, expensive at approximately **\$5,000 a week.**



The State of Maine does contribute with some grants, but the rest of the cost is borne by the lakeside property owners.

What can you do?

- Pay your dues
 - It is important that we have sufficient funds in the Association to pay for plant patrols and education
- Attend a plant patrol kayak
- Inspect and clean your boats and tell your friends and family to clean and inspect their boats before they put them into our lake.

It is way better to avoid getting one of these invasive species than having to try to remediate an infestation. ~Eric Cook

Invasive Plant Patrols

We are happy to report that there has not been any evidence of invasive aquatic plants in Wilson Lake. We have surveyed the entire perimeter of the lake paying special attention to the boat launch cove. We were recently assisted by Laurie Callahan, an aquatic plant expert. It was a learning experience as well as a welcome confirmation that Wilson Lake continues to be invasive free. That could change in a heartbeat. Our best defense is for everyone to be familiar with our resident plants. It's not necessary to know their names but to be aware of what's there so if something new shows up it can be recognized as different. If you should see something new or different just contact the Wilson Lake Association and we will take it from there. Taking a picture of the plant is helpful.

The only thing of concern on this year's surveys was the proliferation of the native Low Water Milfoil seen in the boat launch cove. We have been assured by the experts at Lake Stewards of Maine that this is normal behavior for this plant species. It goes through boom-and-bust cycles. It is not known what triggers these cycles.

We are often questioned about the metaphyton blooms. These are sometimes confused with algae blooms; however, metaphyton blooms look like green "cotton candy" and sit at the bottom or middle of the water table. These blooms may look ominous, but they do **not** present a danger to the lake. Anecdotally, over the 39 years we have been paddling around Wilson Lake it seems as though there are more of these blooms. It is not known what might be causing this. Both increased nutrient phosphorus caused by runoff into the Lake and perhaps a warming of the water may be contributing.

~David Spahn

As of today, Wilson Lake has no invasive plants. However, we must be vigilant about prevention and identification of both aquatic and land-based plants. The impact infestations can cause are habitat disruption, diminished water quality, reduced fishing, and recreation opportunities and ultimately loss of property values. There is also a significant expense for mitigating these environmental impacts. Balch Lake and Milton Three Ponds have Eurasian Milfoil. Arrowhead has variable-leaf milfoil, European naiad and Chinese Mystery Snails.

Bladderwort and Chinese Mystery Snails have been identified in Mousam Lake. Square Pond discovered Chinese Mystery Snail infestations around 2011. Both of our neighboring lakes require Professional divers, special equipment and have trained volunteers and volunteer dive teams to remove the snails. While they will never be able to completely eradicate the snails, the goal is to keep the numbers in check and their impact on the shoreline. As of 2024 Square Pond has removed a total of 18,260 lbs. of snails, an impressive community effort!

For Wilson Lake, prevention and early identification are key to keeping our lake free from invasive plants. Our local specialist Laurie Callahan will lead two Plant Patrols next year instead of just one as we have done in the past. Several board members have received training as "plant patrollers." As landowners, it is our responsibility to keep the lake free from invasive species. If you see something you do not recognize, let us at WLA know and we will check it out for you. Additional information can be found on the Lake Stewards of Maine website.

<http://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org> ~Margaret Sitarz

Wilson Lake's Water Level

WLA's goal is to maintain a consistent lake water level for the recreational boating period from late May to mid-October. As of this writing in early September, that goal has been achieved. The dam will be fully opened in mid-October until May to flush the lake, to prepare for the winter ice and to allow fish movement. ~**John Nadeau**

Loon Report

Wilson Lake had three loons counted this year during the 41st Annual Maine Audubon Loon Count on July 20th. No nesting activity occurred. During the Loon Count all loons in the participating Maine lakes are counted during the same one-half hour (7:00 – 7:30 AM), rain or shine, and the count includes the location of any active nesting sites. Loons indicate a healthy lake with a good fish population. Thank you for not chasing them with motorized watercraft and keeping your distance even when paddling. Audubon considers the loon population in Maine as stable. ~**John Nadeau**

Get your Wilson Lake Gear for Holiday Gifting!

Time is limited! Mark your calendars!

Beautiful, high quality Wilson Lake products embroidered with our loon logo will be available for a limited time!

The Link will be active from Oct. 30-Nov. 20, with delivery by Dec. 15

Check out the link below:

wilsonlake2024fallfest.itemorder.com/shop/home/

Any issues with the link DURING THE TIME PERIOD, please reach out to Rob Rob@amesburysport.com (email)
508.783.6072 (text)

Thank you for supporting the WLA!



Wilson Lake Association Water Quality Analysis

Lake water quality throughout the year has been good. Water clarity, oxygen, temperature and surface grabs (tests for pH and *E. coli*) are within safe levels.

In order to fulfill the WLA mission, we need to monitor the lake water. Every two weeks from May-September, I sample the water conditions with a Secchi disk for water clarity and use a probe connected to a meter through a communication cable for oxygen and temperature measurement. I also do one surface grab each year to determine pH and *E. coli* content for water safety and purity. 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 Lake Stewards of Maine to record water quality which is available on the LSM website.

Water temperatures:

On 09.23.2024, the water temperature reading at three feet of depth was 68°F. Water is now cooling from highs recorded in July. On 07.12.2024 the temperature was 83°F. This is the warmest temperature I have ever recorded in 8+ years of keeping records at Wilson Lake. Thermocline is a point of steep change in water temperature. The thermocline was between 16 to 26 feet at this time. The thermocline changes its depth due to lake turning associated with temperature changes through the year.

Oxygen readings:

All readings are at acceptable levels.

Gloeo:

The *Gloeotrichia echinulata* (*Gloeo*) reading is zero. This is a very good reading.

Run-off remains one of the major concerns for pollutants entering the lake. High alkali levels (high pH) cause more aquatic plants to grow (weeds). Old septic systems contribute to high pH material entering Wilson Lake. Please have a proper certified inspection of your septic system and 'dye' test taken if your system is old.

Please continue to take direction from the WLA report with areas of high concern from our 10-year survey led by DEP and AWWA officials that identifies run-off areas and other possible risk areas around the lake. Please be concerned enough to keep our lake clean and get free benefits including suggestions from WLA officers and AWWA professional advice.

And come to the Annual Meeting next year to see all the gear used to determine the reported numbers with an explanation and answers to your questions!

Prevention is the best way to keep our clean lake clean and healthy!

~Rich Chevalier

Mousam Lake Survey 9/18 (Excerpt from Lake Steward's of Maine)

On Wednesday, September 18, Lake Stewards of Maine staff and volunteers visited Mousam Lake for a swollen bladderwort infestation monitoring survey.

Members of the IPP Travel Team, with volunteers from Square Pond, Spaulding Pond, Little Ossipee Lake Association, Lake Arrowhead, Panther Pond and others, assisted Mousam Lake Region Association with the survey. Together the survey team, consisting of 17 staff and

volunteers, patrolled high-risk areas of Lower Mousam Lake, marking any occurrences of the invasive plant. Mapping the infestation will help with future management efforts, including hand-pulling and Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH), which have been underway since its discovery.

Swollen bladderwort, an invasive plant discovered on Mousam in 2023, has been confirmed in seven lakes since its addition to Maine's aquatic invasive species list last year. It strongly resembles native bladderwort species, but has key morphological distinctions that help it stand out to its native lookalikes.

We thank our volunteers for their hard work during this survey.

To be involved in future opportunities assisting LSM's IPP Travel Team, or receiving our latest news please use the link below.

To learn more about swollen bladderwort and its native lookalikes, please watch the "Know Your Bladderworts" webinar using the link below.

Check out a webinar and other great resources on how to identify native bladderworts and swollen at <https://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/know-your-bladderwortswebinar/>