

Webster Lake *News*

Spring 2018, Franklin, NH

Time for a New Perspective

BY MARK LORENZE

W Having had the pleasure to serve as president of the Webster Lake Association for the past nine years, the time has come for me to step down and open the door for a new, fresh perspective. I began and leave my duties with the same passion: a love of Webster Lake as a steward for the protection and preservation of this beautiful resource. I appreciate the confidence and trust put into my hands and will always be grateful for the opportunity to help keep a watchful eye on the crown jewel of Franklin.

While we have fought and won many battles on behalf of the lake, there are many challenges left to overcome. In the past decade we have seen the organization obtain a non-profit 501C-3 status that has enabled us to obtain grants for multiple projects benefitting water quality. Working with the City of Franklin in obtaining the watershed report, the WLA used that report to obtain monies to spearhead numerous storm water abatement projects that have decreased the nutrient loading of the lake. These efforts must continue in order to assure that the lake maintains the best water quality possible and to lessen the cyanobacteria outbreaks.

Among the fruits of the watershed report were the multiple acres of land that were entered into conservation on the northern end of the lake. These efforts are certainly lake beneficial.

As an educator, one of my goals was to increase communication to the members and to be transparent in the organizations operations. Initiating a new website, a FaceBook page, a biannual newsletter, and monthly emails to members have kept stakeholders informed and involved.

Partnering with the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) and Plymouth State University (PSU) have been essential in monitoring and assessing the lake for both water quality and invasive species. Reports from DES over these years have shown improvement that I like to think is an indication of our efforts to protect our resource. PSU's efforts in directing students to Webster Lake for studies with help from the Marrapese Scholarship Fund has also been very beneficial.

A hearty thank you goes out to The City of Franklin for their involvement in numerous projects including the building of the LeGace Beach footbridge and help in planning the Steadman Pavilion along with multiple erosion projects.

As long as we continue to be diligent in monitoring and assessing the lake, and are proactive in our rigor to thwart threats to water quality, future generations will come to enjoy Webster Lake as we all have.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Nominations for New WLA President

Mark Lorenze's resignation as President of the Webster Lake Association will take effect on August 4th, the date of this year's Annual Meeting. We're sorry to see him go and most appreciative of his years of leadership, but it's important to move forward with selection of a new WLA President.

Laurie Salame and John Miller will continue as Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively, to assist with the transition.

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering for the position of President, we encourage you to refer to the WLA Bylaws for further information, particularly Article VII. The Bylaws can be found on the WLA website under "Membership."

The WLA board is taking nominations (of others or yourself) for the position. Nominations can be made to Secretary/Treasurer John Miller at jmiller418@aol.com. The deadline for nominations is July 1st. Between July 1st and August 4th, the WLA Board of Directors will meet with the nominees to determine their level of interest, and their capability and availability to carry out the responsibilities of the office.

Lake Hosting Program

The WLA is looking for someone to coordinate our Lake Host program. We currently partner with Franklin Parks and Recreation for hiring, training, and scheduling of hosts, so our task is minimal. We are primarily responsible for coordinating the grant with the New Hampshire Lakes Association, i.e., applying, monitoring, and payments. Laurie Salame would like to phase out of this volunteer task and anyone willing to take it on should email her at lsalame@isenberg.umass.edu.



Franklin's New Fireworks Ordinance

The Franklin City Council has passed an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of fireworks after 9 p.m.

The Webster Lake Association endeavors to educate our stakeholders so that they make appropriate decisions in dealing with issues in and around the lake. Fireworks have been and still remain one of those issues. Please consider these facts about fireworks:

- It is illegal to discharge fireworks into a New Hampshire body of water without permission (RSA 160-C:6).
- Fireworks displays can deposit significant amounts of perchlorate into the water, according to a study by the American Chemical Society on Environmental Science and Technology ("Fireworks Displays Linked To Perchlorate Contamination In Lakes").
- Perchlorates are of concern because of their water solubility and toxicity to mammals.
- Fireworks are packed with heavy metals such as strontium, aluminum, copper, barium, lead, and cadmium.
- Cardboard and plastic cause residue from fireworks' *considerable* litter and debris, affecting not only your property but your neighbors as well. Thus creating a possible fire hazard.

- Not only are our domestic animals frightened by fireworks, discharge can have detrimental effects on developing loons and eagles, prompting them to leave the area and/or have issues with their young.
- As the governing board of the Webster Lake Association, we urge you to consider not discharging fireworks at all, and if you do wish to discharge them, please make sure the chemicals and debris they produce do not enter the lake or create an area fire hazard. Be considerate of our lake and your neighbors, and conclude your display before 9 p.m.

Fire Permits Necessary

The City of Franklin and The State of New Hampshire require permits for all open burning. This includes all fire pits and campfires as well as any open brush burning.

Brush pile burning require an inspection and permits must be obtained directly from the Franklin Fire Department on Bow Street. 603-934-2205.

Permits for campfires and fire pits can now be obtained online. There is a \$3 processing fee. Go to <https://nhdfweb.sovsportsnet.net> to obtain your permit.

Chance Pond Treatment to Begin

Treatment of the invasive plant Eurasian Milfoil is set to begin in June according to Amy Smagula of NHDES. “We have to wait for the plant to emerge”, says Smagula. DES has agreed to treat and pay for the first year’s application and monitoring. From then on any further treatment would be on the shoulders of the City. Franklin has no monies for such a project so the onus may involve the Webster Lake Association. Hopefully the initial year’s eradication attempt will be successful, but there is no telling how successful it might be until later in the season after the application of the chemical herbicide.

The WLA urges everyone to refrain from visiting Chance Pond for the foreseeable future until we get the green light from DES that the invasive has been successfully eliminated. Though the risk may be small, introducing milfoil into Webster Lake would be devastating and put at risk the collapse of all it currently provides.

A full report from DES concerning the status and treatment of Chance Pond is available on the WLA website.



*Our Pride
Runs Deep*

CHOOSE FRANKLIN

Anyone interested is invited to the monthly Choose Franklin meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 8 a.m. at the Franklin Public Library (310 Central Street), second floor. More information is available on the ChooseFranklin.org website. “Come and learn about the possibilities and voice your opinion as to the direction Choose Franklin and the City of Franklin should take.”

RESOURCES

Boater Education Classes	267-7256
Boater Safety/Marine Patrol	293-2037
Franklin Municipal Services	934-4103
Exotic Plant Concerns	271-2248
Shoreland Concerns	271-2147
Water Quality Concerns	419-9229
Weed Watcher Volunteers	271-2248
Wetlands Concerns	271-2147
Webster Lake Association	671-3405

Lake Assessment Program Report

Four times each season three WLA volunteers (Brian Campbell, Jeff Perkins, and Mark Lorenze) collect samples from Webster Lake tributaries and from the deep spot on the lake.

These samples are taken to NHDES in Concord for analysis. After the season has concluded, DES puts together a data summary lake report.

The 2017 report concluded that phosphorus and algae growth returned to normal levels following a year with very high levels and intense outbreaks of cyanobacteria. Early flushing of the lake from spring rains contributed to the turbidity of the water that had the lake in a tea color during the early summer, but kept the cyanobacteria at bay. Ecoli was detected three times at both beaches, mostly due to waterfowl.

All in all, 2017 proved to be a good year for water quality. The report is available in its entirety on the WLA website.

Plymouth State Analyses of Sucker Brook

The current Pamela and John F. Marape “Keep NH Lakes Clear” Scholarship recipient, Kat Crowley, working with Dr. Amy Villamagna, both of Plymouth State University, have completed a report of her research activity in the Webster Lake watershed. Monitoring Sucker Brook over a period of time in 2017, Kat conducted an extensive invertebrate and water analysis study to determine the impact of road de-icers on streams.

Kat collected water chemistry data such as pH, water temperature, and dissolved oxygen and collected a sample of stream water to send to a University of New Hampshire lab to measure chloride concentration. Macroinvertebrates were also collected using nets.

Kat concluded that macroinvertebrate composition showed a high abundance and family diversity of orders intolerant to pollution, and low abundance of orders and families tolerant to pollution. This indicates that there aren’t high levels of pollution in the stream. She never detected that pH, chloride, or dissolved oxygen levels were outside the Class B New Hampshire Surface Water Quality standards.

Kat stated she has no significant concerns about Sucker Brook based on the water quality parameters and macroinvertebrate biomonitoring metrics monitored.

We have invited Kat to share her findings at the annual meeting on August 4, 2018. Her full report can be found websterlakeNH.com, along with lots of other good information.

Photo Contest?

Whether there will be another Webster Lake Photo Contest and Calendar this year is still to be determined, so let us hear from you!

We sold 102 Webster Lake 2018 calendars and 137 Webster Lake 2017 calendars, making approximately \$1,100 for the Webster Lake Association over the two years.

Residents and lake visitors have enjoyed submitting favorite photos for photo contests in 2016 and 2017, with 13 winners each year (one for each month and one for the cover) selected by a panel of judges to represent the 2017 and 2018 Webster Lake calendars, respectively.

Planning and coordinating the contests and designing and preparing the calendars for sale online takes time and commitment, and it may be a good time for some new people, with new perspectives, to get involved. Or, maybe the consensus will be to discontinue the contests and calendars for a while.

Please contact Nancy Wolcott at nancy.wolcott.47@gmail.com with your thoughts, comments, and any interest you might have in being involved.

Thanks!

Webster Lake Association

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Lorenze, President
Laurie Salame, Vice Pres.
John Miller, Sect./Treasurer
Brian Campbell
Marcia Feener
Bonnie Moore
Jeff Perkins
Ted Starkweather
Debbie Steadman

Working Together to Preserve and Protect



Independence Day Theme and Events

This year's WLA Independence Day celebration will be held the weekend **AFTER** July 4th (which falls on a Wednesday this year), on Saturday, **July 7, 2018**, so mark your calendars! Rain-date for events will be Sunday, July 8th.

We will kick off with our annual "Breakfast on the Beach" social get-together on Griffin Beach starting at 8 a.m. and serving until 11 a.m. Come join us in this kick-off to our summer events and re-unite with all your lake friends.

Later the same day, the annual Boat Parade will begin with a gathering of decorated boats at the Griffin Beach area. The parade will leave the area at 2:30 p.m., heading in a clockwise direction at headway speed. (If we have to switch to the rain-date on Sunday, the Boat Parade will begin at 1 p.m., so that some participants can leave the lake to head home earlier rather than later).

The Boat Parade theme this year will be "Fairy Tales". Interpret that as you will and have fun decorating your boats, docks, houses...

Please be aware that much of the debris from fireworks, particularly plastics, never degrade and should therefore always be directed away from the water. Enjoy the holiday!

Calendar

JULY

Breakfast on the Beach

Saturday, July 7, 2018, 8:00 -11:00 a.m.

Rain-date: Sunday, July 8, 2018

Griffin Beach

Boat Parade

Saturday, July 7, 2018, 2:30 p.m.

Rain-date: Sunday, July 8, 2018

Gather at Griffin Beach area;

Theme: "Fairy Tales"

Clockwise this year

Annual Yard Sale

Saturday, July 14, 2018; 9:00 - 3:00

Location: The old Rowell's Auction House lot on Route 11, West Franklin (same as last year).

Questions? Contact Laurie Salame at lsalame@isenberg.umass.edu

AUGUST

Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 4, 2018

9:00 a.m. - Coffee

9:30 a.m. - Meeting

Franklin Library, Second Floor

(Minutes of last year's meeting available at websterlakenh.com)

SEPTEMBER

Annual Food Drive/ Ice Cream Social

Saturday, September 1, 2018; 2:00 - 4:00.

Webster Lake residents are asked to bring nonperishable food items to the Steadman Pavilion on Griffin Beach or earlier that week to designated drop-off points (see road signs).