

Waukegan Shore Owners Association Newsletter

“Dedicated to Protecting Lake Waukegan and the Waukegan Watershed” Fall 2008

From the President

This year has been a momentous time for the Waukegan Shore Owners Association. Since we adopted a new set of By-Laws and a mission statement to protect Lake Waukegan and the Waukegan watershed in July the WSOA Board of Directors approved application for federal tax-exempt status as a public charity.

We received IRS recognized tax-exempt status as a charitable organization on March 10, 2008. We are now exempt from Federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the WSOA are tax deductible under section 170 of the Code. We can also receive tax-deductible bequests, devices, transfers and gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code.

In the following months your directors will develop plans for actively raising funds to support our mission to protect the Waukegan watershed for future generations. Every shore owner on Lake Waukegan should take note that the first questions your directors face in seeking charitable contributions for potential contributors are: 1. How many shore owner lots are there around Lake Waukegan? 2. How many of these shore owners are WSOA members?

Our answers to these questions determine the interest potential supports show in supporting the

environmental activities of our organization!

Your membership and the membership of your neighbors strongly influences our efforts in raising funds for protecting your lake front property and the health of our watershed.

Other events this spring also are important for our watershed. The New Hampton town meeting adopted a zoning overlay district that covers the Waukegan watershed in New Hampton. Minimum lot size for future development in this district is now a minimum of two acres. This completes zoning protection around the lake; Center Harbor already has 5-acre minimum lot size. Meredith adopted a Waukegan watershed overlay zoning district with a minimum 2-acre lot size several years ago. These increases in the minimum lot sizes around the lake are a major environmental victory for all of us.

Meredith has also posted large signs on Waukegan Street at Main Street and at Route 104 prohibiting through transport of bulk hazardous materials that would contaminate Meredith's water supply and Lake Waukegan if an accident and spill occurred near the lake. Waukegan and Water Streets in Meredith are also now low salt use areas during winter months. This is a critical move that will help reduce the high specific



conductivity in the lake as a result of salt runoff from the roads. High specific conductivity is a serious threat to the health of the fish and invertebrate population of the lake.

This spring we published a special spring 2008 newsletter that outlines our commitment the watershed, describes the recent challenges we have faced successfully and the challenges that we face today.

In June the WSOA was a partner in the New Hampshire Lakes Association 15th Annual Lakes Conference held at Church Landing in Meredith. These annual meetings are important opportunities to share information on new technologies and encourage protection of our priceless lake heritage.

In July we held our annual meeting at the Meredith Community Center. The highlight of the meeting was a joint presentation of Linda Madorma, MS and Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, MS, recent graduates of the Environmental Sciences and Policy program at Plymouth State University. Their graduate theses are based on a contract with Plymouth State College and the town of Meredith to identify environmental threats to Lake Waukewan.

Linda discussed her study on the effect of impervious surfaces (roofs, driveways) on runoff into Lake Waukewan—a topic that hits home after this summer of abnormally high rainfall. Water absorbing plants, trees and vegetation are important in reducing channeling and speed of runoff after storms. In addition they offer a variety of environments for birds and wildlife.

Melissa presented results of her study of the health of water entering Lake Waukewan via permanent streams feeding the lake. She used as her criteria an analysis of the micro invertebrates that inhabit the streams. She found that the small invertebrates that live in the streams indicate an overall healthy environment around the lake.

Their work is considered so important to the Waukewan Watershed that they will present their results again on Friday evening, October 18, at 6:00 PM at the Meredith Community Center. Local town officials and anyone interested in the health of Lake Waukewan is welcome. I encourage everyone interested in understanding the effects of impervious surfaces on stormwater runoff and on the influence of streams on the local environment attend this meeting. The strong storms we experienced this summer and its attendant damage to properties, the culverts feeding the lake and the effect of solids carried into Lake Waukewan will benefit from this presentation.

Members attending the WSOA annual meeting in July



Invited speakers Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle and Linda Madorma with WSOA President at the 2008 Annual Meeting

also approved expanding the number of directors from seven to eleven. At this time we have seven directors; they are listed in a sidebar of this issue. Anyone who has an interest in joining our directors in protecting the Waukewan watershed should contact one of the directors.

A report on our annual meeting and the financial statement for the 2008 fiscal year ending in July appears in this issue. As you will see from this statement, the WSOA is operating with a very bare-bones budget. We hope to raise additional funds for our environmental protection activities in the coming year; these funds will allow us to expand our activities.

Summer is loon-hatching season. Melissa Adams, Gregg Feener and Doug Steele have an article in this newsletter about the surviving loon chick hatched this summer in Jenness (Perkins) Cove. This was exciting and long-awaited news for Lake Waukegan. We have not had a surviving chick on Waukegan in many years.

The intense rainstorm of August 7 seemed to center on Lake Waukegan. More than 4 inches of rain fell in approximately one hour. The soil already saturated by heavy rain could not absorb the torrent. The subsequent damage to property, roads, the RR bed along Lake Waukegan and the damage throughout the watershed is still being assessed. A measure of the damage is apparent to anyone who travels local roads or walks the State of New Hampshire RR tracks along Lake Waukegan from the town beach to Lake Winona. The water flowing down the intermittent streambeds tore out culverts, roadways and the rail bed, left gaping holes in the ground and carried huge amounts of stone and material into the lake. The result is severe damage to the intermittent streambeds, private properties and the lake itself. Stones and soil deposited in the lake have changed the local environment for fish and invertebrates. Phosphorus carried into the lake increases the nutrient supply in the water. We have witnessed inevitable long-term damage to property and to our environment.

Last winter's persistent storms and the heavy rainfall this summer call for a reasoned and careful response on our part. Professor Steve Kahl of the Plymouth State University Center for the Environment, Dr. Rick van de Poll, the Plymouth State University contract with Meredith to evaluate the environmental threats to our watershed and the analyses of Linda Madorma and Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle all point to one conclusion: we must strive to control the stormwater runoff to our watershed and we must control the flow of stormwater in streams and culverts that feed our lakes. The environmental health of our watershed demands such vigilance.

WSOA Membership Is Important

Your membership counts! Your neighbor's membership counts! Potential WSOA Sponsors respond when they recognize that shore owners support the WSOA.

Protection of the Snake River Wetlands

One of the important roles of the WSOA is protection of the wetlands feeding in the Waukegan Watershed. Among the most important of these wetlands is the marshy area between Lake Winona and Lake Waukegan. Sometimes known as Winona Brook in some of the older title and tax documents, but more commonly today called Snake River for its torturous path through the wetlands, this area is one of the major sources of water entering Lake Waukegan.

Four parties own the shoreline from Waukegan Road to Winona Road in New Hampton. The largest section, almost 3000 feet long, is part of the estate of Mrs. Jacqueline Spear. This 8.54 acre parcel is squeezed between the RR tracks and the river. A large portion of the property is wet; access is limited because it seems to be landlocked. Development does not seem to be possible because of the slopes and marshy area long the Snake River. Selected trees have been marked for cutting, but not many. The cost of harvesting the marked trees may match or exceed the cost of cutting.

The shoreland is not protected under the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) because the river is less than a fourth-order stream as defined by NH Department of Environmental Services.

However, it is extremely valuable as protection of the water passing from Lake Winona to Lake Waukegan. This is a parcel that must be protected on two fronts: legislative action to designate the Snake River corridor as a designated shoreland protected by the CSPA and by purchase as conservation land for permanent protection for all time.

The WSOA is interested in preserving this unique parcel as conservation land. We understand that surrounding towns have commitments or restrictions that may restrict them from purchasing the property directly.

We welcome contact from any and all parties who share our interest in protecting this valuable shoreline. The parcel has not been put on the market as of this writing, but the selling parties seem to look forward to preserving the property as conservation land. A collaborative effort on the part of several entities seems like a reasonable and expeditious way of preserving an important wetland.

The Loon Chick of Jenness Cove

Today is the Fall Equinox; after being away from Lake Waukewan for a few days we're anxious to spot the young loon born this summer in Jenness Cove.



The six-day old chick born July 12, 2008 in Jenness Cove

We have no reason to doubt that he is gliding somewhere on the lake alone or with his mother or with both parents at his side. He's a skilled diver now, and has grown almost as large as his mother. Still, it will be reassuring to know that he has survived another day out of harms way; another day closer to fulfilling his destiny of returning to his birth lake several years from now to mate and raise his own family.



The two-week old loon chick and parent

Out on the lake we pass our neighbors in their boat who tell us they saw the loon family yesterday. Good news! Today, so far, we only spot "Dad" out diving alone, preening and occasionally calling to his mate. She answers from a distance, unseen. With our binoculars focused on the adult male we watch him dive and surface with a huge fish. Fascinated by the size of his catch we watch as he flips it multiple times on the water's surface, dropping it, picking it up again and repositioning it just right for swallowing. Finally, with a few forceful gulps it goes bulging down his long black and white neck. He spreads and flaps his wings. We observe no more diving or calling.... we assume, just "digesting"!

On another part of the lake we finally spot the young

loon with his mother. A strong, swift diver he disappears below the surface fishing on his own. His mother joins him below, then pops up offering him a small fish.



Mother offering food to three week-old chick

We hear him "squeak" as he approaches her to take it from her bill. He hasn't found his adult voice yet, but when he does his calls will be as hauntingly beautiful as his parents.

His young feathers are grey and white, easily distinguishing him from his parents with their complex black and white feather patterns.



The three-week old chick still with downy fur

In the months to come, his parents too will be grey and white, shedding their magnificent summer plumage, replacing the pattern with a drabber winter garb and then flying off to open waters before this lake freezes over.



The three-week old chick stretches his wings as his parent watches

In a few months this young chick will mature enough to be left on his own to take his first long flight away from his place of birth, Lake Waukegan. But we realize he will return to his birthplace after the winter.



Mom feeding 4 1/2-week old chick

We feel fortunate to be able to share the lake with these magnificent creatures, observe their daily habits and listen to their captivating calls. As volunteers for the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) in Moultonborough, we float a nesting raft in Jenness Cove. This man-made platform which is able to rise and fall with fluctuating water levels, provides an option for the nesting pair should finding a natural spot with all the right conditions become difficult at that critical time. The loons on Waukegan have chosen the raft twice in the last three years and have had successful hatches all three years. Two eggs were hatched successfully in 2006 and in 2007, but none of the chicks survived.

This year two eggs (the average clutch size) were laid in the nest, but only one successfully hatched. With guidance from the LPC staff we retrieved the unhatched egg for them. Kept frozen, it will eventually be dissected and evaluated by biologists and others.

We placed the floating raft in Jenness Cove in early May. We collected natural materials (reeds, moss, tall brush, etc.) and arranged them on the raft so that it looked as inviting, protective and useful as possible to the loon pair. If the loons choose the raft, they will rearrange the natural materials into their nest. About ten minutes after we placed the raft in place, the pair appeared and swam around it.

On June 13th our lake neighbors in the cove observed the loons nest building. Shortly after, both male and female were regularly sitting on the eggs and taking turns in shifts. On July 12th the nesting loon appeared restless; around 4 PM a tiny black “fuzz ball” emerged beside the adult’s left wing. The adult “mewed” softly to

the chick while it dried off and cuddled. The other adult swam to the raft and awkwardly hopped on. Together they looked down for a moment at their newborn chick.

Along with many of you who have been privileged enough to watch, we have observed this young loon all summer. We’ve held our breath at some close calls it’s encountered, both natural and man-made. The summer on Waukegan was especially difficult for the chick in some ways (hail storms, high winds, heavy rain and flooding) and helpful in others, such as the period when Waukegan was declared a “no-wake zone” for a week after the August 7 heavy rainfall.



4 1/2-week old chick spreading wings

In cooperation with the LPC and the NH Marine Patrol we tried something new this year; we installed orange “Caution Loon Chick” signs provided by the LPC on the lake. These signs alerted both residents and visiting boaters to slow down and to use common sense and caution in those areas while giving the loon family some distance. Nonetheless, a few near misses with motorboats occurred.



Mom with six-week old chick

Of course nature too can do them in. Predators seize the opportunity to make a meal of an unguarded loon egg or chick. Even other loons can be their enemy.

(continued on last page)

Waukegan Shore Owner's Association
Financial Statement
Cash Receipts/Disbursements
July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

Cash on Hand, 7/01/07 \$6,257.68

RECEIPTS

Member Dues	3,850.00
Additional Gifts	345.00
Prepaid Dues	35.00
Interest on Checking	<u>3.61</u>

Total Receipts: 4,233.61

DISBURSEMENTS

Donations

Loon Preservation	250.00
NH Lakes Assoc	<u>500.00</u>
Sub Total Donations	750.00

“Other”

Lake Host Program	875.00
Water Monitoring	270.00
Non Profit Registration	637.20
Meetings/Events	77.68
Printing/Postage	1,938.76
Non Profit Post Permit	175.00
P.O. Box	43.00
Extra PO Box Key	7.00
Newspaper Advertising	63.00
Thank-you Gifts	99.50
Kiosk Maintenance	<u>100.00</u>
Sub Total “Other”	4,286.14

Total Expenses 5,036.14

RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS (802.53)

CASH ON HAND, MVSB, 06/30/08 \$5,455.15

Respectfully Submitted, Deborah Corr, Treasurer

Waukegan Shore Owners Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
Meredith Community Center
July 19, 2008

Directors Present

Kay M. Anderson
Deborah F. Corr
William Hoffmeier
Douglas W. Steele
Robert S. Wenstrup

Members Present

Large number, too
many to list

Guests

Prof. Mary Anne McGarry
Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, MS
Linda Madorma, MS

Meeting Agenda:

- Call to order and recognize quorum
- WSOA now tax-exempt charitable organization
- Accept minutes of 2007 Annual Meeting
- Election of Directors
- Approve changes to WSOA By-Laws
- Financial Report for current year
- Report of results of Plymouth State University study of Lake Waukegan
- Lake Host Program report
- Weed Watchers report
- Waukegan water quality report
- New Business
- Adjourn

President Robert Wenstrup recognized a quorum of members present and called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

WSOA status as a tax-exempt charitable organization

The president announced that the federal IRS has recognized the WSOA as a tax-exempt charitable organization effective March 14, 2008. Former president Thomas Swaim initiated this process several years ago with a revision of the By-Laws that would make the WSOA eligible for designation as a not-for-profit charitable organization. The revised By-Laws were adopted by the membership at the 2007 annual meeting. Tom Swaim and Treasurer Deborah Corr prepared and submitted the application to the IRS in November, 2007.

Minutes of the July 14, 2007 annual meeting.

The minutes of the 2007 annual meeting were approved as submitted.

Election of Directors

William Hoffmeier was re-elected as a director. Doug Steele, who replaced Robert Normandy after his resignation, was re-elected as a director. Kay Anderson was elected as a new director.

Adoption of By-Law Amendments

- The president summarized proposed changes to the By-Laws as recommended by the Board of Directors. Changes include:
- Add an additional class of non-voting associate members: individuals and groups who have an interest in the goals of the WSOA but are not shore owners. Associate members may join without paying dues.
- Each shore property with WSOA members shall have one vote, even if owned by more than one family.
- The WSOA board may have up to eleven directors; five directors at a directors' meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- The executive committee of the Board of Directors, composed of the president, secretary and treasurer may make decisions for the Board when a quorum cannot be met. The president will inform directors of decisions made under such conditions.

- Additional minor grammatical corrections.

The membership present voted to adopt the changes to the By-Laws as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Deborah Corr presented the treasurer's report. Deb reported that we have about 110 shore owners who regularly pay annual dues. The potential number of shore owners, or those who have rights to shoreline property, is much larger than the paid membership. The Board will actively solicit new dues paying memberships.

The members present voted to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

Featured Speakers

Professor Mary Ann McGarry of the Environmental Science and Policy Department of Plymouth State University introduced the featured speakers: Linda Madorma, MS and Melinda Greenawalt-Yelle, MS. Ms. Madorma presented her analysis of ground cover in the Waukegan watershed and the effect of impervious cover on water quality. Ms. Greenawalt-Yelle presented her analysis of Lake Waukegan health based on analysis of micro invertebrates that populate the perennial streams feeding the lake.

Weed Watcher Program

Anne Sayers summarized the activities of the Weed Watchers' Program that is managed by Janan Hayes.

Lake Host Program

Anne Sayers discussed the Lake Host Program in the absence of Tim Whiting. The program is off to a fine start this year with a mix of paid hosts on weekends and volunteers at other times. The program has many new volunteers this year. Coverage will extend at least until Labor Day.

Lake Water Quality

Robert Wenstrup mentioned briefly that the water quality of Lake Waukegan is still very high. The biggest concern is the high specific conductivity of the water, a measure of the ability of the water to conduct an electrical current. This unfavorable condition is primarily the result of the use of salt on winter roads. The specific conductivity had been rising at an alarming rate until 2004. Mild winters resulted in less use of salt since then. The specific conductivity of the water has been dropping dramatically since then, which is a very favorable condition.

New Business

The president noted our new logo designed by Bobby Smyth and featuring a loon photo taken by Doug Steele.

One member commented on the use of spotlights on one specific property throughout the night. Deborah Corr commented that lights on the water at night attract nasty insects that cause painful bites. The lights also harm beneficial animals like turtles.

Fireworks were plentiful on the lake around the July 4 holiday. However, the ingredients of fireworks are not beneficial for a drinking water supply; in fact they are serious pollutants. For further information see www.des.state.nh.us/factsheet/bb/bb-60.htm and related links.

Deborah Corr mentioned that the Lakes Region Power & Sail Squadron will host voluntary powerboat inspections on July 26, 2008 at the Meredith small boat launching ramp. These courtesy inspections are designed to help boaters insure that their boats have all necessary safety equipment on board.

Adjournment

The annual meeting was adjourned at 12:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wenstrup, President

Annual Membership Dues Envelopes

Dues envelopes are enclosed with this newsletter. Please send your membership check back at your earliest convenience.

Our fund raising efforts from outside sources strongly depend on our membership numbers: the percentage of shore owners who are paying members of our association. Your membership is the leverage we use to gain support for our environmental activities.

We are especially anxious to have your current email address; please add it to the address line.

Your email address is important. We want to be able to contact you quickly in an emergency, such as occurred when we had a sudden rise in water level as happened on August 8. We want to be able to alert all of our members of the danger of flooding, property damage and conditions such as the "no-wake" ban was imposed on boaters.

We cannot alert our members who do not provide us with their email addresses. Your email information will be guarded. We do not sell demographic information to anyone.

The WSOA

The WSOA is a charitable not-for-profit organization recognized by the State of New Hampshire and the federal IRS. We welcome new Individual (family) members who own property or have property rights on Lake Waukegan and Associate members, those individuals and organizations with bona fide water quality or wild-life preservation organizations that share our goal of preserving water quality and health of the Waukegan watershed. Associate members may join without dues as non-voting members.

We also welcome the financial support of individual and corporate sponsors who will join us in preserving the Waukegan watershed for future generations. Please contact WSOA President, Robert Wenstrup or Treasurer, Deborah Corr for further information.

WSOA Officers and Directors

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(Loon Chick of Jenness Cove cont.)

We've seen the loon chick tucked close to shore, alone and motionless, its small head flat to the water while his mother escorted other intruding loons away from her chick and out of her territory.



Chick at 7 1/2 weeks

Taking into consideration NH's statewide 2008 loon count, this young loon's survival on Waukegan has been especially significant. According to the LPC's preliminary statistics, there were 22 raft-hatched chicks in the state of NH in 2008.

However, the number of surviving chicks on New Hampshire's largest lakes this year, seven, was among the lowest ever recorded: four chicks on Winnepesaukee, two on Squam and one on Umbagog. Although the number of nesting pairs statewide was a record and an increase from 2007, the number of chicks hatched and chicks surviving statewide was down from 2007.

With an understanding of how fragile a loon's existence really is we can better appreciate the privilege of spending time on a lake where they reside. We hope that we will all be enjoying their presence on Waukegan for many years to come.

Narrative © Melinda Adams and Gregg Feener
Pictures © Douglas W Steele



Nine-week old chick with parent



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