



Windy Waters Conservancy Newsletter

waukewan.org

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Dedicated to protecting and conserving the Waukewan watershed

Spring 2014

.... 25th Anniversary Issue

This year, 2014, marks the twenty fifth anniversary of the Waukewan Shore Owners Association (WSOA), recently renamed as the Windy Waters Conservancy (WWC) to better reflect our mission. Protecting the water quality and environment of Lake Waukewan requires focusing not only on Waukewan, but also on the sources of water that feed into the lake.

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Major Court Decision Upheld

On December 13, 2013, a three judge panel of the NH Supreme Court issued an order upholding the decision of Belknap Superior Court Judge James D. O'Neill, III that rescinded a variance granted by the Meredith Zoning Board of Adjustment to Foundry Avenue Realty Trust to expand business and industrial use into a residential district in the Lake Waukewan watershed. The WWC board of directors and a number of our members were involved in challenging this change of use over the past three years. Help us continue to be watchful by volunteering to scrutinize matters coming before the planning and zoning boards at any of the five towns in the watershed. Much of this work can be done from anywhere over the Internet.

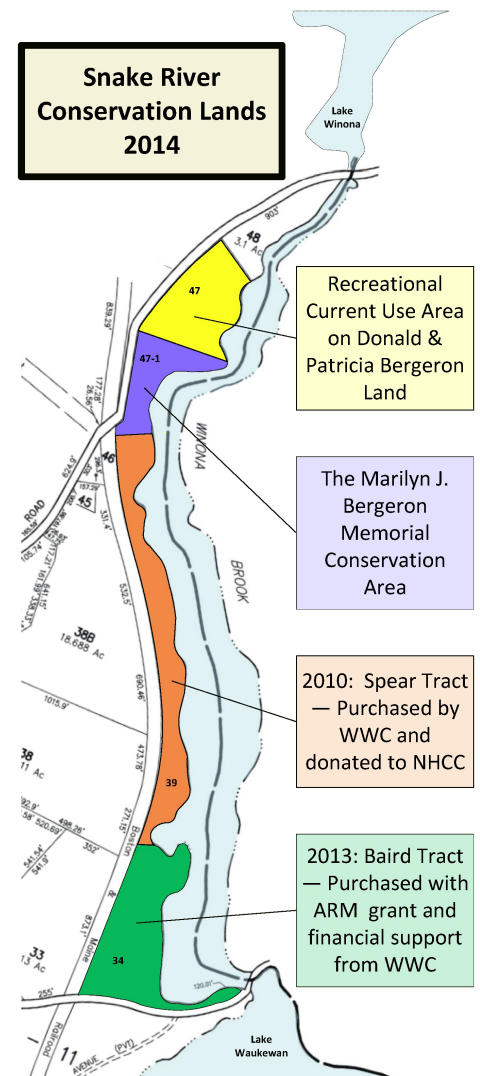
Gift Extends Conservation on the Snake River

Thanks to the generosity of Don and Pat Bergeron of Winona Road, on January 7, 2014 the New Hampton Conservation Commission acquired their 5-acre parcel on the west side of the Snake River with approximately 700 feet of river frontage. The property is a gift to the town in memory of Don's mother, Marilyn J. Bergeron.

Windy Waters Conservancy underwrote the surveying, permitting and legal work to make the Bergeron's gift a reality and coordinated efforts among the Bergerons, the town of New Hampton and the Meredith Conservation Commission. Bryan Bailey, LLS of Gilford provided the surveying for the project. Horizon Settlement Services, Inc. handled the closing and related legal services pro bono.

Meredith holds the conservation

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Lakes Waukewan and Winona Watershed Restoration Plan

Did you know that water quality in Lake Waukewan and Lake Winona are already considered "impaired?"

Both lakes earn that distinction for low dissolved oxygen levels. Lake Waukewan is also susceptible to cyanobacteria. What is going on? The exact cause is not known, but scientists believe that phosphorous is the culprit. Water-borne phosphorous comes from naturally

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Our Mission

Our mission puts particular emphasis on protecting the water bodies and the boreal and wetland habitats in the Lake Waukewan Watershed and preserving the natural resources, ecology and scenic beauty of Lake Waukewan, Lake Winona, Bear Pond, Hawkins Pond, Otter Pond and Tuttle Pond and combating, or preventing air, water, noise and light pollution on or around the water bodies and associated wetlands in the watershed. Contributions are tax deductible.

Volunteer Lakes Assessment Program (VLAP)

The Windy Waters Conservancy continues to support the New Hampshire Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) by providing water sampling and funding the sample analysis. Boo Gershun has long handled the water testing task for us, and this past year she handed over the job to John Wright and George Nassor. A special thanks to Boo for all her efforts and to John and George for continuing our testing efforts on this important program.

While the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) has not yet published the 2013 results for our lakes, the lab reports from our tests are very positive and hopefully Lakes Waukewan and Winona will continue to show improvement and maintain our low phosphorus levels.

For those of you wanting more specifics on our water quality and lake health, go to our website, waukewan.org, and under "Conservation" click VLAP for an overview of the program and our lake results.

Fogg Hill Bog Wetlands Conservation

In the summer of 2013, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT, www.lrct.org) launched a campaign to raise funds to purchase and conserve the 192-acre property on Fogg Hill in Center Harbor. This property is north of Lake Waukewan, east of Lake Winona and south of Hawkins Pond and Bear Pond and west of Otter Pond and lies entirely

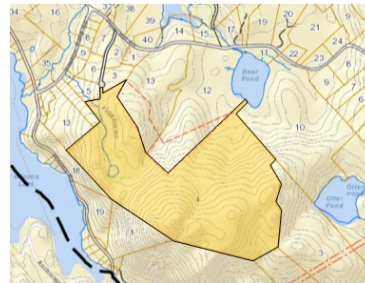
within the Waukewan watershed (see map). Part of Center Harbor's largest undeveloped forest and wildlife habitat block, the property provides a critical conservation link between the only level peat bog in the area and other wild lands.

On November 29, 2013 LRCT purchased the Fogg Hill property with a grant from the state's Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) fund and generous support from the Center Harbor Conservation Fund, individual- and business donors. A member of Windy Waters Conservancy offered a challenge

grant to match members' donations to the LRCT effort. In all our members contributed over \$5,700 to the LRCT campaign. Funding will support completion of additional state and local planning and documentation required as part of the transaction.

Don Berry, executive director, Lakes Region Conservation Trust, will speak at our annual meeting on Saturday, July 12,

outlining the features of the property, its history, lessons learned and the future conservation efforts on the tract.



Fogg Hill Bog Wetlands Complex and the summit of Fogg Hill in Center Harbor.

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The name Windy Waters Conservancy™ (WWC) is the Business name of the Waukewan Shore Owners Association, a tax exempt charitable organization within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our Path Forward

Please join us by continuing to support a track record of collaborative achievement for improving Lake Waukewan's water quality. Managing storm water runoff into the lakes is the major tool in protecting and enhancing water quality. The knowledge and experience that WWC has gained in the past five years is ideally suited to implement smaller projects that taken together can have a large impact. Our focus will be on conservation easements for smaller tracts and related runoff mitigation

projects large enough to be eligible for grants, but smaller than most towns want to undertake. We will also collaborate with other governmental and conservation organizations on larger projects where matching contributions are essential to winning grant funding.

What does it take to make things happen? Foremost, we need your sustained financial support from your dues. Participation at a higher level of membership will stoke our conservation fund.

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Snake River Gift — Continued from p1

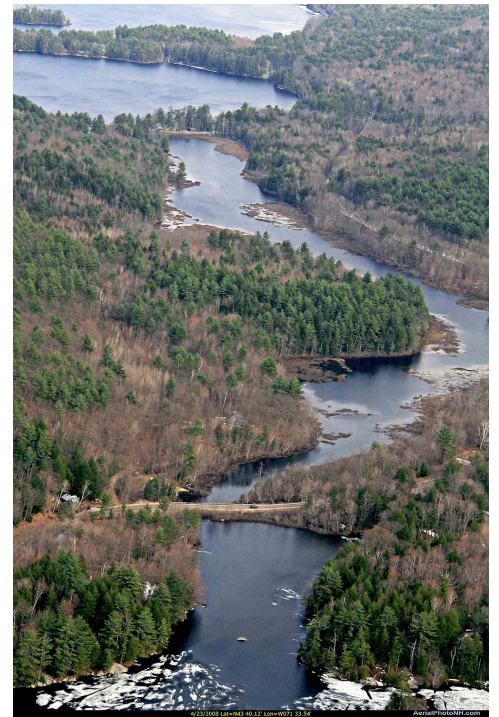
easement on the donated property and already holds conservation easements on the other Snake River properties that are monitored by the Meredith Conservation Commission.



Completing the Bergerons' gift: Front L-R: Ralph Kirshner, Chairman, New Hampton Conservation Commission, Patricia and Donald Bergeron and Bill Fitzgerald, Closing Agent, Horizon Settlement Services. Standing: Chuck Braxton, President, WWC.

WWC also assisted the Bergerons in placing wetlands on other Snake River property that they own into current use to further conserve the area.

The generosity and service of WWC members over the past five years helped conserve two other tracts on the New Hampton side of the river. The New Hampton Conservation Commission took title to the Spear property in 2010 and after a two-and-a half year effort, the Elizabeth Clingan Baird property in 2013 (see map). WWC committed to provide the required matching support that enabled New Hampton to win a grant from the state's Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) fund to acquire this tract. The match was comprised of legal services contributed by our members and funds from a grant awarded to WWC by the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) Foundation for conservation and environmental education programs on the Baird property. Together, the four parcels conserve almost a mile of river frontage that contains a diverse habitat.



Looking south over Snake River. Photo courtesy of Bill Hemmel, AerialPhotoNH.com

Speakers' Presentations at the WWC 2013 Annual Meeting

Snake River Stewardship Plan

Ralph Kirshner, Chairman, New Hampton Conservation Commission, described the Snake River Stewardship Plan, which covers the recently purchased Elizabeth Baird and Spear properties. He described the Snake River Stewardship Committee as a special committee to a special commission. The Stewardship Plan, he noted, has many constraints such as a one-year period in which to use the approved funding including the creation of a trail on the property. Due to the difficult wetlands on the Spear portion of the combined properties, the trail will be only on the Baird portion. He expects that the plan that will be implemented will be a good example of what can be done to educate people about the property and why it is important to conserve it. A copy of the plan is available in the Conservation section of the WWC web site, waukewan.org. Click on Conservation.

Economic and Cultural Impacts of Conservation in the Lakes Region

Mark Billings, Chairman of the Meredith Conservation Commission and Treasurer of the Town of Meredith, described his background as growing up in a small town much like Meredith and becoming an investment banker and economist for 40 years. His environmental focus started with his involvement with Meredith's Page Pond project as an abutter. He is now a member of the "Trust for Public Lands." He noted that interest in conserving the environment is personal; ~ different people have very different reasons for that interest, such as preserving beauty, maintaining water quality, avoiding over-development, and maintaining property values, to name a few. He noted that a major metric that investors use in deciding to make an investment is "Return on Investment" or ROI — after a period of

time, how much more will the investment return than it cost. He noted that conserving something in perpetuity makes the issue of ROI moot. In 2010 an important change in New Hampshire law specified that only a Conservation Commission may hold property outside of the town's boundary. This allowed Meredith to contribute to the purchase and stewardship of the Spear and Baird properties and obtain an environmental easement on them. Billings sees the Spear and Baird properties as a tremendous educational effort.

2014 Annual Meeting

The 2014 Annual Meeting will be at 10 AM on Saturday July 12th at the Meredith Community Center.

Speakers will be Don Berry, Executive Director of the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and Pat Tarpey, President of the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Ass'n.

Restoration Plan— Continued from p1

occurring decay of plants as well as chemicals that get into the water from human activity such detergents and fertilizer. There are lots of ways that phosphorous gets into the lakes. The leading source is storm water runoff.

In 2005 the advisory committee on Lake Waukegan set up by the town of Meredith prepared a management plan to address water quality issues and has been working on its implementation. However, the 2005 plan lacked certain data that are needed to be able to win federal and state grants to manage storm water runoff — for example, a cleanup of Monkey Pond and new storm water controls.

The Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association (LWWA, www.winnepesaukee.org) conducted a study that our members heard about from Pat Tarpey, executive director, and others at our 2012 annual meeting. Of three subwatersheds studied, the Waukegan/Winona subwatershed has the greatest affect on water

quality in the Big Lake.

LWWA was awarded a grant to create a restoration plan that includes the EPA's "nine mandatory or key elements." These elements are essential to obtain grants for major project restoration work. In September 2013 LWWA conducted a competitive bid and hired FB Environmental of Portland, ME. The scope of work includes field work this summer to quantify and model the sources of phosphorus, make projections of future levels of phosphorous loading, prioritize the actions for reducing phosphorous, and define Best Management Practice (BMP) designs for remediation projects.

Matching funds and participation from the community were crucial to being awarded the grant. In 2012 Windy Waters Conservancy committed to fund this project with \$5,000.00 from our Conservation Fund that will need to be paid in 2014.

Pat Tarpey will speak in more detail about the restoration planning effort at our annual meeting on Saturday, July 12.

Path Forward — Continued from p2

As part of your estate planning, consider a legacy gift to our conservation fund. Our directors will be glad to discuss this with you.

We also need your specialized knowledge and participation. We need expertise in legal services, environmental science, permitting, land use, database management, publications, community organization, fund raising, event planning, and grant applications. We need members to monitor ongoing activities in all of the towns in the watershed to ensure that we respond in a timely way to issues as they arise. A great deal of this work can be accomplished from anywhere using Internet resources. We need hands-on effort to staff the Lake Host program, lake water sampling, and periodic site walks, maintenance and cleanup work. We are also seeking candidates for participation on our board of directors.

It's time to renew your membership

Ever since our founding 25 years ago as the Waukegan Shore Owner's Association, we have worked to protect and preserve the quality of our beautiful lakes. It's your dues and contributions that have allowed us such great success with the Spear, Baird, and Bergeron properties, support for the Lake Host Program, the VLAP efforts, etc. Please renew your membership now so this success can continue.

Our membership year is from January through December. You may send your dues check made out to "Windy Waters Conservancy" to: Windy Waters Conservancy, PO Box 91, Meredith, NH 03253. You may also pay your dues online with your credit card via PayPal. You do not need to have a PayPal account to use PayPal. Go to waukegan.org and click on Membership.

Category	Amount	Operations Fund	Conservation Fund
Individual or Family (one vote)	\$50+	\$50	Balance
Protector	\$100+	\$50	Balance
Steward	\$250+	\$100	Balance
Conservator	\$500+	\$100	Balance
Life Member	\$1000+	\$250	Balance
Affiliate (Non-voting)	Donation Accepted		
Honorary	Donation Accepted		
Donations	Any	Specify	Specify
Unspecified Donation	Any	100%	0

Make a Donation

Make a donation to the WWC Operational Account, WWC Conservation Fund; or the LRCT Fogg Hill Conservation Project. Please mail your check to: Windy Waters Conservancy, PO Box 91, Meredith, NH 03253-0091.

You may also make your donation online via PayPal, where you may securely pay via a PayPal account or a credit card. You do not need to have a PayPal account to use PayPal. Go to waukegan.org and click on Donations

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