



# Windy Waters Conservancy Newsletter

Volume 35, No. 1

Dedicated to protecting and conserving the Waukewan watershed

Spring 2023

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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.

## *Note of Appreciation*

Meredith's Department of Community Development has lost its Director to retirement. John Edgar has been with the town for thirty-four years and has been a great proponent for Lake Waukewan and its water quality. John was the town liaison for the Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee and a supporter of many Windy Water projects.

We wish John a very happy and well-deserved retirement!



Keep an eye out for the new Windy Waters QR Code. Just scan the image with your smartphone camera and be instantly connected to our website!

## *Our Newsletter is Going Digital!*

As many of you know, Roche Realty, through the good offices of our board member Chuck Braxton, sponsored the printing and mailing of our newsletters for many years. Since Chuck's passing this is no longer the case and we have been paying these costs, which average about \$900 per edition, or \$3 per person. Our mission is conservation, not publication, so the Board of Directors has decided to conserve our cash by sending out the spring newsletter primarily via e-mail and continue with mailing the printed version of the fall newsletter. In addition, we will mail a printed copy of the spring newsletter to the few (13) active members for which we don't have an e-mail address. We will also post the newsletter to our website, [www.waukewan.org](http://www.waukewan.org), under the "Newsletter" tab. To those who receive the newsletter via e-mail and object to this change, wanting a printed copy, please simply reply to the e-mail stating so and we will send a copy in the mail. Conversely, to add or change the e-mail address or to add other family members that want their own copy please send the address to us at: [wsoa-support@waukewan.org](mailto:wsoa-support@waukewan.org).

## *Membership Update*

We are happy to report that for our fiscal year ending this June, our membership stands at just under 90 households. This compares to 88 members last fiscal year and our all-time peak of about 120 members back before the Seminole Avenue folks split and formed their own association. Our average member donation this year sits at just over \$100, or what we refer to as the Protector level. Donations over \$50 allow us to allocate these dollars to the Conservation Fund, used for future projects and purchases. We were fortunate enough to have 16 members donate at the Steward level or higher and we thank them very much for their contributions.

### ***Membership Update (continued)***

This year we also had one of our members further support WWC with a corporate matching donation. Many companies today have programs in place to match contributions their employees make to various not-for-profit organizations, such as Windy Waters. If this is an option available to any of you, we greatly appreciate the additional effort. As always, we allocate any of these funds with great thought and care. This past year, our fund was able to initiate a study on the Jenness Cove sediment issue, as well as various other projects around our beautiful lake and watershed. The Board thanks you all for your membership, which helps keep the beauty and health of our lake intact.

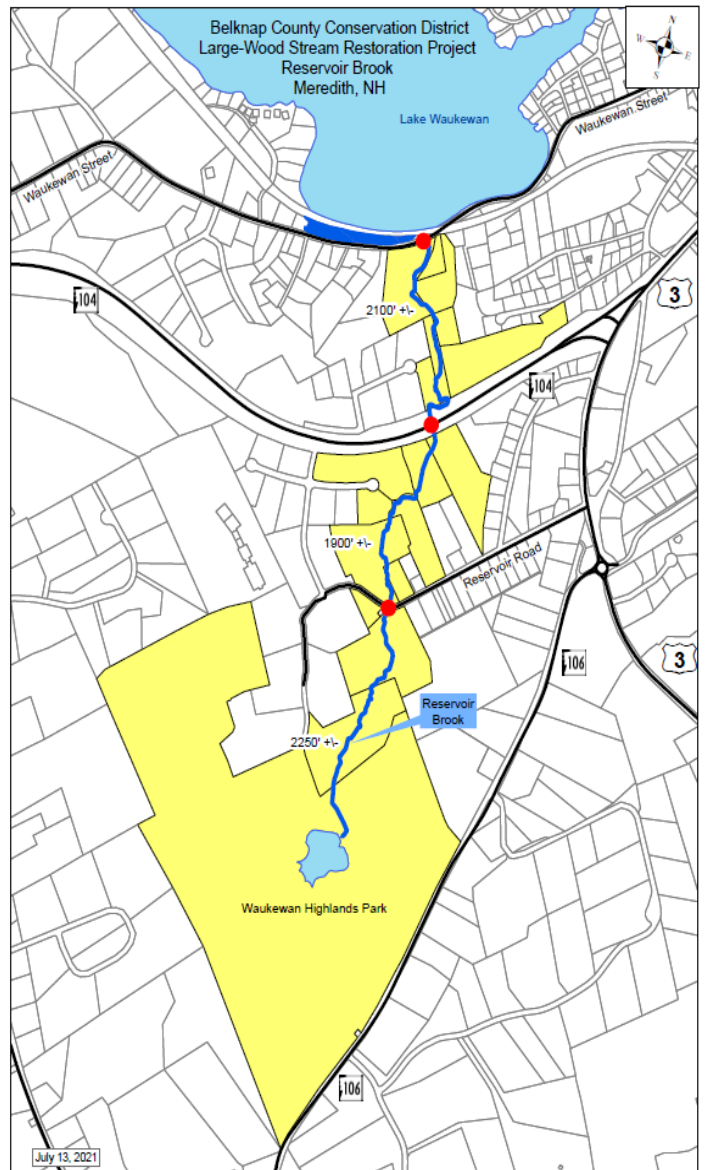
### ***Monkey Pond Update***

We've all noticed over the past years that Monkey Pond, along Waukewan Street, has been filling in with sediment and adding more and more vegetation, especially Cattails. Which led many of us to wonder if that was affecting Lake Waukewan water quality, and if it should be dredged. In 2020/2021 thanks to a grant from the NHDES Local Source Water Protection Program, and some funding by the town of Meredith, a study was commissioned to determine what if anything needed to be done about Monkey Pond and the Reservoir Brook sub-watershed that feeds it.

According to the experts Monkey Pond is doing exactly what it should be doing; that is acting as a sediment trap to keep much of the sediment from flowing into Waukewan, and the increased vegetation acts to slow down the water flow and filter it as it passes into the lake. The concerns raised by the study are that many of the culverts along the flow path from Meredith Reservoir, through Reservoir Brook and into Monkey Pond are undersized and when they overflow it increases the amount of sediment being pushed downhill. This is especially true of the three culverts directly entering Monkey Pond and the two that exit into the lake. We're doing our best to make sure that the NH DOT and the Meredith officials are aware of this issue.

### ***Monkey Pond Update (continued)***

Another effort to reduce the amount of sediment reaching Monkey Pond was accomplished in 2022 when Trout Unlimited undertook a Strategic Wood Addition Project, funded by the Belknap County Conservation District, to place large pieces of trees at strategic locations along Reservoir Brook to emulate naturally falling trees into the brook. This created mini-pools, which created a habitat for brook trout while trapping sediment.



Many thanks to Meredith's Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee, our Public Works Department, the Community Development Department and town officials for their support in coordinating and partly funding these efforts to keep Waukewan pristine.

## ***VLAP Report***

As you may well know, the Lake Waukewan Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) now includes water quality testing during four summer months, one or more Winter through-ice efforts and this year a November/late Fall testing. With the relatively early ice-out we were able to conduct our first spring sampling this April.

Why so many in just the past couple of years? The time and frequency of these sample collections are a function of the water quality data found in our yearly NH DES lab reports, in efforts to quantify and define evident concerning trends. For example, we've documented a steady increase in upper water level phosphorus levels since 2018. Lower water level phosphorus levels now indicate a potential internal load of nutrients released from bottom sediments, fueling algal and cyanobacterial growth. Chloride ion levels, most reflective of stormwater and road salt runoff, have increased significantly as well. Lower lake water level dissolved oxygen reports, also indicative of lake bottom sediment loads and subsequently resultant fish environments, are also again compromised.



The Town of Meredith, through the good offices of Town Manager Troy Brown, has recognized and shared these concerns, not only underwriting increased testing efforts but also acquiring a Dissolved Oxygen meter to help define and understand these concerns. As well, we continue to work collaboratively with Meredith's Water Department and our very receptive new Superintendent Jason Bordeau. We appreciate their shared interest and cooperation.

## ***VLAP Report (continued)***

Make no mistake, our lake remains Oligotrophic, or high quality. VLAP testing data will continue to assist and direct all interested parties working together to maintain and improve the health of Lake Waukewan. Windy Waters Conservancy remains fully dedicated and involved and continues to support and underwrite the VLAP effort. The more we know, the more we need to know, the more we need to do.

Sincere thanks and appreciation to those volunteer 'testers' John DeMichaelis, Frank Murphy, Jamie Irving and John Slavik. Nothing could be accomplished here without their efforts and enthusiasm.

## ***Community Outreach***

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, the Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee sponsored Part 2 of their ongoing outreach for water quality.

Part 1 was held in October 2022 with a VLAP presentation from Sara Steiner, VLAP Coordinator for NH DES.

Part 2 consisted of four expert panelists: Pat Tarpey, Director of Lake Winnepesaukee Association; Sara Steiner, VLAP Coordinator NHDES; Bob Craycraft UNH Program Manager Lay Lakes and Laura Diemer, Forrest Bell Environmental with a target audience of policy and decision makers for the five watershed towns.



## Community Outreach (continued)

Meredith, New Hampton and Center Harbor had representation from Meredith's Town Manager, Select Boards, Conservation Commissions, Planning Boards, Meredith's Water Superintendent, Meredith's Code Enforcement Officer and NH Department of Transportation.

The objective was to open communications between the towns, bringing the watershed communities together for best management practices for water quality. The successful program resulted in grant opportunities as well as the possibility of sediment testing for the better understanding of dissolved oxygen and its effect on cyanobacteria blooms.

Sediment-core sampling took place on Thursday, June 8th. Samples were taken from the lake bottom in five different sites and at multiple depths.



Thanks to Frank Murphy, Jamie Irving, Laura Diemer (FB Environmental), Evan Ma (FB Environmental), and Steve Landry (NH DES).



Lake Waukewan lakebed core sample.

## Waukewan Lake Hosting

Our 2023 Waukewan Lake Host Program was up and running as of this Memorial Day weekend. Paid Lake Hosts will work through September 10<sup>th</sup>. Our returning Paid Lake Hosts are Nancy Conlan and Andrew VanNess. Joining our team this year will be Andrea Harper. Although Carolyn Rideout will not be working at the ramp this year, she will be assisting me with Data Entry. Our Paid Hosts will be covering the Waukewan Boat Ramp on Friday afternoons, and during daytime hours on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.

Our Waukewan Lake Host Volunteers will join us during July and August; however, last year, we only had enough volunteers to cover a few weekday hours. Ideally, we would like to have enough volunteers (working 2 or more hours a week) to cover the ramp Monday through mid-day Friday.

Our Volunteer Lake Host program needs much more support. **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS.** If you're interested in joining our team, please call me. For Waukewan's protection, it is imperative that we again support the program with Volunteer Host hours.

The NH LAKES has again given the Waukewan Lake Association a grant of \$2,000 to operate our Lake Host Program. Meredith, through the Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee, has allocated \$5,000 to fund our Lake Host Program. I am also asking our local lake associations for contributions so that we can cover our Paid Hosts' hours on weekends and holidays.

NH LAKES continues to allow me to conduct the required Lake Host Training in Meredith, rather than having volunteers go to Concord for training. I will again conduct the required one-hour training session at my house (68 Water Street) on **Saturday, June 24th at 9:30 AM.** For those that can't make that date, please let me know and I will set up a time that is convenient for you. I will be organizing the ramp manning teams like last year, once we know who will be onboard. Anne Sayers will continue as our fantastic Volunteer Team Leader. I cannot thank her enough for her past efforts and support.

So far, the efforts of our Paid Hosts *and* Volunteers have helped keep our beautiful lake free of invasive species. Lake Waukewan and I thank you, in advance, for your support. –Tim Whiting

## ***Lake Waukewan Cleanup***

We're excited to announce a planned cleanup of the south end of Lake Waukewan this September. The cleanup will focus on the area extending from the town beach to the town launch ramp and dock.

We've all noticed the lengths of PVC pipe, occasional tires or the many beer cans and golf balls on the lake bottom...Windy Waters Conservancy is excited to organize an effort to bring some of that refuse to the surface. We'll notify everyone when the exact date has been set.

We'll be hosting volunteers and interested visitors with hamburgers, hot dogs, and icy cold drinks.

## ***Memberships and Donations***

Ever since our founding thirty-five years ago as the Waukewan 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 placing land in conservation, such as the Spear, Baird, and Bergeron properties. We also provide support for the Lake Host Program, the VLAP efforts, etc. Please renew your membership so this success can continue. Our membership year runs from July 1st. through June 30th. to coincide with our annual meeting in early July. You may send your dues or donation check made out to "Windy Waters Conservancy" to: Windy Waters Conservancy, PO Box 91, Meredith, NH 03253. You may also pay your dues or donate on-line with your credit card via PayPal. Go to [www.waukewan.org](http://www.waukewan.org) and click on Membership or Donations. Contributions are tax deductible.



## ***Annual Meeting – Save the Date***

Our Annual Meeting this year will be held on July 12<sup>th</sup>. As usual it will be held at the Community Center in Meredith. Registration will begin at 5:30pm with the meeting beginning at 6:00pm. Our guest presenter this year is Jason Bordeau, Superintendent of the Meredith Water and Sewer Department. Jason has graciously invited all our members that are interested to also tour the water processing plant at 4:30pm that evening. So that we may get an estimate of the number of attendees, please RSVP to [info@waukewan.org](mailto:info@waukewan.org) if you intend to take the tour.

## ***A Message from the Board***

Our membership year starts July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. Now is a good time to renew your membership for this coming year if you haven't already done so. Remember, your dues go toward protecting your lake!

As always, we would like to add more members and to gain more volunteers to join our Board of Directors. Our by-laws call for up to eleven board members so there are still openings. Please consider joining the board, you can make a difference. Being on the board entails about 6 to 8 meetings throughout the year so it's no burden and gives you the opportunity to do your part in protecting and preserving the lake.

We have put together a welcoming package of information about the lake, the area, important contact info, and the WWC for new neighbors. It also includes a pair of Waukewan coasters. If you have a new neighbor that we should contact, please let us know by contacting any board member or sending an e-mail to [info@waukewan.org](mailto:info@waukewan.org).

We look forward to seeing everyone at our annual meeting in July.

Best Wishes, the WWC Board of Directors.

## *Membership and Sponsorship Levels*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Operations Fund</b>	<b>Conservation Fund</b>
Individual or Family (one vote)	\$50.00	\$50.00	Balance
Protector	\$100.00	\$50.00	Balance
Steward	\$250.00	\$100.00	Balance
Conservator	\$500.00	\$100.00	Balance
Life Member	\$1,000.00	\$250.00	Balance
Affiliate (Non-voting)	Donations Accepted		
Honorary	Donations Accepted		
Donations	Any	Specify	Specify
Unspecified Donations	Any	100%	0