



Windy Waters Conservancy Newsletter

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Dedicated to protecting and conserving the Waukewan watershed

Spring 2024

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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.

Lake Kanasatka Alum Treatment

For those of you who have been following Lake Kanasatka's struggle with Cyanobacteria blooms over the past few years, the end is in sight.

Together with grants, a capital campaign, shore owner pledges and the blood, sweat and tears of dedicated volunteers, Lake Kanasatka has implemented its long awaited alum treatment at a cost of over \$800,000.

The Pilot Treatment was slated for April 30, 2024, followed by:

Phase 1 Treatment was slated for May 15-17, 2024

Phase 2 Treatment was slated for May 20-22, 2024



Photo courtesy of Aggles360 (William Gassman)

All treatment is complete, and while being cautiously optimistic, the results on clarity has been remarkable and testing numbers encouraging.

We all wish Lake Kanasatka a clean, healthy summer. And towards that goal the WWC Board of Directors, on your behalf, made a significant contribution to their capital campaign.

We're sure we can speak for us all in wishing Lake Kanasatka great success.



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!

VLAP Report

We've spoken of the VLAP program and its testing goals and procedures in past Newsletters and we'll touch more on the how's and whys in upcoming communications.

We are all pretty much motivated by the same end goal, a good healthy lake providing good quality water to drink and recreate in and on. With that in mind, it's time to share our most recent yearly VLAP Report (all VLAP reports are archived both on our Windy Waters website, as well as at the NHDES site). These reports are the collation and summarization of the yearly test data results analyzed and reported by NHDES. The great value in these reports is their statistically valid historical trend analyses. Fortunately, we are one of the few lakes in New Hampshire with this depth of data.

You might want to sit up and take notice. This year's report for the deep testing site (Winona) at the southern end of the lake, near the Meredith Town water intake shows a progressive "*worsening*" of Phosphorus levels at the deeper depths. Phosphorus is the prime nutrient for promoting algae and cyanobacteria growth. As well, *the epilimnetic (upper water layer) Phosphorus (nutrient) levels have increased steadily since 2018*". The report for this site goes on to state the "*worsening*" of our Conductivity parameter, a great indicator of the extent of runoff pollution.

It goes on. The second deep testing site, off Mayo in the northern part of the lake states that *"the upper water layer Phosphorus (nutrient) levels have increased and remained within a higher range in recent years"*. Sounds concerning? It is. Our *"lake water quality remains representative of oligotrophic, or high quality conditions"* states the NHDES report. We need to keep it that way, and that means all of us, together.

Trends are ignored only at our peril.

More to follow.

Did you know?

Lake Waukewan has been the recipient of a Public Water Source grant this year.

The Lake Waukewan PWS Cyanobacteria Monitoring project began implementation at the end of April/beginning of May.

This \$200,000. grant depends greatly on Lake volunteers along with the Meredith Water Department, NHDES, Forrest Bell Environmental, UNH, the Town of Meredith and Lake Winnepesaukee Association. Some of the tasks and highlights are:

*Weekly water monitoring and sampling is being done (independent of the regular VLAP sampling). The sampling is slated to run from April to December.

*A weather station has been deployed year round at the Meredith Water Department.

*A continuous data sonde was deployed (to be removed in the winter) at a location near the water intake for the Town.

*A fluorometer is being used to confirm/reject suspicious visual observations.

*Bloom response monitoring will be implemented if and when it is necessary.

*Weekly visual assessments are being conducted.

The town of Meredith approved a Warrant Article for a Revolving State Fund Grant to update our 10 year old Management plan. This \$100,000 loan turned grant was applied for on June 1st. A decision will be made by August with work hopefully starting by October/November of this year.

Windy Waters Conservancy, in an effort to expedite this loan/grant, has volunteered to pay the small percentage of interest on the loan. The principle historically then becomes a grant.

Did You Know?

That for the past six years, volunteers have been removing Chinese Mystery Snails from the southern part of Lake Waukewan, and they are spreading north? Divers, snorkelers, swimmers, kayakers, and waders have removed 23,787 snails last year alone. **Over the last 6 years over 100,000 snails have been removed!**

Thanks to Janan Hays for organizing the snail hunts, the volunteers who participate, and a huge thanks to those who hunt on their own!

2024 WAUKEWAN'S LAKE HOST PROGRAM.

The 2024 Waukewan Lake Host Program will again be protecting Lake Waukewan from invasive species and the Windy Waters Conservancy is once again taking the lead in support of our Lake Host Program. The NH Lakes Association has given the Waukewan Lake Association a grant of \$2500 to operate the program. Meredith, through the Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee, is also funding our Lake Host Program. I am also asking our other local Lake Associations for contributions so that we can cover all of the Paid Hosts' hours on weekends and holidays.

Our returning PAID LAKE HOSTS are Andrea Harper and Andrew VanNess. Joining our team this year will also be Amy Sheldon. Carolyn Rideout will continue as my Assistant Manager and will also substitute as a Lake Host when needed. The paid Hosts will cover the Waukewan Boat Ramp on weekend days and Holidays from 6am until 6pm - also Friday afternoons. They will start manning the ramp on Memorial Weekend and continue through mid-September.

Our VOLUNTEER LAKE HOSTS will join the team during July and August. Hours are flexible, usually 2-3 hours a week. Last year there were only enough volunteers to cover a few weekday hours. We would like to have enough volunteers to cover the ramp Monday through mid-day Friday. **WE REALLY NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS.** If you are interested in joining our team, please contact me.

NH Lakes Association allows 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 St) on **Saturday June 22nd at 9:30 AM.** For those who 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 on as our fantastic Volunteer Team Leader. I cannot thank her enough for her past efforts and support.

Again, volunteers are the foundation for our Lake Hosting Program. Without them, there would be no coverage during the busy summer weekdays. So far, the efforts of our Paid Hosts and Volunteers have helped keep our beautiful lake free of invasive species. For Waukewan's continued protection, we really need more Lake Host Volunteers. Lake Waukewan and I thank you, in advance, for YOUR support.

Tim Whiting. Waukewan's Lake Host Coordinator.
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This and That Around the Lake

Proposed: Senate Bill 431: To have limited wake surfing – a water sport where surfers ride the wake created by a motorboat – to water bodies of at least 50 acres and to increase the wake distance to shore.

It would have pushed wake surfing farther offshore, but disagreements over the distance – 200 or 300 feet– killed the bill entirely.

Lawmakers sought the restrictions because of environmental and safety concerns posed by wake surfing.

Lawmakers feel this bill will be back, but for now the 150 foot distance stands.

Also of importance to all of us, the voters of Meredith passed a warrant article this past March, creating a \$100,000.00 mitigation fund for Lake Waukewan. This fund is expected to be increased over the coming years to help cover the potentially high cost of remediation.

The fund will insure a quick response to Cyanobacteria blooms and any intervention or testing that may be required.

This season is seeing earlier and more Cyanobacteria blooms statewide.

Thank you Meredith voters for helping to promote water quality.

Even the mighty Eagle can be chased by an angry, determined foe.
Photo Courtesy of Doug Steele



Stay Tuned

We will firm up the date of the Windy Waters Conservancy Annual Meeting as soon as we have confirmed the meeting room booking. We will notify you by e-mail, so if you haven't given us your e-mail address, please do so now.

A Message from the Board

This has been a very busy year for WWC and the Board of Directors. Working with Meredith town management, the Water & Sewer Department, the Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee, and the NH DES we have been instrumental in obtaining a substantial grant advancing our water quality efforts. We actively supported the fight against the Chinese Mystery Snail, sponsored the clean-up effort surrounding the beach and boat ramp area and increased our volunteer VLAP water testing. All these efforts will continue throughout this year with another clean-up planned for early September. Also we have renovated the well-worn Kiosk next to the ramp. But most of all, we need to decrease the flow of nutrients, especially phosphorus, into the lake. To do this we need to make certain that our septic systems are working properly. One of the biggest offenders is residential usage of fertilizer along the shorefront, so please stop it, and encourage your neighbors to do as well. And most importantly, prevent stormwater runoff flowing into the lake by diverting it and using things like rain gardens to trap and filter the runoff. The Lake Smart program can help you identify problems and how to deal with them. And the WWC, through our grant program can help with the implementation cost. We all need to do our part if we are to keep Lake Waukegan beautiful, healthy, and safe for the next generations.

Our membership year starts July 1st. through June 30th of the following year. Now is a good time to renew your membership for this year in support of WWC's efforts if you haven't already done so. Remember, your dues go towards protecting your lake!

Have a wonderful summer season on beautiful Lake Waukegan.

The Windy Waters Conservancy Board of Directors.

Membership and Sponsorship Levels

Category	Amount	Operations Fund	Conservation Fund
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

Our renovated Kiosk



The photo below is of **Chinese Mystery Snails**. These invasive critters have been spreading further and further around the lake. If you see any be sure to remove them from the lake and dispose of them.

