



Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association

P.O. Box 451, Meredith, NH 03253

An Environmental Organization Protecting the Waukewan and Winona Watershed

Message from Dave and Deb

Our Mission

"The mission of the Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association is to encourage and support long range planning, responsible lake level management and sound conservation techniques to preserve the ecology, environment and natural beauty of the Waukewan and Winona Watershed. It serves as a voice for its members in matters of group concern with regard to the environment and seeks to assist with scientific studies, education programs and the preparation and dissemination of educational materials."

The slow season is upon us again, and we would like to pause for moment to look back at all the positive things that have happened in our watershed this past summer.

The loons nested successfully on Lake Waukewan and Hawkins Pond, and as of this writing, at least one juvenile loon on Waukewan is thinking about heading south. The Lake Host Program began on Lake Winona, and VLAP testing is now being conducted on Hawkins Pond. We held two well attended seminars on timely topics at the Meredith Community Center and welcomed our members to our fourth annual members meeting in

July. We also sponsored a very successful weed watcher training session which was attended for the first time by shore owners from Winona and also by new shore owners on Waukewan. And, to top things off, one of our members has received an important award given by the State of NH. Phew! It has been a busy year.

As always if you are interested in becoming a member, please get in touch with Dave or Deb.

Have a good winter.

Dave Reilly and Deb Corr

Co Chairmen

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Picture below: Waukewan's "Sanatorium" in the background—cir. 1954



Waukewan's "Sanatorium" by Lee Callahan

This past summer the Billin property on the northern shore of Lake Waukewan in the town of Center harbor changed hands for the first time in more than 30 years. We thought you might be interested in a bit of the history of this lovely property.

Back in the early 1930's the Billin property, the property to its immediate left, the large open field on its right, and the farmhouse opposite on Wauke-



Waukewan's "Sanatorium" (continued)

wan Road were owned by Dr. John Huckins. Apparently Dr. Huckins envisioned building a sanatorium-type facility along the beautiful shores of the lake. He lived in the farmhouse across the road while the Billin house was constructed, using local labor, and when that was finished he began work on housing for the nursing staff. However, just after the stone foundation was built, the project stalled and was never finished. When Dr. Huckins passed away in the late 1930s, the entire property was split into 2 parcels—one with the farmhouse, back acreage and field on the shore and the other, which included the sanatorium building (Billin house) and close to 500 feet of south and west facing shoreline plus about 10 acres with a carriage shed along what is now Preston Road. The farmhouse/field property was purchased by C. E. Leland, and the sanatorium property was purchased by Paul Richter (in 1939.)

In 1972 Peter Dunning purchased

the sanatorium property from the Richters. It was sub divided at that time, and the portion with the stone foundation and about 70 feet of waterfront was purchased by the Callahan/Schimke families along with 9 acres and the carriage shed across the street on Preston road. The farmhouse/field property has remained in the Leland family and is being enjoyed by the fifth generation of Lelands. Though the field has been kept open, it is never fed with fertilizers and no pesticides are used on it.

In the early 1980s Bob and Carol Billin purchased the sanatorium building and close to 400 feet of shoreline. They moved the building closer to the water, installed several sliding glass doors along the lake side of the house, built a large barn/garage and upgraded the septic system. Bob passed away a few years ago, and Carol decided to downsize. The property is now owned by Barbara Brennan from Long Island, NY. It includes several hundred feet of unspoiled wooded shoreline which

serves as an erosion buffer against water runoff.

The stone foundation property continues to be shared by three families of Callahans and the Schimkes. Three houses have been built on the parcel on Preston Road and since the property included deeded access to Lake Waukewan, those families continue to enjoy the benefits of owning waterfront on Waukewan. The stone foundation property will never be developed due to recent lake front restrictions and regulations and it serves to absorb runoff coming from Waukewan Road.

Dr. Huckins intended to help people become healthier with his venture. He probably never envisioned, however, that the current stewards of his property would be working to ensure the health of the Waukewan/Winona Watershed. As you boat, kayak or swim by these three waterfront properties in the future, be sure to wave. You'll receive a wave and a smile back—because that is the way our lakes' homeowners are.

Kayaking up Snake River from Lake Waukewan, October 2014





Update on Loons

Breeding loon pairs were once again successful in the Waukewan/Winona Water-shed:

Although Lake Winona did not host a successful breeding pair this past season, the pair on Hawkins Pond succeeded in hatching and raising another chick in 2014. The Snake River pair on Waukewan made a valiant effort—and was even seen “mating” by one of our observant members—but it appeared that they were bothered by a third adult loon

that, for whatever reason, would not leave them alone so they did not nest. The Jenness Cove pair was luckier, however, and hatched and raised two chicks successfully in spite of the presence of many other adult loons on the lake. As of December 10, one juvenile still seems to be hanging around. We hope it gets the message soon that ice is on the way for sure and it had better leave for the ocean!



Hawkins Pond Juvenile Loon

VLAP Comes to Hawkins Pond

VLAP monitors on Lake Winona have been doing a great job of gathering information on water quality, and this year some of our neighbors on Hawkins Pond decided it was time to begin monitoring the quality of the water on Hawkins Pond.

Lake Winona volunteers have graciously given their assistance and use of the new VLAP testing equipment that was purchased with the grant money Linda Heminway secured from DES for Lake Winona. The Town of Center Harbor has agreed to pay for testing.

We congratulate Hawkins Pond on their decision to join the VLAP program!

Lake Host for Lake Winona

Another exciting item of news to report is that the Lake Winona Improvement Association under the leadership of Don Thibeault voted at its annual meeting to take action and put a Lake Host Program in place on Lake Winona. They will be looking for volunteers to fill weekend shifts next summer starting with Memorial Day weekend and going through Labor Day. Donations are being requested from Lake Winona homeowners, and the LWIA has submitted paperwork to see if they can get some grant money to help defray costs. They also will contact New Hampton and Center Harbor to see if they can get assistance to pay for the program.

Could Something be Hitching a Ride on Your Firewood? Beware!

The Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive pest and killer of NH's ash trees, has been detected in Hillsborough, Merrimack and Rockingham counties in NH so those counties are under quarantine. Other States in NE that are affected are Mass. and Ct. which are also entirely under Emerald Ash Borer quarantine.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle is currently found in Mass. If it finds its way to NH, the consequences could be disasterous due to its

taste for a wide species of trees, particularly Maple. NH law prohibits the transportation of all untreated firewood from out of State unless the homeowner has a compliance agreement with the State for transport. The joint NH and Federal Ash Borer quarantine prohibits the transportation of all hardwood firewood from a quarantine area to a non quarantine area. Buy your firewood from local dealers and ask them where their firewood comes

from. Survey your trees. If you notice any signs of Emerald Ash Borer or Asian Longhorned Beetle, please contact the NH Dept. of Agriculture or go to WWW.nhbugs.com.



Asian Longhorned Beetle and egg case (left) and Emerald Ash Borer (right)



Variable Milfoil in the Waukewan Canal

Earlier this fall WWWPA sent around an alert that a small patch of Variable Milfoil had been discovered in the Waukewan Canal by a Waukewan weed watcher. Luckily this patch was caught while still small and we were informed by NHDES that divers would be dispatched to hand pull the infestation. In mid September, NHDES divers successfully removed the patch of milfoil and a few other small plants found in the vicinity. They re-visited later in the fall and put down a bottom barrier in the area of the infestation to prevent sunlight penetration to any root fragments. The area will be closely monitored for re-growth next spring by NHDES staff and Waukewan weed watchers.

We need more eyes on our lakes to protect against invasive species. Please consider becoming a Weed Watcher. Call Janan Hays, 603-279-4944 for more information.

Spirit of NH Awards

Janan Hays was recently honored by the State of NH with a Spirit of NH Volunteer Service award. The awards reception and ceremony was held on the evening of November 10, 2014 at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, NH.

This annual recognition program is administered by Volunteer NH in collaboration with the Office of the Governor. Spirit of NH awards honor outstanding contributions to volunteerism throughout the State of NH—services that strengthen communities and improve the lives of citizens of NH.

Janan was recognized for her exemplary contributions to volunteerism and to the betterment

of life in NH for her work in environmental protection and education and the numerous environmental projects she has undertaken over the past few decades. A sampling of her environmental endeavors includes spearheading, conducting and often funding environmental protection and education projects in cooperation with local and state government and agencies; she began and continues a NHDES VLAP program for Snake River; served on a board where she worked to stop development along Snake River; helped bring a lake host program to Waukewan and continues as a volunteer lake host; developed a weed watcher program with NHDES for Waukewan and conducts annual trainings which she expanded to include other water bodies in the Waukewan/Winona Water-

shed; has been an active LPC volunteer since the mid 1980s.

Janan is the Vice Chairman of the Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association.



(Janan Hays, center, with members of the Volunteer NH Awards Committee.)



Who Are The Members of Our Board?

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(Lake Winona, Fall, 2014)

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