

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

Volume 3, Issue 2
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Summer 2014

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.”

June is finally here, and the summer season is heating up. The loons are very active on Lake Waukewan, and we expect one or both breeding pairs will be on their nests any day. Hopefully, the Hawkins Pond loons are back and will be successful again. And, we hope that Lake Winona will host a nesting pair this season.

Summer is the most intense period in the Lakes Region for people and also for wildlife. The Lake Host Program has begun on Lake Waukewan, and there will be a Weed Watchers Seminar in August on Waukewan as well. Those of us who live in the watershed know how important it is to be mindful

of the impact that people, with all their summer activities, can have on the fragile ecosystem that makes up the watershed.

Please take a minute to look at the list of tips for Septic System Maintenance that we have included in this newsletter. Proper homeowner maintenance can go a long way toward helping to preserve the wonderful water quality of our lakes and ponds.

If you are interested in becoming a member of WWWPA, please call or email Deb Corr at 279-6008 or debcorr@metrocast.net.
Dave Reilly and Deb Corr

Articles in this Issue

- It's Time to “Get the Lead Out!”
- Light Pollution: What is it, and What You Can do to Help.
- Septic System Etiquette.
- Important Dates for Your Calendar.

Picture below: Timmy Tom's Lead Free Jig Co: www.timmytoms.com.
Note: 10% off jigs thru 6-30-14. Type “Sale” in coupon box at check out.

It's Time to “Get the Lead Out!”

By now most people know that SB 89 passed in NH with broad public support. This means that eventually, lead sinkers and lead jigs weighing one ounce or less will no longer be sold in the State of New Hampshire and their use in NH's freshwaters will be illegal. The key word, though, is “eventually.” SB 89 does not take effect until June 1, 2016. In the meantime, loons are still being poisoned by lead in NH's waters!

There are many alternatives to lead fishing tackle. Several common materials are tungsten, bismuth-tin and steel, (Cont. Pg. 2)



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It's Time to "Get the Lead Out" (continued)

and though tackle made from tungsten is a bit more expensive than lead tackle, it performs better than other tackle and is favored by sports fishermen.

In our last newsletter we told you about a fight between two loons that took place on Lake Waukegan last summer that resulted in the death of one of the loons. The Loon Preservation Committee reported to us that when this loon was necropsied, they discovered it had ingested lead tackle and was most likely showing

signs of lead poisoning. Although the loon died as a result of the fight, the sick bird would have succumbed from lead poisoning. The LPC has just reported, too, that a dead loon was recovered this May 14 from Lake Wentworth in Wolfeboro—another victim of lead poisoning.

The new law doesn't take effect until June 2016, but LET'S STOP USING LEAD TACKLE NOW! Please educate your friends, family and renters who fish about the new law and ask them to stop using lead tackle. Help save our loons!



Loon and chick—July 2013

Light Pollution: What is it and What You Can Do to Help

We hear about pollution all the time. We seem to be surrounded by it! It is in the news on a daily basis—warnings about poisoned food and water, contaminated air, loud noise—the list goes on.

One form of pollution often escapes our notice, though, and it is no less important a concern than any other. Light Pollution.

According to Globe at Night.org, "Light pollution is excessive, misdirected, or obtrusive artificial (usually outdoor) light." So, why is this a problem?

Many living species, especially humans, depend on natural cycles called "circadian rhythms." Light at the wrong time can upset those rhythms and the production of melatonin—a substance that is essential for proper sleep. This can result in disrupted nights, headaches, excess stress and anxiety. Eyesight can also be adversely affected over

time. Excess light also adversely affects animals and birds by disrupting migration patterns and breeding patterns. It negatively affects nocturnal wildlife as well as aquatic species and can disrupt feeding and migration patterns.

Technically there are three distinct types of light pollution:

1. **Glare:** Glare is the type of light that shines out into peoples eyes as they pass by. It's that light that catches you when an oncoming driver fails to lower his/her high beam headlights. This is the type of light we are talking about when we use the term "like a deer caught in the headlights."

2. **Sky Glow:** Sky Glow is light that blocks out the night sky—such as that over a city or heavily populated town or even a neighborhood. It is the light that keeps you from being able to see the stars above you at night.

3. **Light Trespass:** Light Trespass is unwanted light that shines onto a neighbor's property or into their home. This is the type of light that comes from incorrectly positioned outdoor flood lights on the front of a house or edge of a dock or high up in a hemlock by the shore. It is extremely annoying to those who have to suffer its glare.

You can help by properly positioning outdoor lights, by using shaded fixtures by the water, and, especially, by turning off unnecessary lights at night. Lights should face downwards—not outwards. Use lower watt bulbs. Only use outdoor lights when absolutely necessary and never leave them on over night.

We can all do something to reduce light pollution so we can enjoy the stars.

Septic System Etiquette

DO's

1. **Have your septic system inspected so that you know its condition.**
2. **Have your septic system pumped every 3 to 5 years or more often if you use your house more frequently than you have in the past or if you decide to rent your home.**
3. **Know the location of your septic system and leach field. Keep a map of the area and also keep a record of inspections and pumpings.**
4. **Plant grass—not trees or shrubs—on your leach field to help hold the field in place.**
5. **Install water saving devices in showerheads, toilets and faucets.**
6. **Repair leaking faucets.**
7. **Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full.**
8. **Divert water from roof drains, driveways and hillsides away from your septic system and leach field.**

DON'TS

1. **Do Not pour hazardous chemicals, paints, thinners, anti freeze, pesticides, etc. down the drain or into toilets.**
2. **Do not plant trees within 30 feet of your septic system or leach field.**
3. **Do not park cars on your leach field or septic system. This may cause a collapse.**
4. **Do not allow anyone to repair or pump your system unless they are a licensed professional.**
5. **Do not flush wipes of any kind! Only flush toilet paper down the toilet.**

Important Dates for Your Calendar

WWWPA ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

JULY 12, 2014

10 AM

THE CORR'S

20 SEMINOLE AVENUE, NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256

STATE OF THE LOON

Join biologist Harry Vogel as he talks about this unique symbol of NH's wild lakes and its special place in the hearts of NH residents. Harry will talk about loons, the challenges they face, and the Loon Preservation Committee's work to safeguard NH's threatened loon population.

HARRY VOGEL

Senior Biologist/Executive Director

LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014

6 - 7:30 PM

MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTER

WHAT DO WATER QUALITY STATISTICS MEAN?

Every year the NHDES publishes the voluntary lake assessment statistics for the quality of water in the lakes in NH. Sara Steiner will explain the numbers and help us understand what they mean about the quality of the watershed.

SARA STEINER

NHDES VLAP CO-ORDINATOR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2014

6 - 7:30 PM

MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTER

WEED WATCHER TRAINING—SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2014, 9—11AM

Consider becoming a "Weed Watcher." Help protect our lakes from exotic species infestation. Training is easy and monitoring is performed at your convenience. For info and sign up, call 603-279-4944.

THE MEMBERS OF OUR BOARD

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(Lake Winona, Summer 2010)

