

# 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.”

### **SPECIAL EDITION**

We are calling this edition of our newsletter “special” because it has 6 pages rather than the usual 4. Somehow we have found ourselves with extra news and items of interest, and all of it seemed too important to leave anything out. We hope you will bear with us!

Summer and fall have been very active for us this year. In July we hosted a hands-on weed watcher training workshop in Meredith led by Amy Smagula, NHDES Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator, and in August, Doug Cygan, NH Dept. of Agriculture Invasive Species

Coordinator, took time from his busy schedule to educate us about the many invasive plant species in our watershed.

In September several of our members participated in an informative mushroom walk with Dr. Rick Van de Poll at the newly protected Fogg Hill Conservation Area. This was an event that our association co-hosted with the Center Harbor Conservation Commission and Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

As always we have news about the loons and some other articles we hope you will find interesting.

Dave Reilly and Deb Corr  
Co-Chairmen

Volume 4, Issue 3  
Page 1  
Fall 2015

### *Articles in this Issue*

- Mushroom Walk with Rick Van de Poll at Fogg Hill Conservation Area.
- The Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad.
- JET SKIS!
- Fogg Hill Conservation Area Expansion West Center Harbor.
- Our Loons—A Bittersweet Season
- Looking Ahead....

**Our Website:**  
[www.wwwpa.org](http://www.wwwpa.org)

**Below - Fogg Hill Bog**  
**Photo by Deb Corr**

## Mushroom Walk with Rick Van de Poll at Fogg Hill Conservation Area by Deb Corr

On September 12 several members of our association joined Rick Van de Poll, members of the LRCT, the Center Harbor Conservation Commission and the public to hike to the Fogg Hill Bog in search of wild mushrooms and fungi. The area known as Fogg Hill Bog is a designated Prime Wetland in Center Harbor and is a critical conservation link between the only level peat bog in the area and the largest un-fragmented forest block of



land in Center Harbor. The walk lasted a couple of hours and was packed full of fascinating information about native mushrooms and fungi—what you can eat, what you shouldn't eat, and how to prepare what you decide to eat. This event was directly in keeping with our association's mission to provide educational programs pertaining to the watershed, and we are grateful for the opportunity given to us by LRCT to co-sponsor the event.

## The Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad by Dave Reilly

Although usually identified as the Winnepesaukee Railroad, the Boston and Maine, or simply the B & M, the railroad tracks that run along Lake Waukegan and Lake Winona and then into Ashland were originally constructed by the Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad (BCM). Charted in 1844, BCM did not become part of the B & M until 1895.

Having secured trackage rights from Boston to Concord, BCM began construction from Concord in 1846, arriving at Laconia and the Weirs in 1848; then through Meredith and Winona to Ashland in 1849. When one factors the necessity of a nearly level road bed, combined with the terrain consisting of ledges, boulders, steep grades and depressions created during the ice age, the two year construction time from Concord to Ashland is remarkable. The telegraph, telephone, electricity, gasoline and diesel engines

had not been invented. Explosives were primitive at best. It required careful surveying, engineering and then route selection, hard labor and powerful animals such as oxen and horses to complete the railroad line. It also necessitated the use of local materials such as granite, as well as wood for lumber and fuel since their steam engines burned wood.

The most visible and prominent structure from that era is the one lane overpass on Winona Road in New Hampton. It has withstood numerous storms and floods over the years including the powerful storm in August, 2008. Winona Road was destroyed for about 1500 feet on both sides of the overpass, yet the old granite abutments and deck survived unscathed.

Tourism flourished as passengers were brought



*C. M. Robie*

Charles Robie as a Young Man (Courtesy Photo)



Robie Cottage on the Shore of Lake Waukegan cir. 1910

by train to stations at Weirs Beach, Meredith and Ashland where nearby hotels and lodging accommodations were located. Tourists arriving at these stations could also board steamboats at nearby docks that could accommodate large vessels such as *Lady of the Lake* and the first *Mount Washington* to reach destinations such as Center Harbor or Moultonboro on Lake Winnepesaukee. Other tourists continued to Ashland where they could travel by coach to hotels and lodges on Squam Lake or also by smaller steam boats heading up the Squam River to the same lake. In addition to tourists and local passengers that gained increased mobility, the railroad brought raw materials from a distance and carried shipments of finished product from the water powered mills in Meredith and Ashland, such as linens, hosiery and woolen goods to distant markets.

In 1850 The American Express Company was founded. As the company grew, offices were located in or near railroad stations throughout the country. The company provided reliable shipment of all types of goods to and from businesses as well as individuals.

## The Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad by Dave Reilly (continued)



Charles Robie by his fireplace, early 1900s

A local man, **Charles Warren Robie**, rose through the ranks and became prominent throughout the country. In 1866 Charles was born in the Robie Homestead located in the Winona area of New Hampton. Charles graduated from Meredith High School and found employment at age 18 with the American Express office in Plymouth. He impressed his superiors and at age 30 became Superintendent of the Massachusetts Division supervising 275 offices with 1400 miles of railroad network. In 1918 American Express created the Railway Express Agency and by 1923, Charles became vice president of the Eastern Division of Railway Express until his retirement in 1934.

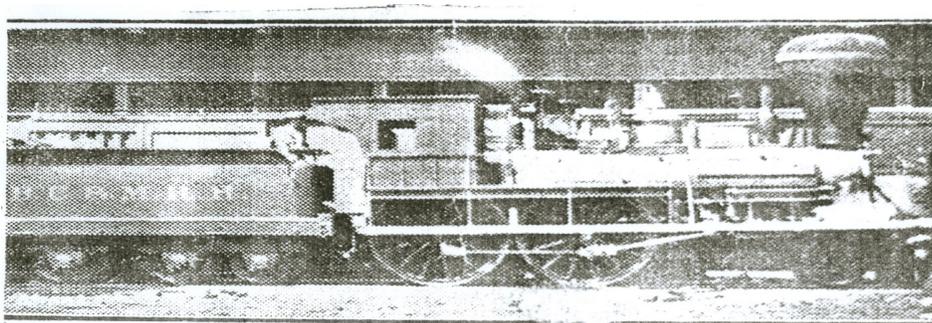
During his tenure at Railway Express, he purchased Rock Ledge Farm in New Hampton, close to the Robie homestead on Waukegan Road that also included a view of Lake Waukegan and wa-



The Robie fireplace as it looks today

terfront in Center Harbor. Rock Ledge Farm was built in the late 1790s and was extensively renovated by Mr. Robie. A boat house and shore line retreat known as *Argunot* were constructed. Here he entertained friends and business acquaintances. He stayed close to his family roots even though he traveled extensively on business throughout the country. The Robie Homestead, Rock Ledge Farm and *Argunot*, still stand, and the rail line built by the Boston, Concord and Montreal through Meredith to Ashland survives.

Charles Robie passed away in December 1949. His funeral was held at the Meredith Baptist Church and attended by a large number of friends, neighbors, business acquaintances and several dozen dignitaries from both American Express and Railway Express.



ENGINE TO HAUL FIRST PASSENGER TRAIN INTO MEREDITH

Photo Courtesy of the Meredith Historical Society

## JET SKIS! By Peter Tallman

Have one? Friends or renters bringing one?

If you plan on using a Jet Ski on one of New Hampshire's lakes, you should be aware of regulations regarding their use, including RSA 270:73 which defines a "Ski Craft" as a watercraft less than 13 feet in length with a capacity of carrying not more than TWO persons.

There are a number of NH waterbodies that ban the use



of "Ski Craft" as previously defined. These water bodies are listed in RSA 270:74-a and include Lakes Waukewan and Winona. Per recent conversation with Marine Patrol in Gilford, fines for violations can range from \$80 to \$1,000.

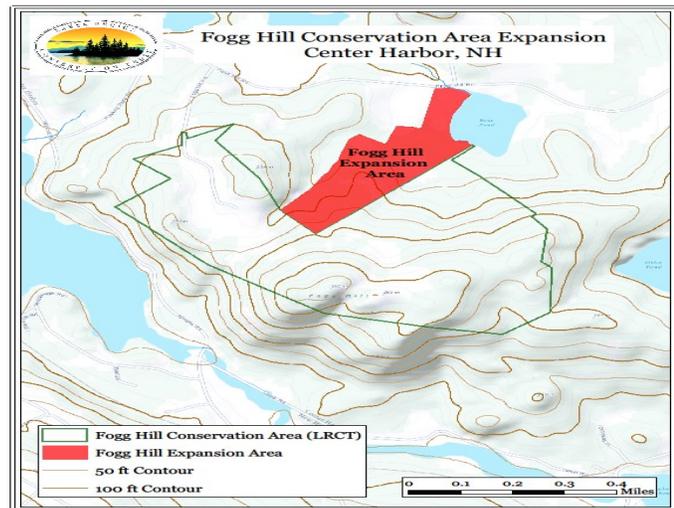
The operator(s) of all watercraft should verify any regulatory information for their specific use and situation.

## Fogg Hill Conservation Area Expansion West Center Harbor by Moe Criasia

WWWPA has partnered with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) to assist LRCT in its endeavor to purchase an additional 43 acres at the base of Fogg Hill in West Center Harbor by co-sponsoring a funding appeal for this important land project.

This expansion parcel abuts the 192-acre LRCT Fogg Hill Conservation Area, encompassing 1250 feet of shoreline on Bear Pond, the **headwaters** of the Waukewan Watershed. An 18-acre **designated wetland** runs along the shoreline; beneath is a portion of a 60-acre **stratified drift aquifer**, a critical source of groundwater to the area. The area is important to wildlife habitat, as well as home to a number of rare and threatened plants.

Recognizing the importance of monitoring surface water quality at the watershed's headwaters, WWWPA Board Members have discussed with LRCT the possibility of implementing a VLAP program at Bear Pond beginning in the spring of 2016. The last known water sampling of Bear Pond occurred in the early 1990's and such a program follows a recommendation made in Center Harbor's Master Plan.



LRCT has made plans to create a small trailhead parking area on the expansion property with easy access off Piper Hill Road. This will provide availability to a proposed system of trails on the 235-acre conservation area.

LRCT has raised just over 75% of its \$150,000 project goal, and we are asking for our watershed's help!

If you would like to contribute, consider donating online through the LRCT website—[www.lrct.org](http://www.lrct.org). On the homepage, click on the "Join/Support" tab; then click on "Donate Now". Also, you can send a check to LRCT, P.O. Box 766, Center Harbor, NH 03226 (note "Fogg Hill Expansion" on your check).

Thank you in advance for your support!

## Our Loons—A Bittersweet Season by Janan Hays

We continually hear from members that they look forward to reading news, alerts and updates in the WWWPA newsletter about our resident loons. Loons certainly are a fascinating and much loved subject, and there is always something to report regarding their activity.

Summer activity on our lakes has ended, and the last of our loons will be leaving soon, but it was a busy and bittersweet season for them on Waukegan, Winona and Hawkins Pond. Both territorial pairs on Waukegan were successful nesting this season; each pair hatched two chicks. This was exciting as it had been decades since both pairs hatched two chicks in the same season, and a first for the Loon Preservation Committee since they began recording loon activity on Waukegan. Happily, both Jenness Cove chicks survived the season. However, only one of the Snake River chicks survived. Sadly, according to observations, the other was taken by a Bald Eagle in early August. To date, both Jenness Cove juveniles and the surviving Snake River juvenile appear healthy and should be migrating to the coast soon.

The Hawkins Pond resident pair hatched two chicks again this season. The chicks appeared healthy early on, however, Hawkins Pond residents observed that one chick continually lagged behind and kept a slight distance from the adults and other chick. And oddly, before fall, residents on Hawkins Pond reported that the adult pair and the juvenile loons disappeared which, according to LPC, was quite early for departure by the adults and their chicks. A short time later, a report came in from a resident on Winona of a dead juvenile loon which she had observed being harassed and chased by two transient adult loons earlier. The consensus among LPC and area volunteers is that

the dead juvenile was most likely one of the Hawkins Pond fledglings since juveniles usually only travel to close by water bodies at that point in development. Upon examination by LPC, it was discovered that the juvenile was extremely underweight so it was in a weakened state. There was no outward sign of injury, but LPC will have a better idea as to cause of death once a necropsy is performed.

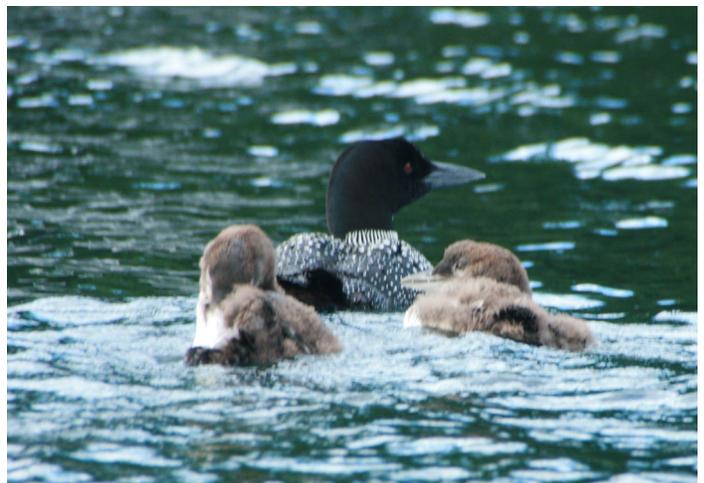
As we near the end of 2015, we are optimistic that our remaining loons stay healthy and leave our lakes in a timely manner before ice in making it safely to their wintering grounds. And as always, we will look forward to the sound of their voices next spring signaling their return and another season at the lake with our loons.



**Hawkins Pond adults and chicks,  
July 2015  
Photo by Bernie Volz**



**Snake River adult and Juvenile, September 2015  
Photo by Tracey Pratt**



**Jenness Cove adult and chicks summer 2015  
Photo by Chris Jones**

“Changing Moods”  
Photo by Deb Corr



## Looking Ahead...

We have other interesting and informative articles to bring to you but due to space constraints they did not make it into this issue of our newsletter. Please watch for upcoming editions for news about:

- \* VLAP monitoring on Waukewan, Winona and Hawkins Pond
- \* Plans to repair the Winona boat launch site
- \* Lake Host programs on Winona and Waukewan
- \* Efforts to preserve the Snake River/Mosquito Bridge
- \* Plans for next summer’s seminars

And, more.....

## Who Are The Members of Our Board?

**Dave Reilly, Co-Chairman**  
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**Deb Corr, Co-Chairman**  
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**Moe Criasia, Member**  
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**Adult loon on Waukewan 2015**  
Photo by Tracey Pratt