

Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association

P.O. Box 451, Meredith, NH 03253

Website: WWWPA.org Email: info@wwwpa.org

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"

This year already seems to be a year of breaking records. We experienced the earliest ice out ever recorded and Spring seems to have melted into Summer with many exceptionally warm days and nights and very little rainfall. Loons have nested early, and all things green are flourishing—including invasive plant and animal species!

We have a full agenda for the coming summer and are pleased to once again offer two exciting seminars on topics that are very timely for our members and others interested in caring for the Watershed. Please see the last page of this newsletter for more information and plan to attend—and bring a friend!

Lake Hosts and Weed

Watchers are more important to our watershed than ever before. If you have time and are able this summer, please consider joining the Lake Host Program, either on Waukewan or Winona. And, become a Weed Watcher.

Membership in our organization is open to shore owners of Lakes Winona and Waukewan and Hawkins, Bear and Otter Ponds. Call any member of our Board for information. In the meantime, have a great summer.

Dave Reilly and Deb Corr
Co-Chairmen

Volume 5, Issue 1

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Spring/Summer 2016

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Update on Winona's Lake Host Program by Don Thibeault

Don Thibeault, President of the Lake Winona Improvement Association and active Lake Host, sent us the following summary of the summer 2015 Winona Lake Host Program:

"We were able to man the boat launch for 8 hours each Saturday and Sunday from June 6 through the end of August. We had four paid hosts who covered 135 hours, and manned the remaining hours with seven volunteers from our LWIA membership. Inspections were conducted on roughly 130 boats, kayaks and canoes. Informational conversations were conducted about invasive plant species and animals with those launching, some of whom had not heard of the



Winona Lake Host
5/20/2015
(Photo by Deb Corr)

Lake Host Program or were unaware of the invasive species problem faced by NH lakes. In some cases educational materials were provided. We are happy to report that no invasive species were encountered.

Note: The Lakes Region Conservation Trust donated \$300 to the Town of Center Harbor, hoping the money would be used toward conservation purposes. The Center Harbor Select Board chose to donate the funds to the Lake Host Program on Lake Winona to help offset operating costs. This amount was **in addition** to the \$125 appropriated in the municipal budget for 2016. Don Thibeault has accepted this generous gift on behalf of the Lake Winona Improvement Association. Also, the members of WWWPA have consistently voted to provide financial support for the Lake Host Programs on Lakes Winona and Waukewan.

Waukewan's Lake Host Program by Tim Whiting

The Lake Host Program has existed on Lake Waukewan for many years thanks to the efforts of our dedicated volunteers and paid Lake Host staff.

The objectives of the NH Lakes Lake Host program are "to place trained lake hosts at public motorized boat launch sites to:

- Educate visiting boaters about exotic species by distributing brochures, answering questions, and completing a brief boater survey;
- Conduct courtesy boat and trailer inspections of vessels both entering and leaving public waters;



Lake Hosts on Waukewan, July 2009
Photo by Anne Sayers

- Show boaters where to look for hitch-hiking plant fragments on boats and trailers and encourage them to conduct self-inspections;

- Remove and properly dispose of all plant material found, and send samples of suspicious plants and animals removed from vessels to the NHDES for identification."

The results of the Lake Waukewan Lake Host Program for the summer of 2015 are as follows:

Total Inspections Made:	1417
Total Volunteer Hours:	292.5
Total Paid Hours:	382.5

Please call or email Tim Whiting, Waukewan's Lake Host Point Person, to learn about volunteering and training: 603-279-7834 or

"Words of Wisdom" From Elmer (1877—1958) by Deb Corr



Elmer Huntress Cir. 1950
(Photo by Bill Fairbanks)

A few years ago we reintroduced our readers to a local character named Elmer Huntress. You might recall that for a number of years Elmer wrote a column for the Meredith News called "Head of Waukewan". He appears to have been the Social Reporter and Gossip columnist for the upper end of Lake Waukewan and imparted bits of wisdom along with tales of the comings and goings of the summer

residents living in the vicinity of the Mayo Farm. He wrote his articles at a time when few people had telephones or even automobiles so Elmer's writings served as a way to help people keep in touch with what was going on in the neighborhood. There are many accounts of different people stopping by at Elmer's to fill him in on the latest before making their way to their summer cottages. The following article was published in the Meredith News on January 26, 1950:

Elmer Huntress Has 130-Yr. Old Document

WEST C'TR. HARBOR—A 130-year old document was unearthed here recently by Elmer Huntress. Stowed among old papers, it is yellowed with age and the flowing script writing is barely legible in some spots.

Written at the time that this was a part of Strafford County, it concerns a Rate-Bill for the repair of highways in the town of "Centre Harbor." The rates quoted are 87 cents a day for a man and 87 cents a day for a yoke of oxen

for all work done...."before haying time and 58 cents per day for all work done after haying". The whole sum was not to exceed \$108.03."

The repairs were to be done from "the brook between the school-house and Nathan Fogg's, thence on the main road to the middle of Measly Pond (now Waukewan) bridge, thence on the cross road near Wadleigh Crams, leading by William Clark's to Hawkins Mill. You are also required to lay out the sum (the report continues) of \$17.22 on the Province () Road, so-called agreeable to the vote of the town at our last town meeting."

The document is signed by Jon Moulton, William Clark and Daniel Norris, Selectmen, on April 12, 1820.

Note: "Measley Pond Bridge" is the Snake River/Mosquito Bridge.

Tips to Keep Our Loons Safe by Janan Hays

Loons Are Back!

Another summer season is upon us and the loons are back on our lakes and ponds; many are in nesting mode.

- ◆ Please steer clear of loon nesting areas. If you happen upon one accidentally, please leave the area immediately. Loons could abandon the nest if disturbed.
- ◆ Keep a healthy distance from adult loons and chicks on the water. And be sure to advise your friends, family and renters to do the same. Getting too close causes loons a great deal of stress.
- ◆ Don't forget to use caution and scan for loons and chicks when boating



**A Loon Reaches Toward the Sun,
6/3/16 (Photo by Tracey Pratt)**

to avoid a collision with a loon or chick.

- ◆ Fishing enthusiasts, remember to reel in around loons. Loons can get hooked or tangled as they go after the fish on the end of your line.
- ◆ Don't forget to get the "lead" out of your tackle box and tell your fellow fishermen/women to

do the same. On June 1, 2016, the State of NH's ban on the sale and fresh water use of lead sinkers and jigs weighing one ounce or less took effect. The State already prohibited use of other size lead sinkers and jigs. Loons and other water fowl can ingest these sinkers and jigs. Loons die within a few weeks after ingestion from lead poisoning, which accounts for almost half of all loon fatalities. You can drop off lead sinkers and jigs at various NH Fish & Game offices or the Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonboro.

Mild Winter, Early Ice Out: Potential Impacts on Our Lakes and Ponds by Janan Hays

It was an interesting winter season for our lakes and ponds. We had a warm winter with very late ice in and record breaking early ice out. According to Sara Steiner, NHDES VLAP Coordinator, some lakes reported they never



had complete ice in. How does this influence aquatic plant growth and water quality? Native plant growth appears to have followed normal growing patterns, but unfortunately exotic plants and animals had a good head start this year, gaining ground in new and existing infested water bodies. Amy Smagula, NHDES Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator stated that as of May, milfoil and other exotics in the southern part of the state had prolific growth of 5 ft. or more, and milfoil in the lakes region had already reached approx. 2 ft.

So, what's the good news? Due to the lack of snow melt and relatively dry spring, water clarity is good at this point, and there was less nutrient runoff to feed algal growth in our lakes and ponds this spring.

Please be extra vigilant and be on the lookout for exotic plants and animals. If you see anything growing quickly or a strange plant or animal (such as large snails or odd mussels), please mark the spot and report it. Don't hesitate to contact any WWWW-PA board member, and we will be glad to come and take a look.

Pileated Woodpeckers 5/30/16 (Photo by Tracey Pratt)

Important Dates for Your Calendar

WWWPA ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

JULY 9, 2016

10 AM

THE HAYS'S

28 SEMINOLE AVENUE, NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256

FOR INFORMATION: (603)-279-4944 or (603) 279-6008

“A HELPING HAND FOR WILDLIFE” What’s New in the NH Fish & Game Wildlife Action Plan

Learn about NH wildlife, their habitats, threats to both, and the actions needed to conserve both rare and common species.

EMILY PRESTON

**Wildlife Biologist, Conservation Biology
Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program
NH Fish and Game Department**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016

6 - 7:30 PM

MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTER

THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONUNDRUM

What we know, don’t know and need to know about climate change and NH Forests.

DR. LINDSAY RUSTAD

Research Ecologist

US Forest Service

Northern Research Station, Durham, NH

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016

6 - 7:30 PM

MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTER

Who Are The Members of Our Board?

**Dave Reilly, Co-Chairman
Lake Winona
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**Bea Thibeault, Secretary
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**Deb Corr, Co-Chairman
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**Peter Tallman, Treasurer
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**Janan Hays, Vice Chairman
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**Maureen Criasia, Member
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3 Bears and Their Mother 4.27.16 (Photo by Lee Callahan)

