

# Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association

P.O. Box 451, Meredith, NH 03253

Website: [WWWPA.org](http://WWWPA.org)

Email: [info@wwwpa.org](mailto:info@wwwpa.org)

*An Environmental Organization Protecting the Waukewan and Winona Watershed*

Volume 8, Issue 1: Fall/Winter 2019

## Seasonal Tips to Help Protect The Waukewan/Winona Watershed

By Deb Corr

Just the word "winter" is enough to send chills down the spines of many of us, isn't it? We know it's coming, though, and now is the time to consider ways we can help to protect the water quality of our lakes and ponds. Here are some suggestions to help you as you close up your home or cottage for the winter or get it ready for winter activities:

**1. Cleaning and winterizing boats:** Be sure to wash your boat as far away from the shore as possible or even take it to a car wash. Give it a "sponge bath" wherever possible, and dispose of wash water properly—far away from the lake.

**2. Raking all those fall leaves:** When a tree beside the water lets its leaves fall on the water, it's a beautiful thing to observe. How-



Photo by Deb Corr

ever, never rake your leaves into the lake! They decompose and add to the nutrient load in the water. Nature should be the only one doing that.

**3. Salting and sanding walkways and driveways:** Safety is absolutely a must during winter, and no one wants to fall and break a leg trying to get into or out of their lakeside home during the winter. However, many deicers can seriously damage the environment. Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) can be very effective when temperatures are around 15 degrees or above, and it is considered to be environmentally benign. **However, all deicers have drawbacks. The rule should be: use as little as possible to get the job done.**

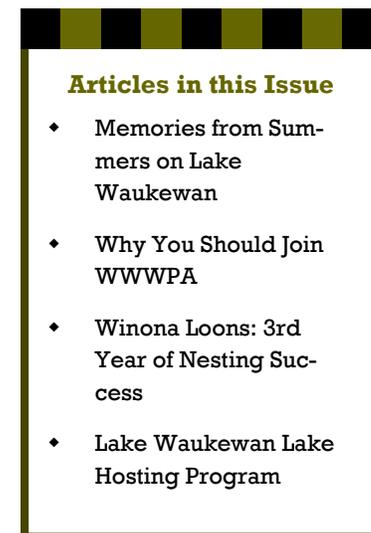
**4. Septic Sense:** Now is a good time to get your system inspected and pumped if necessary. Winter is not a good time to have a septic failure. Tend to yours before the season turns.

**5. Fireplace and wood stove ashes:** Every year we read stories about houses or camps that burn down because people have put hot ashes into bags or cardboard boxes and set them out on the porch for later disposal. Put ashes from your fireplace or stove into metal containers that are designed to hold them, and when they cool, take them to the dump. Do not spread them on your walkways or shorefront.

**6. Ice Fishing/skiing/Snowmobiling on the lake:** No matter what activity appeals to you the most, remember to al-

ways take home what you bring out; i.e., don't leave trash of any kind behind you. The birds and wild critters are not always good about disposing of fruit peels, sandwich crusts or other food items we leave behind so in the spring, these things enter the water as the ice melts.

The most important advice of all is to be safe during winter. Always check conditions before venturing out to be sure the ice is thick enough for whatever activity you have planned. Have a safe and happy winter season!



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Photo by Deb Corr



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## Memories from Summers on Lake Waukewan

By Heather O'Donnell

Everyone has a special place they envision to relieve stress or day-dream about for a while. It is often a beautiful scene in nature that brings the daydreamer peace and harmony.

Every summer since I was a little girl, we would go up to New Hampshire to my great aunt's cottage and spend part of the summer on the lake. It is a little cottage that was just big enough for our small family. We spent our summers in the cool mountain air, taking walks along the railroad tracks, and swimming at our beach every day at in the afternoon. It was, and still is, a quiet escape from the stress and pressures of life. I look forward to the moments I can spend on the lake, and fondly remember all the summers I spent there as well.

As I get older, I realize how much I yearn for time there, and the delightful escape it brings. Any time spent at the lake, and my childhood memories, means more and more as an adult. I look forward to bringing my family up for the summer and spending time at the lake together. My time spent at the cottage is full of sweet summers and time shared with people I love. I cherished the time spent with my family and nature, and I look forward to more summers and times on the lake.



Photo by Sharon O'Donnell

## Why You Should Join WWWPA

By Sharon O'Donnell

Membership benefits include:

1. Beaver dam monitoring for the Snake River and Lakes Winona and Waukewan.
2. Serving as a watchdog group for monitoring environmental issues related to our lakes and providing updates to our membership.
3. Keeping our membership informed of current events through our regular newsletter articles.

Past articles include reviews of

the Fogg Hill Conservation Project, the July 4th boat parade, and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust Mushroom Walk.

4. Providing educational programs and expert speakers to our membership and the local community to encourage new membership. These events are always open to the public and free of charge.

5. Increasing participation in projects and partnerships with local organizations such as the New Hampshire Lakes Association, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, and the Loon Preservation Committee.

In partnership, we have sponsored the Fogg Hill Hike with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and the Lake Host program with the New Hampshire Lakes Association.

6. Collaboration with local government agencies in developing solutions to current environmental concerns.

We have worked with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Sciences on their Weed Watcher program and our members have volunteered to assist in monitoring. We have participated in the VLAP testing and the dissemination of the scientific test results to inform the public.

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## Winona Loons: 3rd Year of Nesting Success

By Linda Heminway

It has been 3 years since my husband, Mark, and I began working as field volunteers for The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) in Moultonborough, NH. We love the loons and had been watching them for years. We were deeply saddened by failed nesting efforts for many years. In the past, our loons' efforts to nest had been thwarted by predators, human interference and fluctuating water levels.

A nest raft had been placed at the north end of our lake 2 seasons prior to the first nesting success. The loons ignored it and continued to make nests of their own that failed. I urged the LPC to move the nest raft to another location where we had observed the loons for years. After a bit of convincing, it was moved, and within a few days, two eggs were laid. We had the first successful hatch on Winona in over 60 years.

Last year, things did not go as well. We had two chicks hatch, but one of the chicks went missing. The second chick had a break on its lower beak. This injury was discovered on the evening of July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 when I assisted the LPC in banding our adult loons.

Loons use their beak to distribute oils through their feathers and having a broken beak made this chick vulnerable to hypothermia. Avian Haven until took it in until it was able to waterproof and be warm on its own. This chick was successfully released at the ocean. We have learned that loons don't always go south; loons go to where water will not freeze.

This past summer, our loons produced one egg and there were fears that the egg might not hatch.

Photo by Linda Heminway



Photo by Linda Heminway

The black fly population surrounding that nest was driving them away. The LPC indicated that they might come to collect the egg, but we were pleasantly surprised to have an unexpected chick hatch on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Our loons nested early and our chick was only the 3<sup>rd</sup> to hatch in the NH Lakes region in 2019.

Our chick matured until it was self-feeding, diving and caring for itself. We stopped seeing the chick and the adult female around the second week in October.

We are pleased to know that our lake has successfully hatched 5 chicks in the last 3 years, 3 of those matured on our lake. The odds are in our favor for successful nesting efforts next year.

Banding of our adult loons proved that the same pair that was on our lake last year was, in fact, the same pair that migrated back from some unknown place to Lake Winona and nested together again. Banding them helps the LPC to determine age and breeding.

Thank you to all who have helped us this last year by either making donations to the Loon Preservation Committee and/or Avian Haven, or discussing safety with visitors to our lake.

We appreciate that people did a better job this past year keeping a safe distance from the nesting pair. Our lake hosts and property owners have cautioned people about being more than 150 feet from nesting loons and loon chicks. Boats should maintain "no wake" within 200 feet of loons on a nest. Loons are vulnerable to disturbance as human activities increase on lakes, so we ask boaters to take precautions to help protect loons and ensure a good breeding year.

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## Waukewan Lake Host Program

By Anne Sayers

The Lake Host program for the summer of 2019 went very smoothly with volunteers substituting for each other when needed. No invasive species were identified with volunteers covering Mondays and Fridays and paid people covering weekends and holidays.

Boaters all seem to know how important it is to clean and dry their boats and trailers and that they must (by law) remove their drain plugs before they return to the highway.

This year we were making sure the newer wakeboard boats were also emptying their ballast tanks. The only downside to the program is the diminishing number of volunteers—especially among the newly retired.



Photo by Deb Corr

## Chinese Mystery Snail Update

By Janan Hays

The fight against the Chinese Mystery snail infestation continues. We will not be able to eliminate the invasive animal but, with widespread awareness among shore owners and lake enthusiasts, hopefully we can control their spread. It is critical that ALL shore owners scan their shorefronts for the snail and manually remove any found. The snail is found in any type of substrate (attached to rocks, sitting on top of sandy or mucky lake beds, in among aquatic submerged plants, etc.).

To date, the populations of snails are being found at the southern end of the lake from the public boat launch past the Monkey pond area of the lake and around the 3-4 lake homes past the Monkey pond area of the lake. A

small number of snails have been found by the Pollard Shores Rentals and at the beginning of Water St. closest to the canal.

If you find any Chinese Mystery snails, please remove from the lake, take a photo if possible, count the number found discard in the trash, and call 603-279-4944 to report.

*This information is taken from updates Janan Hays sent out earlier this season to the lake community.*

## Who are the members of our board?

Dave Reilly, Co-Chairman  
[rrreillydave@aol.com](mailto:rrreillydave@aol.com)

Bea Thibeault, Secretary  
[beatricetbo@gmail.com](mailto:beatricetbo@gmail.com)

Deb Finch, Director  
[ddfinch@comcast.net](mailto:ddfinch@comcast.net)

Peter Tallman, Treasurer  
[ptallman@metrocast.net](mailto:ptallman@metrocast.net)

Sharon O'Donnell, Co-Chairman  
[sharonptmc@aol.com](mailto:sharonptmc@aol.com)