



# 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



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- Deb Corr Wins NH LakeSmart Award
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### WWWPA Summer Speaker Presentation

August 11, 2021 6:00-7:30 pm

By Sharon O'Donnell

The Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association (WWWPA) will resume its summer speaker program Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Harry Vogel, from the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC), will be presenting a program about loons and their habitat at the Meredith Community Center in Meredith, New Hampshire. Harry Vogel has presented to our group in the past and it has been a tremendous success! This event is free and open to the public and will be advertised as such.

Loons are a unique symbol of New Hampshire's wild lakes, and hold a special place in the hearts of New Hampshire residents. Biologist Harry Vogel will give attendees an update on the state's loon population and answer questions about their behavior. Harry

has been studying loons for over 20 years as a researcher. He is senior biologist and executive director of the Loon Preservation Committee. Their mission is to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons throughout New Hampshire and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world.

The LPC has grown to become a leader among environmental organizations since its creation in 1975. The LPC is working to preserve threatened and endangered species. They have the most comprehensive database of loon populations and productivity in the world. LPC's management efforts have more than doubled our loon population since loons were listed as a state threatened species. The LPC was one of the first organizations anywhere to show that it was possible to reverse the decline of a threatened species.

Photo by Tracey Pratt

### NH Law Requires Decal for Out-of-State Motorboats

By Sharon O'Donnell

RSA 487:43 went into effect on July 1, 2019, requiring all persons who operate a motorboat on New Hampshire public waters (registered out-of-state) to purchase and display a decal. This decal from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) refers to aquatic invasive species. The decal must be displayed within 3 inches of the motorboat's registration decal on the port side of the vessel.

The decals can be purchased online for \$20 on the NHDES webpage, and expire on December 31 of each year. The proceeds will be used for the management and prevention of invasive species in New Hampshire. (This information was obtained on the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services webpage.)



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## Winona Lake Host Program

By Catherine Greenleaf

Catherine Greenleaf and Kay Anderson, both members of the Lake Winona Improvement Association, will be co-chairing the Lake Host program on Lake Winona this year. They are actively seeking volunteers interested in signing up for some two-hour shifts conducting boat inspections at the boat launch, and are also seeking paid lake hosts. The Lake Host program, sponsored by the New Hampshire Lakes Association, was designed to protect lake waters from invasive plant and animal species, like milfoil and the Chinese Mystery snail.

## Deb Corr Interview: LakeSmart Award

By Deb Finch

This past year, the NH Lakes Association began a new effort to help lakefront homeowners become better stewards of their lakes. They have named their program LakeSmart, and one of our members, Deb Corr, has received an award for the stewardship of her lakefront property. You may have read about this program if you are a supporter of [www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org). According to their website, LakeSmart is “an education, evaluation, and recognition program that is free, voluntary, and non-regulatory.” The program evaluates the lake-friendliness of properties and activities.

I interviewed Deb to learn more about the LakeSmart Award and what is involved in applying for/receiving this award. Deb is a member of the NH Lakes Association, and when asked why she applied, she stated, “They are what I consider to be the premier environmental group in the Lakes Region, protecting the water quality of all of our lakes and ponds.” She went on to say, “I’ve done a lot of things on this property to protect the lake. Whenever I plant anything, I always have the lake in mind. When I’ve done drip edges or anything else to the property, I’ve always thought, well, is this going to help the lake, or will this take from the lake.”

The application for the LakeSmart Award is available online. Once the application is completed, a team from NHLakes.org comes out to do a site visit. They spent about 3 hours on Deb’s property, looking at it from all aspects. They were especially pleased to see her



Photo provided by Sharon O'Donnell  
**Local Fireworks Safety Information**

By Sharon O'Donnell

The Lake Winona Improvement Association published some safety information in one of their newsletters. Partial information from that article is provided below.

1. They recommend enjoying the excellent fireworks displays in the towns of Meredith, Center Harbor, and Ashland.
2. When homeowners decide to use their own fireworks, it is encouraged that they follow the local laws and regulations in their town, especially with respect to noise ordinances.
3. Homeowners may want to consider asking renters to refrain from using fireworks on their property.
4. Lastly, residents may want to refrain from using reloadable mortar-style fireworks, which contain high phosphorus and heavy metal levels, are harmful to lake water, and may cause damage to a neighbor's property.

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## Is Your Sunscreen Harming Our Lakes?

By Linda Heminway

Recently, the state of Hawaii has outlawed the use of certain chemicals in sunscreens. The two most often used chemicals in your average sunscreen products are Oxybenzone and Octinoxate. Not only have these chemicals been found in human bloodstreams and breastmilk, but also in aquatic creatures, and they have been known to damage coral reefs. Don't worry, though, there are alternative products available and most of them cost the same as the products that contain these harmful chemicals. They are readily available and make sense to purchase.

Here are some facts taken from Madesafe.org, an organization dedicated to safe products:

**Oxybenzone:** This ingredient is one of the most commonly-used sunscreen chemicals. Oxybenzone is linked to endocrine disruption, organ system toxicity, contact allergies, and photoallergies, meaning exposure to light is required to generate an allergic response. This ingredient, sometimes called benzophenone-3, is not to be confused with benzophenone, another common sunscreen ingredient. This chemical is so harmful that in 2018, Hawaii banned it to protect coral reefs.

**Octinoxate:** A commonly used UV filter that protects from UVB rays, but not UVA sun rays. On packaging, it may be listed as OMC, methoxy-cinnamate or ethylhexyl methoxy-cinnamate. Octinoxate is linked to endocrine disruption by an abundance of data, as well as to reproductive toxicity. Like oxybenzone, this ingredient was targeted in Hawaii's ban, as it harms coral reefs.

Presently, these chemical ingredients are not outlawed in the state of New Hampshire. That doesn't mean they are safe for our waters and inhabitants. Some feel that it will only be a matter of time before New Hampshire, and other states, will also outlaw use of these chemicals. Why not do what is best for our lakes now, regardless of the law, which will



Photo by Tracey Pratt

surely catch up to us at some point? As our association is all about protection of the watershed, that includes marine life, plants and other species (and, yes, humans) who depend on these waters, we recommend that when you make your next purchase of sunscreen, take a look at the ingredients. Buy something that does not include these items to keep you, and those creatures and plants in our lake, safe. We suggest that you wear the sunscreens containing these products on days you are not in the lake to use them up. However, purchase safer products for when you plan to swim. When you need more, purchase those that do not include harmful ingredients. Our lake and the creatures that inhabit it depend on us to do the right thing. Note that certain sunscreens (most major brands) are offering packaging that indicates there is no Oxybenzone and no Octinoxate, including the brand name "Banana Boat," which now says "reef safe" on the labeling (excluding their SPF 100 products). These items are out there on the shelves and a moment spent reading a label is worthwhile, as sunscreens containing these chemicals are still on the shelves, too.

As always, it is recommended by dermatologists, that we do wear sunscreen to protect us from the sun's harmful rays. Additionally, SPF clothing may be purchased for additional protection. Wearing a hat, especially one that is of an SPF weave, is a great idea.



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Photo by Catherine Greenleaf

## Protecting Your Watershed

By Catherine Greenleaf

For those of us who love summer time and lakeside living, it's important to be proactive about protecting our watershed. What is a watershed? A watershed is comprised of vast areas of pristine woodland habitat surrounding a lake, pond, stream or wetlands. The watershed acts as a giant sponge by absorbing and retaining fresh, clean rainwater. The watershed slowly funnels the water downward into the largest basin in the area, namely your lake. This shedding of water provides safe drinking water and keeps lake water quality high enough to support fish and other wildlife. Your lakefront property is also part of the watershed.

### Drought In New England

Last year's drought and drought-like conditions

throughout the Lakes Region proved a major wake-up call to lakefront homeowners. Wells went dry, restrictions were placed on the use of outdoor water, and incidents of brush fires were on the rise.

And despite all of the snow received over the winter, New England is still experiencing drought and drought-like conditions, according to the USDA drought maps, which may be setting us up for another very hot and dry summer.

What is the major contributor to drought? Climatologists are saying we have reached a tipping point regarding impervious surfaces. The unchecked installation of impervious surfaces like new roads, asphalt driveways and parking lots is causing rainfall to race as fast as it can straight to large bodies of water. Impervious surfaces prevent the rain from staying put and being reabsorbed into the ground to regenerate the soil and the watersheds in our local areas, as it has normally done for generations. When water is slowed down and held in our watersheds and on our properties, it soaks into the soil and transpiration occurs. Water vapor rises upwards, giving us the formation of clouds and local rainstorms. We get plenty of rain, trees and plants grow lush and green and we experience no droughts. The water table is recharged. The birds and bees are happy. This is what is called a small water system.

Water sluiced away in high-speed fashion along impervious surfaces often ends up being carried in rivers and streams to remote areas, and, eventually, the ocean. This results in fewer but bigger and deadlier storms that cause flooding, followed by periods of extended drought, according to renowned water scientist Dr. Michael Kravčík.

### Contaminated Waters

In addition, the run-off pouring into lakes can contain gasoline, motor oil, pet waste, septic overflow, lawn and garden chemicals as well as salt from winter road de-icing and water-softening systems. Increased salinity can eventually transform a freshwater lake into a saltwater lagoon, rendering it unfit for aquatic life.

### How You Can Help

You can help protect your local watershed by slow-

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ing down the water on your property. Pull up the asphalt on your driveway and replace it with the non-impervious products that are now available. Install rain barrels to catch the overflow from your roof and use it to water the flowers. Create rain gardens to hold rainwater where it falls so it absorbs back into the soil to regenerate the water table. Plant a heavy border of native shrubs and plants along your shoreline to block and absorb run-off. Protect and conserve wooded areas. A wooded area contains a dense network of roots growing 20-30 feet downward, turning the soil to a spongey consistency that can hold 90 percent of rainfall.

Compare this to a lawn, which immediately loses 90 percent of rainfall due to run-off, not to mention the fertile soils that are washed away with it. Refrain from using lawn chemicals like weed killers or fertilizers since these can poison the lake water or contribute to cyanobacteria blooms. Get rid of your lawn and grow a native meadow. Have your septic system inspected and pumped every two years to protect lake water from contamination. Bag up your pet waste. Work with your lake association to protect and conserve parcels of wooded land surrounding your lake.

And most importantly, talk to local government officials about development in your area. Voice your concerns about the over-abundance of impervious surfaces in your town. Tell your officials it's time to take a look at antiquated water-management policies. This includes the outdated notion that rainwater is a "waste product" that must be gotten rid of as quickly as possible.

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attention to plantings and storm water drainage, her gravel driveway and chloride-free application of PetSafe Ice Melter in the winter, the use of paths to allow minimal disruption to the naturally occurring plants, and the care and replacement of trees, when necessary. Her lakefront has a 30' buffer with naturally occurring blueberries she has nurtured back to full-size, native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. She also created a "rain garden" to protect the lake from run-off.

Upon completion of the site visit, along with the award, the committee presented Deb with an eight-page evaluation, noting that in many cases her property exceeds expectations for being extremely lake friendly.

Deb suggested that homeowners on lakes be very careful when cutting trees on their property. She said: "Your big trees are the things on your property that absorb phosphorus, and when you take out a big major tree, all the phosphorus that tree has sucked up out of the soil gets released, and it goes back into the water. The killer of lakes is phosphorus, and so that is something that's uppermost on my mind, with everything I do, is the phosphorus load." She went on to note it is important to replace trees, when possible.

I asked Deb if there was anything else she'd like to share with the newsletter readers. She stated, "I think it's an opportunity to become more mindful about the way you're managing your lakefront property. Think about things like getting your septic pumped every three or four years. Think about things you put down the drain." She noted all of these affect the lake. She concluded: "I think that people on lakes have to all cultivate a new attitude, if you're going to live in a place with natural things." Acceptance and even admiration of nature and all that comes with it can bring much joy to a homeowner.

For more information about the LakeSmart program, visit: [nhlakes.org/lakesmart/](http://nhlakes.org/lakesmart/).



Photo by Deb Finch



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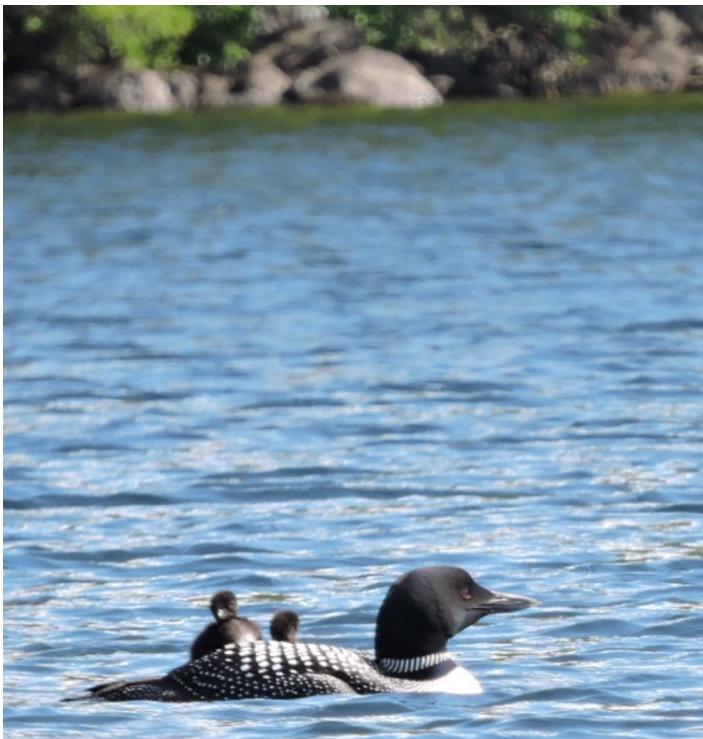


Photo by Linda Heminway

## Winona Loon Update

By Linda Heminway

As I write this, we have one two-day old chick and a second egg on the nest. I held off writing this (today is 6/20/21) in hopes of a second hatch. These things happen in nature's time, not our time. So, we wait.

Last year, the one egg produced rolled off the nest. We had a series of windy days, combined with boat wakes, that washed most of the nesting material off more than once. Mark, my darling husband, went out to the nest raft to replenish material to no avail. It just was not our year. The egg rolled off and all was lost.

This year, one live hatch and another one pending gives us hope. Some years have been better than others.

Last season, biologist John Cooley from the Loon Preservation Center in Moultonborough, NH provided us with advice as to how to beef up the "nest bowl" to ensure waves and wakes do not take their toll on our beloved loons. He even followed through with five-gallon buckets of moss for our use to keep the nest material from washing away. We packed down materials we found, as well as the moss, which is denser. It worked! We are grateful for their assistance, as always. Their advice and knowledge is truly important.

So, as I write, I rejoice that this year Winona residents will hopefully get to see a little chick (or two) grow and mature. I hope the second hatch occurs soon.

2020 was not a great year for so many reasons, and 2021 is looking so much better!

\*

Our second chick hatched yesterday morning. For a period of time, we wondered if there could be a very rare third egg, as one of the adult loons got back on the nest. But, later on, it got off, and both chicks were out on the lake. We now think that they just wanted the new hatchling to get its bearings for a little time before heading out. Perhaps that is wise and our loons have learned from issues in the past. Yesterday afternoon, the two adults had both chicks on one parent's back while the other parent did the fishing. From time to time, the chicks would be in the water but then right back on. I'm hopeful, yet there are predators and all sorts of things that could happen. Each day they grow and develop and have a better chance for survival.

## Who are the members of our board?

Interested in writing an article for our newsletter? Contact Sharon O'Donnell at [info@wwwpa.org](mailto:info@wwwpa.org).

Sharon O'Donnell, Chair  
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Lake Waukewan

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