

# 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*



Photo by Tracey Pratt

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Newsletter Editor : Jamie Heminway

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### Update on Tree Cutting and Herbicide Applications by New Hampshire Electric

By Catherine Greenleaf

New Hampshire Electric engaged in a widespread tree-cutting campaign in the Lakes Region during the spring and summer of 2021.

NHEC announced it would hire a third-party company to spray and paint tree stumps with several herbicides, which may include Krenite S (Fosamine Ammonium) to discourage stump growth once tree cutting was completed. The application of herbicides will take place over the course of the next several years.

Unfortunately, Krenite S contains phosphorous, which research has shown can increase Cyanobacteria blooms in lake water. In addition, Krenite S can be toxic to non-target species and is likely to reach shallow groundwater in silty and loamy soils, according to

the National Pesticide Information Center. According to the NPIC, Krenite S has demonstrated long-term persistence in groundwater, which can have an impact on people's drinking water wells.

Aquatic ecosystems potentially at risk include water bodies such as lakes, ponds, reservoirs, streams, rivers and estuaries adjacent or downstream from the targeted area. The research shows Krenite S can be toxic to aquatic animals, pollinators, birds, mammals and humans.

The town of Center Harbor has provided information and maps of the projected target areas for herbicide application on its website, which can be accessed at [centerharbornh.org](http://centerharbornh.org). At this date, the streets in Center Harbor slated for herbicide application presently are Coe Hill Road, Butterfield Road, Old Center Harbor Road (Meredith), Chester Lane, Ridge Berry Lane, Beaverside

Drive, Meadow Drive, Overlook Drive, Route 25B, and College Road.

While New Hampshire Electric is required to leave a notice at your home of the projected application schedule along with pertinent contact information, a number of lake homes are either vacant, unoccupied, being rented, or have no mailboxes. Be sure to do your due diligence and stay in contact with your town offices and/or NHEC for updates.

Did you know you have a legal right to refuse herbicide application on your property? You can protect your property, the lake, and the watershed, by opting out of the process.

To opt out of herbicide application, it is important to contact New Hampshire Electric and to post a sign at both ends of your property delineating the area you want left alone.

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## 2021 Waukewan Lake Host Program Update

By Anne Sayers

The 2021 lake host program on Waukewan went very smoothly, although there wasn't as much traffic from non-Waukewan boaters. We were pleased no invasive species were identified and that rainy weather kept the boat traffic down this year.

Because the town of Meredith donates money to the program, we do not need volunteer hours to offset it; however, our volunteers are dedicated to the program and convened one day for two-hour shifts on a weekly basis. We could do additional days next year if we were able to get more people to volunteer.



Photo by Tracey Pratt

## Lake Winona Lake Host Program a Success in 2021

By Catherine Greenleaf

The Lake Winona Improvement Association (LWIA) hosted a successful Lake Host program this past summer.

Co-coordinators Kay Anderson and Catherine Greenleaf, both residents of Lake Winona and members of the LWIA, worked together to find and train a paid lake host and volunteers to inspect boats at the boat launch for invasive aquatic species from June until September of 2021.

The coordinators focused on providing weekend and holiday coverage, resulting in the inspection of over 150 boats.

The Lake Host Program, which is overseen by the New Hampshire Lakes Association, was designed to help identify, detect, and remove invasive aquatic species like Eurasian Milfoil and the Chinese Mystery Snail. These species can clog waterways, making swimming and boating difficult. They can also rob native aquatic animals of food resources.

These invasive species often arrive in the United States by hitchhiking on large shipping barges from other countries, and slowly making their way northward by attaching to boats used on New England lakes.

The Lake Winona Lake Host Program has been approved by the New Hampshire Lakes Association for another \$1,000 grant for next year.



Photo by Sharon O'Donnell

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## Loons of the Waukewan-Winona Watershed

By Linda Heminway

As I write this, it is one day after we took our final boat cruise of the season on Lake Winona to determine that our two adult and two juvenile loons have migrated. This was the third such cruise conducted to determine that our loons have officially left. This time of year brings both relief and sadness: relief that they are safely on their way to non-freezing water, but also sadness, as this means another season for them has come to an end. I already miss their calls and my sightings of them. They are so special to us all. I know you all share these same feelings. We love our loons.

We had a good year on Winona, but the neighboring lakes in our watershed did not fare so well. Near the end of the season, I got a report from our Lakes Region Loon Biologist, Jayden Jech, that banded loons on both Waukewan and Hawkins Pond had not been confirmed as present in 2021. The previously banded individuals may be at a different location, or avoiding band re-sight. On Winona, our adult loons' bands were unconfirmed until very late in the season. But, our loon biologist, using a view scope, confirmed the bands on both the male and female on his very last visit of the season.

This is good information to report to the Loon Preservation Committee as these things are tracked, as well as the numbers of eggs, chicks, and survivors. In fact, every single egg that is un-hatched is analyzed and kept. The future of loons in New Hampshire is under careful watch. In fact, more information about loons is kept in Moultonborough, NH than any other place in the world. We in the Lakes Region are blessed to have such a reference at our fingertips.

The Waukewan territorial pair had a failed nesting attempt at the beginning of the season due to an unknown nest failure. They then successfully re-nested to hatch one loon chick, which was later lost due to unknown causes. This loon chick was under high stress from human disturbances, reports of eagle disturbances, and intruding loons. We ask you to keep watch over our loons: be protective, and if you see anyone within 150 feet of chicks, especially, speak with the individuals who may not be aware that their



Photo by Linda Heminway

presence causes stress and may contribute to the loss of one of these precious birds. If you cannot reach out personally, contact Marine Patrol.

The Hawkins Pond loons, unfortunately, had a nest failure earlier in the season, with nest failure likely related to unknown predation.

On Winona, our efforts to increase nesting material and improve the nest raft were rewarded with two eggs. Last year, the one egg on the nest was lost and we listened carefully to suggestions from Sr. Biologist, John Cooley, to beef up nesting materials. Our loons appeared more "secretive" this year, and we were unable to determine if there were two eggs on the nest until after the hatch of the first chick. We then observed that nesting continued and a second chick hatched within two days. Our first hatch was Sunday, June 19 (the second-earliest hatch in the NH Lakes Region) and our second hatch was on Sunday, June 20.

Throughout the season, we had several attempts by bald eagles to harass and capture the loon chicks. Our adult pair worked very hard to protect their young. The chicks quickly went from fuzzy little puffballs to juveniles. They learned to dive when their parents called out. It seemed like every day that the eagles came to the lake and attempted to capture (or

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harass) the juveniles/chicks. Our adult pair handled this well and dramatically fought them off with lots of wing action and loudness. The only thing those eagles left Winona with was fish this year. Bravo!



Photo by Jan Carney

The juvenile eagles appeared later in the season and they also hunted regularly on Winona. Bald eagles have made an amazing comeback after near-extinction, and hopefully our loons will do the same. Yet, eagles are quite the hunters and loons are their natural prey, though their preferred food is fish, thankfully.

This year, according to Harry Vogel, Executive Director of The Loon Preservation Committee, loons have not had the most successful of years. The large amounts of rain at the beginning of summer brought lake water levels high, washing away several nests

### **In Memory of David Reilly**

By Sharon O'Donnell

David Reilly was a founding member and co-chair of WWWPA. He passed away peacefully at the age of 74 years on Saturday, June 26, 2021 after a long illness. He was a long-time resident of Center Harbor, New Hampshire who served on the town planning board. He was very active in the town of Center Harbor and supported the Loon Preservation Committee and the

Lakes Region Conservation Trust. He also served on the Center Harbor Heritage Commission and the Lake Winona Improvement Association. He was devoted to preserving the environment and the beauty of the NH Lakes Region and its watershed.

He grew up in Massachusetts and attended Salem State University. He had a successful career working for the city of Somerville and then for the state of Massachusetts. He also enjoyed serving on the

and eggs. Predators have taken eggs and chicks. The lack of success on Waukewan as well as Hawkins Pond is indicative of what many lakes have experienced in New Hampshire. 2021 was a rough year for our feathered friends. We are pleased, at least, that Winona's two chicks grew and fully fledged. We hope our watershed has a much more prolific year in 2022 and beyond.

Next year, we shall continue our efforts to help the loons. If you see a loon that needs help, call the Loon Center at (603) 476-5666. Also, the Loon Center has a supply of non-lead fishing tackle, as does your local bait and tackle shop. Lead use in sinkers is the number one cause of loon deaths. It is so preventable.

I must personally thank my husband, Mark, for his strength and tireless efforts in floating the loon nest raft and warning signs. I also recognize Pam Hunt of Lake Winona for her constant effort and vigilance in keeping an eye on our loons and helping out wherever needed. I also recognize Jeanne Chute of Winona for her amazing watchfulness and reporting of Loon issues. Jay Buckley is recognized for his efforts to watch over our nest raft and asking people who got a little too close to move on. He also contributed some really great branch clippings that were used to improve our nest. Catherine Greenleaf is appreciated for having signs made up for our incoming roads around the lake and for our boat launch. I am so proud of everyone who has contributed. There are others not named as well. Thank you so much for your continued support on behalf of our loons.

board of directors for the battleship USS Massachusetts and battleship USS Cove in Fall River, Massachusetts. He loved history! He was always there to volunteer his help whenever he was called upon and gave unselfishly of his time to the causes he loved. He will be missed by his colleagues here at WWWPA.

(Some of the information in this article was provided by the obituary printed via the Ashley Funeral Home/*The Boston Globe*)

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Photo by Deb Corr

## **Maintaining Your Septic System to Protect the Lake**

By Catherine Greenleaf

For those of us who love lakefront living, there is no better feeling in the world than watching our beloved children and grandchildren enjoy the water, be it swimming, boating or fishing.

But all of these fun activities can end up being banned on a lake that is fouled by unhealthy contaminants like septic seepage, resulting in extended periods of cyanobacteria blooms and/or high fecal coliform counts in the water. The most important thing you can do to ensure the health of your lake is to take great care with your septic system.

Some lakefront homeowners are under the impression that because their cottage or house is open for only six months of the year, septic inspection and pump-out can be delayed. This is a serious misconception and one of the biggest contributors to lake contamination.

A septic system needs to maintain a steady temperature inside the tank in order to function properly, according to septic experts, and this can only be accomplished with a system that is used all year long. Lake homes and cottages that are closed up for the winter have one of the highest incidences of mal-

function. Timely inspections and pump-outs are critical.

Here are some tips to help you keep your septic system functioning optimally:

1. Stay alert. There are several signs you may have a faulty septic system. These may include the odor of raw sewage near the lake house or vent pipe. You may notice very damp ground or wastewater pooling in the leach field or along the drainage pipes. You may also see watery effluvia running down to the lake or backing up in the sink, shower, or toilet (even temporarily) and then receding. All of the above signs are urgent and require immediate attention. Keep the phone number for your septic company close at hand.
2. The salt discharged from water softeners can cause serious problems with a septic system. If your septic company reports the scum layer is abnormal, stop using it or switch to one of the new salt-free water softeners.
3. Avoid overcrowding of your cottage/house with guests or renters as this puts undue stress on your septic system and can cause it to malfunction. Rent a porta-potty for large family events.
4. Have your septic system pumped and inspected every two to three years, at a minimum. Cesspools should be inspected and emptied every year. If you still use a cesspool, which is at very high risk for contaminating the lake, please consider replacing it with a modern septic system.
5. Protect your leach field from damage due to compaction from vehicles and blocked pipes from the roots of trees and/or shrubs.
6. Septic systems can account for up to 12% of the phosphorus that reaches lake water. Avoid the use of phosphate-based detergents and soaps, which can contribute to harmful cyanobacteria blooms and algal overgrowth that reduces oxygen and causes the deaths of aquatic animals like fish. There are many phosphate-free products now available on the market.

Lastly, adequately maintaining your septic system pays off in the long run. Consider the cost benefits. While a septic system costs less than \$400 to pump, the cost to replace a system can run in the area of \$15,000 or more.

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## **WWWPA Community Presentation: Harry Vogel**

By Sharon O'Donnell

On August 11, 2021, the Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association (WWWPA) presented its summer speaker lecture at the Meredith Community Center in Meredith, New Hampshire. Harry Vogel from the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) gave a presentation about loons and their habitats.

The presentation was well-attended, advertised in the Laconia Daily Sun, and was open and free to the public. The Loon Preservation Committee is located in Moultonborough, New Hampshire and has the most comprehensive database regarding loon populations in the world. The LPC was created in 1975 in response to concerns about the dramatically declining loon population and the effects of human activities on loons. LPC is currently a leader among environmental organizations working to preserve the endangered species.

Harry Vogel has given presentations for WWWPA in the past and they have always been very well-attended by our members and the community at large. WWWPA has been supportive of LPC by contributing to the organization and continuing to be a LPC member. Thank you to Harry Vogel and all of those who attended the lecture.



**Who's Been on the Beach?** Some have guessed squirrel, chipmunk, or raccoon. We'll probably never know for certain, but it's fun to wonder!

Photo by Linda Heminway

## **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  
Lake Waukewan

Linda Heminway, Secretary  
Lake Winona

Deb Finch, Director  
Lake Waukewan

Jeff Moody, Director  
Lake Waukewan

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Lew Sayers, Treasurer  
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Catherine Greenleaf, Director  
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