

# WEBSTER LAKE NEWS

Franklin, NH Spring 2017

## *Celebrating Independence Day!*

No one celebrates our country's independence better than Webster Lakers! This year's Fourth of July celebration will be on Saturday, the First of July (rain date July 2<sup>nd</sup>).

Breakfast on the Beach (Griffin Beach) begins at 8 a.m. and serving continues until 11 a.m. Come join this annual social get-together and re-unite with all your lake friends. Pancakes, egg sandwiches, juice and coffee: only \$6 for adults and \$4 for children.

The annual Boat Parade kicks off later that afternoon, so between now and then, get your creativity in gear for this year's theme: *Recognizing our First Responders!* Firefighters, police officers, and EMTs deserve our show of appreciation, so let's honor them! Decorate your boat and/or your dock with First Responder bells and whistles. If you're cruising in the boat parade, meet at the lake by Griffin Beach at 2:30 p.m., heading in a counter-clockwise direction at headway speed.

The sights and sounds of fireworks around the lake could begin even before that weekend and go on well after, so let's take a minute to consider how that applies to us and our beautiful lake.

First and foremost, the property that fireworks are discharged on has to have the owners' permission. The Webster Lake Association urges landlords to not allow renters to discharge fireworks on their property. Owners' permission also applies to rights-of-way as well, meaning that each resident with a shared, deeded right-of-way would have to give permission for the discharge of fireworks in that right-of-way.

The Lake itself is owned by the State, therefore permission to discharge fireworks *into* the lake would require a permit from the State. Being well aware that discharging fireworks into the lake allows unwanted chemicals and litter in the form of forever plastic and cardboard, the State is unlikely to issue such a permit.

And then there's the noise factor. The City of Franklin has in effect a noise ordinance. Loud fireworks discharged after 10 p.m. would be in violation of that ordinance. Also, the noise generated by fireworks has been seen to have adverse effects on nesting loons, other wildlife, and domestic animals.

A person discharging fireworks has to be 21 years of age or older.

We encourage you to celebrate, decorate, socialize, and enjoy the holiday, but be considerate of your neighbors and recognize the regulations in effect to protect us and our lake.



*Appreciating Our  
First Responders!*

# Calendar Photo Contest

Hope you're enjoying your Webster Lake 2017 Calendar! Great images of our beautiful lake, right?!

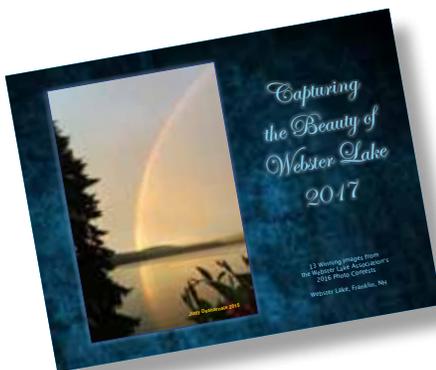
The plan this year is to have just one photo contest, closing on September 5<sup>th</sup>, with 13 winning images selected to be portrayed in the 2018 Webster Lake Fundraising Calendar.

And starting this year the contest will have a theme; this year's theme: "*Webster Lake Activity: Wildlife and Human*". This means, unfortunately, that sunset and sunrise images (unless they include "lake activity") won't make the cut. (But save those images, just in case "Sunrise/Sunset" becomes a theme another year.)

Photos should be horizontal (landscape) because of calendar format, and can be taken anytime in recent years. We ask that if the images include humans, you get their permission to be featured in a published calendar before submitting.

You can submit your photo images (high resolution!) via JPEG attachment to [nancy.wolcott.47@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.wolcott.47@gmail.com) anytime between now and September 5<sup>th</sup>. Please include your name, phone number, address, email address, and approximate date the photo was taken. Participants can submit between one and five photos each.

Shortly after September 5<sup>th</sup>, a judging panel will meet to vote on the winners, and winners will be notified within a week. The 2018 Webster Lake Calendar will be available for purchase online by the end of September 2017. All winners will receive a free calendar. What a deal!



## A New Season on Webster Lake

Last fall the lake experienced the worst cyanobacteria outbreak it has seen in a decade. There are several reasons for this. First, too many nutrients are entering the water. Secondly, the season was very dry and the flow-through that allows nutrients to flush out was at a standstill.

Each year from June through September, WLA volunteers gather test data on water quality by sampling monthly at various locations within the lake and its tributaries. Those samples are submitted to NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) for analysis. While the overall results are OK, there is still plenty of room for improvement. Our main issue is nutrient loading, and the sources should not be unfamiliar to you. Nutrients come from rain-water runoff, organic material, soaps, animal waste, fertilizers, and septic systems. We have been pounding away at these themes for years. Lessening nutrient loading is the only way we're going to improve water quality and lessen cyanobacteria outbreaks.

When asked for an analysis of the assessment of Webster Lake, Sara Steiner, our DES contact wrote this:

"Your pH levels are pretty much where you want them in terms of aquatic life and sometimes are a little lower than we like to see. Cyanobacteria blooms can cause a rise in pH and dissolved oxygen, so don't be alarmed to see higher pH/oxygen readings during bloom conditions. The low dissolved oxygen levels are directly related to the amount of organic matter and fall-out/sedimentation to the lake bottom. Ideally you want to minimize sedimentation/erosion from watershed sources such as beaches, shoreline areas, Sucker Brook sub-watershed, dirt/gravel roads, and driveways. And, by limiting nutrients to reduce cyano/algal blooms, you will reduce the fall-out of dead cells to the lake bottom which add to the organic layer and oxygen deficit by decomposition. The City could consider perching one or both beaches as a means to reduce some sedimentation. **But again, the focus on nutrient reductions to reduce lake productivity is what will benefit the lake the most.** Once watershed sources of nutrients are limited, you can focus on ways to reduce internal loads that may be a result of dissolved oxygen deficits. I think you are making progress on nutrient reductions and moving in the right direction."

The WLA urges you to inspect your property to make sure that:

- Only phosphorus-free fertilizer is applied;
- Your septic is in good shape and gets pumped regularly;
- Rain water runoff is directed to vegetated areas or otherwise remediated before entering the lake;
- Car, boat, or other washing activities involving soaps (water) are not allowed to enter the lake;
- Leaves and organic material are kept out of the street and therefore the lake;
- Animal waste is picked up;
- A filter buffer strip of deep-rooted plantings should be considered along the shoreline.

Let's all work together for a healthy lake environment! Enjoy the season.



# Choose Franklin!

What's Choose Franklin? Choose Franklin was formed in the spring of 2004, and operates as a 501(3)(c) non-profit corporation. The Choose Franklin initiative provides community collaboration to revitalize the City of Franklin. This successful approach involves input and participation from the entire community; merchants, property owners, local government officials, and civic leaders who are all unified in the effort.

The next Choose Franklin Meeting will be June 1<sup>st</sup> at 8 a.m. at the Franklin Public Library. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend to learn, ask questions, and provide input.

Recently the City of Franklin has announced that its Façade Improvement Program is fully-funded and work to complete critical façade improvements to historic storefronts in the downtown is under way. These important upgrades are possible thanks to Eversource's purchase of \$275,000 of a \$400,000 tax credit

## Little Free Libraries

On June 15th, the WLA will officially start up its two Little Free Libraries once again – one at the Steadman Pavilion on Griffin Beach and one near 75 Webster Avenue. The season will end on September 15th. They will be available for anyone to take a book, return a book, share books, and give books.

Last year was a successful first season for our Little Libraries. We have joined part of a movement that began in 2010 “to promote literacy and the love of reading by free book exchanges worldwide.”

Many thanks again to Laurie Brothers for opening this book (so to speak).

award from the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority.

Leading the City's Façade Improvement Project are the Franklin Business and Industrial Development Corporation and non-profit PermaCityLife, which has purchased seven vacant and underutilized buildings for the purpose of completing significant renovations and attracting new tenants. Several businesses have already committed to occupying the revitalized, mixed-use space, including a sporting goods store, coffee house, software firm, restaurant and brew pub, an art gallery, and Colby-Sawyer College.

## Flying High

Remember when a drone was nothing more than a male honeybee? Well, the word has taken on a new definition in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and, like it or not, it's all the buzz. So what does that mean on Webster Lake?

The drones we're talking about are considered Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and operators must adhere to federal regulations. Under Public Law 112-95 Section 336, operators must provide prior notification to the airport and air traffic control tower when flying within five miles of an airport. It may come as a surprise to you that Webster Lake has three airports on the FAA list within five miles: Gill Pond NH12; Ward Field NH20; and the hospital heliport.

Drones must be registered and must weigh no more than 55 pounds (unless certified by a community-based organization), and must be flown within visual line of sight. There are other regulations as well, so read up!

## Lake Host Program

The WLA is proud to participate for a 14<sup>th</sup> year in the New Hampshire Lakes Association's Lake Host Program, providing a Lake Host each weekend and holiday from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Our partnership with the City of Franklin Parks and Rec has helped us find talented staff, and we are pleased that Meaghan will be returning for a second year. Parks and Rec is also hoping to hire a Beach Attendant, who would be cross-trained as a substitute Lake Host. Contact Franklin Park and Recs online or by phone if interested.

Effective Jan. 1, 2017, a new “Clean and Drain” law (NH RSA 487:16-d) states that all recreational boaters are required to:

1. Clean off all fragments of plants, animals, and debris on outside of vessel before leaving a launch;
2. Drain boats before leaving the ramp (*paddle craft and non-motorized boats as well*);
3. Open/remove any drain plugs while trailering when transporting boats between water bodies.

Given the design of Lagace Beach boat ramp, boaters are advised to find a safe area away from the ramp to “clean and drain”.

## Webster Lake Association

PO Box 44, Franklin, NH 03235  
www.websterlakenh.com

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## Lake Lessons: *Critter Caution*

By Barry Freedman  
78 Webster Avenue

Years ago my wife and I bought our cottage on Webster Lake for warm weather enjoyment. Come October, we closed the place and departed to southern climes.

One May, several years ago, as we returned to commence another 'season' at the Lake, my wife noticed something was amiss inside the cottage. As I looked through the kitchen door window, I could see pots and pans strewn on the floor, as well as empty cereal boxes on the counters. *Someone had been in the cottage during the winter!*

After assessing the situation, I sprang into action, sending my wife into the cottage, first! I checked downstairs for broken windows or door locks, while my wife went upstairs with the freshly laundered linens. As I was making my inspection, I heard my wife let out a scream, followed by a door slamming shut. She came to the head of the stairs and announced, "I know who broke in!" "Who?" said I. "A raccoon!" she shouted. "How can you tell?" I asked. "Because it's lying on our bed!"

I went upstairs and peeked into our bedroom. Sure enough, there was the raccoon looking at me staring at him! The critter seemed to be enjoying our bed.

I called the Franklin Police. The desk sergeant was nice enough but said the police were NOT coming to get the varmint. Instead, I was given the telephone number of New Hampshire Animal Control.

When you call NHAC, the first thing you hear is: "What animal?" (It seems that they have departments for bear, deer, moose, squirrels, raccoons, skunks, etc.) The raccoon lady was understanding, but explained that they were not coming to get the varmint either. The best way to get rid of the animal, she said, was to make it "uncomfortable." (I was pretty sure she wasn't talking about raising the rent!) She also stated that I shouldn't shoot it in the house. As I don't own a gun this was not

an option for me, but I was curious. "Why shouldn't I shoot it in the house?" "Because raccoon blood leaves a permanent stain," she explained.

By the way, she asked, is it a male or female? In all the excitement, I forgot to look! What difference does it make? She stated that if it was a female and there were "kits", that raccoon will die defending her babies. (I was lucky; it was a male.)

She advised that raccoons have a natural aversion to ammonia which is found in Windex. So, armed with a broom and a bottle of Windex, I entered my bedroom. I tried to persuade him to leave. No luck. It seemed he'd had a great winter and was quite comfortable in our house. After 20 minutes of spraying and prodding, I finally cornered him. He started snarling! I said, "Okay, you stay; I'll leave."

I called back the raccoon lady who told me the only other option was to trap him with a sweet bait such as peanut butter. "Smooth or chunky?" I asked. She was not amused, and wished me luck.

The local hardware store (since closed) had the traps. One hundred dollars to buy, or \$5 per day to rent. By the time I returned to the cottage and finished baiting the trap, the raccoon had left the bedroom through the outer door. HOORAY!

But, **how** had he gotten into the cottage in the first place?

Just then the phone rang. It was my neighbor across the street. "Do you know you have a raccoon trying to get into your house?" (I am not making this up.) "How do you know?" "Because I see him climbing up your **chimney!**"

The previous fall on a chilly evening, I had made a fire in the fireplace but forgot to close the flue! I returned to the hardware store, gave back the trap, and purchased a "cage" for the top of the chimney.

You should get one, too.

## Calendar

### JULY

#### Breakfast on the Beach

Saturday, July 1, 2017, 8:00 -11:00 a.m.  
Rain-date: Sunday, July 2, 2017  
Griffin Beach

#### Boat Parade

Saturday, July 1, 2017, 2:30 p.m.  
Rain-date: Sunday, July 2, 2017  
Gather at Griffin Beach area;  
Theme: "Appreciating our First Responders"  
Counter-Clockwise this year

#### Annual Yard Sale

Saturday, July 15, 2017; 9:00 - 3:00  
Location: The old Rowell's Auction House  
lot on Route 11, West Franklin  
(same as last year).  
Questions? Contact Laurie Salame at  
lsalame@isenberg.umass.edu

### AUGUST

#### Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 5, 2017  
9:00 a.m. - Coffee  
9:30 a.m. - Meeting  
Franklin Library, Second Floor  
(Minutes of last year's meeting available  
at websterlakenh.com)

### SEPTEMBER

#### Annual Food Drive/ Ice Cream Social

Saturday, September 2, 2017; 2:00 - 4:00.  
Webster Lake residents are asked to  
bring nonperishable food items to the  
Steadman Pavilion on Griffin Beach or  
earlier that week to designated drop-off  
points (see road signs).

#### Photo Calendar Contest Deadline

Tuesday, September 5, 2017  
See Article on Page 2.