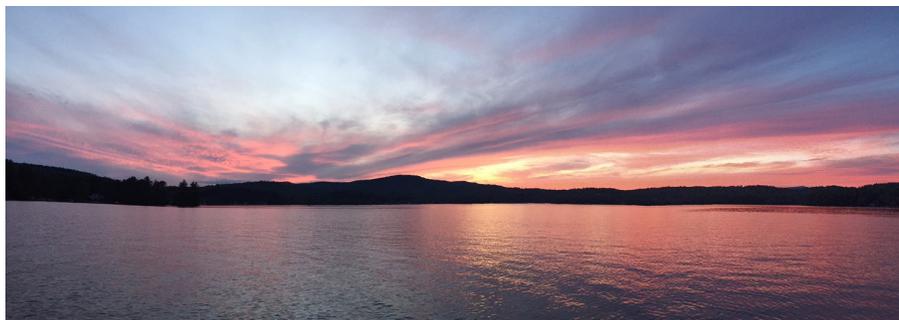


Legends of the Lake

The Sterbens' Story



Thirty-six years ago I got my very first teaching job at the Winnisquam Regional Middle School in Tilton. I quickly fell in love with my students and even more so with New Hampshire. I loved the smell of the air, the unlimited access to nature, the friendliness of people of all ages and the endless beauty. I was lucky enough to rent a house on Webster Lake for a whopping \$100 a month. I didn't care that it had no walls to speak of. The spectacular views changed every day, snow fell in buckets, and I could walk across an entire lake!

When my boyfriend from Long Island, New York, came to visit, we enjoyed as much as we could, going hiking, skiing and playing hockey on the lake. However, he did not share my rapture and would repeatedly say, "How could you live here...there's nothing to do...when are you coming home?"

After a year of the good life, he asked me to marry him. I said yes and back to New York I went. Thirty-one years later I discovered VRBO and decided to look up Webster Lake for a vacation rental. We wanted to share the beauty of New Hampshire with our son. A lovely house with a gorgeous view of the lake caught my eye. "Perfect," I thought, "It has everything we wanted and it's right on the lake. And it has a cool name...Blueberry Cove, very enticing!"

We got here and immediately fell head over heels with the house, the lake, the loons, everything. By the end of the week, I told my husband that I thought this rental was actually the house I lived in so long ago. "No way!" he laughed. "This house has walls and it's so beautiful!" We rented the same house the next year and did some investigating. Sure enough, it was the same house only the previous two owners gave it an incredible makeover. Now my husband asked me, "How could you have ever moved away from here?!"

Even when we couldn't rent that particular house, we kept coming back to Webster Lake. Its serenity called to us all year long. Spending a week here was truly a perfect vacation. Then, to our amazement, the owners informed us that Blueberry Cove was for sale! We know somehow it was meant to be ours.

So here we are! We've come a full thirty-six year old circle to get back to a place we love to call home.

Calendar of Events

Breakfast on the Beach

Saturday, July 6th
Steadman Pavilion
8:00am – 11:00am

Weed Watcher Training Program

Saturday, July 6th
Griffin Beach 10:00am

Boat Parade

Saturday, July 6th
2:30pm meet at Griffin Beach
(rain date Sunday, July 7th)

WLA Annual Yard Sale

Saturday, July 13th
The old Rowell's Auction House
property on Webster Lake Road (RT 11)
9:00am – 3:00pm

Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 3rd
Franklin City Library Conf. Room
9:00am Coffee, 9:30am Meeting

Annual Ice Cream Social/Food Drive

Saturday, August 31st
2:00pm – 4:00pm

RESOURCES

Boater Education Classes	603-267-7256
Boater Safety/Marine Patrol	603-293-2037
Franklin Municipal Services	603-934-4103
Exotic Plant Concerns	603-271-2248
The Loon Center	603-476-5666
Shoreland Concerns	603-271-2147
Water Quality Concerns	603-419-9229
Weed Watcher Volunteers	603-271-2248
Wetlands Concerns	603-271-2147
Webster Lake Association	603-671-7961



Protecting the Lake

By Mark Lorenze

Webster Lake is the crown jewel of the City of Franklin, particularly for those of us who reside on or near its shores. It provides joy for all by providing recreation, leisure time activities, and all the wonders of nature that accompany this bountiful ecosystem.

But the lake is sensitive to what it's being fed, some of which is not so good.

Lakes are broken into three classifications by limnologists, based on their ability to sustain aquatic life. Webster Lake is classified as a mesotrophic lake.

Meso, or middle, means we have a medium amount of the nutrients phosphorus and nitrogen, and that the lake has a good amount of bottom sediment with, in our case, diminishing oxygen levels. Mesotrophic lakes are shallow enough to

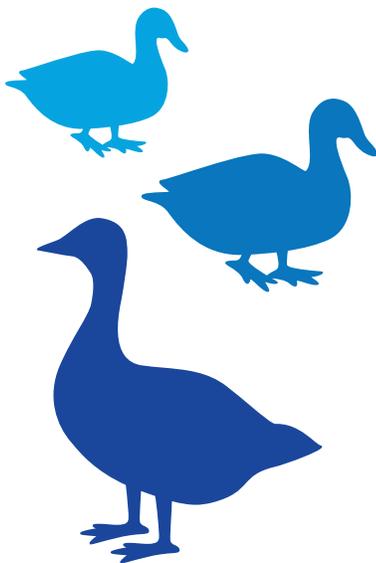
stratify, that is have multiple temperature layers that tend to allow harmful bacteria to emerge when the temperature becomes uniform throughout the water column. Herein lies the problem. Nutrients fed into the lake reside in the sediment and feed the bacteria which then bloom as cyanobacteria when the conditions are just right. We have seen this occurrence on multiple occasions in the past.

Let's be environmentally conscious stewards of the lake we all treasure so it will be viable for all to enjoy for generations to come. Your lake thanks you.



So, what can we do to protect the lake from these harmful cyanobacteria outbreaks? The simplest answer is to stop feeding it nutrients, mainly phosphorus and nitrogen. How? Here are some pointers:

- Do not put **any** fertilizer within 25 feet of the water's edge. The Shoreline Protection Act prohibits it. Any fertilizer applied ought to be phosphorus-free and slow release.
- Make sure your septic system is functioning appropriately and you have it pumped every two years.
- Control erosion. Direct any water runoff into vegetated areas. This is the single highest contributor to nutrient loading.
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- Do not discharge fireworks into the lake. Period. Not only is it illegal to discharge fireworks into state waters without a permit, but fireworks contain heavy metal chemicals and non-biodegradable plastics.
- Motor at headway speed in shallow waters so as not to disturb the bottom sediment. Stirring the sediment contributes to bacteria outbreaks.



DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE

We all know there are many ducks and geese that love Webster Lake as much we do. Unfortunately these water lovers can make their way to the beaches and many of our docks and rafts, leaving behind a trail of unwanted feces. Please refrain from feeding the ducks and geese. This encourages them to continually visit these spots. Griffin and Lagace Beaches can become contaminated with feces, that gets into the water, causing high levels of bacteria, forcing closure of the beaches until it dissipates. Ribbons, owl statues and even floating alligators have been used to deter the ducks and geese away from the beaches, docks and rafts. They have not always been successful. Trumpeter Swan decoys have been shown to keep the geese at bay and one of our members is giving them a try this season. Swans are territorial and the ducks and geese seem to stay away from their area. If these swans seem to have success, we may see more popping up on the lake.

New Stairway to Steadman Pavilion

Last October, Mark Lorenze donated his time to build a new stairway leading from Webster Avenue to the Steadman Pavilion at Griffin Beach. It was observed at the Ice Cream Social/Food Drive event that some people were having difficulty navigating walking from the road down to the pavilion. The WLA Board of Directors decided it would be a worthy project to ease the accessibility to the pavilion. Mark received the approval of the City of Franklin and put his skills to work.

Thank you Mark for your efforts.



Independence Day Festivities

The WLA Independence Day activities will be held on Saturday, July 6th this year. Sunday, July 7th, will be the rain date. The day will kick off with our annual Breakfast on the Beach from 8:00am – 11:00am. Please come enjoy pancakes, breakfast sandwiches, coffee and friendship. The cost of the breakfast is \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for kids. Wear your patriotic colors.

Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program Coordinator, from DES, will be presenting a Weed Watcher Training program at 10:00am on Saturday, July 6th. She will set up a table near the Steadman Pavilion. After you have enjoyed some breakfast, stop by her table to learn how to conduct a weed survey, what to look for and who to contact if there is a problem. For any invasive species, the best defense is prevention and early detection. She encourages everyone to bring plant samples from the lake that you would like identified.

The annual Webster Lake Boat Parade will take place at 2:30pm on Saturday, July 6th. The theme for this year's parade is "Music through the Ages". Get your creative juices flowing and decorate your boat or dock area with this theme in mind. You may also choose to do a patriotic theme. Boats should meet at Griffin Beach and tour counter-clockwise around the lake.



Fireworks Reminder

Celebrating the 4th of July is a tradition of summer fun. Please remember to celebrate safely and with the health of our lake in mind. Fireworks are beautiful and mesmerizing when viewed in the proper setting.

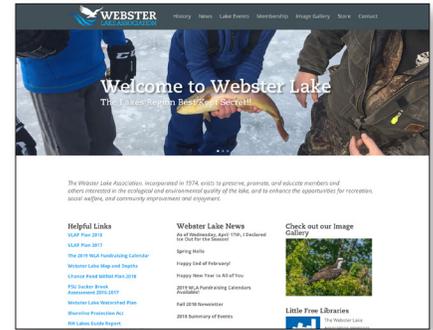
The Webster Lake Association strives to protect our lake environment. Fireworks discharged into the lake are a great concern to the Association. Fireworks discharged in and around the lake can produce significant amounts of perchlorate into the water. These perchlorates are of concern because of their water solubility and toxicity to

mammals. Fireworks are packed with heavy metals such as strontium, aluminum, copper, barium, lead, and cadmium. Cardboard and plastic residue from fireworks produce considerable litter and debris that affects your property, as well as your neighbors'. The noise from fireworks frighten domestic animals and also have a detrimental effect on developing loons and eagles inhabiting our lake.

The City of Franklin has an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of fireworks after 9:30pm. If you rent out your cottage during the summer, please provide this information to your renters. Also fireworks can only be discharged on private property with the owner's permission. It is illegal to discharge fireworks into a New Hampshire body of water without permission. (RSA 160-C:6) If you do choose to discharge fireworks, please make sure the debris and chemicals they produce do not enter the lake. Be mindful of your neighbors and conclude your display by 9:30pm.

Webster Lake Stories

At the WLA Ice Cream Social/Food Drive last September, I had the opportunity to speak with many residents of the lake. A couple of them shared stories of how they came to own property on Webster Lake. I asked Erin and John Sterbens if they would like to submit their story for publication in the WLA newsletter this Spring. They obliged and I hope everyone will enjoy their story. If you have a special story to share, please let me know. Maybe this will be the start of a new tradition. Please send your stories to me at perks1427@yahoo.com.



New Webster Lake Association Web Site

The new WLA website was launched in April. Mark Field, a new property owner on the lake, volunteered to take over the design and hosting of the new site. Mark lives in Reading, MA, with his wife, Amy and their two sons. They are very excited to enjoy their first summer on Webster Lake. Mark owns an award winning graphic design studio. His experience in graphic design and marketing has given the WLA website a fresh new look. It is easy to navigate. If you haven't visited the site yet, go to www.websterlakenh.com and take a look. Please feel free to contact myself, perks1427@yahoo.com or Mark, mfield@markfielddesign.com with any comments.

Webster Lake Association

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Board of Directors

Val Perkins, President
Laurie Salame, Vice President
John Miller, Treasurer
Joan Ingersoll, Secretary
Brian Campbell
Marcia Feener
Bonnie Moore
Ted Starkweather
Debbie Steadman



Webster Lake Updates



Little Free Libraries

Bruce Browne, a member who lives on Lake Shore Drive, has built a third Little Free Library box. This box will be located in the area of Lake Shore Drive. We will now have 3 boxes for members to choose books for their summer reading. The boxes will be stocked from June 15th – Sept 15th. The other two boxes are located at the Steadman Pavilion at Griffin Beach and at 65 Webster Ave.



VLAP Study

Webster Lake participates in the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program each summer. Volunteers take samples from various locations in the lake. The lake is tested three times each summer.

The first test will be conducted in June. These samples are given to DES where the data is compiled and reported to us at the end of the year. The VLAP report for last summer showed the levels of phosphorus and algal growth remained within a good range, however other categories, such as pH, dissolved oxygen and cyanobacteria, were slightly bad. We participate with this program to monitor the health of Webster Lake. As we all continue to be vigilant stewards of nutrient loading of the lake, we hope to keep the trend steady or improving. Please refrain from using fertilizers on lawns, keep your septic system up to date and correct areas of excessive runoff from your property into the lake.



Update Contact Information

Each Spring newsletter contains membership forms to fill out. Please make sure we have your current addresses, phone numbers and emails. If anything changes after filling out your forms, please contact Marcia Feener at mfeener126@aol.com so she can make corrections. We want our data base to be up to date.



Photo Contest/Calendar

The Webster Lake Association sells a photo calendar as a fundraiser each year. Members have submitted beautiful photos in the past. We would like to continue this tradition again. Please continue to take photos in any season at the lake. Information will be forthcoming about a contest and where to submit your photos.

Working Together to Preserve and Protect