

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

The Covid-19 virus has changed our lives. It is a time of uncertainty and that caused some struggle in putting this newsletter together. There seemed to be a disconnect to writing about celebrations and fun events here at the lake. We all have so many other things we are concerned and worried about. Maybe happenings at the lake are the farthest from your mind. But then I thought, maybe the lake is giving you hope and comfort that life will be back to a "normal" sometime soon. We all are hoping that an antibody test will be able to give us a better perspective who has had the virus. We are all hoping a vaccine will become available to help prevent us from getting sick with the virus. We are all hoping that social distancing is working to slow the spread of the virus. When all of this is better documented, there is

hope we will be able to get to the lake. We hope the lake will become the place where families can gather, play games, have cookouts, go swimming, boating and fishing.

Thus, as we move through Spring and welcome Summer, this newsletter arrives with tidbits about keeping our lake healthy, social media, loons, boating safety, a calendar of events, resource and contact information for lake living and the WLA. From the time this newsletter is written until it arrives in your mailbox, many new directives on how we will go about life will be made. Understand that events that are on the calendar may have to be changed, but it is hoped that this summer at Webster Lake will be another great one!

Photo: Bill Cain

2020 Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 20th	WLA Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, July 4th	Breakfast on the Beach, 8am-11am, Steadman Pavilion
Saturday, July 4th	Boat Parade Saturday, 2:30pm, meet at Griffin Beach, traveling clockwise (rain date Sunday, July 5th)
Saturday, July 18th	WLA Yard Sale 9am-3pm, Set Up Friday, July 17th 3pm-6pm, the old Rowell's Auction House property on Webster Lake Road (Rt 11)
Saturday, August 1st	WLA Annual Meeting 9am, Coffee 9:30am, Meeting 10am, (location TBD)
Saturday, September 5th	WLA Board of Directors Meeting 12:30pm
Saturday, September 5th	WLA Ice Cream Social/Food Drive 2pm-4pm, Steadman Pavilion

WLA 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

Boater Safety



We all love to recreate on our beautiful Webster Lake.

Whether you have fun with your motorboat, pontoon boat, personal watercraft, kayak, canoe, sailboat, windsurfer, paddle board or water bike, we all must be aware of boating safety. Marine Patrol is often here at Webster Lake ensuring that our boaters are being safe. Anyone 16 years or older, who operates a boat with 25hp or more, must have passed the boating safety course and received a boating education certificate. Knowing and abiding by the rules and regulations of boating safety, will make everyone safer on our lake. For more information regarding the Boater Safety Course, visit www.boat-ed.com/newhampshire.

Water levels are always changing on the lake. If there are heavy rains, the water level may rise, covering rocks that are normally seen. If rain is at a minimum, the lake level will become lower and more rocks will be exposed. Markers are placed in certain areas of the lake where there are known hazards. Please refresh yourselves on the meanings of these markers and how to navigate around them. https://www.boat-ed.com/newhampshire/studyGuide/New-Hampshires-Spar-Buoys/10103102_700153778/

While you are out enjoying the water, please also consider being on the lookout for unfamiliar plants you may observe. If you notice something unusual, take a photo of it. You can bring it to the attention of the WLA or directly contact Amy Smagula at DES, amy.smagula@des.nh. We also want to keep unwanted items from entering the lake, thus if you carry a trash bag onboard, all trash can be put in the bag and prevent items from blowing into the lake.



REMINDERS



NH Lakes has informed us that Lake Hosts have been deemed essential workers. Therefore, we will be able to continue our efforts to protect Webster Lake from aquatic invasive species this summer. They will be monitoring boats entering the lake on weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day. If you see them on duty, please express your appreciation to them. This is one of the ways your membership dues are put to good use. We receive grant money from NH Lakes that matches our WLA portion of money that pays for these Lake Hosts. It would be nice to have Lake Hosts during the week as well. If you would like to volunteer to be a Lake Host, contact Debbie Steadman at dsteadman@metrocast.net. These volunteer hours will count towards possibly receiving more grant money from NH Lakes to help cover the costs of the program.

Congratulations to our lake residents Marcia Feener, John Miller and Bill and Linda Stronge



for receiving the LakeSmart Award last Fall. LakeSmart is a new program instituted by NH Lakes to help keep our lakes healthy. Please go to their website www.nhlakes.org/lakesmart to learn more about how to live lake friendly. Inform the WLA at perks1427@yahoo.com if you participate and receive this great award.

Rowell's Services is once again offering Webster Lake Days. If you choose to have Rowell's pump your septic system tank on May 29th or June 1st, they will offer a reduced rate for pumping. The rate is \$160 up to 1000 gallons and then sixteen cents per gallon over 1000 gallons. If you choose their services, just mention Webster Lake Days when you give them a call. We all know how

important it is to keep septic systems up to date and properly maintained. Take a moment to check your system and be aware of its needs.

Fireworks are always a concern as Independence Day celebrations approach. We want celebrations to be safe and mindful of the health of the lake. It is illegal to discharge fireworks into a New Hampshire Lake. If fireworks are discharged on private property, you must have the permission of the owner. If you choose to discharge fireworks, please make sure the debris and chemicals are not entering the lake. Fireworks also create loud noises which can disturb pets, small children and the lake wildlife. The City of Franklin has an ordinance stating fireworks should not be discharged after 9:30pm.

Social Media & Technology



Today, more than ever, we have seen the importance of social media and technology. Stay-at Home orders and Social Distancing keeps us from being with family, friends and co-workers. Because of technology some people have been able to work from home. Video conference calls or virtual meetings have been held. Outside the workplace, people have used this technology to hold game nights or even a virtual dinner party, hence the word social media gets applied here, as it allows us to stay in touch.

Staying connected to our residents and keeping them informed is a goal of the Webster Lake Association. Monthly emails are sent from the president of the association and bi-annual newsletters are mailed to our members. The WLA has used online methods of communicating with our residents for many years, including our website (www.websterlakenh.com) and Facebook (Webster Lake Association, Franklin, NH). More recently we also set up accounts in Twitter (@websterlakenh) and Instagram ([webster-lake-association-franklin-nh](https://www.instagram.com/webster-lake-association-franklin-nh)). Many of us may be old fashioned and prefer other modes of communicating, but we must recognize the changing times. We know that some of our members use Facebook. It is a great way to stay connected with the WLA. Please know that as a nonprofit organization we do not pay Facebook money, and because of that they frequently fail to publish or “boost” our posts. (Sometimes only 3 people get to see them!) So be sure to visit our page regularly and LIKE our status. The more often you do that, the greater likelihood that you will see our posts!



ADOPT A HIGHWAY PROGRAM

The NH Department of Transportation’s program, Adopt A Highway, is designed to allow citizens an opportunity to adopt a section of highway for purposes of removing litter from and enhancing the beauty of the adopted section. In the past, the Marrapese Family wanted to participate in this program. They adopted Lake Shore Drive on Webster Lake. Although volunteers have continued to walk this road and keep it clean, the formal adoption application has lapsed. John Marrapese asked me if the Webster Lake Association would be willing to take over as the official sponsor of this roadway. In January, two representatives of the WLA met with the state coordinator of this program and filled out the application. Our name will be added to a sign that is visible at either end of Lake Shore Drive. Volunteers have signed up to be a part of this effort to keep the area around our lake looking beautiful. We will aim to have four specific “trash pickup” days, however, I know that many of our residents are vigilant about picking up trash in their areas on daily walks. On a recent drive around the lake, this sign and trash can were spotted on Lake Shore Drive. There are passionate volunteers devoted to keeping trash at a minimum. Dog walkers should also be mindful of having an appropriate bag with them to clean up after their pets. Thank you to everyone for keeping the environment in the forefront of your daily living.



LOON CORNER

Linda Johnson has watched and photographed Webster Lake loons for many years, while in her kayak or on her pontoon boat. She has a wealth of information and graciously agreed to contribute an article for this newsletter. It is hoped we will have more articles for the Loon Corner in future WLA newsletters.



Photography: Linda Johnson

LOONS MAKING A COME BACK ON WEBSTER LAKE

In 2010, a young loon pair decided to build their nest in a cove on Webster Lake. This was the first successful nest since 1970! My husband, Harold, and I had watched this pair for two years and one evening just before sunset we followed them into the cove. We could not believe our eyes! There in the reeds was the nest that they were building. We watched them every day until July 4th when their chick was born. We went out early that morning with our granddaughters. They were so excited to see this little chick. My youngest granddaughter asked me if we could name the chick Freedom because it was born on July 4th. That was the beginning of the loons coming back to build their nests on Webster Lake. Over the past ten years more loons have been looking for places to build their nests. We have seen at least two pairs of loons looking to build on our lake. There is a nicely protected cove on the lake, thus making it conducive to building nests. Due to the size of this area, it will only be safe for one pair of loons to build a nest. Let's hope this summer brings us a new chick.



Q: Do loons walk on land?

A: Common Loons are not able to stand upright and only go on land to nest or if they are sick or injured.

Q: How long do loons live?

A: Loons can live to be 35 years old and typically the female loon will live longer than the male.

Q: Is it the male or female who decides where the nest will be built?

A: The male decides the location and placement of the nest. The female spends the most time sitting on the nest, but the male will sit for shorter periods.

Linda would be happy to answer more questions about loons. Feel free to email her at dezeinway@comcast.net

Webster Lake Association

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Working Together to Preserve and Protect

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WLA News