

Celebrating Together, Socially Distanced!



The Covid-19 pandemic certainly has changed the ways we do things in our lives. Many national and local events were cancelled and that held true here at Webster Lake. All WLA sponsored activities were cancelled with the exception of our **4th of July Boat Parade**. When the 4th of July came, people were ready to come together and celebrate our families, community and country. The sky was sunny and blue. The water was clear and calm. These were perfect ingredients for record participation in the boat parade. It was noted that 30 plus boats paraded around the lake. The Marine Patrol officer joined the festivities too. There was no specific theme this year. Everyone decorated their boats with whatever idea inspired them. There was plenty of creativity and spirit displayed by the WLA community as you can see in some photos from the parade! The parade was a wonderful event and has been a tradition since 1974. Hopefully, you all have wonderful memories of a nice summer spent at Webster Lake, even in these most unusual times. **Stay safe!**

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

Communities within the WLA Community

PINE COLONY BY BILL CAIN

About 25 years ago I purchased an old map of Webster Lake dated 1892, which is now framed and hanging on a wall in my house.

The map shows every dwelling around the lake at that time, along with the names of the owners. There were only three dwellings on the east side of the lake, or the side where the current community of Pine Colony exists. What had been the Daniel property, and is now the Michael residence, is shown as one of those original properties and, remarkably, it has undergone little or no change since 1892.

Over the years, other houses, including my own which came along in 1932, were built nearby

along the shoreline right up to the marsh at the end of Dyers Cove where the loons nest. The dirt road connecting the residences came to be known as Kwitchersquawkin Lane.

In 1959, formal surveying and zoning took place, which defines all the current property lines. The community adopted the name Pine Colony, the road name was changed to Webster Avenue Extension, and a small association was formed amongst property owners.

Amusingly, a year or so later, an urban legend was born among local adolescents, which had it rumored that the new development on the far side of the lake was a nudist colony.

In 1991, the road name was changed again to Pine Colony Road and was extended to include the section of Franklin City Road starting at Griffin Beach.

Today, the Pine Colony Club is comprised of 14 properties, each with its own dwelling, six of which remain seasonal. Our association holds annual meetings to discuss and vote on concerns and shared responsibilities in the community, including annual dues, which are used to pay for the ongoing maintenance of the private road both in summer and winter. The association president is my wife Peggy Cain, who has served in the role since 1994, and who would be happy to field any questions or comments from the greater Webster Lake community.



NORTH SHORE LANE

BY TAFFY JOHNSON

North Shore Lane is that little dirt road on the north side of the lake just off Lake Shore Drive. It is an informal association of 18 cottages and property owners pay an annual dues of \$200. Dues are used for maintenance and plowing of the road. I've been told that North Shore Lane was developed by a local funeral director after World War II. He built the initial few cottages. It has been said that he "cut corners" (by today's standards) during construction of the properties. For example, we found that we had rights to a "septic system" (50 gallon oil tank) on our neighbors lawn and that our neighbor had rights to a very shallow dug well in our backyard.

We bought our camp on North Shore Lane in July 1971. It is a treasure!

Our boys were 4 and 8 years old.

We had tried camping and that was a disaster. When we moved in, we had no telephone, no second car,

no shower, no hot water, no well, and we soon found out that our septic system was totally inadequate for a family of city folks who didn't know you shouldn't flush for yellow! But we loved it! Our kids met new lake friends and had the freedom to roam, enjoyed floating in the lake and fishing for kibbies. Our cottage was built with scrap lumber, a chimney for a stove was built on the floor joists and began to pull the whole camp to China shortly after we bought it. The camp's foundation was three huge timbers that were rotting out because the lot was so wet. You need to have a sense of humor when you own property!

Through the years, we and our neighbors have improved our properties and I am proud to say that almost everyone on NSL has updated their septic systems. That is important but what really is more important is the wonderful memories we have of this place. Our neighbors, (the Tolman/Protzman/Brown families), have enjoyed the lake for four generations. Our granddaughter who lives in Amsterdam is looking forward to bringing our two great grandchildren for a visit, hopefully next summer. It would be a Golden Anniversary Celebration of our special place. We've made great memories here!



PRESERVING AND PROTECTING THE LAKE

by Mark Lorenze

It is a 24/7/365 job!

Webster Lake is threatened by the land development within the watershed; it is our responsibility to mitigate, as much as possible, the consequences of that fact. Each of us can contribute to caring for the lake by being thoughtful stewards of our properties; in order not to adversely affect the quality of the water and the beauty of the lake we all love so much.



Sources of nutrients negatively affecting the lake include storm water runoff, septic systems, and lawn fertilizers. Controlling these big three will go a long way towards protecting the lake for generations to come. The NH Lakes Association's "Lake Smart" program has a resource library that outlines in detail how to control these nutrient loaders. Go to <https://nhlakes.org/lakesmart>. On

that site you will be able to take a survey of your property to see how lake friendly it is. Should the property meet all the requirements of a lake friendly site, the property will be awarded a lake smart status. You may have seen signs for several properties around the lake that have been granted that designation. Let's see if we can get more compliance with this worthy program.

In the meantime, here is a general guideline for consideration:

Storm water control:

- Plant native plants in bare areas to absorb runoff.
- Direct runoff to vegetated areas.
- Help water from roofs soak into the ground with stone drip edges or drywells.

Fertilizers:

- No fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides should be applied within 40 feet of the lake.
- Beyond 40 feet only slow release, non-phosphorus fertilizers should be applied.

Septic systems:

- Have your septic system pumped on a schedule recommended by your service provider. Service frequency depends on use and size. If settled solids are not removed from the tank, they can wash into and clog the leach field.
- Upgrade or replace your septic system if it is outdated or undersized. The typical life expectancy of a conventional septic system and leach field is approximately 20 years. If your system is approaching this age, or if you have added bedrooms and/ or bathrooms to your house since your septic system was built, have your system evaluated by a licensed septic system installer.

Additionally:

- Use non-phosphate cleaning products and chloride free water softeners.
- Conserve water.
- Watch what you put down the drain: limit bleach, no paint, deodorizers, or tank additives.
- Use pervious pavers, water bars, and vegetated swales to control runoff.
- Use winter de-icers sparingly. Make sure they are chloride-free.
- If possible, keep areas in a natural, vegetated state. Cover all bare areas.
- Repair soil where it has been washed away and divert runoff to a vegetated area.
- Create a vegetated strip along the shoreline.
- Refrain from feeding waterfowl.

All of us have been charged with the responsibility of preserving and protecting the lake.

Let's Not Let it Down

WILDLIFE CORNER

Photography:
Linda Johnson



Linda Johnson shares her thoughts on our Webster Lake wildlife.

Harold and I saw a pair of loons early this Spring. We followed them from mid-May through June. One of the field biologists, who watches loons for the Loon Preservation Center, also spotted this pair going in and out of the cove. The loon population is increasing on Webster Lake. Perhaps it is the abundance of fish or a nice protected cove area that is attracting them. With an increase in the number of loons, it is



more difficult to protect a nest. This young pair was having difficulty protecting their nest. By mid-June we saw them at the edge of the cove trying to keep the other loons away. They could not gain control and that may be why we had no loon chicks. We often saw nine and ten loons at a time on the lake. One morning we followed twelve loons for over an hour, coming and going on the lake. I was able to capture the loons challenging each other for a coveted spot.

Webster Lake is most fortunate to have its own eagle's nest. This summer our Bald Eagle pair had two eggs. They worked hard to keep the eggs warm and dry. Two eaglets were born. The mother and father brought them fish to eat. One eaglet ate a fish that had a hook and lure entangled in it. Unfortunately, it did not survive. The other eaglet became stronger as the mother and father continued to feed it. In September, while photographing out on the lake, another person on the lake told us they had seen the juvenile and its parents flying over Highland Lake. I was able to capture the juvenile on the rock.

TRASH HUNTING

As we sat on our dock on a warm summer afternoon this summer, two 12-year-old girls went by us on a paddle board and water bike. A third was swimming behind them wearing a snorkel mask. They were moving slowly enough that we could speak with



them. We asked them if they were looking for treasures and they responded, "no we are picking up trash"! They were amazed at what they were finding at the bottom of the lake. They were putting items on the paddle board or the bike.

Later that evening, I was paddle boarding and went by the home of Mark Lorenze and Nancy Wolcott. The girls were out front. The "trash hunters" were Mark's granddaughter, Nancy's friend's daughter, and her friend. They had placed

the collection of trash on the shoreline wall. I was amazed as much as they were. These girls took our lake mission to heart. Thank you to Laura Lorenze, Gabriella Gilbert, and Emerson Gitt for cleaning up what others had left behind. You spent your summer afternoon at the lake making a difference!



Webster Lake Association

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