

# Associations Need Volunteers



**An association is a group of people organized for a joint purpose. The Webster Lake Association was founded in 1974 by a group of people whose purpose was to preserve and protect the lake. They also wanted to build a sense of community around the lake by offering social activities for everyone to enjoy. A volunteer is a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task. Together they can make an AMAZING organization.**

For nearly 50 years, the WLA has prided itself on finding ways to fulfill its mission. In its early years, the WLA undertook a project to protect a parcel of land from becoming developed. The non-development of this property meant there would be less human impact on the health of our lake. Could you imagine our Conservation Area filled with condos, boats, and lots of people? We never have to

worry about that kind of intrusion because of the efforts of the WLA. They also started our traditional Boat Parade, held sailboat/canoe races, and sold hot dogs and cokes on the beach to celebrate the Fourth of July.

Over time more projects have been undertaken to preserve and protect the lake. The WLA joined the VLAP water monitoring program through the NH Department of Environmental Services. They also joined NH Lakes Lake Host program, to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. Maintaining our lake's health is vital to all of us and an important part of our association's mission.

To encourage a sense of community and fun, the WLA has continued the Boat Parade, held Breakfasts on the Beach, and enjoyed Ice Cream Socials. We have given back to the community by holding Food Drives and participating in the Little Free Library program. (Continued pg.2)

# ASSOCIATIONS NEED VOLUNTEERS

(continued from cover)

An association needs money to sustain some of these projects. Members are solicited and dues paid each year. The WLA Yard Sale has been our major fund-raising event. Thank you to all for your continued generosity. The membership becomes the pool from which volunteers are recruited to serve as officers and on the 9-member Board of Directors. Among other things, we coordinate programs and events, create a calendar, keep a data base of our membership, send out emails and a newsletter, and maintain a website to keep our membership up to date.

This past summer we saw the cancellation of our annual Breakfast on the Beach because we did not have volunteers to run it. Maybe it is time for new social activities? We know our lives are busy, but we hope our WLA stays strong. Volunteers are lifelines to associations. If you would like to give back to this wonderful lake community, consider volunteering in some way. With your involvement, volunteers can maintain and grow our committees. We need your support with Social Activities, Water Testing, Lake Hosts and Weed Watchers, Little Free Library, Membership and Fund-raising, Newsletter and Website Content. As board members retire, there will be a need to fill their positions as well. Volunteering can be rewarding. We need you! A big thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time and energy to the Webster Lake Association over the past 47 years! Our lake wouldn't be the same without you!

## Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Activities on Webster Lake

- Social Activities
- Water Testing
- Weed Watchers
- Lake Hosts
- Little Free Library
- Membership
- Fund-raising
- Newsletter

**And so much more!**

# NORTHERN RAIL TRAIL

We know Webster Lake is a treasure we all love, but another recreational area at our doorstep is the Northern Rail Trail. Access for this trail is located across the street from the Lagace Beach parking lot, at the corner of Chance Pond Road and Webster Lake Rd (Rt.11). The trail is 58 miles long traveling from The Hannah Duston Park and Ride Trailhead in Boscawen to Lebanon. It is a multi-use trail used by bicyclists, pedestrians, snowmobilers, cross country skiers, and horseback riders.

There is a group of citizens called the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail whose mission is to improve, promote, and maintain the Northern Rail Trail as a four-season, multi-use trail through Merrimack County. The original trail surface was rough ballast left when the old rails were removed. The trail has been resurfaced, using a road grader that compacted the ballast. A mixture of engineered stone dust was placed over this and compacted again, leaving a smooth, natural looking trail. There is a slight uphill grade from South to North.

The section from Webster Lake to Highland Lake in Andover is a popular section. Signs posted in different areas along this section give the user a history lesson of how the railway was built. There is also a unique bicycle art structure and picnic table and American flag art for resting and taking in the natural beauty. If you need a break from lake life, just venture over to the trail and enjoy the beauty it has to offer in all seasons. For more information visit these websites <https://www.northernrailtrail.org/> and <https://fnrt.org/>.



# MILFOIL UPDATE & DIVING CLASS

by Bonnie Moore

I am now a milfoil certified diver; I learned more than I expected to and think it's important to share some of this information.

Most importantly, I learned that milfoil has never been completely eradicated from any water body in New Hampshire. Now you would think that is very bad news, exactly what I thought at first. However, it isn't as bad as it sounds. Chemical treatment is the first step in attempting to control a large milfoil infestation.

Chance Pond was treated in the past, but not monitored closely to make sure the infestation did not return and get out of hand. Of course, we all know it did return. This time we know there are more steps to keeping milfoil under control. The good news is, after the treatment this June, the carpet of milfoil that was seen last Fall is completely gone based on a survey I did via kayak in July. DES personnel also confirmed this in their survey done by boat in July.

Now, we must monitor the lake carefully for new growth and remove it properly before it grows to the surface or gets out of hand.

The milfoil training class teaches how to do this. I recommend it to anyone who is a scuba diver and wants to help. I must caution you that diving for milfoil can be in poor visibility at times and you should be comfortable in this environment.

Properly removing milfoil cannot be done without scuba gear. You must be neutrally buoyant just above the bottom of the lake or pond so that you can very gently wiggle your fingers under any plants found and find the root ball to extract the entire plant root ball and any roots intact that you can find. Gathering these plants, root balls, and roots is obviously important, but so is containing them until you can get them safely bagged so they cannot reach the water again.

One of the safety rules is to never scuba dive alone and to have at least one, but recommended two to three helpers, called "tenders" to be sure there is someone on land who can always call 911, someone in the water who can assist the diver if there is trouble, and a topside tender which is someone in a kayak or boat who follows the diver's bubbles as they travel without hindering them, and collects any plants that may surface during extraction, and bagging them in the boat or kayak they are in.

There is a specific procedure that the diver(s) must follow before, during, and after each dive, and before paperwork is sent to DES directly.

If plants are removed as they start to grow, the milfoil can be held at bay. Now there are challenges with this because you could spend many hours covering a small area and not get to every area within the entire Chance Pond water body. The more help the better chance of keeping it under control.

I am offering to snorkel to view a variety of areas but only scuba dive when I see growth from the snorkeling trips. I snorkeled on September 19th and saw zero plant growth around the area of highest concentration from last Fall, which is between the culvert and the dam. Erin Sterbens was my safety volunteer and did an excellent job; thank you Erin! We met a man and his grandson in a canoe. He asked what we were doing. We informed him a little about the milfoil mitigation and he thanked us for volunteering. EDUCATION is key!

This Spring will be a learning curve for finding where the milfoil will grow first and how fast and long it will take to remove, etc.

Additional volunteers will be needed to be "tenders" on the shoreline for safety and in the water. You don't have to be a WLA member, but we do need to get your information to add to a volunteer list (doesn't mean if you get a call you must go, only if you are available). Before diving I would need at least one volunteer for snorkeling and always welcome more volunteers to provide their phone numbers for direct calling for scuba diving trips. A few of you have already done that and it is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to helping control the milfoil regrowth and reducing the risk of fishermen, kayakers, or boaters breaking off surface plants and bringing them back into our lake.

Education is key to preventing unwanted spread or exposure to milfoil. I am happy to explain what I know to anyone who is interested in helping as a tender or diver. To become a certified milfoil diver, you need to complete the two days of class successfully. One day is classroom and the second day is scuba diving in a lake or pond removing milfoil with an instructor. Anyone can volunteer as a tender without training in a classroom. However, you must be a certified milfoil diver to remove milfoil.

Thank you to everyone that donated toward the milfoil chemical treatment; it was worth completing and seems to be effective. Now the second and third parts of treatment, monitoring and removal, must be carried out to keep the milfoil under control.

SOLitude is supposed to complete another survey of Chance Pond before the end of this year. I will plan to do Spring snorkels looking for any growth that occurred during the winter and monitor until plants are found. Then I would plan a scuba dive trip for removal. Enjoy the Fall and let's relax for now about the milfoil.



What Milfoil looks like in the water. Thick whorls of leaves along entire stem, with a squirrel-tail or garland-like appearance. Seeds, that are not visible to the naked eye, can spread milfoil quickly.

# LAKE LESSONS

By Barry Freedman

August 4, 2021, was a most melancholy day. The sun was finally shining, the rain clouds had dissipated, and the lake water was calm and warm with very little boat traffic. Children were laughing and playing in the clear waters. August was turning into the summer that July never shared. For me, this was a memorable and sad day. The Laconia Salvage Company hauled away my 20-year-old sailboat.

Leaving with the boat were many years of very good memories. Rigging the boat signaled the beginning of summer here at the lake. How can I forget the WLA sailboat race I ended by capsizing! (My fault, I cut the main line too short!) Another eventful day blew winds which let us sail across the entire lake with only one tack, a term used to change direction. Many memorable sails were done in stiff winds, allowing for hiking, another term that means leaning over the side of the boat. I remember my wife and I drifting along with gentle breezes. My neighbor, who had the same boat, would compare the various extras the boat had to offer.

My kids, steadfastly, refused to learn to sail. Even my grand kids only wanted to go tubing, then boarding, sledding, and finally skiing with the power boat. When the windy weather produced choppy waters, which were ideal for sailing, they only sought out the tubes and floaties. They wanted more

modern devices like paddle boards, kayaks, and giant floating foam mats. There was no family desire to use the sailboat. Due to my advancing shoulder arthritis, it became increasingly difficult for me to even rig the sails. Over the past few summers, the sailboat fell into disuse.

In late July, there was an unusually big storm with thunder, lightning, heavy winds, and lots of rain. The windows in our cottage rattled, but I thought my boats were secure in their respective cradles and moorings. The next day, we noticed the sailboat and its mooring had disappeared. The chain to the mooring anchor broke. Apparently, the boat went swirling around the lake, unfettered, causing multiple hull breeches and other damage.

The insurance company declared it a total loss. So, the salvage company was called to remove all physical traces of my sailing memories. If nothing else, the lake teaches you that time passes. The older we get, the swifter it passes. Kids grow up and we all age. It is so very important to cherish the good times we have here at the lake. They are truly precious and fleeting.



## MEET OUR LAKE HOST

Sarah McLaughlin was our Lake Host this summer. She did her job responsibly and with a smile. Sarah enjoyed her time at Webster Lake and hopes to return next season. She commented that Webster Lake was a beautiful spot to spend her summer. Sarah is a junior at Belmont High



School this fall. She plays volleyball and loves all kinds of art. A few of her hobbies include painting, cooking, reading, writing, and spending time outdoors. Lake Hosting was a perfect fit for her. The Webster Lake Association appreciates Sarah's help in protecting and preserving the lake.



### 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

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