

WLA

Who Are We & What Do We Do?

On December 9, 1973, a group of 42 concerned property owners and interested renters of lake property met in the Community Room of the Franklin National Bank to determine if there was a need for an association to preserve and improve the water of Webster Lake. That group voted in the affirmative that there was a need for such an organization. A steering committee was formed that worked over the next few months to create the organization's bylaws. On August 17, 1974, it was official, and the Webster Lake Association was born.

Almost 50 years later, the WLA is still in existence for the purpose of preserving and protecting our lake. We are **not** a homeowner's association that **requires** membership and dues, with rules and regulations governing properties and residents. We are an organization whose membership and dues are **voluntary**. We educate residents on ways to keep the lake healthy so that future generations will be able to enjoy it for years to come. Rules and regulations regarding lakefront property are governed by the State of NH, the Shoreline Water Quality Protections Act created in 1991, and the City of Franklin zoning laws. Marine Patrol is the governing body for water safety and boating regulations. The WLA is not an enforcement organization.

As stated in the bylaws, members are those persons having frontage on the shores of Webster Lake or having an appurtenant right of way to the shore, and those persons whose addresses are on one of the following streets or roads: Apple Farm Road, Arna Lane, Griffin Road to Smiling Hill Road, Lake Avenue (from Webster Avenue to and including the west side of Lark Street), Lake Shore



Photo by Dave Pellegrini.

Drive, Log Cabin Road, North Shore Lane, Pine Colony Road, Rock Farm Road, Smiling Hill Road, Webster Avenue, Webster Lake Road (from Lark Street to and including Sand Hill Road). If dues are paid by these members, they have voting rights.

"Friends of the WLA" are any persons (living elsewhere) who have an interest in and support the purposes and objects of the WLA and pay dues, however they do not hold any voting rights.

The WLA organizes activities and programs such as VLAP (lake water testing), NH Lake Host (inspecting boats entering the lake on weekends during the summer), Annual Boat Parade, Yard Sale, Clean-Up Days, Ice Cream Social/Food Drive, Spring and Fall Newsletter, Photo Calendar, and maintaining a WLA website. These programs are meant to educate and instill a sense of community among its members, as well as raise a little money. If you are not a member of the WLA, please consider joining. We all have the same goal of keeping this beautiful lake healthy, so it can be enjoyed by future generations.



Photo by Ray Walsh

THE HISTORY OF HARRY'S LAND

by Betsy Davison

Harry's Land, a vacation rental when not used by owners Betsy Davison and Brian Jacoby, was named after their first Standard Schnauzer Harry. It sits on a picture-perfect finger of land in the northwestern part of Webster Lake known as Aiken Point, located at 301 Webster Lake Road (vrbo.com/45564).

Prior to 1938, the land was purchased by Robert M. Leach from the Aiken family, who lived across the street (now Webster Lake Road) in a homestead that is still standing known as Aiken Manor. Robert was a wealthy stove pipe manufacturer who was also Attorney General of Massachusetts and a U.S. Representative from Massachusetts in 1924-25. Mr. Leach's father Edward G. Leach was mayor of Franklin from 1918-19.



The Aikens were a family of inventors and count the cogwheel train (running on Mt. Washington) as one of their inventions. It seems that originally there were some camping cottages on or near the property, as well as a bandstand or pavilion on Aiken Point seen on old post cards and



noted on the architectural blueprints provided by the architectural firm of Lyford and Magenau of Concord, who designed the house.

The house was built between 1938 and 1939. Robert Leach and his second wife Florence used the house as a vacation home. When they took up residence, they brought a cook/housekeeper and a gardener with them. The separate apartment attached to the garage is where the gardener stayed. We know Mr. Leach had dogs because not only was there an old dog run on the side of the garage, but we found several dog collars with engraved labels "R.M. Leach, Franklin, N.H." Robert died in 1952 and was buried in Franklin Cemetery, Franklin, NH.

In 2000, we purchased the house from Retired Commander Conrad Carlson and his wife Alice who lived in the house for about 30 years. They had purchased the house from a daughter of Robert M. Leach.

LAKE LESSONS

by Barry Freedman

Earlier this summer, the Freedman family had a red-letter day: a new boat was picked up! It was a feeling like getting a new car! We were all thrilled and excited.

Our old boat had to be replaced due to multiple engine problems. Imagine a 22-year-old boat with engine problems!! The marina said if they could find the parts, it would cost almost \$4,000 to repair, and there was no guarantee that another problem wouldn't arise on such an old engine.

Also, the fuel gauge had stopped working. This caused more than a few anxious boating moments, I don't have to tell you. As we were discussing a trade-in, the salesperson also told me the boat's transom had become "soft", which made the boat unsafe. Thus, we decided to bite the bullet and shop for another boat.

Still, we felt a little sadness at saying good-bye to the old boat. It had served our family well for the past 10 years. Our family enjoyed water skiing, pleasure cruises, tubing rides, hanging out at the sand bar and of course trips to Griffin Beach for the July 4th Breakfast on the Beach.

At the marina, we looked at several used boats for sale. Most of them did not suit our needs. They were either too big, more than 20 feet, too old, not the right type, or too expensive! We contacted other marinas and searched the internet. However, it was difficult to find just the right boat.



Finally, we found a boat that had just been introduced to the market this year. It met all our criteria: the right style, (bowrider), the right size, (17 feet), the proper engine size, (90 HP), and the desirable

options, (Bimini top, automatic bilge, AM/FM radio with Bluetooth). But we had to make the choice of buying a new boat or keep looking for the best used boat. We made a family decision to buy new.

So, this boat is unlike any of the other four or five boats I have owned on Webster Lake over the past 40 years. This one is brand new. I am the original owner! It is quite the feeling. Our family is looking forward to many new as well as old familiar boating activities with the brand-new shiny boat. This is one of the many experiences and pleasures of life at Webster Lake.

THE ICE BUSINESS

by Steve Walsh



Ice blocks were harvested on many lakes in New Hampshire throughout the late 1800's and early 1900's until mechanical refrigeration became a commercial reality. Early records indicate major ice harvesting was done on Newfound Lake and elsewhere in the Lakes Region. Shipments were made by rail to markets in Boston and New York. One train left Bristol, NH, with 19 carloads for Boston. The Bristol Ice Company ended in 1953.

By 1892, three large icehouses were located on Webster Lake and served by a spur track off the Northern Rail Trail. The spur ran down the embankment, crossed Route 11 and ended next to the icehouse where Lagace Beach is today. The icehouses were owned by the Worcester Ice Company and the Lawrence Ice Company.

Bradbury Prescott, who built our cottage and many of the others along Webster Avenue, was also in the ice harvesting business. In later years when he sold these cottages, he put a restriction in the deeds forbidding the new owners from entering the ice business on Webster Lake.

In 1911, Winter Hill Ice Company built a huge icehouse on Highland Lake in East Andover. It too was served by the Northern Rail Trail. Remains of a long spur track for spotting box cars can be found along today's Northern Rail Trail adjacent to the lake. Take note of Icehouse Lane off Route 11. A large boarding house was constructed for the workers and a barn for the horse. By the end of the 1920's the ice business was all but shut down. The icehouse was torn down in 1930.

For a more detailed understanding of the ice business read *The Frozen Water Trade* by Gavin Weightman, Harper Collins, 2003. This is the story of Bostonian Frederic Tudor who set up the New England ice trade with customers as far away as Calcutta, India. An 1833 voyage that took four months and 16,000 miles to deliver more than 100 tons of ice.

SOMETHING TO PONDER

by Brian Campbell

Who gave more, the person who generously donated money to the WLA or the person who volunteered three to five hours in the summer months to help with activities?

I understand family comes first and many of us are only here on the weekends, therefore time is precious. But why is it that the WLA Board members have been there for ten to twenty plus years? They do it because they love the lake, but everyone on the lake loves it too, I know!

The WLA tries to involve people to bring a sense of pride that we live in such a beautiful place. The quarterly newsletter informs residents of what is going on around the lake. But if it were to be no more, who would you turn to for your questions? City Hall and DES have been known to be less accessible for timely answers to questions. Hope everyone enjoyed the Breakfast on the Beach this year—oh wait, it was cancelled due to lack of volunteers. The Yard Sale volunteers come together to raise money that helps pay for water testing and other situations that may arise affecting the lake. This year's cleanup was the fastest ever due to some new volunteers, a great example of what can happen with more people involved.

We're grateful for our volunteers! Please consider being one.

WLA NEWSWORTHY

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Bequeathing a portion of your estate to the Webster Lake Association will provide resources into the future to help protect and preserve the lake for generations to come. We have set up a Legacy Fund Account to receive such funds at Franklin Savings Bank. As funds grow in this account, it may be managed by Independent Financial Advisors.

Please consider writing the WLA into your will or estate plan as a part of your legacy. **Thank you!**

Amazon Smile

The WLA now has an Amazon Smile account. If you are an Amazon shopper, you can now choose to have a percentage of purchases made through Amazon Smile to go to the WLA. If you already have an Amazon Smile account, change your charity to the WLA if desired. If you don't have an Amazon Smile account, it is easy to set up. Go to: smile.amazon.com, go to the bottom of the page and click Get Started. Follow the instructions and make sure you search Webster Lake Association and pick the one with the New Hampshire address. **Thank you.**



WLA Photo Calendar

The WLA Photo Calendar is now for sale. You may have noticed an increase in the prices for the calendar choices this year. This is the first time since we started the calendar that the price has ever been more than \$15 for the standard wall calendar. Unfortunately, like so many other consumer products, the costs to produce the calendar have gone up. As the cost to create the calendar goes up, our profit is less and less every year, thus we had a price increase. I still feel it is a reasonable price for such a beautiful calendar. Go to www.createphotocalendars.com, click on the Marketplace button, and type in WLA in the search window. The choices for the calendar will appear.



WLA RESOURCES

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

Webster Lake Association

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