



Webster Lake Association 50th Anniversary Recap

Our Association celebrated in style this year!

We started by replacing flares with Electronic Flares for the Ring of Fire displays around the lake. Over 300 were sold, making for a visually stunning and environmentally safe display.

Branded cups in several styles were sold to enhance cottages and boats alike...some are still available!

The 50th Anniversary Boat Parade was a wonderful success-a large number of boats, cleverly decorated, ventured clockwise around Webster Lake. Prizes were awarded to the first three most popular boats:

- 1st Prize Jimmy Buffet**
- 2nd Prize Webster Lake Ice Cream Truck**
- 3rd Prize Magic School Bus**

Many thanks to ALL who took time to decorate and enter boats in the parade!

Our biggest event of the year was the 50th Anniversary Celebration held on August 17th at Griffin Beach. Over 250 members and guests attended a wonderful afternoon featuring a tasty BBQ dinner with all the fixings, a beer tent, family games and free popcorn.

A Silent Auction of 3 lovely items (a rocking chair from Grevior Furniture, a custom corn-hole game from Kustom Woods, and a painting of Webster Lake by Joanna Peel) added to the afternoon.

The Raffle generated excitement and funds, with 35 items up for a draw from the large piles of green tickets.

Our thanks to Glenn Rand who generously donated his time and equipment to provide DJ services.

Our celebration was managed by a special committee which worked diligently to plan and execute the many, many details required for such a successful event! We thank the many volunteers from the Association and community who helped make the events a success.



Committee members whom we acknowledge and thank for a job well done.

- Deb Parker, Chairperson
- Brian Campbell
- Allison Goodwin
- Ruth Marvin
- Nancy Moulton
- Denise Steadman

Lake Lessons

By Barry Freedman, DC

I am a long-time resident of Webster Lake. I purchased the cottage from the town undertaker, Mr Brad Butler, in 1980, and I have been coming up to the lake every summer with my wife, and two children since then (with a the exception of the Covid year. . .)

For the first 16 years, I used the cottage as a weekend and summer getaway. After I retired from practice and retired to Florida, we used the cottage full-time from mid-May to mid-September, with the kids and grandkids visiting often. During those years we saw many household changes, some for the good, and some not.

Over the last 20 years I always closed the cottage for the winter: shut the water, drained the pipes, put anti-freeze in the toilets, and turned off the electricity. I also took the dock and mooring out of the water and stored the boats. . .I'm sure you know the drill.

Well, last September, my 53 year-old son asked if he and his wife could use the cottage for viewing the fall foliage on Columbus Day weekend. I knew that he knew how to close the cottage for the winter, and I said, "No problem." So I kept the cottage unwinterized, and went off with my wife to Florida. I did, however, take everything out of the water.

He called me Monday after the weekend, saying how wonderful the weekend had been; he was entranced! Furthermore, he said he wanted to have Thanksgiving there. He was going to invite his in-laws from Nashua for a big feast. There were going to be 11 people.

I was taken aback.

"Do you know how cold it gets in New Hampshire in November; especially LATE November?" I asked.

"Don't worry about a thing, Dad. I can handle it," he answered.

"Are you sure you know what you are doing?"

"No problem," he tried to reassure me.

"OK," I said. What else could I do?

Well, at 6:30 pm on November 24th, the night before Thanksgiving, I get a call in Florida from my son in New Hampshire.

"What does it mean, Dad, when you turn on the spigots and NO WATER comes out?" he asked forlornly. I was stunned.

FROZEN PIPES!!!

All I could think about was how much the plumbers were going to charge me in the Spring to fix all the damage.

In desperation, I told him to turn on all the room electric heaters overnight. "Maybe the warm house will defrost the pipes," I pleaded.

"Okay" he said.

I couldn't sleep. Visions of broken pipes and dollars flying out the door were all I could think about.

I called him at 8 am the next morning, Thanksgiving Day. "How is it?" I asked expectantly.

"Well the house is nice and warm, but still no water. . ."

"What are you going to do?"

"Well, my wife noticed a small yellow triangular flag on the front lawn. We think it is from the water department. We're going to call them."

"On Thanksgiving Day! Do you really think you will reach anybody?"

"I'll let you know."

He called back 2 ½ hours later. "You will never guess what happened," he said excitedly.

"Our neighbor across the street, who is doing rehab on his cottage, noticed water spewing from our backyard outdoor shower from a broken valve. He called the Water Department 2 weeks ago, and they came out and shut our water off!! No broken pipes! And they agreed to turn the water back on for the weekend, after I isolate the outdoor shower. So we can have a family Thanksgiving dinner-Yay!"

I couldn't believe it. No broken pipes, no dollars flying out the door; everything was going to be fine.

All because of a broken valve and our good neighbor!



A Guide to Local Trails

In addition to water activities, our region is also great for hiking and biking. We asked Randall Werner, long-time resident and outdoor enthusiast, for some recommendations.



Northern Rail Trail

This recreational trail runs from Boscawen to Lebanon and has a surface of cinder and crushed stone. Along its 58 miles are numerous lakes and bogs which are perfect for exploration. Either on foot or by bicycle, this trail is fun to explore in sections. Easily accessed from the Lagace Beach area, there is parking where the trail crosses Chance Pond Road, just north of the beach parking lot.

The history of today's Northern Rail Trail can be traced well back to the 19th century when the corridor was constructed by the Northern Railroad... the railroad was completed relatively quickly and proved profitable. During the late 19th century, it would come under control of the Boston & Maine (B&M), one of New England's largest and best-remembered carriers. As the years passed, the Northern's traffic slipped away, and passenger trains were dropped after World War II. During the 1980s, B&M itself was acquired by Guilford Transportation, which purchased many New England systems during that decade. In an effort to scale back what it deemed superfluous trackage, much of the former Northern Railroad was abandoned during the early 1990s.



Franklin Falls Dam

This recreational area contains many options; Heritage Trail which follows the river, runs for about 2 miles. Piney Point is a gentle circuit trail around a peninsula in the river. There are also many twisty single-track trails which were built by NEMBA. Maps are generally available at the kiosk on Rt. 127.

There are many picnicking spots that provide visitors with tables and shade located at the dam, Profile Falls, Periwinkle Field, and Ledgeview Overlook. The picnicking areas at the dam and Profile Falls Recreation Area have charcoal grills for visitors to use.

Be aware that the picnic areas do not have running water for drinking or washing hands, so be sure to bring your own beverages and consider bringing hand wipes. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet, and pet waste must be properly disposed of.

During the winter months visitors are encouraged to take advantage of the cross-country skiing trails and snowmobile trails on the property. Snowmobilers are reminded that all trails are considered multi-use trails and to be courteous to other trail users.



Bog Mountain

Bog Mountain is a little more adventurous; this short 1.2 mile hike is part of the SRK Greenway. It provides nice views to the west from open ledges near and at the summit. This trail is in Wilmot, a short drive from Franklin.

This surprisingly rocky little peak in central NH is a relatively unknown hiking destination compared to its neighbors, like Mt. Kearsarge. Bog Mountain is a perfect afternoon hike with good views for a small effort. There are two possible approaches; the most convenient trail is described here. The Bog Mountain Trail heads off into a nice forest and begins climbing moderately. It winds through the woods until it reaches the top of a ridge (at 0.6 miles), where there are wide rock ledges with limited views toward Mt. Kearsarge and nearby hillsides. The trail continues through the forest at a mostly flat grade, occasionally passing over open rock. Just below the summit, the trail scrambles up an enormous rock slab and reaches the summit after another half mile.

There are wide views over the treetops in two directions. Mt. Kearsarge and Mt. Sunapee are seen to the south, and Smarts Mountain is seen to the north. A spur path leads down to a second overlook facing southeast. At the back of the summit area is a granite bench.

Webster Lake Gear

At the Annual Meeting this year, the membership voted on a new logo to be used for the Association.



Members have enjoyed having items available with the logo, and three members of our community have made this possible. Bonnie Moore, David Moniz, and Mark Field working together have created the opportunity for Members to purchase items with the logo at

<https://www.websterlakenh.com/store>

When purchases are made, a portion is paid to the Webster Lake Association.

Legacy Fund

The Board has created a fund for Legacy Gifts to our Association. Gifts of cash are occasionally made to help preserve our lake, and in memory of happy time spent here.

If you are interested in other ways of contributing, there are several ways to do so, including making a bequest, or gifts from a retirement plan. Consult with a financial professional for any tax implications. WLA-NH is a 501 3(c) organization.

Lake Concerns

This fall, we have two concerns for Webster Lake; an invasive weed, and a beaver dam.

The invasive weed, milfoil, is presently in Chance Pond, which is the run-off area for our lake. The current flows away from the lake, however the weed may still be introduced by birds, fishing gear, mammals, or by boats being brought from Chance Pond into Webster Lake.

Webster Lake Association has taken steps to help remediate the problem by posting a banner on Carr Street asking boaters not to proceed into the water by the dam; this is the area of infestation. Another banner asks those who have been in the upper areas of Chance Pond to inspect their boats and equipment PRIOR to entry at the boat launch to prevent "hitchhiking" weed fragments from entering our waters.

To remediate the milfoil already in Chance Pond, the Board is working with Amy Smagula of the Watershed Management Bureau to have vacuum-assisted removal of the milfoil in the spring of 2025. Grants for this purpose were secured by Board Members Shawna Pinette and Bonnie Moore.

The beaver dam on Sucker Brook is a recurrent problem. In the past, the dam has been removed or had "beaver deceiver" pipes installed to increase the flow of water through a beaver dam.

Our latest dam has significantly raised the water level under the Lake Shore Drive bridge over Sucker Brook-we remember the flooding and ice problems of several winters ago and are working with the Department of Transportation and the Fish and Game Department towards a remediation.

WLA Purpose

The WLA exists 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. Marine Patrol is the governing body for water safety and boating regulations. The WLA is not an enforcement organization.

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	603-848-8094
Weed Watcher Volunteers	603-271-2248
Wetlands Concerns	603-271-2147
Webster Lake Association	603-671-7961

Webster Lake Association

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Board of Directors

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Bonnie Moore - Vice President
Shawna Pinette - Secretary
John Miller - Treasurer
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