

LAKE LIFE

The official
newsletter of
**Winchendon Springs
Lake Association**

FALL 2019

The Importance of your Membership Fees and Donations

The WSLA board members work very hard to maintain the health of our beloved lake. Our primary focus continues to be the battle against invasive weeds. Although we are making progress, the cost of weed treatment continues to be very costly.

A little over 50% of Massachusetts lake front property owners are supporting our association through their membership fees and donations. The modest yearly cost of \$50 membership fees is very important to the health of our lake. 100% of your membership dues continues to go directly toward maintaining the quality of our lake in the form of weed treatment on the Massachusetts side. We need every lake front property owner to contribute to this initiative by paying their annual membership dues, and to go one step further by making an additional donation (tax deductible).

This year WSLA will spend over \$11,000 to treat all acres identified having invasive milfoil on the Massachusetts side; this more than exhausts all membership fee funds for the year. **We urge every lake front owner to pay your membership dues and additional contributions.** This is essential for continuing to maintain the quality of the lake in all its natural beauty.

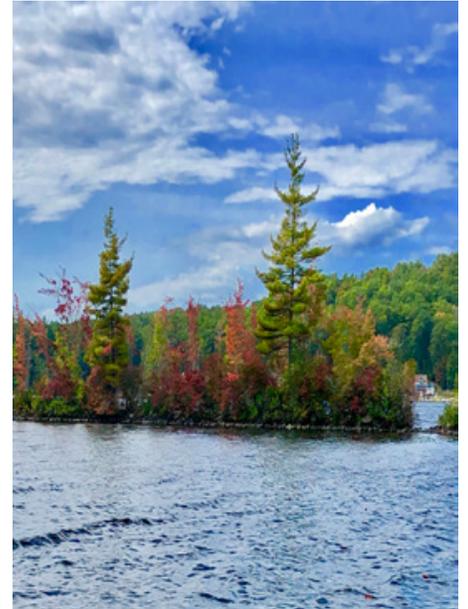
Please help us protect our beautiful lake by joining the Winchendon Springs Lake Association (WSLA) for \$50/year. Dues and additional tax deductible donations can be paid in 2 ways:



CHECKS: made payable to WSLA, mail to: PO Box 411, Winchendon, MA 01475



PAYPAL: visit our website wsla.us, right bottom side of homepage



Winter Draw Down

Lake Monomonic's annual draw down began on October 15th and will continue until it reaches the new winter draw down level of 3 feet on or around December 1st. The drop in the water level during the winter months allows property owners to do maintenance to their waterfront, including docks, walls, and beaches. It also helps with the weed control.

Be aware that the lower level increases the danger of hitting submerged rocks, trees or other hidden obstacles. Extreme caution should be taken by boat owners if you are planning to get in some late fall boating or fishing.

WSLA

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LAKE ASSOCIATION**

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Letter from the President

While advances in chemical treatments hold out the possibility that Milfoil can be eradicated from Lake Monomonac there is another risk to lake properties that is on the rise. That risk is climate change.

Since 1970 the average winter temperature in the Northeast has risen by more than 6 degrees Fahrenheit. Total precipitation in Massachusetts has increased by about 10%. More of this precipitation is falling in winter in the form of rain. Extreme precipitation events are happening more often. These trends are expected to continue. This data is contained in a report commissioned by the Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs on strategies for adapting to climate change.

The lake can likely withstand a major warm weather rainfall event without significant property damage because the top of the Route 202 spillway (the target summer level of the lake) is about 138 feet across. If the lake rose a foot above the top of the spillway the outflow would be about 200,000 gallons/minute and at 2-feet about 560,000 gallons/minute.

A Potentially more damaging event would be a severe rainstorm during winter followed by a deep freeze causing damage to retaining walls and docks. The Lake Monomonac watershed drains an area greater than twelve square miles. With the ground frozen and unable to absorb the rain, water would flow directly into the lake. Until the lake reaches summer level the rate at which that water can be released is limited to the three 4-foot wide gates at the spillway and the single 6-foot wide culvert at the Main Dam. A major winter rain event can overwhelm these outlets. Last winter we experienced just such a storm where the water level of the lake rose over a foot in less than twenty four hours.

Going forward the deeper drawdown may become more important in mitigating property damage than for weed control.

Jon Lewandowski
WSLA President

Upcoming Events

CLEAN UP DAY

October 19th from 10am–2pm WSLA will host another Neighborhood Clean Up Day! Meet at 166 Lakeview Drive at 10am to pick up bags and gloves, and for area assignments. We appreciate all efforts to keep our neighborhood beautiful!

50/50 ICE OUT CONTEST

Can you guess when 2020 ice out will be?! Winner(s) split 50/50. 1 pick/ \$2 or 3 picks/\$5. To purchase, contact David Anderson at (978) 855-6143 or dander1952@yahoo.com or purchase online at wsla.us/ice-out.

MONOMONAC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Calling all Golfers! WSLA will be holding the 3rd annual golf tournament on July 18 2020. Save the date and get your foursomes together. For more information, visit wsla.us/golf-tournament.

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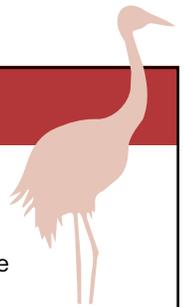
Ice Safety Tips

- ▶ Many residents on our lake have bubblers which can weaken the ice >150 feet away depending on the flow. If you have one, please clearly indicate to minimize risk for all those out on the ice (fisherman, snowmobiles, snowshoers, skiers, etc).
- ▶ Never go onto the ice alone. A friend may be able to rescue you or get help.
- ▶ Always keep your pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice do not attempt to rescue, go for help.
- ▶ New ice is usually stronger than old. As the ice ages, the bond between the crystals decays, making it weaker, even if melting has not occurred.
- ▶ Beware of ice covered with snow. Snow can insulate ice and keep it strong, but can also keep it from freezing. Snow can also hide cracks, weak, or open ice.
- ▶ Slush is a danger sign that ice can be weak or deteriorating.
- ▶ Ice formed over flowing water (containing a large number of springs) is generally 15% weaker.
- ▶ Ice seldom freezes or thaws at a uniform rate. It can be one **foot** thick and one **inch** thick 10 feet apart.

▶ For more info on ice safety, visit: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/osfm/pubed/fs-topics/ice-and-cold-water-safety.html>



A WORD OF CAUTION TO OUR COMMUNITY: If a lower water level is achieved, this will expose structures such as rocks. When the lake freezes, structures that may normally be under the ice may show or may just be barely covered by ice or snow. With the snowfall, these structures may be camouflaged, so we urge all people, particularly snowmobile riders, to use extreme caution. Some of these exposed structures may include The Reef (rock pile) entering the big part of the lake on the NH side, as well as rocks near Blueberry Island heading toward the Marina.



2019 Year in Review

- ➔ We held our **annual meeting** at the American Legion on June 15th. Thank you to all who came, and a special thank you to guest speaker, **Barbara Anderson**.
- ➔ Thank you to those who participated in the weed survey and treatment!
- ➔ Great job to all who participated in the MLSA's 2019 **4th of July Boat parade!** The theme was 'favorite cartoon.'
- ➔ Congratulations to our first place winners of WSLA's **2nd Annual Golf Tournament** on July 14: Michael Cherichetti, Jim McDonald, John Johndrow & Phil White! A big shout out to all our sponsors who helped make this possible.
- ➔ Thanks to all who supported and enjoyed WSLA's **end of season concert**. Huge thanks to Jon Lewandowski for the use of his dock for the band, those who donated to support the concert, and to Neon Alley for a great show.
- ➔ WSLA had a booth at the **Winchendon Fall Festival**. Thanks to those who volunteered!
- ➔ Thank you to **our advertisers**. We encourage our community to learn more about these local businesses!





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Proposed Zoning Changes

A Special Town Meeting will be held on Oct 28 at 7 pm at the Town Hall. Article 18 on the warrant is a proposal to create a new Lake Monomonac Overlay District (LMOD). Lake Monomonac is currently in the R40 Zoning District. The new LMOD Zoning District will differ from the current R40 dimensional and density regulations by reducing the front, side and rear setbacks.

Zoning District	Minimum Lot Area Square Feet	Frontage	Front Setback	Side Setback	Rear Setback	Maximum Structure Height (floors)	Maximum Man Made	Maximum Impervious Area as % of Lot
R40	40,000	150	40	25	50	2 1/2	35	15%
LMOD	40,000	150	20	10	20	2 1/2	35	15%

These changes will make it easier for residents to improve their properties without incurring the time delay and cost involved in obtaining zoning variances. It will codify the reality that since 2013 every request for zoning relief related to these setbacks has been granted.



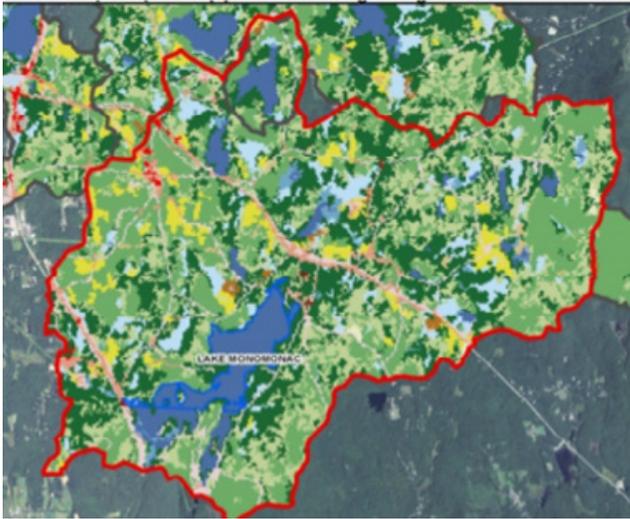
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What is a watershed and how does it affect Lake Monomonic

At this year's annual meetings of both the WSLA & MLPOA, our board did a presentation about Lake Monomonic's water shed and the impact it has on not only flow and level, but also the quality of our water.



A watershed is an area of land that contains a common set of streams and rivers that all drain into a single larger body of water, in our case Lake Monomonic which is part of a large watershed known as the North Branch of the Millers River, also part of the larger Connecticut River watershed.

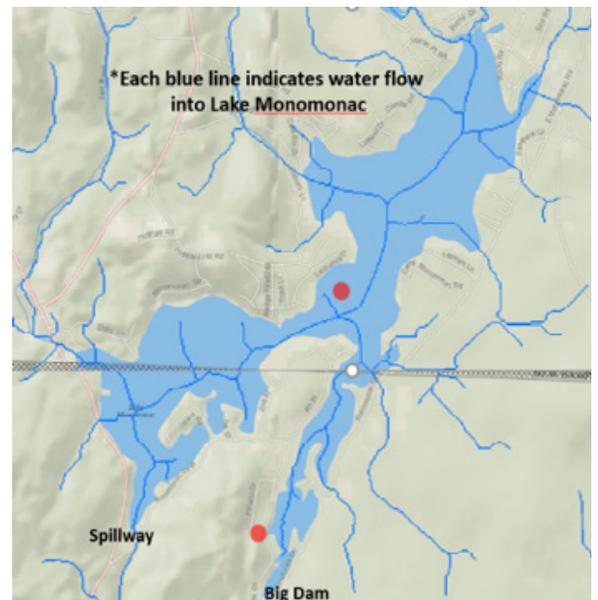
The North Branch of the Millers River starts in New Ipswich NH at Mountain Pond. It runs for 50.5 miles flowing through Lake Monomonic eventually emptying in to the Connecticut River just downstream from Millers Falls, Massachusetts

Our direct watershed area is 12,448 acres in size. On the east side it starts in New Ipswich NH where a series of small pristine streams and ponds flows into and through our lake. Starting at Mountain Pond along with Stump Pond free flows into and through Island Pond, Mill Pond, forming the North Branch of Millers River flowing into Converse pond in Rindge before draining in to Lake Monomonic at our farthest north point between Millers & Wellington Rd. The North Portion of our

watershed starts at Emerson Pond, which flows in to Crowcroft then into Little Crowcroft Pond and into our lake on the north west Between Wellington Rd and Heron Point Rd. In addition to these larger bodies of water entering our lake there are 15 other small streams or inlets that feeds our lake like Lord Brook on the west side.

As you can imagine this is a lot of free flowing water entering into Lake Monomonic. In fact our lakes water completely turns over a minimum of 3 times in a year. This in part contributes to the difficulty in managing the level of the lake and drawdowns.

To the South there are the only 2 outlets, one on West Monomonic which is a large spillway that has a 12 foot area with 2 feet of removable boards. The main Big Dam located at the junction of Lakeview & Beachview is 6 ft wide and has 6 feet of removable boards. Once the spillway has reached its maximum discharge and shuts off, the water the only remaining outlet is the smaller capacity big dam which can have a difficult time keeping up with discharging the large volume of water entering our lake especially during above average rainy periods as we saw in the winter of 2018 when the lake rose a foot in a 24 hour period. If you have any questions or which to learn more about our watershed please feel free to contact us.





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Let's work together to keep our neighborhood clean!

Join us **October 19 from 10am-2pm** for a WSLA Clean Up Day!
Meet at 166 Lakeview Drive at 10am to pick up bags and gloves, and receive cleanup assignments.

We appreciate all efforts to keep our neighborhood beautiful.

3rd Annual Ice Out Contest!



This winter Plummeting Paul will take to the ice for the 3rd annual ice-out contest. **Last spring the ice went out on March 29th at 2:30 pm.**

Can you guess Lake Monomonic's 2020 Ice Out? Winner(s) split 50/50! Plummeting Paul will be sitting on the ice all winter keeping watch of the clock. Join the annual tradition by guessing what time the 40lb block drops through the ice and you'll be a winner!

For tickets or more info, visit wsla.us/ice-out

Visit wsla.us to check out the full line of Lake Monomonic apparel!



See more styles online!



Proceeds go toward treating invasive weeds in Lake Monomonic.

The Second Lake Monomonic Golf Tournament

The second annual Lake Monomonic Golf Tournament was held on July 14 at Shattack Golf Course located in Jaffrey, NH. Shattack Golf Course is one of New England's most picturesque setting for a golf tournament or wedding. It is located at the base of Mt. Monadnock and has some amazing views of both the mountain and wetlands. It is a great challenge for the golfers! The weather was beautiful with temps in the mid 80's and bright blue skies. We had 17 foursomes and many helpers who helped with our auctions that included some great items from local merchants and individuals. We had everything from Bruins and Red Sox tickets to free meals at local restaurants. We also had over 25 sponsors for all the holes and some of the greens. The golf course provided a wonder chicken barbeque and buffet for all the players and helpers.

Next year the tournament will be held once again at The Shattack Golf Course on July 18th with a rain date of July 19th. To make things more interesting we are making plans to increase the number of players, but we will also be adding some fantastic prizes. We plan on having a hole in one prize of either a car or boat for any of the players that are lucky enough to get a hole in one. We are also planning on a putting contest, and the prize would be a \$3,000 Hawaiian Vacation.

1st PLACE: Michael Cherichetti, Jim McDonald, John Johndrow & Phil White

2nd PLACE: Luke Lachance, John Delaney, Joe Carbone & TJ

3rd PLACE: Bill Lucci, Hunter DiLorenzo, Keith Paquet, Paul DiLorenzo

Closest to the pin ladies: Joy Charters

Closest to the pin men: Terry Charters

Thank you for your support and see you next year!

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- **MEMBERSHIPS:** Pay your dues online for 2019
- **DONATE:** Contribute towards weed control and/or other association costs
Please email wsla.treasurer@gmail.com if you want to donate to a specific cause.

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