

LAKE LIFE

Lake Monomonac FALL 2021

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

President's Message

A few years ago I attended a presentation where the environmental expert commented on how lucky Lake Monomonac residents were because the lake was largely surrounded by undeveloped land and forest. The water flowing into the lake has been pretty much pristine as we are at the headwaters of the Miller's River watershed which begins in Rindge NH. We haven't worried about industrial, agricultural or residential runoff. Except for road salt anything bad flowing into the lake came from us. The biggest environmental admonition I remember from when I first moved here was "Don't feed the ducks".

Times change. We are seeing more development in areas away from the lake but within our watershed. The Navian development in Rindge includes not only single-family housing but also apartment buildings. Drainage from this housing project will feed into wetlands and a stream that enters Lake Monomonac near Swan Point. The MLPOA has already added additional water quality test sites to provide baseline water quality data prior to the completion of the Navian project. A major concern with this project is road salt.

Climate change is happening now. In 2021 Boston recorded its warmest summer ever and Massachusetts had its wettest July in history. The combination of hotter summers, warmer water, and more residential runoff is a recipe for more weed growth and greater risk of cyanobacteria algae blooms. The stresses on the health of the lake ecosystem and water quality are inevitably going to increase. Cyanobacteria feed on phosphorus and nitrogen entering the lake. Going forward lake residents should consider ways to limit chemical runoff from lawns and driveways. The new environmental admonition could be "Don't feed the weeds".

Jon Lewandowski
WSLA President

Membership Fees and Donations

We ask all lakefront owners to pay WSLA membership dues (\$50/year) and to consider an additional contribution. This is essential for continuing to maintain the quality of the lake in all its natural beauty.

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

MLPOA's 2022 Lake Calendar

Get your MLPOA
(Monomonac
Lake Property
Owners Association)

2022 calendar featuring Lake Monomonac! Included with year-round images will be event dates for MLPOA, Monomonac Lake Sailing Association (MLSA), and WSLA.



**LIMITED
TIME
OFFER!**

Proceeds will help fund the Lake Host program. Lake Hosts inspect boats at the North of the Border boat ramp. They are the first line of defense in preventing aquatic invasive species being introduced into our lake.

Pre-order your calendar for \$10
(plus shipping and handling, if not local)

STEVE GRAY: 603-899-6625
snkgray@myfairpoint.net

BILL GUNTHER: 603-899-6663
bill@bbgunther.com



**Thank you to Neon Alley for a
great concert on the water!**

WSLA

**WINCHENDON SPRINGS
LAKE ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 411, Winchendon, MA 01475

wsla.us | Like us on

The Third Lake Monomonac Golf Tournament

The Third Annual Winchendon Springs Lake Association's Golf Tournament was held on September 11th at Westminster Country Club, Westminster MA. This year, twenty-seven foursomes took to the course for a fun filled day of golfing. It was a perfect bluebird day with temps warming up to the high 70's.

The highlight of the day was the new Putting Contest. Seventy-eight golfers participated, each having 3 tries at a 15-foot putt to qualify for the big prize. Sixteen of them were able to sink their ball and advance to the next level in a quest to win the 50/50 raffle and grand prize of \$5,000! Only one golfer, **Kyle Blanchard**, was able to sink the second putt, winning the 50/50 pot and advance to the finals. The final contest was to sink a 50ft putt and boy was he so close. Unfortunately the ball did not fall. Kyle generously donated his winnings to the WSLA! To top off a great tournament all the golfers finished the day with a great meal!

1st PLACE: Ryan Pasakinskas, Steve Hjelm, Tyler Piascik & Abby LaChance

2nd PLACE: Dan Lambert, John Casey, Mike Carrigan & Kyle Blanchard

3rd PLACE: Chris Proal, James Maslenbrook, Cody Snow & Dave Pelletier

Longest Drive ladies: Casey Malite

Longest Drive men: Mark Lupisella

Closest to the pin men: Tyler Piascik

Closest to the pin ladies: No winner

We'd like to thank the WSLA board members, Sponsors and the many volunteers who helped make this year's tournament was a huge success. A special shout out to TJ Fluerty for donating bottled water to golfers, along with Cindy Kendall & Lin Anderson for donating the scratch tree.

Hope to see you next year!



Save the Date
for next year's
WSLA Golf
Tournament!

09.10.22

Westminster Country Club



Edward Jones Rindge • Edward Jones Winchendon
White's Farm Market • Dave Anderson and Family
Luke LaChance and Family
James Sweeney and Family • Chick's Tavern

HARBOUR
RESTAURANT

BROOKS
AUTO SERVICE INC

JM NORTH OF THE **BORDER**

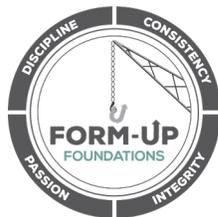
Zoe's
Restaurant & Pizzeria
on the green

MORIN REAL ESTATE

Winchendon
Furniture Co., Inc.



COCHRAN'S
TRUCKING



Cyanobacteria or blue-green algae?

What is often called blue-green algae is actually not algae at all and is instead bacteria. More specifically, they are a class of bacteria known as cyanobacteria of which there are over 6000 types. They are native to freshwater bodies as well as salt water and soils. Some types of cyanobacteria produce toxins while others are used for food such as the spirulina type. Here, we will focus on those types that produce toxins and what you should know about them.



Cyanobacteria are always present in freshwater ponds and lakes but typically only exists in small, dilute quantities. They become problematic to humans and their pets when they form larger colonies that are plainly visible to the naked eye which are referred to as Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB). These blooms are triggered when both the temperature and nutrients reach optimal levels. Typically, blooms occur in warmer weather and following rain events. The rain brings nutrients from runoff that feed into the rivers and brooks that in turn feed the lake. Fertilizers and leaky septic systems also contribute to the nutrient levels.

A bloom may be seen as a film, blobs, filaments, or just a discoloration of the water. One person described it as looking like bright green Silly String. While typically associated with warmer weather in the summer, cyanobacteria based HABs have been extending into the fall and have even been detected under ice. They are also more likely to form in stagnant waters. Unfortunately, these HABs are increasing in both frequency and severity. Because not all cyanobacteria produce toxins, not all blooms are harmful. Also, HABs should not be confused with common green algae which may look like underwater moss, thick stringy mats, or floating slimy scum, and tends to be more "sticky." That is, when a green algal bloom is poked with a stick, it is likely to cling to the stick.

What to do if you suspect a cyanobacteria HAB? Stay out of the water anywhere near the observed bloom and keep pets out of the water as well. If exposed to the water, wash with soap and water. If your pet has been exposed, contact your vet. Blooms can be reported to the Winchendon Board of Health. The EPA also has also sponsored a citizen science app called bloomWatch which allows anyone to download the app onto their smartphone which can be used to photograph and log HABs.



To see the full article and links on the WSLA website, visit wsla.us/waterquality



Doody Burial Vaults





WINCHENDON SPRINGS
LAKE ASSOCIATION

PO Box 411
Winchendon MA 01475

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Support WSLA!

- **SIGN UP:** Receive our newsletter and other news
- **MEMBERSHIPS:** Pay your dues online for 2021
- **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.

Pay online at wsla.us or make checks payable to WSLA Inc, PO Box 411 Winchendon, MA 01475

Visit
WSLA.US
for more
information

Winter Draw Down

Lake Monomonac's annual draw down begins October 15th and continues until it reaches the 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.

LEARN MORE

about WSLA news & events!

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wsla.us/contact

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WinchendonSprings
LakeAssociationWsla](http://facebook.com/WinchendonSpringsLakeAssociationWsla)

Visit
wsla.us

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.
- ➔ Don't go on 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:

mass.gov/service-details/ice-strength-and-safety



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.