

# LAKE LIFE

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

**SPRING 2018**



## Your Annual Membership fees are more important than ever.

The WSLA board has been working hard to combat the spread of invasive milfoil. Again this year, 100% of your WSLA dues will go toward maintaining the quality of our lake in the form of weed treatment on the Massachusetts side. We are imploring every homeowner to pay their dues, and to go one step further, make an additional donation. We are a 501(c) 3 organization and your additional donation is tax deductible.

In June of 2017 the WSLA spent \$11,870 to treat all 38.5 acres identified having invasive milfoil on the Massachusetts side; this exceeded the amount of paid annual dues by almost \$6,000. Unfortunately, we no longer have the financial resources to continue to treat 100% of the weeds at this level of acreage. It is simply unsustainable without your help, and we may have to make some tough decisions this coming June.

Your membership dues and additional contributions are 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](http://wsla.us), right bottom side of homepage

It's time to pay your

**2018  
WSLA DUES!**



**John Sarasin Lake Education Program:** Every spring, the Rindge and Winchendon 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes have a field trip to the lake where they learn from New Hampshire DES limnologists about water testing and quality.

# WSLA

WINCHENDON SPRINGS  
LAKE ASSOCIATION

## Letter from the President

Each spring as the lake is refilled we have reports of ice damage to docks and other structures at the shore of the lake. The Order of Conditions for drawdown management specifies that the lake should be refilled by April 1st. This date is the standard guidance provided by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for all lakes and ponds in Massachusetts that conduct drawdowns. The Winchendon DPW has some discretion in the timing of replacing the boards at the spillway and stop logs at the dam. The WSLA will be working with the Winchendon DPW in the future to determine when to replace the boards and stop logs to help prevent property damage. The intent is to have that take place after the entire lake is ice free.

Homeowners should note that, depending on the weather and the rate of snowmelt, Lake Monomonic can exceed summer levels in the spring without having any of the boards or stop logs replaced. In 2016 no boards were replaced at the spillway until May due to high water levels. The best way to minimize the risk property damage is to remove your dock if possible.

Jon Lewandowski  
WSLA President



## Results of New Drawdown

The Winchendon DPW began the newly approved three foot drawdown in mid-October. The drawdown is sequenced to control the rate of flow into the North Branch of the Millers River. It begins by removing boards from the three 4-foot wide by 2-foot deep crest gates at the spillway. Once the water flowing through the spillway gates has stabilized the DPW begins removing stop logs from the main dam until the lake drops by three feet.

During October and into November the controlled drawdown reached just over 2.5 feet. The Stump Pond area which is the main target for the 3-foot drawdown was substantially drained with only some very shallow landlocked pools of water remaining. In mid-November, a storm dumped about 10 inches of rain over the course of a few days (on Northern Worcester County). The Lake Monomonic watershed is over 12 square miles in area. Draining that much water through the lake can take weeks. By the time the lake returned to a level where the controlled draw down could resume it was December and the weather had turned very cold.

The WSLA had to choose whether to pull additional stop logs at the Main Dam to try to reach the full three foot drawdown or to wait until next year. Dropping the lake lower would do nothing to further drain the stump pond area as what water remained had completely frozen and was covered by snow. Any effect the 2017/2018 drawdown would have on the milfoil had already taken place. Dropping the lake to three feet could dry up additional wells during the dead of winter when the ability to improve them quickly was unclear.

The WSLA concluded the best course was to wait until the 2018/2019 draw down with a goal to reach the 3-foot level as early as possible. If needed, this will allow wells to be improved before the ground freezes solid.

Although we did not reach the full 3-foot drawdown we learned a lot. A full 3-foot drawdown will completely drain surface water from Stump Pond which is bad for the milfoil. We also need to ensure the drawdown goes as quickly as possible because once the lake drops 2-feet all the remaining water must flow through the single 6-foot wide culvert at the dam. We will not know the effect the drawdown has had on the milfoil until the lake survey is completed later this spring.

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## Boating Certification Reminder

Lake Monomonic is partly in MA and partly in NH. NH requires a Boater Education Card for anyone at least 16 years old, operating a motorboat over 25hp or ski craft.

**For more information, or to see if your certificate or license is accepted, visit: [boat-ed.com/newhampshire](http://boat-ed.com/newhampshire)**



**Boat-ed.com/newhampshire offers an online course (you do not have to be a NH resident). After passing the online course, you are required to attend an exam to complete your certification.**

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## State Wide Initiative for Weed Treatment Support

People who visit the WSLA web site may notice a new section containing downloadable information. The WSLA has initiated a state wide petition drive of 501(c) 3 lake associations. The intent of the petition is to increase awareness of the problems facing lake associations in the fight against non-native invasive aquatic species. The goal of the petition is to have the State of Massachusetts institute grant programs that will provide funds directly to lake associations and to municipalities. These funds will be specifically targeted for weed treatments and for programs to stop the further spread of these aquatic species.

As of this writing the WSLA has reached out to 33 lake associations in the senate district of our State Senator Anne Gobi. By joining together as a coalition, the independent lake associations will be able to speak with a more powerful and unified voice and bring more focus to this issue. Together these lake associations represent thousands of homeowners. Once the petitions are collected the WSLA plans to meet with Senator Gobi regarding this issue. The WSLA has also contacted lake associations in other senate districts with the intent of having them replicate what the WSLA is doing in our senate district.

## Weed Treatment

Lake Monomonac is uniquely located in two states, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. As a result of this, the rules, regulations and permitting surrounding weed treatment are specific to each state. WSLA and Monomonac Lake Property Owners Association (MLPOA) work together to coordinate treatment efforts and contract with SOLitude Lake Management to chemically treat identified portions of Lake Monomonac for control of non-native milfoil. Those portions will be treated with the State registered approved herbicide, Reward (Diquat), **on or about, Thursday June 7, 2018.**

The following temporary water use restrictions apply to all intakes within 1,200 feet of the treatment areas, drawing water for drinking or irrigation purposes, and to all wells and points within 50 feet of the treated areas:

- **No swimming for 24 hours following treatment, within 200 feet of treated areas.**
- **Do not use this water for livestock/domestic animal consumption for 1 day, within 200 feet of treated areas**
- **Do not use this water for drinking, irrigation or for mixing sprays for turf or landscape ornamental plants for 3 days**
- **Do not use this water for irrigation to food crops or for mixing sprays for agricultural or production ornamental plants for 5 days**

The shoreline will be posted with signs warning of the temporary water use restrictions that will be imposed, immediately prior to treatment. If you have any questions concerning this treatment, contact SOLitude Lake Management at 508-885-0101.



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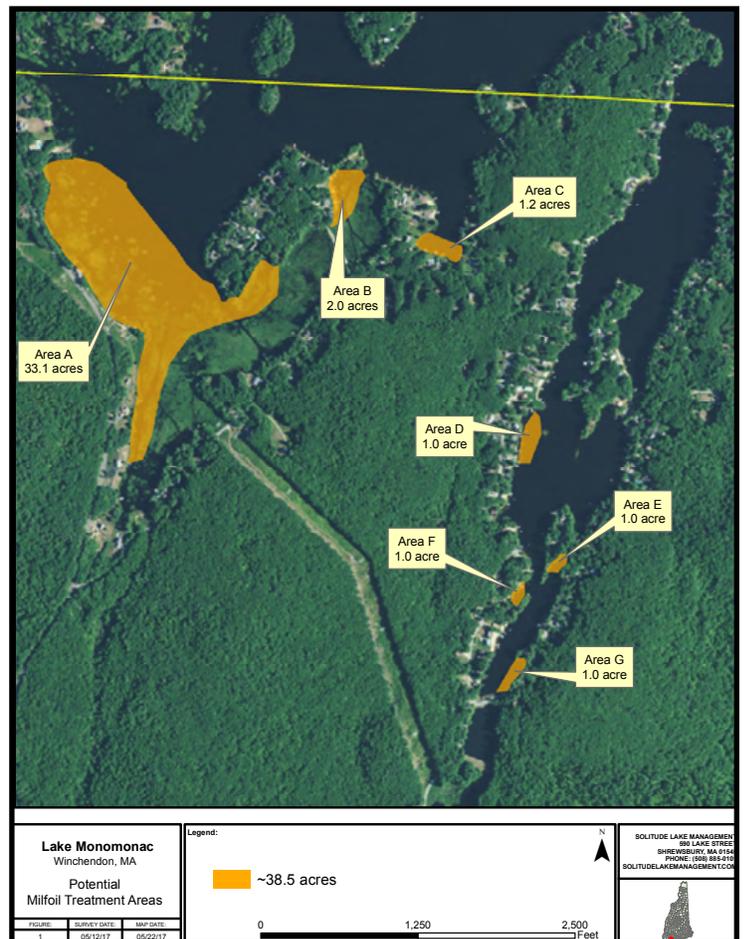
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## You Can Make a Difference

Your actions can affect the quality of our lake. Things you do every day without thinking can impact the ground water and lake. Little things like fertilizing your lawn, using products that contain phosphorus, failing to have your septic tank pumped out....all add up. A great resource to learn about lake ecology and ways that can protect the future of our lake is available from the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation. The Mass. Lake and Pond Guide can be found at <http://bit.ly/2p66azZ>

## Things we can all do to help maintain and improve water quality:

- **Don't use phosphorus fertilizers** instead choose natural organic fertilizers, our lake is very acidic so it is actually really good to use lime.
- **Reduce use of pesticides.** Identify the pest that is a nuisance and use only products specifically designed for that species. Do not discard left over pesticides down the drain or on the ground as it will leach into the lake.
- **Maintain your septic tank.** Simple actions can make a positive impact on your septic system, such as conserving water and fixing leaky faucets. Have your tank regularly pumped. Update failing

or failed septic systems. Several technologies exist that are ideal for small lots close to the water. A great resource can be found at [www.thecleansolution.com](http://www.thecleansolution.com)

- **Choose biodegradable dish and laundry detergents** that do not contain phosphates.
- **Do not store any fuel, cleaning supplies, batteries,** etc. near the water.
- **Do not feed the ducks or geese**—their waste is bad for the water.
- **Use native plantings** on or near the shore to prevent run off into the lake.
- **Keep shorelines natural.** For beach area maintenance be aware that sand is a significant source of phosphorus. Only washed sand is allowed and a permit is required.
- **Choose non-toxic building supplies for Docks and Rafts.** Pressure treated lumber, railroad ties, etc. are bad and illegal for lake usage. Use cedar, aluminum, plastic and other approved composite materials.
- **Use non-salt based de-icers** in the winter.
- **Communicate and Educate.** Talk to your family, neighbors, and guests. Tell them how important all of these things are.

## Visit [wsla.us](http://wsla.us) to check out the full line of Lake Monomonac apparel!

Please contact Joanne Moreau at [jo.moreau@hotmail.com](mailto:jo.moreau@hotmail.com) or (978) 297-0367 to place an order. Visit [wsla.us/store](http://wsla.us/store) for more info.



### New WSLA Apparel

All proceeds go towards fighting invasive weeds

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Last year, a group of lake residents got together to pick up trash along our lake roads. It was a success, but it didn't take long for the trash to pile up again. Please join us in taking care of our neighborhood and picking up trash when you can.

**Stay tuned for our 2018 Annual Clean Up Day!**

## Breaking News from Plummeting Paul!

The weather got warmer, the ice got thinner, the block went through and we have a WINNER! The clock stopped March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:14 am and the closest pick out of 589 entries was Renee Tambling, with a time of 8:12 am. Renee split the pot of \$1040 with WSLA, and donated half her winnings back to WSLA. Congratulations, and thank you Renee! The WSLA would also like to give a BIG THANK YOU to those who participated. Paul will be back next year!



### What's Paul doing in a golf cart?

Renee Tambling, Terry Charters and Ken LaBrack are following Paul down to Templewood Golf Course for the **1<sup>st</sup> Annual WSLA Golf Tournament July 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am** (men and women scramble). Raffles, cash prizes, and a barbecue to follow. Don't miss out on the fun!

For more info,  
visit [wsla.us](http://wsla.us) or  
contact Terry at  
(978) 297-0093

## IN MEMORIAM



**Laura Barnicle**, a lake resident since 1976 passed away on Oct

29, 2017 at age 95. She was active in Winarts" along with her long-time friend, Kay Nicholson.

*Pictured with sons, Paul and Andy.*



**Gloria Maybury** passed away on January 29, 2018 at age 77. She

lived on the lake for the past 25 years. She is survived by her husband James.

## UPCOMING WSLA EVENTS

JUNE  
23

### WSLA Annual Meeting

Please join us on **June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:00 am** at the **Winchendon American Legion**, 295 School St, Winchendon. Doors will be open at 8:30 and coffee and refreshments will be available.  
*Please plan to join us!*

JULY  
4

### Celebrate the 4th of July in your Favorite Decade!

Head back in time to celebrate this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July on Lake Monomonac! Join us for our annual boat parade, a joint event with MLPOA (Monomonac Lake Property Owner's Association). Parade starts at 1pm on the east side of MLSA (Monomonac Lake Sailing Association) Commodore Island. Decorate your boats and/or wear costumes to reflect your favorite decade.  
**NEW THIS YEAR: Decorate your lakefront!** Judging will take place at the beginning of the parade. Prizes will be awarded to both decorated boats and homes, donated by our local sponsors.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

Join us for WSLA's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament **July 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am** at **Templewood Golf Course** in Templeton, MA. Four players to a team, \$75/person includes round of golf, golf cart, followed by a BBQ. Grand prize is \$400, plus other prizes & raffles! For more information or to register, visit [wsla.us](http://wsla.us) or contact Terry at (978) 297-0093.

JULY  
14

**Stay tuned for more upcoming raffles and events!**

**Follow WSLA on Facebook and visit [wsla.us](http://wsla.us) to keep up to date on news, events, and other information.**

# WSLA

WINCHENDON SPRINGS  
LAKE ASSOCIATION

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## Support WSLA!

- **SIGN UP:** Receive our newsletter and other news
- **MEMBERSHIPS:** Pay your dues online for 2018
- **DONATE:** Contribute towards weed control and/or other association costs  
*Please email [wsla.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:wsla.treasurer@gmail.com) if you want to donate to a specific cause.*

Pay online at [wsla.us](http://wsla.us) or make checks payable to WSLA Inc, PO Box 411 Winchendon, MA 01475

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