

# LAKE LIFE

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

SPRING 2020



## Why Membership Fees and Donations are Important

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.

Last year WSLA spent 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. At the cost of over \$1,100/acre, we may need to make some hard choices as to which areas to treat for weeds. **We urge every lake front owner to pay your membership dues and make an additional tax deductible contribution.** This is essential for continuing to maintain the quality of the lake in all its natural beauty.

This past year, **less than 50%** of Massachusetts lake front property owners supported our association with paying 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 goes 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).

**Please help us protect our beautiful lake by joining the Winchendon Springs Lake Association (WSLA) for \$50/year.**

**Membership 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

# WSLA

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pay your

**2020  
WSLA DUES!**



## Letter from the President

Normally as spring arrives our thoughts turn to happy times at the lake. We think of family gatherings, picnics, sitting around the campfire with neighbors or reconnecting with old friends. Clearly this year is different. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everything and it affects all of us like no other event of our lifetimes. I am watching my first grandchild grow up via a screen on the telephone and I pretty much don't go anywhere except once a week to the grocery store. But these are tiny hardships when measured against what so many others are facing. While I'm safe at the lake, my niece is an ICU nurse working in Boston. Now that's hardship. One day this pandemic will be over and life will return to normal. Till then stay safe and count your blessings.

Jon Lewandowski  
WSLA President

## What We Learned from the Drawdown

The fall of 2019 marked the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the 3-foot drawdown. Here are some things that we have learned.

The 3-foot drawdown can have a significant negative impact on the variable milfoil. The early fall of 2017 was reasonably dry. The target areas for the drawdown like Stump Pond were drained a little over 2 ½ feet before a significant rain event in November. We had several weeks of weather where the Milfoil was exposed to the freezing and drying conditions that are conducive to killing the plant. The area of Milfoil to be treated fell from 40 acres to 13 acres.

The weather controls the rate and depth of the drawdown more than we do. The dam cannot release enough water to lower the lake below 2-feet if we have significant rain in the fall. The fall/winter of 2018/2019 was very wet. At no point from October till April did the drawdown reach even 2-feet. We did reach 3-feet this past year but most of the final foot came in the winter after snowfall covered and insulated the milfoil. It seems likely that the conditions conducive to killing the milfoil via drawdown will happen only once every three or four years.

Refilling the lake is unlikely ever to be a problem. Even with almost no snow cover the lake refilled quickly once the stop logs were replaced this spring. The watershed is so large that a single rain storm can raise the lake a foot or more.

To have the greatest likelihood of a successful drawdown the lake should be lowered as fast as possible once the drawdown commences. This will allow the longest possible time to dry out shallow areas and allow freeze cycles prior to snowfall.



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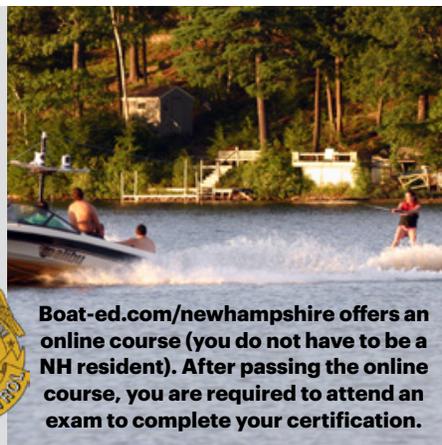
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## Boating Certification Reminder

Lake Monomonac 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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## What to Keep in Mind While Enjoying Boating & Recreational Activities on Lake Monomonac

**SAFE BOATING CERTIFICATION:** Safe Boating Certification is required. Lake Monomonac is located in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and all boaters 16 yrs and older operating a motorboat over 25hp or ski craft are required to have Safe Boating Certification Card/License. For more information, or to see if your certificate or license is accepted, visit: <https://www.boat-ed.com/newhampshire/>

**LIFE JACKETS:** Life jacket wear is mandatory for: children 12 and under at all times, underway, and above deck; everyone riding on a personal watercraft; anyone being towed in any way on or through the water; canoeists, kayakers and paddle boarders operating between September 15<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> [https://www.usps.org/e\\_stuff/documents/massachusetts-boating-law.pdf](https://www.usps.org/e_stuff/documents/massachusetts-boating-law.pdf)

**“NO WAKE ZONE”:** There are a number of no wake zones on Lake Monomonac—what do they mean? Boats entering a no wake zone should be operating at a speed of 5 miles or less and have no wake. Additionally, the no wake zones in the narrows section in Massachusetts are also a **No Tow Zone**, as there is not enough legal clearance to the shoreline & docks.

**MARKERS - HAZARDS:** There are many markers on our lake marking channels and hazards. Know where they are and what they mean. Additionally be aware that although many hazards are marked, some are not. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with our lake, and be aware of very shallow areas and hazards, both marked and unmarked.

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## Weed Treatment

Lake Monomonac is uniquely located in two states, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Because 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 on June 8<sup>th</sup>.**

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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# Living on Our Lake: How You Can Make a Difference & Important Things to Know

We all love enjoying everything that Lake Monomonac has to offer from boating, to fishing, swimming, to just sitting and viewing it's beauty. Our lake and environment needs each and every one of us to be more aware of the small things we can do in our everyday life to play a small part in not just maintaining, but actually improving the health of our lake. Some of the ways you can make a difference:

- **Choose biodegradable dish and laundry detergents** that do not contain phosphates.
- **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)
- **Keep shorelines natural/Use native plantings** on or near the shore to prevent erosion and run off into the lake. 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.
- **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 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.



**WSLA has authority to issue a sand permit to paid members with existing beaches only, an advantage to being a paid WSLA member. If interested in a permit contact us at:**

**[wsla.monomonac@gmail.com](mailto:wsla.monomonac@gmail.com)  
or 978-273-0881.**

As a lake front owner your properties is directly affected by the *Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act*. Whether you are a new owner or have owned for years, some or all of your property is considered legally protected land. Any projects you want to do within the 100 foot buffer zone from the shoreline, you must comply with these laws.

The most common projects that permission and conservation permits are needed include, but not limited to:

- Construction of any kind, including repairs or alteration of any kind to any structure/s, deck & docks, driveways, sheds
- Destruction or removal of plant life including cutting of any trees,
- Dumping, discharging or filling with any material which may degrade water quality this includes beach sand\*
- Removal, excavation, or dredging of soil, sand, gravel, or aggregate materials of any kind
- Drainage or other disturbance of water level or water table

For further information & to get approval &/or a permit for your project, contact the Winchendon Conservation Commission at (978) 297-3537. Check out Winchendon's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and how does it differs from the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act at <https://www.townofwinchendon.com/sites/winchendonma/files/uploads/wetlandsbylaw.pdf>

**Did you know....**  
that no disturbance or construction of any kind is allowed within 100 feet of a wetland area without approval of the Winchendon Conservation Commission?

For more information or questions?  
Contact Alison Manugian, Planning & Conservation Agent at:  
[amanugian@townofwinchendon.com](mailto:amanugian@townofwinchendon.com) or  
1-978-297-5410





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**Let's work together to keep our neighborhood clean!**

While it would be ideal to have a pristine neighborhood year-round, litter has a habit of popping up. The best way to keep our roads, yards, and lake clean is to pick up litter when you see it. We appreciate all efforts to keep our neighborhood beautiful.

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Gail Whittle**, age 75, passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, April 3, 2020. Gail spent her short retirement doing what she loved, including boat rides with her husband on Lake Monomonic.

**Visit [wsla.us](http://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.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**JUNE 20**

**WSLA Annual Meeting**

In support of social distancing, we'll be offering our annual meeting online this year. Please join us for a virtual meeting on **June 20<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am**. Join the Zoom meeting by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87115846023>

**AUG 29**

**Summer Concert**

Join us for WSLA's end of season concert! Neon Alley will be performing live music on the water in the narrows (refer to our website's event page for exact location). Boat view only, no standing space.

***The weather got warmer, the ice got thinner, the block went through, and we have a WINNER!***

Paul's clock stopped on March 13, 2020 at 4:16 pm and the winner was Lisa Dubreuil. Congratulations and thank you Lisa! The WSLA would also like to give a **BIG THANK YOU** to those who participated in WSLA's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Ice Out contest.

**Due to Covid-19, the 3rd Annual Golf Tournament has been cancelled.**

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

# WSLA

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LAKE ASSOCIATION

PO Box 411  
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## Support WSLA!

- **SIGN UP:** Receive our newsletter and other news
- **MEMBERSHIPS:** Pay your dues online for 2020
- **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.*

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