

LAKE LIFE

FALL
2017

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

Don't Get Caught in the Weeds...

Do you enjoy the wonders that Lake Monomonac has to offer, such as swimming, boating, kayaking, fishing, hiking, the wildlife, snowmobiling, ice fishing, cross country skiing, snow shoeing and more? If so, we need your help!

This past year the association paid \$11,370 for weed treatment in Massachusetts, which has completely depleted our financial resources. As of today, **half of the owners have paid their membership fees**, totaling \$5,750. This does not even come close to paying for the cost of weed treatment. Without the necessary financial resources which come primarily through membership fees and donations, WSLA will not be able to treat all areas infested with invasive milfoil and fear that our lake will be in grave danger.

Therefore, we are imploring every home owner surrounding the lake to pay your dues and to consider an additional tax deductible contribution/donation. To the 125 owners who have paid their membership fees this year, we extend a big thank you for your support!

Winter Draw Down

Lake Monomonac's annual draw down will begin 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.

**Help us protect
our lake and
fight invasive
weeds!**



**Dues, contributions
and donations can be
paid in 2 ways:**

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

PAYPAL

Visit our website
www.wsla.us, right
bottom side of
homepage

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>

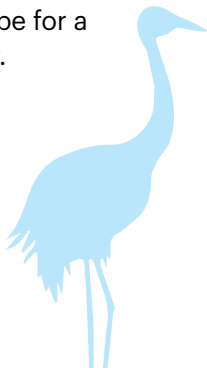
Letter from the President


How long does it take to lower Lake Monomonac three feet? In the case of the now approved three foot annual drawdown it took 25 years. The approval was the result of the joint efforts of the WSLA and the MLPOA. It required the cumulative body of knowledge, studies and reports built up over time by the associations' members both past and present to get approval. So I want to say thank you to all of the members who spent the hundreds of hours doing the research and the leg work required to allow the Winchendon Conservation Commission to finally say yes.

It would appear that the WSLA's two year battle with the owners of White's Mill is over. The final obstacle for the drawdown, an appeal by Brandywine Farms of the new Order of Conditions, was dismissed by the State Department of Environmental Protection. The Order of Conditions covering the weed treatments and the drawdown are good for three years and can be renewed by the local Conservation Commission after that. Any objection to the renewal of an existing Order of Conditions can only be brought before the local Conservation Commission, not the state DEP.

Despite the deeper drawdown, weed treatment will continue to be the biggest expense faced by the WSLA. The drawdown will only effect milfoil in areas where the plant is exposed, dried out, and frozen. Let's hope for a cold, dry December.

Jon Lewandowski
WSLA President



wsla.us
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Upcoming Events

50/50 ICE OUT CONTEST

Can you guess when 2018 ice out will be?! Winner(s) split 50/50 split. 1 pick/\$2 or 3 picks/\$5. To purchase, contact David Anderson at (978) 855-6143 or dander1952@yahoo.com.

KID'S ICE FISHING FUNDRAISER

Join us for a family-friendly event to get the kids outdoors and have some fun! January date TBD (will have back up dates if needed for weather/safety).

EARTH DAY-LAKE CLEANUP

Celebrate Earth Day and participate in spring cleaning for our neighborhood! WSLA will offer gloves and bags as we pick up our roadsides together.

MONOMONAC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Calling all Golfers! WSLA will be holding the 1st annual golf tournament on July 14th, 2018, 9am at Templewood Golf Course in Templeton, MA. Save the date and get your foursomes together. More information to follow in the spring.

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LEARNING MORE**
about upcoming
events and news?

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2017 Year in Review

It's been a great year on Lake Monomonac! We began with our **annual meeting** held at the American Legion on June 17th. Thank you Ken LaBrack for getting us the space and thank you to all those who donated refreshments.

Thank you Mark Desmarais for organizing the **CPR/AED training class** on June 29th. Many thanks to the Winchendon American Legion for a great place to hold events.

A special thanks to **Phil White** for helping out with the buoys this year.

Thanks to all who participated in the 2017 **4th of July Boat parade!** The theme was Broadway musical/play and everyone did an awesome job decorating!
(photo: right)

Once again, Joanne Moreau was the chairperson for our **100 Club** raffle. Great job Jo! She is also the caretaker of all the WSLA apparel.

Lourdes Gray generously donated **Lake Monomonac DVD's** for WSLA to sell and 100% of the proceeds to be used for weed treatments. We can't thank her enough and the DVD is full of great information and history about our lake. To purchase, contact Joanne, jo.moreau@hotmail.com or (978) 297-0367.

Thank you to Jon for the **water level marker** that is installed at the dam. This will ensure that our drawdown is more accurate than in previous years.

Thank you to Ken LaBrack for putting together our **end of season concert**. Huge thanks to Paul Betourney for the use of his dock for the band, and to Neon Alley for a great show. This was a first for us, and a good time was had by all. (photo: right)



Karen Drudi initiated the first **cleanup day** which was held on September 16. Special thanks to Carol & Nick Semenza and Joseph & Jill Sackett for your participation, and to Jim Lapointe for the donation of trash bags and gloves. Join us next year to celebrate Earth Day in April by cleaning up our neighborhoods.
(photo: left)



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- **SIGN UP:** Receive our newsletter and other news
- **MEMBERSHIPS:** You can still pay your 2017 dues online

Please email wsla.treasurer@gmail.com if you want to donate to a specific cause. Donations over \$50 are tax deductible.

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