

The Lake Report

An Update from the Lake Winona Improvement Association

Summer 2011

DES Ends Investigation; Sets Lake Level at 540'

On April 29, 2011, after more than two years since its investigation to set a water level for the Waukewan Watershed began, DES announced it had concluded its Lake Level Investigation. The final determination was made that “a summer recreational level of 540.0 feet on Lake Waukewan is protective of the ecology of both Lake Waukewan and Lake Winona and strikes a proper balance among the many factors that DES must consider including balancing the interests of those whose use and enjoyment of the lakes are affected by high lake levels, and those whose use and enjoyment are affected by low water levels.”

The investigation by DES began in October 2008 following complaints from both Lake Winona and Waukewan residents regarding property and shoreline damage due to high water levels and a lack of consistent water level management by dam operators, Hampshire Hospitality Holdings.

To reduce the frequency and extent of flooding of the shoreline during the spring, DES has determined the fall/winter level be maintained at 538.5 feet. The drawdown will begin on Columbus Day and extend to May 15th of the following year.

For its investigation, DES included research into topics relevant to the control of the outlet, collaboration with experts, collection of information and opinion from affected parties and other interests, several public forums to gather testimony, analysis of water



Photos compliments of Nora Foster

level data, and numerous field assessments.

As part of their investigation, DES set an interim operating level for the lakes in April 2010. For the 2010 recreation season lake levels were maintained at 539.5 feet with a gradual drawdown to 538.5 feet beginning in November 2010. During such time DES solicited public comments on the interim level.

As part of its final operating level decision DES is requiring that the operations of the dam be timely and aggressive so that Lake Waukewan is maintained at a consistent an elevation as possible.

A link to the full report is available on the LWIA website at www.lakewinonanh.org/news/253.

From Don's Desk

As we embark upon another year's opportunity to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of our little lake, I hope everyone is preparing to remain active in the LWIA.



The DES has completed its review and finalized its operating plan for the maintenance of our lake level. Although some will be disappointed, and others satisfied with the mandate, let's move forward with the faith that all the information gathered and study done, has led the experts to the best possible solution for the enjoyment of our lake and the protection of its shorelines, water quality, and wildlife.

In addition, the state has struggled with its budget and ultimately our volunteer water quality testing program may be affected. If you would like to volunteer to help with the sampling, please contact Nora or me. We will have more news on this at our June 25th meeting.

Although the beaver dam has remained open all winter, there is always the chance new residents will begin rebuilding. We must remain diligent to insure the beavers don't exacerbate the lake level. Please consider volunteering to help maintain the opening.

Last summer there were some questions regarding the navigational proprieties that we have promoted on the lake, and several incidents with the Marine Patrol were reported. We have asked a representative from the Marine Patrol to attend our June meeting to answer any questions you may have as to this or any other water issues.

As always, your input and suggestions for the Association's activities are welcome. I look forward to seeing each of you at the June meeting. THANK YOU Jean Chute for graciously hosting this meeting.

Don

Don Thibeault, LWIA President
don@lakewinonanh.org



Photos compliments of Nora Foster

Evan and Colin Foster walk on the beaver dam this Fall on Snake River. Maintaining water flow through the dam is an ongoing effort by the LWIA and lake volunteers.

LWIA Dues Support Many Lake Efforts

The Lake Winona Improvement Association (LWIA) has a long history. Originally founded in 1947 by a group of families on the West Shore Road, the LWIA has developed into a lake-wide membership devoted to:

- preserving the water quality and the land's natural beauty;
- promoting the safe, courteous and sensible use of the water;
- and encouraging friendly relations among members through social activities

This mission statement is only as good as the activities behind it. And the activities are only made possible through the financial support of lake owners.

In addition to the newsletter and the LWIA website to improve owner communication, annual association dues are used to fund lake water testing; beaver population controls and removal of dams to maintain the nor-

mal lake level; and upkeep of our public boat launch.

Funds are also used to participate in the New Hampshire Lakes Association and to support the Loon Preservation Committee.

The Association also acts as a collective body to support the needs of lake owners. For example, in 2008 the LWIA engaged DES to investigate the lake level issue; in the past the Association lobbied to ban ski craft (jet skis) on the lake and pooled contributions to purchase two conservation parcels to protect for future generations.

Your support makes these efforts possible. Last year dues were collected from only half the owners on the lake. We need to continue to build and maintain a strong and active lake association. It's a small investment to ensure a healthy lake.

Lake's Water Quality Remains High

Results from our July 2010 sampling continue to be good. Samples were collected from the deepest spot on the lake, plus 4 key inlet points around the lake.

Transparency continues to be exceptionally high, while dissolved oxygen was low.

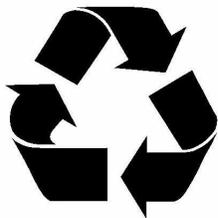
More details from the report will be presented at our June 25 meeting. The full report will also be made available at www.lakewinonanh.org/water.html.

Water quality analysis has been a top priority for the LWIA. This testing shows whether the lake's water quality has deteriorated, improved or remained the same, and helps identify the location of specific problems so corrective action can be initiated. Given the state's proposed DES cutbacks and the elimination of the VLAP program, the LWIA will be investigating alternative options for continued water testing. Your annual dues help make this possible.

2011 testing is tentatively planned for July. Volunteers and a boat are needed. Please contact Don Thibeault at 603-968-7848.

West Shore Road Meeting to be Held on May 28

West Shore Road residents are encouraged to attend the annual road maintenance meeting on Saturday, May 28 at 10 a.m. The meeting will be hosted by Leslie Avery at 88 West Shore Rd.



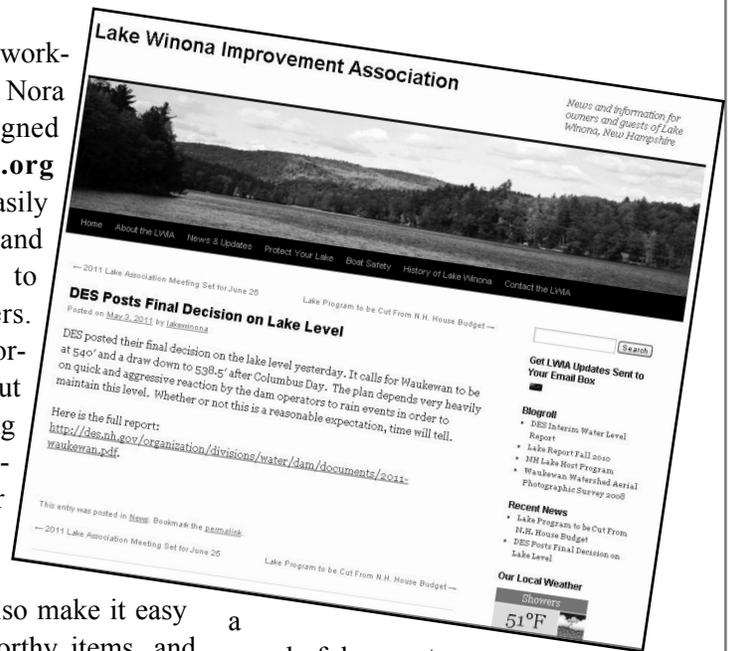
Please Recycle This Newsletter

Website Redesign Brings News and Updates to Owners Faster

This winter our hard working LWIA Secretary, Nora Foster, redesigned www.lakewinonanh.org for it to be more easily updated with news and updates of interest to Lake Winona owners. With the new blog format you can learn about lake news by visiting the website or by subscribing to an RSS or email feed. You can also comment on posts.

The new site will also make it easy to share your newsworthy items, and even beautiful photos taken on the lake. You can send items to Nora at nora@lakewinonanh.org.

Nora is also looking for contributors to share old photos and stories about life on the lake. The website would be



a wonderful way to preserve our lake's history and give newer owners a look at a rich history created by many long standing families on the lake.

The LWIA website is made possible by your association dues.

Your 2011 Lake Association Dues Are Due By July 1

Annual dues are an investment in your lake. In addition to our communication, educational and social efforts, the LWIA works to maintain the health of our lake and acts as a collective body to support the needs of lake owners.

Invest In Your Lake

Your annual LWIA membership is a small investment to make to ensure a healthy lake. Renew or Join today!

ENCLOSED: \$15 LWIA DUES

\$115 LWIA + WEST SHORE ROAD DUES

Make Checks Payable to: LWIA

Mail to: LWIA, P.O. Box 87, Plymouth, NH 03264

Lake Winona Improvement Association
21 West Shore Road
New Hampton, NH 03256

2011 LWIA Meeting
Saturday, June 25
10:00 am
900 Winona Road
(please bring a lawn chair)

NH Budget Cuts to End VLAP

The Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) is among five DES water quality monitoring and management programs that will end on June 30 if the NH House budget is adopted in its current form.

VLAP was created in 1985 as a cost-effective way to monitor water quality in the state's 800 public lakes and ponds by tapping into a broad network of volunteers. On Lake Winona, the LWIA annually arranges for volunteers who help the VLAP coordinator collect lake water samples. A state biologist then processes the samples and reports on the findings.

The LWIA plans to continue water testing to monitor the quality of Lake Winona and is investigating available options should the VLAP be discontinued. More details will be provided at the June 25 meeting.



Photos compliments of Nora Foster

Don't Feed the Ducks

A duck pair failed to migrate this winter from our lake. A reminder to lake owners and their guests that water fowl should not be fed. Feeding encourages them to be dependent on humans. Instead of migrating south or continuing their flight throughout the area in search of food and shelter, waterfowl stick close to places where they are fed. As a result, many local parks, ponds and lakes are overrun with waterfowl (and their feces).