

# Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association

P.O. Box 451, Meredith, NH 03253

*An Environmental Organization Protecting the Waukewan and Winona Watershed*

## Message from Dave and Deb

### Our Mission

"The Mission of the Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association is to encourage and support long range planning, responsible lake level management and sound conservation techniques to preserve the ecology, environment and natural beauty of the Waukewan and Winona Watershed. It serves as a voice for its members in matters of group concern with regard to the environment and seeks to assist with scientific studies, education programs and the preparation and dissemination of educational materials."

Welcome to Fall and Winter on our Lakes and Ponds! As we head into a quieter time for the watershed we are reminded of all that we have accomplished in recent months: We introduced our organization at the Winona Improvement Association's annual meeting; our own annual meeting in July was enthusiastically received; we hosted two important and well attended seminars at the Meredith Community Center, and our organization joined the Loon Preservation Society and NH Lakes Associations. And as of this writing, according to DES, there have been no reported Cyanobacteria blooms in our watershed.

Most exciting of all has been the public response to our organization and its conservation efforts. Our environmental seminar series will continue next summer, and we will keep you informed as we know more. In the meantime, we wish you a happy and healthy New Year 2013.

Dave Reilly & Deb Corr,  
Co-Chairs



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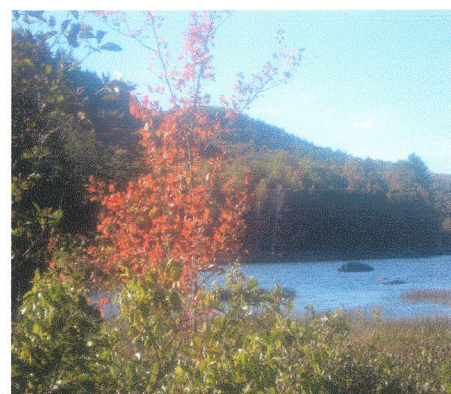
## Winter Watershed Safety Tips

By Lee Callahan

Protecting the watershed in the winter while maintaining a safe environment under snowy and icy conditions requires a balanced approach. Removing snow and ice in a timely manner and keeping it from blocking drains, doorways and emergency exits is very important.

However, care needs to be taken in the choice of materials we use to manage snow and ice on our roads and walkways. **Sand** is probably the safest and cheapest but it won't do anything to

Lake Winona, September, 2012





## Winter Watershed Safety Tips (continued)

melt ice. **Rock Salt** is readily available and cheap but can be very harmful to the environment. **Magnesium Chloride** is made for melting ice and is safe for the environment. **Calcium Chloride** is effective but can damage plants, metal and concrete. A more expensive but wonderful alternative is a product like **Safe Paw Ice Melter** that works down to -2 degrees and is safe for the environment, pets and children. **Potassium Chloride** is somewhat less damaging to plants but is less effective overall. **Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)**

has low toxicity and is less damaging but is relatively expensive and may be hard to find. One note: **Never** use fertilizer as a melting agent!

Whichever material you use outdoors to deal with ice and snow can eventually drain into our watershed. De-icing materials should be used sparingly, using only enough to accomplish the goal of safe travel, either on foot or by vehicle.

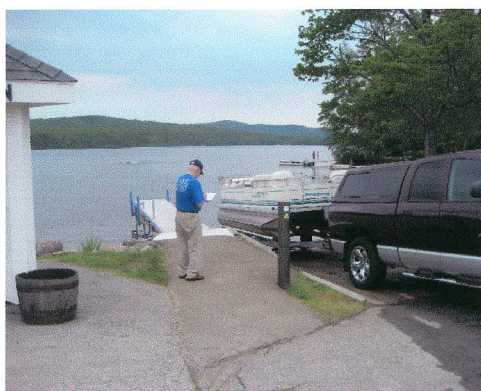
The water bodies in the Waukewan and Winona Watershed are a precious resource, and every care should be taken to preserve them while balancing the need to be safe. Go out and have fun this winter!



Big snow storm on Lake Waukewan

## Waukewan's Lake Host Program 2012 by Tim Whiting

This past summer the Waukewan Lake Hosting Program AGAIN had a record breaking success, both in the number of boats inspected—1234—and the number of **volunteer hours**—299. Our Lake Hosts did not register any weed saves. However, the good thing is that boaters using Lake Waukewan have been educated to inspect and clean their



boats and trailers of weeds. I think our efforts are paying off on that score.

Our Waukewan Lake Host Program depends on volunteers. Our training program is in the late Spring each year. Please consider joining our dedicated team! Call or email Tim Whiting for more information:

tlwhiting@aol.com; 279-7834.

## Mosquito Bridge's Beaver Dam by Deb Corr

Our hopes rose too soon last June when we thought the beavers had given up their efforts to block the area under Mosquito Bridge at the entrance to Lake Waukewan from Snake River.

Dam clearing operations have been going on for a month now, but the beavers have persisted! On Sunday, November 11, neighbors made an-

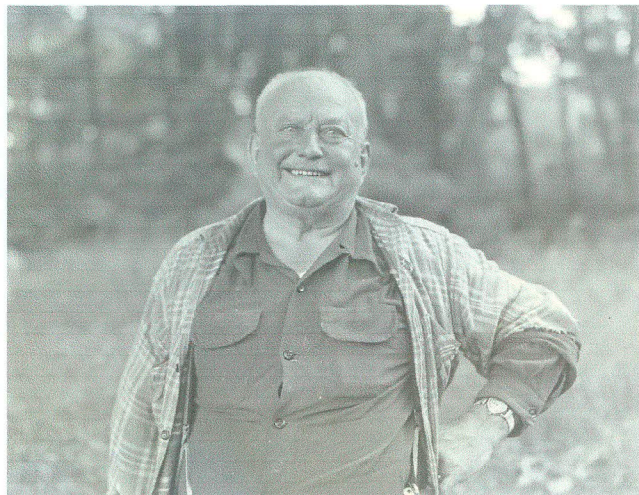
other heroic effort and this time cleared the dam all the way across the opening and down to the river bottom. We can only hope the beavers will move on—perhaps to an area with less impact on the water levels of Lakes Waukewan and Winona. Thanks to all who have worked so tirelessly to keep the water flowing freely!



Mosquito Bridge and debris from beaver dam clearing on November 11, 2012.



## Remembering Elmer (1877-1958) by Deb Corr



If you grew up in the Waukewan and Winona Watershed in the late 1940's or 1950's or came to the Watershed during that time, you would have been hard pressed not to have heard about Elmer Huntress—Center Harbor Native, local historian, natural poet, and first class rural character!

Over a number of years Elmer wrote a column for the Meredith News called "Head of Waukewan." It seems to have been a bit sporadic, but was always interesting. The following article was found by a Lake Waukewan resident, tacked up on the wall of an old camp. Enjoy!

### Head of Waukewan

By Elmer Huntress

Tel. Crestview 9-4985

I have been news catcher for the Meredith News for more than twenty-five years. Not much news so will send along a little about the wonderful sheet of water about 2.5 miles long by a mile wide in the garden of central New Hampshire. Some things that were handed down to me by old timers who owned land on its shores in the three townships of Meredith, Center Harbor and New Hampton.

The Indians used this lake as a swimming hole. They invited other tribes to come and swim with them and enjoy the clear water with its bleaching power. What percent ammonia it contains, I don't know, but I will say it has enough so lake trout and steel head trout will not live in it. Pike, perch, Chinoek and Southern salmon will.

Allie Hall, when he was manager of Meredith

Linen Mills, told me there was a lake in Indiana just like Waukewan, the only other one in the United States. He used to bleach for other firms their nice fabrics.

The Indians called this Rough Water. When the pale faces took over they called it Measley Pond. It always went by that name until the State changed it to Waukewan.

Two young men, years and years ago in search of fur, camped on Great Island. One was taken sick with the measles and died. After that it always went by the name, Measley Pond.

There are eleven islands in Waukewan. All but three have camps or cottages on them. Eighty years ago there was not a camp or cottage on island or shore. Today there are over a hundred.

When I was a small boy, I used to like to see sheep and horses swim from shore to Great Island. At that time Otis F. Hawkins owned Great Island and it pastured nine sheep and two horses. He would go over every Sunday with salt for them. Today Great Island would not feed a rabbit.

At that time, as I remember, there were what looked like mounds on the island. There could be Indians buried there. I am not sure about this.

This lake contains some large fish, pickerel, small mouth bass, horned pout, perch, salmon and the famous sun fish.

Now over to Mosquito Bridge, the line between Ctr. Harbor and New Hampton, and up the Snake River is Winona Lake.

This lake was always called Loon Lake until its name was changed to Winona by the State. Many cottages and camps are now along the shores of this body of water. It has one island. The fishing is the same as in Waukewan as the fish pass from one lake to the other by way of the river.

This lake is called Winona because on the shore in Ctr. Harbor on land owned by Beatrice York is a large ledge and boulder. From this ledge an Indian girl fell into the water and was drowned. It is called Winona after her.

Up the shore and about 1000 feet from the head of the lake is the geographical center of New Hampshire. Going north westerly a dirt road highway comes to the State road on the site that was once Union Schoolhouse.

Here, I am leaving you. Best of luck always and have a good day. Thank you.

**Note:** Watch for more "Words of Wisdom" from Elmer in future articles in our newsletter. DC



## Update on Waukegan and Winona Loons by Janan Hays

The beautiful, haunting call of a Loon is an essential part of experiencing life on the lake during the summer season. Residents of Waukegan and Winona were blessed with three territorial breeding pairs this past summer.

Waukegan's Jenness Cove pair produced two healthy chicks which, thankfully, survived the season. As of the end of October, it appeared that the Jenness Cove adults had migrated, and the two fledglings were still in residence on the lake. It is normal for the adults to leave before their young. At this point in the season the fledglings are quite self-sufficient and will be migrating soon.

The nesting attempts of the Snake River Loon pair have been unsuccessful in recent years, primarily due to flooding of their nest site. Unfortunately, it appears they didn't attempt nesting at all this season, either on the new loon raft or a natural nesting site. It is unclear why they didn't attempt nesting this year. However, observers noted there was quite a bit of human curiosity and activity around the Loon raft which may have discouraged the pair from the area. On an encouraging note, they did continue to defend their territory at the north end of the lake through the season, staying close to Snake River much of the time.



It may take a few years for the pair to acclimate and attempt nesting on the Loon raft or to choose a natural site on the river once again, but it appears to be a positive sign that they were staying in close proximity to Snake River and the raft. An important factor in nesting success will be allowing them space without human disturbance and activity in the area of the raft. If venturing down Snake River, please remember to stay well away from the area of the Loon raft.

There was enormous excitement about Loons staking out a territory and nesting on Winona this summer for the first time in more than 15 years! The pair nested a bit late in the season, however, everything was proceeding normally according to LPC biologists. Excitement became extreme sadness when, approximately 6 days from projected date of hatch, the pair was flushed from the nest and the egg rolled and cracked. It is suspected that human encroachment near the nest to get an up close look at the Loons was the culprit. Loons are easily flushed from their nest, often abandoning the egg(s). As stewards of our lakes, it is important for us to educate our family, friends or renters to be respectful of the lake's creatures and their territory and allow them space. Hopefully, this pair will return to Winona to nest next season.

So although we were lucky to have three breeding pairs this past season, unfortunately, only one pair was successful in producing chicks. This demonstrates how difficult it is for Loons to nest successfully and why they are so endangered.

For now, we will wish our Loons a safe winter. May the memories of their beauty and echoes of their voices stay with you until next spring when they fly back to us again.



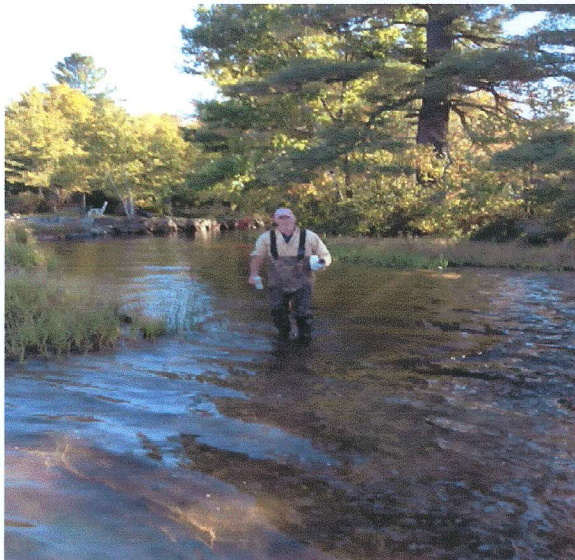


## Water Quality Testing Update on Lake Winona by Linda Heminway

**Don Thibeault in his waders,  
Assists with water testing on Lake  
Winona, 9/27/2012**

**Lake Winona, 9/27/2012:** Due to the rather frigid temperatures, getting out of the boat and wading into tributaries such as the Hawkins Pond Inlet to obtain proper samples on Winona would have been difficult and really cold. Lake residents Linda and Mark Heminway and Donna Saia were glad to be assisted by Don Thibeault and his trusty waders to obtain samples. Thanks, Don!

For the testing conducted today, we were accompanied by Sara Steiner and intern, Julie, of UNH and, as usual, our learning continues. Thank you to all who participated. Final results will be available in about 2—3 weeks, including e-coli for all inlets that were flowing.



Though a cold day, our beautiful lake showed off for us! A great blue heron waded on the shore right in front of our DES expert, who promptly noted this sighting for her records. We are asked about wildlife sightings during testing, and the heron was quite superior.

We were told by Julie, the intern, that she asked if this was “one of the nice lakes” on the way here and that Sara said “yes.” Apparently some of the DES visits are to lakes with “green slime” and other undesirable conditions. So, our beautiful Lake Winona is among the “favored” lakes for visitations.

Editors note: Ms. Heminway's team conducted three complete sets of tests during the 2012 recreational season. Results are now available. You can email Linda at [ibquilt@comcast.net](mailto:ibquilt@comcast.net) for more information.

## Who Are The Members of Our Board?

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**Hawkins Pond, September, 2012**

