

# 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."

Spring and early summer have arrived this year with a good deal of rain so the trees, ferns and plants in general are lush with new growth.

Someone asked us recently why we work so hard to try to protect the watershed—what is it about this place that brought us here—and keeps us here, year after year.

We have come to realize over the years that the lakes and ponds in our care are rare gems, and if they are to be sustained—if their beauty and pristine quality are to survive, we must all pitch in together

to care for the watershed we cherish. What can you do to be a good lake steward? How can you help to educate your friends and neighbors so that they, too, can be protectors of this rare and special natural resource?

Have a safe and happy summer, 2013.  
Dave Reilly & Deb Corr  
Co-Chairs

(photo below)

**Ice melting on Lake Waukewan in early April**



Volume 2, Issue 1

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Spring/Summer 2013

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## VLAP Results are in!

Volunteer Lake Assessment Results for Lakes Waukewan and Winona for 2012 have been released, and the results are now accessible on line in an easily understandable format..

Water tests have been conducted on Lake Winona regularly now since August, 2011, and regular testing continues on Lake Waukewan. **In General:**

On Winona, upper and middle levels of phosphorus



## VLAP Results are In! (continued)

remained low throughout the season and were below the NH lake median. The lower level phosphorus was elevated in June, probably due to disruption of the sediment during sampling, and the phosphorus at the Hawkins Pond inlet was slightly elevated in September after considerable rain. Upper and middle levels of phosphorus on Lake Waukegan were well below the State median and the upper level phosphorus levels have been decreasing since

monitoring began. Lower level phosphorus readings on Waukegan were also low.

There is a great deal of technical data available about the quality of the water in our watershed. To access the 2012 VLAP reports go to: [des.nh.gov](http://des.nh.gov), select Water Division, scroll down to Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, go to 2012 VLAP reports under Hot Topics and find your lake or water body to get a copy of the report.



**Thunder Storm over Meredith end of Waukegan.**

## Lake Classifications: What Do They Mean?

When scientists speak about the age and condition of a lake, they use terms like “oligotrophic” or “mesotrophic”. These terms can be very confusing to the layperson so here is a quick definition of these terms and a couple of others:

**Oligotrophic:** Oligotrophic lakes and ponds have low nutrient content and algal production and, consequently, often have very clear waters with high drinking water quality. The bottoms of these lakes usually have ample oxygen so they often support many fish species. These lakes are most common in cold regions underlain by resistant igneous rocks (especially granite bedrock).

**Mesotrophic:** Mesotrophic lakes / ponds have a medium level of productivity which means that they are commonly clear water lakes and ponds with beds of submerged aquatic plants and medium levels of nutrients.

**Eutrophic:** Eutrophic lakes and ponds have high biological productivity. Because of their higher nutrient loads, they support more aquatic plants and/or algae. When plants dominate, the water tends to be clear, but when algae dominates, the water tends to be darker. Occasionally an excessive algae bloom will occur and result in a fish kill due to oxygen deprivation.

**Hypereutrophic:** Hypereutrophic lakes and ponds are very nutrient rich and often have severe nuisance algal blooms and low transparency. Excessive algal blooms in these water bodies can reduce oxygen levels so that life cannot be sustained at lower depths.

For more information, check out the NH Des website at [des.nh.gov](http://des.nh.gov).



## Finally—a Win For the Loons!

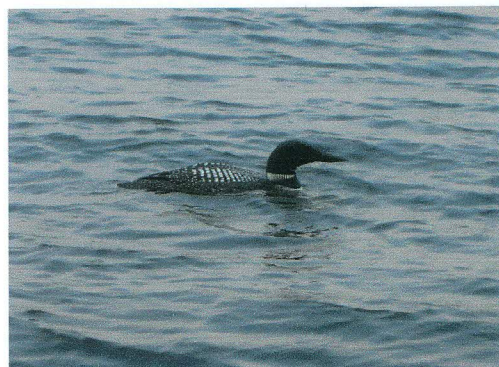
### Excerpt From the Loon Preservation Committee Newsletter:

We did it! The NH House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 89 on May 22 by a vote of 225—142—a convincing margin. Efforts to unreasonably delay the bill's implementation (for six years) and to kill the bill (by tabling it) were defeated by equally comfortable margins. SB 89 will protect our state's loon population by prohibiting the use and sale of toxic lead

fishing sinkers and jigs weighing one ounce or less—the largest known cause of New Hampshire's adult loon mortality. Your calls and emails to your senators and representatives, and your attendance at hearings were pivotal in securing this legislation.

This has been a great team effort. The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC), NH Lakes Association (NH Lakes) and NH Audubon have worked closely together in support

of SB 89. Thank you again to all our members, partners and volunteers!



Adult loon—North end of Waukegan

## What to do With all Those Old Lead Sinkers and Gigs?

Somewhere out in our barn, or maybe in one of the sheds out back, there is an old fishing tackle box that belonged to my Dad.

Occasionally on long winter evenings, Dad let us join him in the basement to watch him make lead sinkers. He would melt the lead in an old pot of our mother's using a camp stove with a butane burner.

He'd then carefully pour the melted lead into forms and cool the forms in water. After they had cooled, he would open them and remove the newly made lead sinkers.

There are probably still some lead sinkers in that tackle box, and I am going to find it and take the lead to our land fill on hazardous waste collection day. **Please consider doing**

**Watch Local News for Hazardous Waste Collection Dates!**

**the same with any old lead sinkers or gigs that might be lying around your house.** Deb Corr

## LOON ALERT!

It is nesting time for loons. Loons are easily disturbed and flushed from their nests. If this happens, it is more than likely that they will abandon the egg. **PLEASE stay far away from nesting areas and always be aware of your surroundings when power boating to avoid collisions with Loons and their chick(s) once the chick(s) hatch.**

**BE A GOOD FOSTER PARENT BY LET-**

**TING OUR LOONS RAISE THEIR CHICK(S) AT A DISTANCE.**

Loons are Federally protected. If you notice a loon in trouble or witness harassment of loons, please immediately contact NH Fish and Game at (603)-744-5470, 800-344-4262 or Marine Patrol at (603)-293-2037.



A Nesting Loon



## Help Protect the Lake: Summer Tips For Shore Owners by Janan Hays

Summer's here. The dock and boat are in. The grill is fired up. Friends and family have arrived. Let the fun begin! But as you enjoy the lake, please keep in mind that as a shore owner you are a steward of the lake. Water resources are becoming increasingly pressured by various sources which can lead to degradation of water quality. Not only is this harmful from an environmental perspective but it can be detrimental to property values. Below are some suggestions to limit negative ecological impacts to our water bodies:

- **Limit or exclude the use of fertilizers.** Most lawns do not need fertilizer. If you believe you need fertilizer, leaving grass clippings is usually sufficient to naturally fertilize a lawn. Aerate your lawn yearly to promote root growth, allow storm water to leach into the ground and avoid soil compaction. If you must fertilize, do so with a one-time yearly light application using only Slow Release nitrogen-No Phosphorus fertilizer. State law prohibits ALL fertilizer within 25 feet of water.
- **Don't use pesticides around outside of foundation or property:** These poisons can eventually make their way to the lake harming aquatic life. Always follow specific directions/cautions for any products you use near the lake. Contact a professional pest control company and ask about natural "green" alternatives as a solution to ant and other pest control.
- **Do not bathe, shampoo, wash pets, boats or other objects in the lake.** Do not wash automobiles or other objects NEAR the lake where soap, detergent or other chemicals can flow into the water. Best bet is to use the car wash to clean your car or boat.
- **Make Sure Your Septic System is Working Properly.** Be careful not to overtax your system. Even a new residential system isn't meant for the type of usage that occurs with all the family and friends so many of us entertain all season. If you entertain often, have your septic tank pumped yearly. If you're planning to host a party or like having lots of company around all summer, RENT a port-o-potty to take the pressure off your septic system and protect the lake. It will keep all those wet sandy feet out of your house, too! Rentals are inexpensive and most companies allow you to rent a portable toilet by the weekend, week, or month. Toilets are serviced weekly. Some companies will offer a special rate if you keep it for the summer.
- **Use earth friendly, non petroleum cleaning products.** Most stores carry a large selection of "green", all natural dishwashing liquids, dishwasher soaps, laundry detergent, etc. Never flush medicines, paint or other harmful chemicals down the drain. Remember that whatever you put into your septic system could eventually make its way into the water (this includes new systems). Read product labels and USE CAUTION.
- **Please be sure to educate your family, friends, renters, etc. on the importance of being a good lake steward.** Make sure they respect ALL wildlife and lake creatures and they understand not to harass or injure them. Yes, even snakes and water spiders. They are more frightened of you than you are of them, and all creatures are important to the ecological balance of the lake. Aquatic creatures and wildlife are easily stressed so observe at a distance and leave them in peace.
- **Be sure ALL of your guests or renters THOROUGHLY inspect their boats and jet skis, motors, trailers for exotic weeds, Asian clams, Zebra mussels, etc.** Remove all visible debris, plant fragments, mud, etc. Wash carpeted trailer bunks thoroughly. Ask that they flush/rinse motors, jets, bilge, live wells, bait buckets, etc. with clean water BEFORE entering the lake. Be safe and ask them to take their boat to a car wash using high pressure hot water before launching in the lake. Exotic aquatic nuisance species are all around us in NH and New England. With extra care and caution we can keep our lakes free from the devastation they cause.
- **Summer is the time for outdoor projects.** Consider some easy, low cost storm water runoff prevention ideas and landscaping. It will beautify your property and limit storm water runoff from entering the lake. For easy, practical, do it yourself ideas, contact NH Dept. of Environmental Services, (603)-271-3503. NHDES offers "A Shore land Homeowners Guide to Storm water Management" online Type the following link to your address bar: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-11-11.pdf>. The NH Lakes Association, (603)-226-0299, offers free property storm water runoff assessment and landscaping ideas to members/nominal fee for non members.

Have fun this summer and remember: If we all do our part to protect our beautiful lakes, it will go a long way in preserving these treasures for future generations.

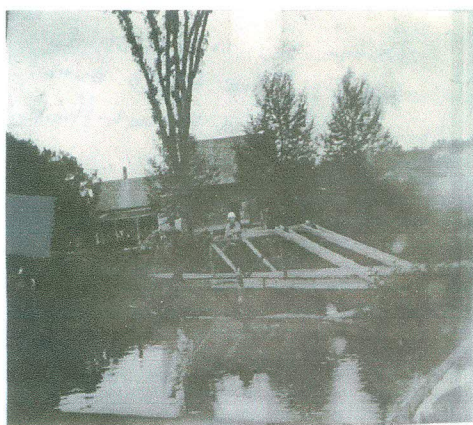


## Have You Ever Been In Slab City, New Hampshire? by Dave Reilly

You may have, but did not realize it since there are no Slab City signs.

Slab City is a local name given in the distant past to the village in Center Harbor located along Winona Road at its intersection with Hawkins Pond Road. The name supposedly refers to stacks of slab lumber piled in the area from the local water powered mills.

In 1763 the Provincial legislature authorized and directed construction of a road from Durham (near the sea coast) to the young settlement of Haverhill. Its purpose was to promote commerce with Portsmouth



**Bridge Over Mill Pond:** The pond created by the York Mill dam ran generally east to west. The Province Road likely crossed Hawkins Brook here.

Harbor and is known as the Province Road or the Durham-Haverhill Road. This was a major undertaking since large sections went through wilderness. The Revolution (1775-1783) also interrupted construction. This road went through the area that became Slab City.

It essentially followed the power lines in the woods along Winona Road as it proceeds along Lake Winona.

In 1792, the Hawkins Sawmill was in operation at a newly constructed dam at the outlet of Hawkins Pond. In addition to lumber, other products such as shingles and picker sticks were sawn at different times. Picker sticks were used by the emerging textile mills during the weaving process. Despite two fires, it survived into the early 1900's.

It is not certain when the York Mill, sometimes referred to as the small mill, was constructed. It was located at the intersection of Winona Rd with Hawkins Pond Rd. A dam was placed across Hawkins Brook creating a mill pond, thus using the Hawkins Pond outflow twice. The York Mill, although it also sawed lumber, was labeled a wood working shop on the 1892 map of Center Harbor. At one point barrel staves were made here. According to local lore, wooden wagon wheel hubs were produced, one customer being the maker of the famous Concord Coach. The mill closed shortly after the First World War. Remnants of the dam remain.

A Black Smith Shop located at Hawkins Brook began operations in the 1790's. This house remains to this day. A small abandoned granite ledge quarry is located on a nearby hill. It likely provided foundation stone for several build-



**The York Mill:** Winona Rd. is to the right climbing the grade heading south. Hawkins Pond Rd. is to the left heading east. A barn or storage shed is behind the Mill. The Mill Pond is to the left at the gable end of the Mill building.

ings in Slab City. In addition to the industrial uses agricultural fields were cleared and cultivated, providing food for the inhabitants.

Many of the early circa 1790 to 1850 houses, some with their barns, remain in the village.

**(Photo Below)**

**Wagon loaded with rough sawn lumber near the York Mill on Hawkins Pond Rd. The house behind the horse was the Black Smith Shop.**





## Important Dates for Your Calendar

### WWWPA ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

**JULY 13, 2013**

**10 AM**

**THE CORR'S**

**20 SEMINOLE AVENUE, NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256**

**FOR INFORMATION: (603)-279-6008 or (603) 279-4944**

### CLIMATE CHANGE-WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

Learn how climate change is already affecting  
New Hampshire and what to expect in the future.

**SHERRY GODLEWSKI**

**Environmental Program Manager  
NH DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL SVS.**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2013**

**6 - 7:30 PM**

**MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTER**

### STATE OF THE LOON

**The Natural History, Challenges and Successes of  
Loons in NH**

Have you wondered why a loon's eyes are red? What  
are loons saying with those eerie calls at night? Learn  
about this unique symbol of New Hampshire's lakes.

**HARRY VOGEL**

**Senior Biologist/Executive Director  
LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2013**

**6 - 7:30 PM**

**MEREDITH COMMUNITY CENTER**

### Who Are The Members of Our Board?

**Dave Reilly, Co-Chairman  
Lake Winona  
rreilly@aol.com**

**Deb Corr, Co-Chairman  
Lake Waukewan  
debcorr@metrocast.net**

**Janan Hays, Vice Chairman  
Lake Waukewan  
jhays@northstarnh.com**

**Bea Thibeault, Secretary  
Lake Winona  
tbo@metrocast.net**

**Peter Tallman, Treasurer  
Lake Waukewan  
ptallman@metrocast.net**

**(July 4th Boat Parade)**

