

Wentworth Watershed Association



The

ZEPHYR

SUMMER 2022

Summer is Here!

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of our programs this summer. The board of directors, volunteers, and staff have been busy preparing for a season full of mission-aligned programs, land stewardship projects, aquatic and terrestrial invasives species control, and water quality monitoring.

Thank you for your ongoing support, volunteerism, and participation in our programs. Here are some Lake Minded reminders for you to share with family and guests recreating in the watershed this year.

See you out there,
Julie Brown
Executive Director



Be Festive without the Fireworks

This is a friendly reminder that consumer fireworks are illegal in the town of Wolfeboro. Fireworks fired off over the lake rain down litter, as well as contribute to phosphorus loading of the lakes. Fireworks can be distressing to people with PTSD, pets, and wildlife.

The Scoop on Pet Poop

Lots of little piles add up. In the U.S., dogs produce approximately 18 billion pounds of poop annually. Pet waste carries pathogens and causes nutrient loading which leads to algae and bacteria blooms in the lakes. Be sure to pick up and properly dispose of pet waste along trails and on your property.

Get Ready to Have Some Fun

Looking for fun and educational things to do in the watershed this summer? We've got you covered.

Check wentworthwatershed.org for the most up-to-date calendar of programs and events. From the 4th of July Boat Parade, to naturalist walks, to the Camp Dinner, there is something for everyone.

Are you Wake Wise?

If you're planning to make waves this summer, pick up a wake wise pamphlet from the office, to ensure your fun isn't hurting the lake.

Large wakes can cause shoreline erosion, boat and dock damage, and even harm wildlife. Loons nest near the water's edge, boat wakes wash out their nests. By being wake wise you are protecting water quality, wildlife, respecting other boaters, and still having fun.

Filling your Boat with Gas? You Need a Safety Syphon

One important way to keep our lakes clean is to prevent gas from contaminating the water. If you don't already have a safety or shaker syphon you can purchase one for under \$15 to avoid accidental spills. To see how this simple syphon works google "Boat Hacks: How Not to Spill Gas When Filling Your Boat".

Lake Minded Work in the Watershed

Thanks to WWA's partnership with the Town of Wolfeboro and property owners, phase III and IV of Watershed Assistance Grants, have led to the installation of stormwater solutions on the grounds of Camp Bernadette and Pierce Camp Birchmont. This work has drastically reduced sediment and nutrient loading in Lake Wentworth. We hope you will come see these installations at the Camp Dinner and our tour of the Pierce Camp Birchmont waterfront in late August (TBD).

You can help water quality by infiltrating stormwater on your property. To learn about inexpensive, do-it-yourself solutions, invite our trained Lake Minded volunteers over for a property visit. Call the office for details.

Loon Chronicles 2022

Based on recent observations, the loon population of Lake Wentworth is stable. Loon nesting appears to be behind schedule, but there are reports of nests in Brewster Heath and on Brummitt Island. Please do not approach loons, especially when nesting or when you see chicks.

The 2022 Loon Census will take place on July 16. If you would like to participate or if you see any unusual loon activity, please contact either Hugh Crawford 603-630-0815 or Peter Kent 860-309-0443.

Lake Hosts Still Needed

We are looking for volunteers to Lake Host at Mast Landing. Lake Hosts greet boaters and educate them about aquatic invasive species (AIS), do a brief survey, and offer courtesy boat and trailer inspections to look for hitch-hiking plants. The goal is to encourage all boaters to use the "Clean, Drain & Dry!" method to prevent the spread of AIS.

If you have a few hours a week to spare, we need your help. To learn more about this volunteer opportunity contact Susan Goodwin: sgwolfe66@gmail.com

2022 Calendar of Events

| Event | Date |
|--|--------------|
| Road Maint. Workshop | Sat. June 18 |
| Summer Kick Off | Thu. June 23 |
| Ben Baldwin Fishing Derby | Sat. July 2 |
| Boat Parade | Sun. July 3 |
| Light Up the Watershed | Sun. July 3 |
| Rain Date- Boat Parade | Mon. July 4 |
| People of the Watershed- Personal History Series | Wed. July 20 |
| Mushroom ID Walk | Sat. July 30 |
| Creepy Crawly Walk | Thu. Aug 4 |
| Annual Meeting | Sat. Aug 6 |
| Stamp Act Island Walk | Sun. Aug 7 |
| Lights Out on the Lake | Thu. Aug 11 |
| Camp Dinner | Fri. Aug 26 |

Septic Tank Servicing Promotes Lake Health

Has it been 2-3 years since you've had your septic tank pumped? If so, then it's time to schedule a maintenance visit with your service provider. Routine maintenance prevents system failure.

Toxic chemicals, bacteria, and viruses leak out of malfunctioning septic systems negatively impacting water quality and increasing potential for E. coli and cyanobacteria blooms.

Don't Fertilize the Lake

NH soils are naturally rich in phosphorus, don't add more. Test your soil before fertilizing. Add only what you need. All numbers on a fertilizer bag should be below 10, middle number (phosphorus) should be zero. To learn more about fertilizer see the Lake Minded section of our website.

Lake Minded Quiz

- 1. Are fireworks allowed on the lake?** No. Fireworks are illegal in the town of Wolfeboro. Fireworks also cause distress to people with PTSD, pets, and wildlife.
- 2. What is the best way to prevent aquatic invasive species?** “Clean, Drain, Dry” is the best way to prevent aquatic invasive species when you move your boat from one body of water to another.
- 3. Is North Beach on Stamp Act Island open to the public?** Yes, after July 1st when the bird nesting season is over, North Beach is open to the public. The rest of the island remains closed as a nature preserve. Dogs are never allowed.
- 4. Why is properly maintaining a camp road important for lake health?** A properly maintained camp or gravel road reduces phosphorus and sediment loading that directly impacts water quality.
- 5. How do I prevent geese from pooping on my property?** You can make your property unattractive to geese by planting native shrubs at your waterline. This buffer will make them unwilling to come ashore for fear of predators.
- 6. Do you pass between or around a pair of solid-colored buoys?** Between. A pair of solid-colored buoys, one red & one black, mark a channel of safe water.
- 7. What causes cyanobacteria blooms?** Excess phosphorus and nutrients in stormwater feed cyanobacteria and cause blooms.
- 8. How far should you stay away from loons?** 150 feet. Loons are territorial and protective of their young. Getting too close can cause them extreme distress and harm hatchlings.
- 9. Are campfires allowed in the watershed?** With a permit, yes. Seasonal permits are available online for a fee, or free in person at the Wolfeboro Fire Department.
- 10. How can you help the watershed even more?** By becoming a member of the Wentworth Watershed Association and volunteering!

Membership Matters!

Renew or join today to help the Wentworth Watershed Association continue its conservation efforts. WWA suggested Membership is \$50 per adult. Gift Memberships and additional donations are greatly appreciated.

You can join or renew online at wentworthwatershed.org, mail a check, or drop one by the office.

Be sure to include your email address so that you receive invitations to events and *The Zephyr*, our digital newsletter. We don't spam or share your contact information.

Please encourage friends and family of all generations to join the Association. Ask guests to make a donation to WWA in lieu of a host gift.

Wentworth Watershed Association
PO Box 2235
Wolfeboro, NH 03894
(603) 534-0222
WentworthWatershed.org
info@wentworthwatershed.org

Our office and store are located at 591 Center Street, next to *All About Kitchens*.

We are open M-F from 9 am-2 pm

Stop by to say hello, buy merchandise, and to sign up to volunteer!

Wentworth Watershed Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by the law. EIN 04-3374499

Donations Support...

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| Milfoil Mitigation | Ben Baldwin Fishing Derby | Annual Report |
| Land Stewardship | Camp Dinner | Naturalist Walks |
| Weed Watchers | Lake Water Quality Testing | Strategic Real Estate Advisory |
| Lake Host Program | Cyanobacteria Monitoring | Social Media |
| Lake Minded Property Visits | Conservation Land Acquisition | Board Governance and Compliance |
| Campaign Materials | Member Database | Tributary Water Quality Testing |
| Wildlife Reporting | Honoring and Recognition of Members | Scholarships Program at Kingswood |
| Liaison with Schools | Growing DES Relationships | News Media Liaison |
| Water Summit | Merchandise | DES Stormwater Grants |
| Guided Paddles | Weedwatcher Training | Stamp Act Island Walk |
| Summer Kickoff | Dive Team | Office Operations |
| Annual Meeting | Membership | Program Planning |
| Land Monitoring | Donor Stewardship | Trail Planning |
| Coordination w/other Lake Associations | Partnership with Local Non-profits | Watershed Rep Coordination and Signboards |
| Town Liaison on Milfoil | Town Project Coordination | Mast Landing Advocacy |
| Educational Material Distribution | Smith River Dam Liaison with Town | Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring |
| Wake Wise Education | Financial Oversight | Event Production |
| Storm Garden Installation | Volunteer Coordination | Watershed Management Plans |
| Land Acquisition | <i>The Zephyr</i> | Trail Maintenance |
| Kid Friendly Learning Opportunities | Invasive Species Land Management | Citizen Science Projects and Training |