



THE ZEPHYR

SUMMER 2023

HAPPY SUMMER!

Welcome back to summer in the watershed! We were busy working on many important initiatives during the winter months and are excited to share with you what's been happening and what is planned for the summer. Thanks to your continued support, our programs are possible. Read on for news on how we're monitoring water quality, protecting the watershed, and educating our members and community.

Julie Brown, Executive Director, WWA



LOON CHRONICLES 2023

The loons of Lake Wentworth emerged this year just before the ice out. They have been observed to be actively vocal, especially at night. A pair of loons were seen attempting to build a nest at the mouth of Brewster Heath in mid-May. However, it was unsuccessful, likely due to high exposure and water levels. Since then, a pair of loons built a nest and laid eggs on Goose Rock. Unfortunately, after two days the nest was deserted for reasons unknown. The Loon Preservation Committee collected the eggs for evaluation. Currently, there are two active nests on two different islands. These two locations are places where nests have not been previously attempted. They are expected to hatch in early July. As a reminder, loons and their nests need space for a successful breeding cycle. If you see loons in their natural habitat, please stay 150 feet or more from them and their nest. The Loon Census will be conducted on July 15, 2023 from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. As always we welcome volunteers. If you would like to participate, please get in touch with Hugh Crawford (603) 630-0815 or Peter Kent (860) 309-0443 by cell or text.

Hugh Crawford

FIRE PERMITS

As a reminder, all fires must be permitted. The Wolfeboro Fire-Rescue Department offers permits that can be purchased online through the Wolfeboro town website. If you must have a beachside fire, be fire safe and apply for a fire permit.

GOING BOATING? THE IMPORTANCE OF USING A SAFETY SIPHON

There are no gas stations on Lake Wentworth- one way you can keep our lakes clean is by preventing gas from contaminating the water. If you don't already have a safety or shaker siphon you can purchase one for under \$15 to avoid accidental spills.

FIREWORKS



In Wolfeboro, consumer fireworks are not allowed. Please visit the town's website to review the ordinance. Fireworks can be triggering for people with PTSD, pets and wildlife. They also pollute and contribute to phosphorus loading in our waters. For more information, visit the NHDES website and search for the Fireworks and NH's Lakes Environmental Fact Sheet.

LAKE MINDED MAINTENANCE

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Please check your household logs to confirm that you have had your septic system pumped in the last 2-3 years. If not, please schedule septic maintenance with your service provider.

Malfunctioning septic systems release bacteria, viruses, and toxic chemicals into our local waterways. Fertilizers and other nutrients cause increased vegetative growth leading to low dissolved oxygen levels and increased potential for cyanobacteria blooms.

Learn more about what you can do to protect the watershed and prevent your septic system from malfunctioning at:
www.epa.gov/septic



Perched beaches help to protect the shoreline from sediment loading.

CAMP ROADS

Maintaining your gravel private/camp road or driveway is one of the best ways you can help protect the watershed. Pollution from stormwater runoff is one of the most significant problems contributing to nutrient loading in the lakes. Soil erosion from dirt roads is the number one pollutant (by volume) to surface waters, and contributes significantly to sedimentation and lake aging. Proper camp road maintenance can save your community annual repair costs, reduce vehicle damage, and is one of the best and most effective ways to be a steward of the watershed. For starters, use some of these no-cost steps to improve your gravel road or driveway:

- Check and clear culverts to ensure they are not blocked by debris
- Change driving patterns on the road when it is safe to do so, so you don't form repetitive wear or ruts
- Walk your road in the rain to note any spots that have standing or rushing water
- Address potholes when they first appear, catching them early will save you time, energy, and expense
- Learn more about your road's construction so you can make informed decisions

For more ideas see our comprehensive road maintenance resources on our website.

*If you are in charge of your community's road maintenance, contact Joyce Pepin at joycepepin64@gmail.com to join our camp road maintenance Google group where you can share ideas and resources.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DEDICATED WATER QUALITY VOLUNTEERS!



2022 was another successful year our Aquatic Invasive Species control volunteers, Lake Hosts, Weed Watchers and Dive Team. 75+ of gallons of invasive milfoil collected and on their first patrol of Sargent's Pond for milfoil, none seen!

WATER QUALITY UPDATE

In 2022, our team of stream sampling volunteers tested all 16 tributaries at 24 sites in spring, summer and fall resulting in over 100 samples collected during rain events. All samples were sent to UNH Water Quality Lab for total phosphorus analysis.

In-lakes water sampling occurred weekly throughout the summer by 4 teams of volunteers, and a new sampling effort was added in Sargent's Pond, resulting in 40 in-lake samples. These samples were also processed by the UNH lab for total phosphorus, chlorophyll a and more...

Water quality in Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake continue to be the highest quality possible. All water quality samples from our tributary and in-lake sampling efforts from the 2022 season have been processed. The data received shows that both lakes remain oligotrophic, meaning there are low levels of nutrients and an abundance of dissolved oxygen.

LAKE MINDED PROPERTY VISITS

Being Lake Minded underscores your relationship to the Watershed. Whether the Watershed is the place you live, work, or play, you can contribute to its health by being conscious of how individual actions can impact the overall well-being of this delicate ecosystem.

In 2023 alone, Wentworth Watershed Association has already conducted three lake minded visits, with more scheduled.

Nonjudgmental, trained volunteers will come to your property and help you come up with low-cost ideas on ways you can infiltrate and divert stormwater on your property before it reaches the lakes.

Schedule your lake minded visit today by contacting the office at info@wentworthwatershed.org or 603-534-0222.

CYANOBACTERIA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is cyanobacteria?

Cyanobacteria are naturally occurring. When it increases in large numbers it is considered a bloom. Blooms can become toxic and are referred to as harmful algal blooms (HABs), which are becoming more common in New England lakes. The frequency of these blooms is directly related to the amount of nutrients that are entering lakes in stormwater runoff from fertilizers, poorly maintained septic systems, road salts and sands, manmade beaches, and shoreline erosion. Water temperatures are also on the rise, creating the perfect environment for cyanobacteria blooms.

Why worry about cyanobacteria blooms?

Blooms can produce toxins that are harmful to people, animals, and the environment. When these toxins are present in the water they can cause severe illness, and can even be fatal if consumed by humans, dogs, and other wildlife. If the NHDES issues a cyanobacteria advisory or a warning for a body of water, avoid recreating in the lake until the warning is over. Do not let children or pets near a cyanobacteria bloom. Report all suspect blooms to the office and NHDES.

What do I do if I see a bloom?

If you suspect a waterbody is experiencing a cyanobacterial bloom, fill out a bloom report form on the NHDES website. From the NHDES homepage, go to the "Home and Recreation" tab and click on "Healthy Swimming" from the drop-down menu. From there, select the "Harmful Algal Blooms" page, and scroll down to the bloom report form. NHDES will collect a water sample and determine if it has greater than 70,000 cells/mL of cyanobacteria. An advisory will be posted on the immediate shoreline of a designated beach indicating that the area may not be suitable for swimming. If the affected area extends into water that is not part of a designated beach, NHDES will issue a warning for the entire lake. NHDES will continue to monitor the water and will notify the appropriate parties regarding the results of initial and subsequent testing. Public notification occurs through press releases and the NHDES website. When monitoring indicates that cyanobacteria are no longer present at levels that could harm humans or animals, the advisory or warning will be removed. You can find all current Alerts and Advisories in the state at des.nh.gov on their "Healthy Swimming Mapper" or beach advisories webpage.

What can you do to help prevent cyanobacteria blooms?

Maintain your septic system and infiltrate stormwater. Use natural cleaning products and never put dairy or grease down your drain. Pumping your septic system every two-three years (depending on use and tank size) helps prevent leach fields from failing. Failed septic systems are costly to replace and cause nutrient loading in the lakes. Do your pocketbook and the lakes a favor by scheduling your system inspection and maintenance today. You can help prevent nutrient loading and cyanobacteria blooms by refraining from adding fertilizer to lawns and plants on your property. NH soils are naturally rich in phosphorus and nutrients and rarely need added nutrients. Always test your soil for nutrient content before applying fertilizer to lawns and gardens. All fertilizer that enters the lakes feeds aquatic plants and algae including cyanobacteria causing them to grow or multiply. Be a responsible pet owner by immediately picking up after your pet every time.



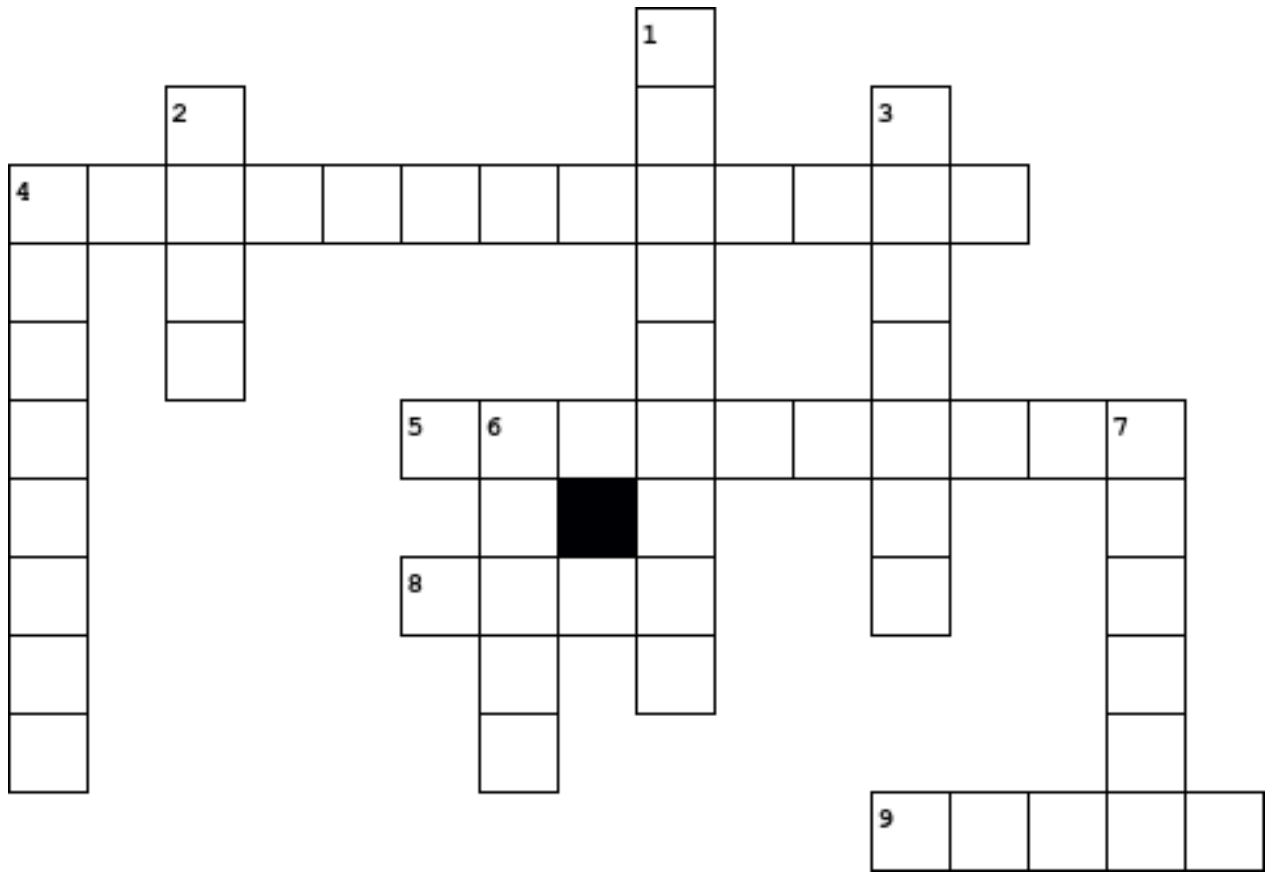
SUMMER EVENTS 2023



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| Summer Kick-Off Celebration | June 22 | 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM |
| Fishing Derby | July 2 | 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM |
| Boat Parade | July 3 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM |
| Light Up the Watershed | July 3 | 9:30 PM – 11:00 PM |
| Loon Count | July 15 | 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM |
| Mushroom Walk w/Rick Van de Poll | July 22 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM |
| Nature and History Paddle | July 29 | 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM |
| Full Moon Paddle | Aug. 1 | 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM |
| Annual Meeting | Aug. 5 | 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM |
| Passing It On: Succession Planning | Aug. 11 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM |
| Lights Out in the Watershed Perseids Meteor Shower | Aug. 12/13 | All Day |
| Camp Dinner | Aug. 25 | 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM |

See wentworthwatershed.org events for the most up-to-date offerings! We plan to add family events and naturalist events this season.

Zephyr 2023 Crossword



Across

4. Blooms of this can be harmful to humans, and pets
5. This element can cause cyanobacteria outbreaks like nitrogen and potassium, and attaches easily to sediment
8. "___minded". Understanding your individual impact on the overall well-being of this ecosystem in the watershed
9. This color buoy signifies you should stay north and east

Down

1. We all live in one; a basin
2. Something boaters can be mindful of to help prevent erosion
3. This invasive aquatic plant species is especially harmful to NH lakes
4. Lake Wentworth flows into this smaller lake; a moon phase
6. Brewster _____ Preserve
7. _____ system maintenance. Failure of these systems can cause untreated wastewater and nutrients to enter surface water

Our Mission

The Wentworth Watershed Association protects and preserves the Wentworth-Crescent Watershed through initiatives that enhance water quality, land conservation, and community education.

Thank you to all 150 of our volunteers! Your thousands of hours of service support our work to protect water quality through land conservation and community education.

Membership Matters!

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

You can join or renew online right now at wentworthwatershed.org or send a check to the address below. If you prefer to drop off your membership donation, would like to purchase WWA merchandise, or have questions, stop by the office and a staff member will help you sign up.

Be sure to include your email address so we can send you the Zephyr digital newsletter, cyanobacteria updates and invitations to events. Please encourage all friends and family members that visit the watershed to join. Pass the torch to the next generation so that they are informed about our conservation efforts and can learn how to be Lake Minded when visiting the watershed. The WWA does not share anyone's contact information.

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 Monday-Friday from 9 am-2 pm.

Stop by to say hello, buy merchandise, and 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

Your membership continues to support:

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| Milfoil Mitigation | Annual Report | Wolfeboro Water Summit | Cyanobacteria Monitoring |
| Ben Baldwin Fishing Derby | Brewster Heath Preserve | Tributary Water Quality Testing | Trail Building |
| Participation on Town Milfoil Committee | Naturalist Walks | Stormwater Management Grants with DES and EPA | Curriculum and classroom support in local schools |
| Conservation Land Monitoring | Outdoor Classroom in the Brewster Heath Preserve | Heritage Paddle | Dive Team- battling Aquatic Invasive Species |
| Lake Minded Property Visits | Honoring and recognition of members | Annual Scholarship for a Kingswood Regional High School Student | 4th of July Boat Parade |
| Citizen Science Projects and Training | Advocacy for Lake Conscious Planning and Zoning | Watershed Real Estate Threat Watch | Invasive Species Management on Land |
| Weedwatchers | Member Relations | Loon Census Communication | Project BloomWatch |
| In Lakes and Pond Water Quality Testing | Partnership with NH Department of Environmental Services | Board Governance | Watershed Representative Program |
| Strategic Real Estate Advisory | Stamp Act Island Walk | Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring | Event Production |
| Lake Host Program | Educational Material Distribution | Member Communications | Smith River Dam Liaison with Town |
| Participation on the towns water quality advisory committee- Wolfeboro Waters | Land Acquisition | Office Operations | Donor Stewardship |
| Social Media | Member Database | Annual Meeting | Trail Maintenance |
| Financial Oversight | Merchandise | Camp Dinner | The Zephyr - Newsletter |
| Partnerships with other regional Lake Associations | Partnerships with Other Area Non-Profits | Program Planning | StormGarden Installation |
| Merchandise | Summer Kickoff Event | Land Monitoring | Mast Landing Advocacy |
| Naturalist Paddle | Protection of 500+ acres of land in the watershed | Volunteer Coordination | Interpretive Trail in the Brewster Heath Preserve |