



The Zephyr

Summer 2026

Summer has arrived!

It's time to get outside and enjoy the lakes and lands in the Wentworth Watershed that we all work to protect. The Wentworth Watershed Association—along with our Board of Directors, staff, and dedicated volunteers—works year-round to advance the goals outlined in our strategic plan.

Within the pages of this summer's print edition of *The Zephyr*, you'll find updates on our current projects as well as timeless reminders on how to help protect lake health and support peaceful recreation in the watershed.

Our Mission

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

Watershed News

As we kick off another summer in the watershed, we have a lot to celebrate.

Thanks to your membership, annual fund donations, and contributions to special projects, WWA has been able to complete and advance many important long-term initiatives that protect the lakes and lands we all cherish.

This year, we published our updated Watershed Management Plan, which prioritizes the actions needed over the next decade to protect and improve water quality in Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake. We completed another major stormwater mitigation project in Lake Wentworth Estates, installed an educational kiosk at Mast Landing, worked with local officials to develop septic system ordinances, advocated for statewide legislation to protect New Hampshire's lakes, and strengthened partnerships with lake, land conservation, and environmental organizations throughout the region.

WWA has also expanded its role in local watershed advocacy through active participation on the Wolfeboro Waters Committee, an advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen. Working alongside representatives from lakes throughout Wolfeboro, we have advocated for lake health and water quality protections while helping to elevate watershed issues at the municipal level. This spring, we collaborated with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the Bureau of Dams to gather data and better understand flow rates and lake-level impacts associated with Smith River Dam operations. WWA also advocated for and participated in a community information and input session, helping to ensure that local voices are part of the conversation about managing this important watershed resource.

Volunteers and staff have contributed thousands of hours to water quality monitoring, stewardship of WWA conservation properties, invasive species prevention and control, construction and installation of viewing platforms at the Brewster Heath Preserve, educational outreach, and the many projects that advance the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan.

As always, none of this work would be possible without your support. Together, we are making meaningful progress toward protecting the watershed for future generations.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of our carefully planned events this summer. Read on to learn more about completed projects and upcoming efforts to protect the lakes and lands we all love.

We hope this edition of *The Zephyr* serves as an evergreen newsletter—one that remains on coffee tables throughout the season and is shared with friends and family who come to enjoy the beauty of the watershed.

Julie Brown



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Loon Report

2026 has seen a lot of loon activity around Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake. Many of us love to hear their familiar calls. Recently we have seen or received reports of groups of up to seven loons and are aware of four active nests and one failed nest on Crescent. If any are successful, we may see chicks around mid-June to early July. Please give them their space! When observing loons, enjoy them from a distance of at least 150 feet. During the 2025 statewide survey, 566 volunteers counted 541 adult loons and 109 chicks across 135 New Hampshire lakes during the one-hour snapshot. Last year 17 adult loons and two chicks were counted on Lake Wentworth and two adults were counted on Crescent Lake.

The 2026 annual loon count, done in conjunction with the Loon Preservation Committee, will be held Saturday, July 18 from 8–9am. We divide Wentworth into nine sections with watchers assigned to each area. If you are interested in participating, please call or text Peter Kent at (860) 309-0443.



From Data to Action: Updated Watershed Management Plan Charts the Path Forward

Watershed Management Plan Complete

After two years of scientific analysis, community engagement, and stakeholder input, the updated Wentworth–Crescent Lake Watershed Management Plan is now complete. This roadmap will guide watershed protection efforts over the next decade.

The update confirms that the original 2012 goal of reducing phosphorus and sediment loading to Lake Wentworth by 15 percent has been achieved. This reflects years of investment in stormwater improvements, erosion control projects, shoreline restoration, municipal partnerships, and voluntary actions taken by watershed residents.

The plan also highlights areas where additional work is needed. Since 2012, phosphorus and sediment loading to Crescent Lake has increased by approximately 5 percent, underscoring the need for continued watershed protection efforts.

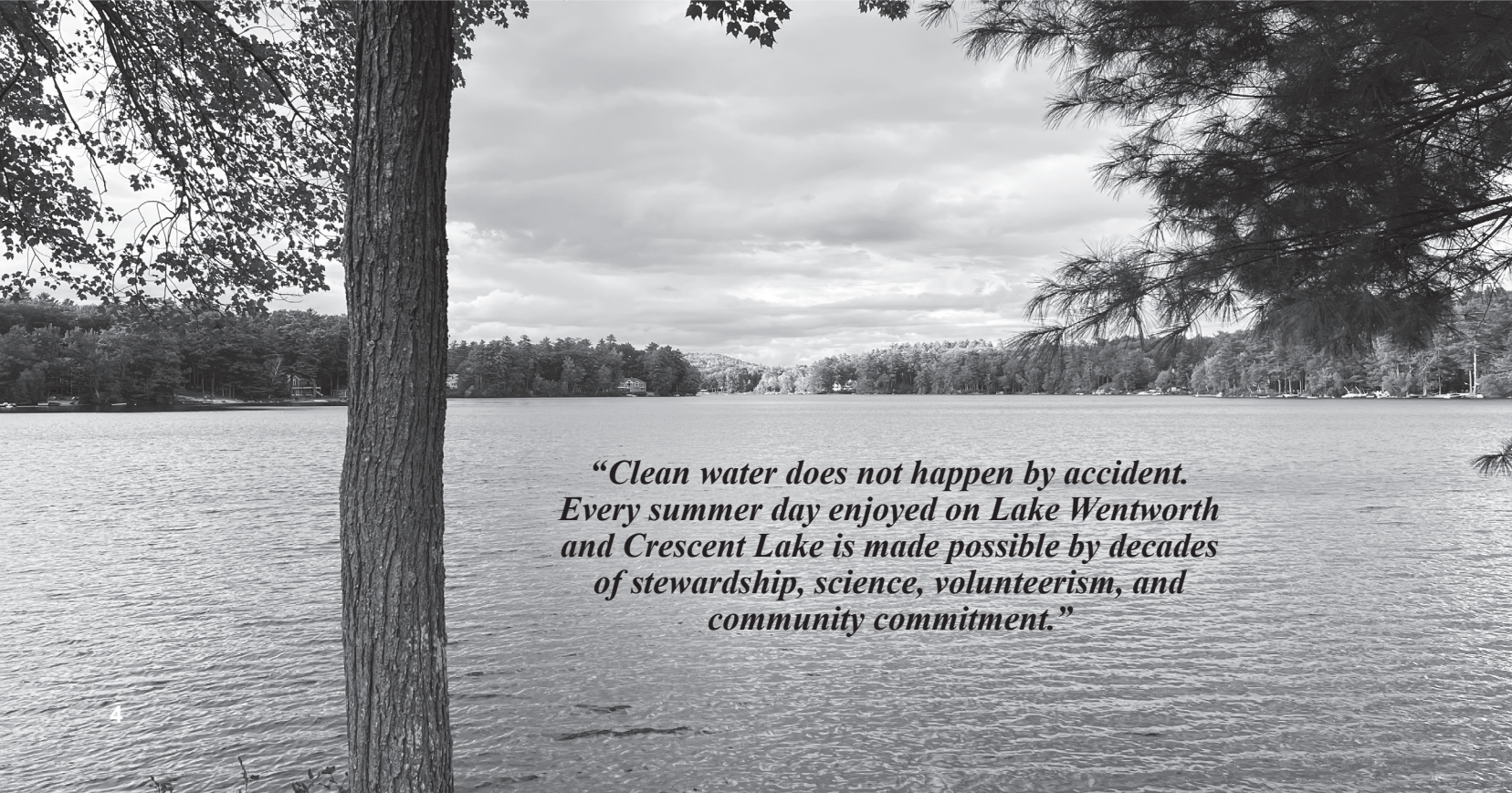
Looking ahead, the updated plan establishes new goals: an additional 10 percent reduction in phosphorus and sediment

loading to Lake Wentworth and a 15 percent reduction in Crescent Lake over the next decade.

15% REDUCTION ACHIEVED

Lake Wentworth phosphorus and sediment loading has been reduced by 15% since 2012—meeting the primary goal of the original Watershed Management Plan.

Many high-priority problem areas identified in the 2012 plan have now been addressed. As a result, individual actions will play an increasingly important role in future progress. Proper septic system maintenance, reducing stormwater runoff, keeping yard waste out of lakes and streams, avoiding fertilizer use, and picking up pet waste all help protect water quality.



“Clean water does not happen by accident. Every summer day enjoyed on Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake is made possible by decades of stewardship, science, volunteerism, and community commitment.”

If you're ready to make a difference on your property, consider scheduling a Lake Minded property visit. A Lake-Minded Visit is a free, judgment-free property consultation where a trained Wentworth Watershed Association volunteer walks your property with you to identify practical ways to improve stormwater infiltration, restore shoreline vegetation, and help protect the health of the lakes by reducing nutrient and sediment runoff on your property.

“Protecting the watershed is not about one large solution—it is about thousands of thoughtful decisions made across the entire community.”

Watershed Management Plan Key Findings

- ◆ Reducing phosphorus and sediment remains the top priority.
- ◆ Stormwater runoff continues to be one of the largest pollution sources.
- ◆ Protecting natural shorelines and wetlands is critical.
- ◆ Maintaining healthy septic systems is essential.
- ◆ Climate change and increasing rainfall intensity are placing additional stress on lakes and infrastructure.
- ◆ Early detection and rapid response through removal or treatment are essential for preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- ◆ Long-term water quality monitoring remains essential for assessing lake health and determining whether conditions are improving, remaining stable, or declining over time.



CURRENT PROJECTS

Stormwater Infiltration Project at Wentworth Estates

WWA is pleased to announce the successful completion of the stormwater infiltration project at Red Brook Circle in Wentworth Estates. WWA was the grant recipient and project lead for this initiative, which was funded through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' (NHDES) Cyanobacteria Mitigation Grant Program and administered by NH LAKES. The project represents the culmination of countless staff and volunteer hours dedicated to securing the grant, coordinating project partners, overseeing design and permitting, and managing implementation from start to finish.

The project addressed a significant source of stormwater runoff carrying sediment and phosphorus into Lake Wentworth. WWA worked closely with the Wentworth Estates Association, engineers, contractors, and community volunteers to develop and implement effective stormwater management solutions. Local matching funds were

provided through the Town of Wolfeboro's Wolfeboro Waters Committee budget, along with financial contributions from Wentworth Estates residents, demonstrating a strong community commitment to protecting water quality.

The completed improvements will slow, capture, and infiltrate stormwater runoff, stabilize erosion at the community boat ramp, and prevent sediment and phosphorus from reaching Lake Wentworth. By reducing pollutant loading to the lake, this project advances the goals identified in the Lake Wentworth Watershed Management Plan and serves as a model for how state funding, municipal support, and community investment can work together to protect the watershed. WWA extends its sincere appreciation to the Town of Wolfeboro, the Wolfeboro Waters Committee, Wentworth Estates residents, NH LAKES, NHDES, project partners, staff, volunteers, and members whose contributions made this project possible.

Brewster Heath Preserve Observation Platforms

One of the two planned observation platforms at Brewster Heath Preserve has now been completed. This accomplishment represents hundreds of hours of volunteer labor, staff time, planning, fundraising, and

construction. The result is a beautiful new vantage point overlooking the preserve's wetlands, providing visitors, students, and members with an opportunity to experience and learn about this unique ecosystem.



The platform complements the preserve's interpretive trail system and outdoor classroom where visitors can observe wildlife, wetland plants, and the ecological functions that make prime wetlands so valuable.

The second observation platform is scheduled to be constructed this fall, and we will need many helping hands to make it happen. If you enjoy spending time outdoors and would like to help build a lasting community resource, please volunteer to help. Your time and effort will make a meaningful difference.

Photo by Lenore Clark

CURRENT PROJECTS

Mast Landing Kiosk & New Lake Maps

We are excited to announce that the Mast Landing Kiosk is complete. In late May, a team of volunteers installed the kiosk at the Mast Landing Boat Ramp, creating a new educational and informational resource for residents and visitors alike.

This project has been a true community effort. Staff, volunteers, designers, and partners worked together to ensure the kiosk would be both informative and visually engaging. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

The kiosk provides visitors with information about the history of Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake, local fish and wildlife, aquatic invasive species, watershed stewardship, and opportunities to become involved in protecting our lakes.

As part of this project, WWA also undertook a complete redesign of the Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake map. Created using updated GIS mapping tools, data layers, and modern cartographic design, this represents the first major revision of the map in many years. Staff and volunteers have worked diligently to verify information, update features, and create a more accurate and user-friendly map for lake users.

The newly updated maps were printed on durable, waterproof paper and are now available for purchase for \$25 each. Maps can be purchased at the WWA office and at select WWA events throughout the season. Whether you're boating, fishing, paddling, or simply exploring the watershed, these maps are an excellent resource and a great way to support WWA's ongoing conservation and education efforts.



Water Quality Monitoring Since 1984

Since 1984, the Wentworth Watershed Association has participated in New Hampshire's Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP), collecting water quality data from Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake to track long-term trends and better understand the health of our lakes. In addition to in-lake monitoring, WWA volunteers and staff sample tributary streams throughout the watershed to identify potential sources of nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants before they reach the lakes.

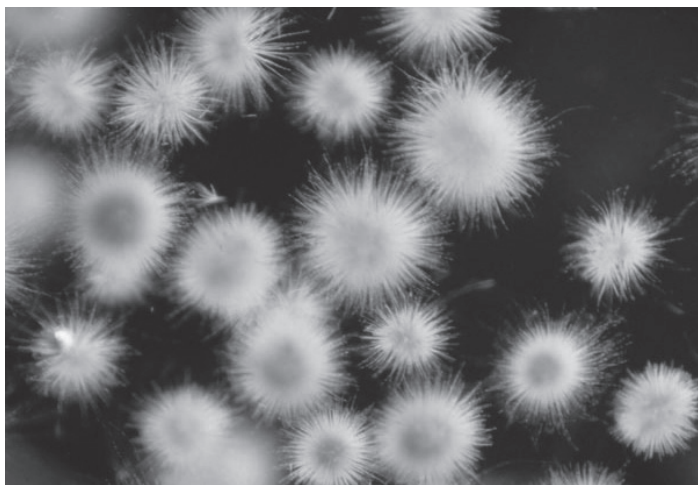
Long-term monitoring is one of the most important tools for protecting water quality. By collecting data year after year, we can detect changes that may not be visible from a single season of sampling, identify emerging concerns, measure the effectiveness of management efforts, and make informed decisions about protecting our watershed for future generations.

Results from the 2025 monitoring season will be shared at our Annual Meeting and published in a future digital edition of *The Zephyr* once data analysis is complete.

CYANOBACTERIA & AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Cyanobacteria

Cyanobacteria are naturally occurring, but when found in large numbers, they form a bloom. Some blooms become toxic and are called Harmful Algal Blooms (AIS), which are becoming more common in New England lakes due to warming water temperatures and increased nutrient pollution from sources such as fertilizers, failing septic systems, stormwater runoff, and shoreline erosion.



Gloeotrichia under microscope

Credit: Jonathan Dufresne, UNH

Blooms can produce toxins harmful to people, pets, wildlife, and the environment, potentially causing severe illness or death if ingested. If the NHDES issues a cyanobacteria advisory or warning for a waterbody, avoid swimming, boating, or other recreation in affected areas until the warning is lifted. Keep children and pets away from blooms and report suspected blooms to NHDES through the bloom report form on their website. Current advisories and warnings can be found on the NHDES Healthy Swimming Mapper at des.nh.gov.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Freshwater aquatic invasive species (AIS) are plants, animals, and insects that are not naturally found in New Hampshire's lakes, ponds, and rivers. Because they did not evolve here, these species lack natural predators or diseases to keep them in check, allowing them to grow quickly and dominate freshwater systems, negatively impacting native plants, fish, and

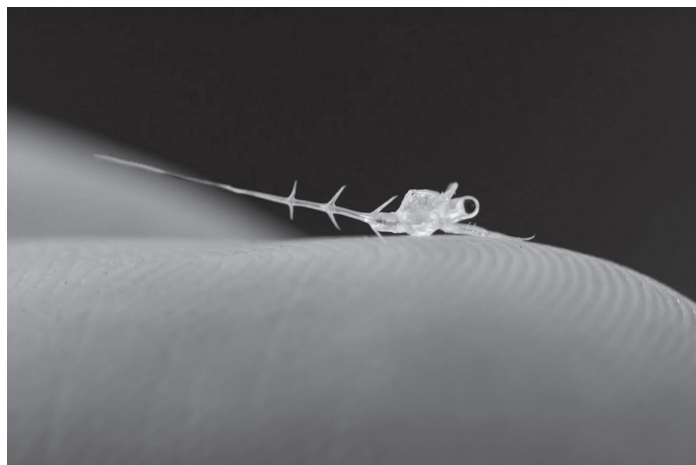
aquatic insects. AIS can lead to reduced shorefront property values and decreased water quality. They also affect the aesthetic and recreational enjoyment of our waterbodies. New Hampshire now has nearly 90 AIS infest-

ed waterbodies. Variable milfoil and Chinese mystery snails are already established AIS in Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake. Our vigilant Lake Hosts work hard to prevent the introduction of additional invaders, such as fanwort, Eurasian water milfoil, and water chestnut.

Spiny Water Flea Is in Lake Winnepesaukee—Help Keep It Out of Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake

Many of our members enjoy boating, fishing, paddling, and exploring lakes throughout New Hampshire. As you head out on the water this season, we ask you to be aware of a new threat that has arrived in our region: spiny water flea.

This invasive species has been confirmed in Lake Winnepesaukee. While it cannot be removed from a lake once established, we can still protect Lake Wentworth, Crescent Lake, and other nearby waterbodies by preventing its spread.



HELP PREVENT BLOOMS

- Pump septic systems regularly.
- Eliminate fertilizer use.
- Pick up pet waste.
- Protect shoreline vegetation.
- Reduce stormwater runoff.

CYANOBACTERIA & AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Spiny water flea is a small aquatic invasive crustacean that is often transported from lake to lake on fishing gear, anchor lines, ropes, trailers, boats, bilges, live wells, bait buckets, and other equipment that comes into contact with lake water. Once introduced, it can quickly establish a population and become extremely difficult to control.

The species feeds on zooplankton, an important part of the aquatic food web that supports young fish and helps maintain healthy lake ecosystems. In large numbers, spiny water flea can disrupt these natural systems and negatively impact fisheries and water quality.

***Clean. Drain. Dry.
Every time.***

If you travel between lakes with your boat, kayak, canoe, paddleboard, fishing gear, or other equipment, you can help protect Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake by following a few simple practices every time you leave the water:

- ◆ Inspect and clean all boats, trailers, anchors, ropes, fishing gear, and equipment.
- ◆ Drain all water from bilges, live wells, ballast tanks, bait buckets, and other water-holding areas.
- ◆ Remove any debris or plant material and dispose of it on land.
- ◆ Allow equipment to dry completely before launching in another lake.
- ◆ Encourage family members, guests, and lake service providers to follow the same procedures.

As WWA members, you are some of the strongest advocates for protecting the lakes we love. Your actions can help prevent the next aquatic invasive species from reaching our watershed.

Volunteer Lake Hosts, Weed Watchers, & SCUBA Dive Team

Our Lake Hosts inspect boats and educate visitors about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. Weed Watchers monitor shorelines and lake habitats for invasive plants, while the volunteer SCUBA Dive Team removes variable milfoil weekly throughout the summer.

Together, these dedicated teams help prevent reinfestation, identify and monitor milfoil patches, watch for new aquatic invasive species, and control the spread of variable milfoil through hand-pulling efforts. Without the commitment and hard work of these volunteers, our lakes would be overwhelmed by milfoil and other invasive species.



New Mini-DASH Boat Joins the Fight Against Invasive Species

This summer marks an exciting milestone for the Wentworth Watershed Association's aquatic invasive species management program. Thanks to an extraordinary community fundraising effort, the WWA has purchased and custom-built a Diver-Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH) boat that will significantly enhance our ability to remove variable milfoil and protect Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake.

The purchase of the new DASH boat was made possible through the generosity of donors from Crescent Lake, Holden Shore, island residents, Dive Team members, Weed Watchers, and many other supporters who recognized the importance of investing in the long-term health of our lakes. This project truly represents a community effort, with individuals from across the watershed coming together to provide the resources needed to strengthen our invasive species management program.

The custom-built vessel is specifically designed to support DASH operations, allowing divers to more efficiently, remove, and contain invasive aquatic plants.

The DASH boat will make its public debut during the WWA Summer Kick-Off event, where visitors will have an opportunity to see the vessel up close and learn more about the role it will play in protecting our lakes. The boat will also be featured in the Wolfeboro Fourth of July Parade and will be

stationed at the starting point of the Lake Wentworth Boat Parade, highlighting the community's commitment to lake stewardship and invasive species prevention.

We extend our sincere gratitude to every donor who contributed to this effort. Your support demonstrates what can be accomplished when a community comes together around a shared goal. The DASH boat is more than just a new piece of equipment—it is an investment in the future health of Lake Wentworth, Crescent Lake, and the entire watershed.



Love the Lake? Volunteer With Us!



If our projects interest you and you're looking for a way to get involved, we are always looking for volunteers! Other volunteer opportunities include aquatic and terrestrial invasive species management, conservation land stewardship, water quality sampling, event help, office work, and more.

Visit our website and click on "Volunteer" to fill out a survey with your interests, and we'll reach out with opportunities!

Visit the WWA website or stop by the office between 9am – 2pm to learn more about volunteering, becoming a member, or supporting watershed protection efforts.

WATERSHED REMINDERS

Here are some important reminders to help everyone enjoy and protect our beautiful watershed:

- ◆ **Fire Permits:** All fires must be permitted. The Wolfeboro Fire-Rescue Department offers permits that can be purchased online through the Wolfeboro town website. If you plan a backyard fire, please apply for a permit and practice fire safety.
- ◆ **Lights:** Consider opting for motion-detecting lights in your outdoor spaces. Constant light exposure at night can disturb neighbors, boaters, and wildlife.
- ◆ **Wake Wise:** Protect the lake by controlling your wake! Minimize repetitive passes and stay at least **250 feet** (500ft preferred) from any shore—the further, the better. Large wakes can erode shorelines, churn up sediments that contribute to cyanobacteria blooms, and damage other boats and docks. Large waves can be hazardous to swimmers and small crafts.
- ◆ **Safety Siphons:** There are no gas stations on Lake Wentworth or Crescent Lake. To keep our lakes clean, prevent 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 permitted. Please visit the town's website to review the ordinance. They also pollute and contribute to phosphorus loading in our waters. Fireworks can be triggering for people with PTSD, pets, and wildlife.
- ◆ **Noise Level:** Please be mindful of noise levels and activities that may impede the peaceful enjoyment of the lakes for wildlife, fellow neighbors, and visitors.

Avoid Pesticides, Herbicides, and Mosquito Spraying

Many pesticides and herbicides do not stay where they are applied. Rainfall can wash chemicals into nearby streams, wetlands, and lakes where they can negatively impact water quality, aquatic life, pollinators, amphibians, birds, and other wildlife.

Routine spraying for mosquitoes, ticks, weeds, and insects can unintentionally harm beneficial insects such as bees, butterflies, dragonflies, and native pollinators that help maintain healthy ecosystems. Chemical applications near shorelines and wetlands are especially concerning because even small amounts can make their way into the watershed.

Before spraying, consider non-chemical alternatives such as removing standing water, improving air circulation, encouraging natural predators, hand-pulling weeds, mulching garden beds, and planting native species.

* Visit sixleggedsociety.com to learn more

Join the Mosquito Bucket Challenge

Looking for an easy way to reduce mosquitoes around your property without widespread spraying?



Try the Mosquito Bucket Challenge.

Place a 5-gallon bucket in a shaded area and fill it with water, leaves, and grass clippings to attract mosquitoes looking for a place to lay eggs. Add a Mosquito Dunk® or other biological larvicide containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), a naturally occurring bacterium that targets mosquito larvae while posing minimal risk to people, pets, fish, birds, and most beneficial insects.

The bucket draws mosquitoes away from other breeding locations, and the larvae are controlled before they can emerge as adults.

Encourage neighbors to participate and help reduce mosquito populations throughout the watershed.

Membership Matters

Renew or join today to help the Wentworth Watershed Association continue its conservation efforts! Please encourage all friends and family members who visit the watershed to join. WWA Membership is suggested at \$50 per adult. Gift Memberships and additional donations are greatly appreciated. You can join or renew online right now using the QR code below. If you prefer to drop off your membership or donation, the new WWA office and store are located at 51 Mill Street, Building 3, Unit D. We are open Monday–Friday from 9 AM to 2 PM. Stop by to say hello, buy merchandise, and sign up to volunteer.



Thank you to our 2026 Sponsors!

THE WOLFEBORO FUND



WENTWORTH WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

PO Box 2235 • Wolfeboro, NH 03894

602-534-0222 • wentworthwatershed.org

The 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.

2026 Events

June

- 20 Water Summit**
9am–12pm at the Great Hall, Town Hall
- 24 Summer Kickoff**
5–8pm at Lake View Inn Bed & Breakfast

July

- 3 Light Up the Watershed**
9:30–11pm
- 4 Boat Parade**
2pm
- 5 Ben Baldwin Fishing Derby**
9am–1pm
- 18 Annual Loon Census**
8–9am
- Stamp Act Island Walk**
9:30am
- 29 Full Moon Paddle**
Albee Beach at 8:30pm

August

- 1 Annual Meeting**
9am–10:30am at Great Hall, Town Hall
- 8 Governor Wentworth Country Estate History Tour**
10–11:30am at Governor John Wentworth Estate (Rain date: August 15th)
- 12–13 Lights Out in Watershed**
August 12th, 9pm–August 13th, 6am
- 18 What Lies Beneath: Septic Systems, Regulations, and Clean Lakes**
1–3pm at Wolfeboro Library, Bradley Room
- 28 Camp Dinner**
5pm at Camp Bernadette

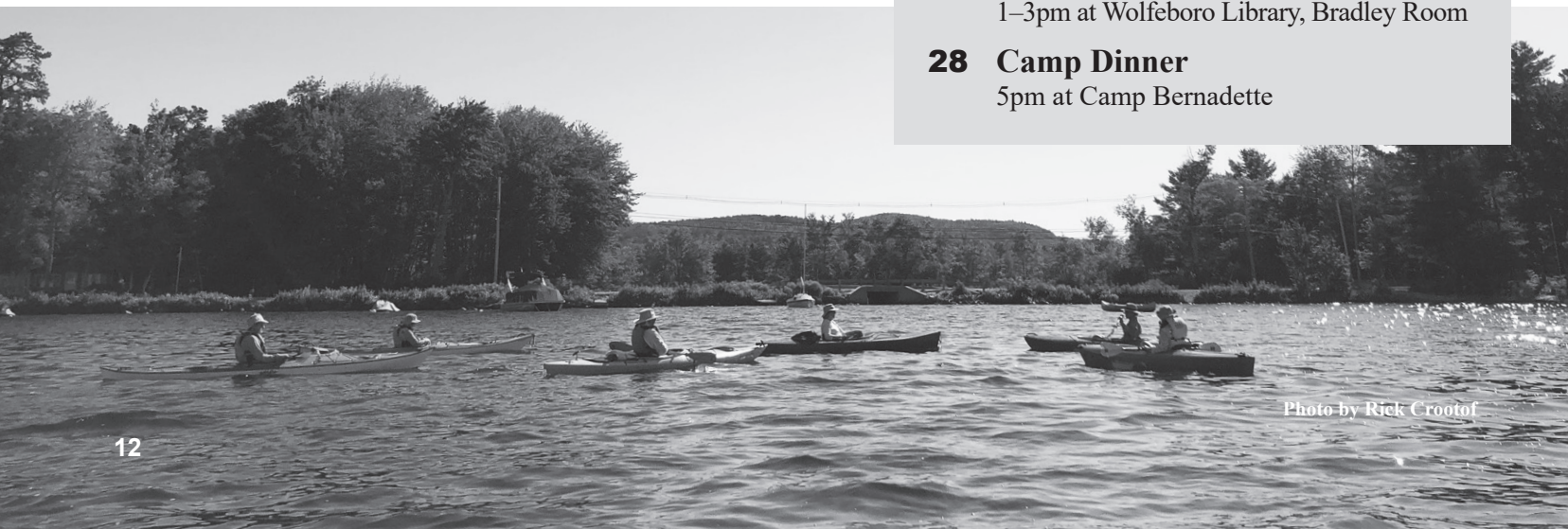


Photo by Rick Crotofo