

# Highland Lake News

Published by the Highland Lake Watershed Association - A Nonprofit Organization Dedicated to the Preservation and Protection of Highland Lake

**Fall** **2015**

## President's Message by Sam Sciacca



On July 11, the Highland Lake Watershed Association held its annual meeting of the membership. This is an important event on the HLWA calendar as certain business aspects of the HLWA need to be attended to. It also serves as an opportunity for our membership to interact directly with the Board and other members of the community and to express areas of concern and interest.

This year we were fortunate to have Dale Martin (Winchester Town Manager) and William Fitzgerald (Chief of Police) on hand to address the membership and answer questions on a number of issues that are of concern to our membership (marine patrol/boating safety, roadway maintenance, vandalism around the lake, taxes). As I have mentioned in previous writings, many of the issues that are of primary interest to HLWA (weed control, water level control,

boating safety, infrastructure around the lake) are under the authority of the Town, and to have Dale and the Chief make their Saturday morning available to us is hugely appreciated. We also thank Bob Moore for agreeing to address part of the general real estate situation around the lake, which is always of interest to our homeowners.

One thing I would like to emphasize with regards to boating safety: I sometimes receive emails from residents reporting concern over unsafe boating or personal watercraft activity on the lake. The Chief pointed out the proper course of action when unsafe boating is observed is to call the Police Department. Reports of such activity (which can remain anonymous) are useful to the Police Department to understand when/where marine patrols are required. This is essential if interdiction is to be accomplished.

For this year's meeting, we also produced our first Annual Report. While some may think of the HLWA as a casual/social organization, it is very much a corporation with fiduciary responsibilities to our membership. The Annual Report provides a way to convey the financial and operational activities to the membership, as well as gives you an insight to the priorities and functions of the HLWA and its Board of Directors. If you were unable to attend the meeting to receive your copy, a PDF of the report can be downloaded from our website (<http://hlwa.org/annualreport2015.pdf>). I hope you take the opportunity to read the report to better understand the scope of activities the HLWA Board of Directors and our Committees undertake on the lake community's behalf.

The close of the fiscal year also marks the close of my first year as President. As I stated in my remarks at the Annual Meeting, I undertook the job with a great deal of trepidation, but the support I have received from the HLWA Board, the membership and Town officials was overwhelming and greatly contributed to what I feel was a successful year for HLWA and Highland Lake.

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## Legacy Program

by Dick Labich

### **Open space land acquisition to preserve our water quality, scenic views and property values**

There are many property owners in the Highland Lake watershed who have not developed their property and have kept their land as open space for many years and maybe for generations. Perhaps the time has come for them to face some tough questions? What will happen to my property in the future? Will my children and grandchildren afford to keep it? Will future owners care about the land and the lake as I do? How can I protect my property from harmful future development? These are important questions to consider before matters are taken from your hands and you will no longer have a voice in these decisions.

However, the good news is you have the power to permanently keep your land the way it is today by donating the land to the HLWA Legacy program. This donation allows you to realize some immediate benefits. You will no longer have the responsibility of maintaining the land. You will realize some immediate income tax deductions as well as future estate tax benefits. Also, you will know your property will, as open space, be a part of the ecosystem that will continue to keep Highland Lake clean for future generations.

Currently the HLWA has deeds from 33 donors totaling nearly five acres of permanent open space in the watershed. Working with the Winchester Land Trust, we have preserved another 13 acres of open space. We are also in the closing process with three donors for a total of 10 new properties.

In addition, we have received generous donations of money for the Legacy program. It should be noted anyone considering a donation to the Legacy program should make out a check payable to "HLWA Legacy Program" and send it to P.O. Box 1022, Winsted, CT. Before considering any donation to the Legacy Program, you should consult your tax accountant or financial adviser. If you have any questions, please call me at 860.738.0167.

### **HLWA Board of Directors**

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Website: [www.hlwa.org](http://www.hlwa.org)

Visit our [Facebook](#) page and "Like" us!

## Highland Lake Nature

by Mary Barbro

### **Random Nature Ramblings**

As I am writing this article, it is the middle of August and I'm hearing fall's coming. Yes, it was blazing hot just a day or two ago, but it is cooler today and the light looks a little different. But it is the sound that is suddenly different, and I recall that is how the crickets always sound at the end of summer and early fall. I'm usually happy for that sound, but I was a little sad for it today. I'm not tired of this summer yet; maybe it's recollections of last winter's long stay or maybe it's because of what a nice summer it really was - never too hot or humid for too long and always broken up by beautiful, perfect days and nights. This was the summer I have used the air conditioning the least of any summers I remember. When I get over its passing, I will celebrate the greatness of New England in the fall. What could be better?

I know at my house, nature was very peaceful and quiet this summer but a little worrisome to me all the same. In my own little piece of the world, I noticed things missing - some good, some bad. Perhaps you did as well. We had less of some things and more of others - but mostly less. This is what I saw, and some are observations by friends. No science here - just what we notice day to day. There were fewer bees, fewer bats (the devastating white nose virus bats are experiencing may be contributing to this), fewer eagle stories being reported (although they are out there, but I don't know about the numbers), and fewer hawks around my area. I haven't seen a bear here in quite a long time or anything else furry for that matter. Fewer mosquitoes have made the summer quite nice, and there appeared to be less heat and humidity as well. What I have more of are mice, but that is understandable since my wonderful neighborhood cat has become too elderly, I guess, to make it up my hill and defend the outside of my foundation from the little rodents. I had not one mouse inside when she patrolled. I miss you, Tinkerbelle. I do have my own cat inside, but that's not working nearly as well. Some of the other missing creatures that I mentioned may also be adding to the mice situation.

The other thing I've observed is lots of milkweed growing, not only in and around my house and hill but all around the area. I have a new and greater appreciation for milkweed now, though, after reading two books this year that touted the importance of milkweed. One was *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver, which taught me its necessity to the monarch butterfly. The other was *Delicious* by Ruth Reichl, which told about cooking the silk part of the milkweed into a cheesy tasting dish during the Depression. All the milkweed on my property now stays. You pay quite a lot to have similar looking alium in your yard, whereas milkweed has the same beautiful, big purple globes but with a wonderful aroma as fragrant as lilacs.



I know every season and every year have their own curiosities and differences and nature ebbs and flows, so I hope all is well out there as we look forward to seeing what this fall and winter have to show us.

## Water Quality Update

by Clare Stevens, Water Quality/Environmental Committee Chairperson

The primary goal of the Highland Lake Watershed Association is to “preserve and protect Highland Lake.” To fulfill that mission, the Board of Directors is committed to ensuring our activities have this goal in mind, and the goal is supported by numerous programs that have a direct influence on the quality of life at Highland Lake, including Water Data Collection, Legacy, Government Relations, and educating our membership and the public through our Newsletter. Both recreational use and property values depend on maintaining healthy water quality.

The Water Data Collection Committee performs a vital element of our work and was formed to develop an effective way to track the most important aspects of water quality. We work with a professional limnologist to identify the variables by which lake managers around the world monitor the health of fresh waterbodies and, using professional-level equipment, perform the tests that will create a long-term picture of the parameters which indicate the health and condition of the lake. By keeping detailed data which is collected monthly from April through November, the most active season of lake ecology, we can identify changes that might indicate a trend toward deteriorated water quality.

Important variables that are charted include water clarity, temperature, quantity of dissolved oxygen, phosphorous, nitrogen and pH. For example, if phosphorous levels rise and water clarity decreases, it could indicate there is an increase in algae growth. Then we can pursue identifying the source of phosphorous and determine possible corrective action. Dr. George Knoecklein, the limnologist contracted by HLWA, also tests the major streams leading into the lake. He has identified a high phosphorous content coming from Sucker Brook. Because of the high volume of water inflow from Sucker Brook, it has a very significant impact on Highland Lake’s overall water quality. Thus, HLWA made contact with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) which has responsibility for the maintenance of Sucker Brook Dam. It was found the detention basin behind the dam had been completely filled with silt and soil and was no longer functioning effectively to capture additional material. Armed with this information, HLWA advocated strongly with CT DEEP and other state officials the need to repair the

dam. After several years of this effort, and with the help of State Representative Jay Case, we are happy to report that renovation of the dam has been authorized.

In 2008, the Town of Winsted authorized Northeast Aquatic Research to compile and analyze all of our water quality data and recommend continued maintenance and corrective actions. This year, at the suggestion of both HLWA and the Town Highland Lake Water Level Committee, the Town has allocated funds to update this important study. Additionally, money has been allocated by the Town for a comprehensive study of aquatic plants to track the types, location and density of those plants. HLWA is particularly mindful of the danger of an increase in invasive aquatic plants and has coordinated the efforts of the Town of Winchester to control them by having herbicides professionally applied annually.

These studies provide both immediate and future benefits. One use is to determine the effects of the yearly drawdown which allows the Town to balance ecological effects of drawdown with the need for shore property owners to maintain seawalls and prevent further erosion of material into the lake. Many lake reclamation projects are extremely costly. By having water quality data professionally analyzed and reported, the Town can draw upon the information for credibility and support in applying for funds for lake remediation. Information from the 2008 report was instrumental in HLWA’s effort to assist the Town in successfully garnering \$15,000 in a matching funds for invasive weed treatment, saving taxpayers money and better serving the ecology of the lake.

In the meantime, each of us plays an important role in the stewardship of Highland Lake. Because of the steep slopes of our watershed, erosion is a major issue. Soil that washes into the lake creates more shallow areas where aquatic plants can grow. When they die, they consume oxygen for decomposition. A healthy lake requires oxygen to support all aquatic life. Thus, property owners need to check for areas of erosion and take such corrective actions as planting barriers of vegetation, creating stone walls, installing effective gutters and dry wells, and choosing pervious materials for parking areas.

In the words of environmentalist, Jane Goodall, “We believe that every individual has the ability to make a positive difference.”



**July Testing:** Clockwise from top left: Sighting Tube for the Secchi Disk, Hach Meter (to test dissolved oxygen/temperature), Secchi Disk, and Water Sampler.

Data collection participants were Clare Stevens, Wayne Warren, Shirley Allshouse and Ray Fugere.

## What a Boat Parade!

by Mary Barlo

Every participant in this year's boat parade deserved an A+! Everyone was totally blown over by Mark and Jean Blair's Carnival Cruise. I don't know how they thought of it, but they took both carnival and cruise and came up with the most original idea I've ever seen with an actual moving ferris wheel on board. It was big and bright and could be seen from a distance, which is a big plus for boat parade observers - not just those of us in the lineup. We tip our hat to them again for their creativity in making our parade that much more special. We had the Kim Marchand and Jean Corey Disco Fever boat, complete with disco ball, wigs, costumes and music of the 80s, but for those of you not close enough to see Kim in the black leather vest, cap, shorts, etc., you really missed something. It was really quite comical seeing Kim in that light and seeing all the fun going on there. The judge's choice award went to Jan and Steve Becker's fireboat. We liked the continuously working fire hose, but when we pulled around on all sides of the boat, we saw all the work that went into it. The front was made to look like the front of a fire truck and all the little details were very much appreciated. Honorable mention to Ken and Michelle Hintz and Ken and Laura Klauskas for Margaritaville, which had tons of decor in theme and were even towing a little boat also fully decorated - extra points to them for that! This year's landlubbers vote went to the beautiful Labich wedding on the lake. We were so happy to see the lights, decorations and even the bride and groom on the dock as we went by. What a treat for us.



This year we had opportunities for website and Facebook voting as well, and those results were the pretty Birds, Butterflies and Blooms by Bob and Jean Mangione on the website and the Hintz/Klauskas boat for Margaritaville on Facebook. Congratulations!

We thought people put more into it this year than ever before, and I could not let this opportunity pass without mentioning some others that were incredible - such as the Tiki Bar, which I know we were dying to hop onto. It was decorated impeccably, looked like a lot of fun, and the tiny grass skirts, etc., were amazing. We absolutely adored the jungle boat as well, with costumes and little faces everywhere - both human and with little stuffed animals decorating the tall treetop branches. Great work. The cast and crew from Gilligan's Island stayed wonderfully in character all evening. We had a hippie boat, patriotic boats, beautiful boats, and Sandy Macinaus' boat reflected her beautiful home and gardens. We did not have a prize category this year for those themes and only wished we had categories to fit all these wonderful boats and prizes for all. You can see pictures of all the boats on our website, <http://hlwa.org>.



Many thanks to all those not going for a prize but making your boat look nice or just joining our numbers and participating in that way, because without your participation and support it wouldn't look like a parade. We need everyone to really make it an event. We hope this year's parade will give you inspiration to join in again next year and maybe prompt others as well to join in some way.

# The Legend of Two Indian Chieftains Who Fought the Last Indian Battle in Winchester

by Dick Labich



*HLWA Board member Pat Masucci showed me a letter she had in her memorabilia written by Mrs. John O'Connell who lived on Perch Rock Trail. The letter is dated January 3, 1989 and contained a clipping of the story of Chief Ouleout's victory over the powerful Nepaug. There are two sources for the writer of this legend, so I am unsure which is the original author, the Winsted Evening Citizen or the Litchfield Hills Magazine.*

A short distance from the green in old Winchester, about a half mile from the center on the turnpike leading to Colebrook, is a patch of land, low and marshy and now covered with sprouts. In the center of this spot is an eminence of considerable height and as round as an inverted bowl. Many have thought this was an Indian mound, while in the early days some believed it to be the tomb of the powerful chieftains Nepaug and Ouleout. The following account of the last and wonderful battle between those two famous warriors is taken from an old Black Leather volume long out of print.

Nepaug was an old chieftain whose wigwam and hunting ground were in North Torrington, later known as Newfield. His figure was short and almost squat. His face was round and of the color of rusty copper, while his prominent nose and large ears displayed rings that had been made out of some arm or shin bone of an enemy. He was the reigning chief over a band of unruly warriors who were a bunch of regular land pirates. Another chief equally grave and more successful in battle was Ouleout, whose wigwam was near the Goshen line, on the border of Winchester, not far from the famous trout stream that winds through Hall Meadow. Ouleout was a noble specimen of the Indian warrior. He stood about six feet in his moccasins and his rich blanket was covered with wampum and multicolored beads. His braves were young and athletic. War clouds gathered between these two selfish chieftains. They had trespassed upon each other's hunting grounds, their Indian blood was up, and war was declared.

Old Nepaug, with his band of warriors, crept slyly up the hills and through the dark forests, up by the old dugway in Sucker Brook and over Brewer Hill, where he came to a halt and awaited the approach of his hated rival. Chief Ouleout with his faithful band came toward the north and over the Ben Preston trail (or by Prestonville, as it was called) and skulked through the weeds and brush until they reached the battleground near the present turnpike.

It was near to midnight and only the stars looked upon the scene. Ouleout soon caught a glimpse of the scalp lock of old Nepaug and with a terrible whoop rushed upon his foe. The battle at once became general. Around the base of the mound were fearful struggles and many a life went out at the foot of the marvelous mound. Ouleout and his braves were determined to conquer or die. Chief Nepaug, soon wounded and bleeding, fled in dismay followed by his disheartened band back to their wigwams in Newfield, while Ouleout and his victorious braves filled the night with their exultant whoops.

Nepaug lived but a few years, moody and melancholy, and one autumn morning died and was hid under a bluff back of the meeting house on the west side of the road where a rude stone may be seen that marks his last resting place.

Ouleout, victorious, returned to his wigwam in Winchester where he lived in honor on his old hunting ground for many years. He finally succumbed to time and age, and his remains were deposited at the foot of a large rock on whose face the figures of a tomahawk and scalping knife are faintly discernible even to the present day. It is the only rock of such huge proportions on the mountain and it was around this same boulder the brave warriors performed their war dance from time to time to the music of their infernal howls, while their squaws swung their papooses from the branches of the trees that encircled it.

The names of the warriors are forgotten, but around their last battleground, at the dead of night, it is whispered wonderful sights may be witnessed and strange sounds be heard. It is said at certain changes of the moon a phantom fight can be seen around and over that old ghost-haunted mound, and headless warriors and screaming squaws can be seen flying.

Another old brave called Paugnut, who was at the last battle of Chief Ouleout, saw him laid away at the foot of the great boulder with all due rites and ceremonies and then took his departure from the mountain that had been his home for so long. He wandered lone and melancholy for a time over the countryside, sad and brokenhearted. At last he sought the wild and romantic spot near Winsted known as Still River Falls. There on a huge boulder or cliff stood the gnarled trunk of a gigantic tree. Upon its branches he hung his favorite bow, struck his tomahawk into its body, in a low and dirge-like tone chanted his death song, and then threw himself headlong into the boiling waters below. Thus perished the last of the braves who were wont to tread the rugged soil of old Winchester.

*Please note various historical sources have used the name Nepaug and Paugnut interchangeably.*

*The winter edition of the newsletter will contain an article concerning the fact Winsted had, at one time, five railroad stations. If anyone has a suggestion for an article about the history of the lake or of Winchester, please let Terry Platt or myself know (hlwa@snet.net) and we will try to research it for upcoming issues.*

## HLWA Turns Over the Home Address Sign Program to the Explorer Post of the Winchester Area Ambulance Association

by Dick Labich

In 2005 the HLWA Board of Directors started the Home Address Sign Program to help the Police Department (as first responders), the Fire Department, and the Winchester Area Ambulance Association locate your home when every second is important in an emergency. We have written many articles in the newsletter concerning the alarming problems these emergency personnel have in trying to find your home, especially after dark.

Lake residents Tim and Dina Fisher were the first residents to purchase a sign (on July 23, 2005), and since that time the HLWA has delivered more than 250 blue and green signs to residents living in the watershed as well as local residents in Winchester. We also delivered one burgundy sign for residents who wanted to match their color scheme.

The HLWA has now turned over the program to the Winchester Area Ambulance Association Explorer Post who will continue to work with the Winchester Center Fire Department in furnishing the signs. I have been very impressed with the Explorers, and their enthusiasm for the project assures it will be in good hands and will continue to grow. They are fully aware of the importance of these signs and have exciting plans to market the program to make sure residents are aware of the need for the home address signs.

If you decide to purchase a sign, please contact the Explorer Post by email at [explorerpost1162@gmail.com](mailto:explorerpost1162@gmail.com). Hilary Paden can be reached at that address, or you can also reach her at 860-806-2399.

I would like to personally thank Willie Reller, Lieutenant in the Winchester Center Fire Department, for his assistance with the program. The Fire Department's support of our efforts made the program possible, and I am grateful for their help these past ten years. I am also grateful to all the residents who purchased the signs and aided our Emergency Medical responders, as well as the Police and Fire Departments. I hope the sign program continues to receive your support and the program does make a difference when **every second counts**.

## High Fives to Winsted Police Chief and Marine Patrol

by Jan Gyurko

Sergeant Kevin Kinahan is doing an outstanding job as Marine Patrol for Highland Lake and as friend to the HLWA at the inspiration of the Chief. At our annual meeting, Police Chief William Fitzgerald said he was very interested in improving community relations. Some goals he expressed included possible bike patrols, foot patrols, and a "stepped-up visibility in other areas." Many of us have witnessed that "stepped-up visibility" first hand!

One part of the visibility came as a police escort while Larry Beck swam the length of the lake as his part of the Swim & Paddle

fundraiser. Larry has done this now for the past six years to raise money earmarked for clean water expenses at the lake. Larry gave his "pitch" about the Swim & Paddle fundraiser at the annual meeting. Chief Fitzgerald approached Larry afterwards and offered Sergeant Kevin Kinahan, the officer who patrols the lake, as an official escort for him while he swam. Larry said that would be great, while wondering to himself if he would really show up! Well, he did, and escorted Larry the whole time he swam, which was almost two hours!



Sergeant Kinahan also led the Boat Parade this year, and many have seen him consistently on his weekend patrol. He is doing his job extremely well. Jet skis are slowing down when going through the narrows, and we always get a wave and a "hi, how are you" when he comes by our docks. I think Chief Fitzgerald is getting a great start on that stepped-up visibility, and Sergeant Kinahan is greatly appreciated for all he is doing!

## Blue Circle Award

by Clare Stevens

Mark and Jean Blair are the 2015 Blue Circle Award recipients, signifying their commitment to protecting Highland Lake. Over the years, they have worked to improve their property, all the while considering what will do the least harm to the lake environment. They have left the lakefront portion of their property in a very natural state, allowing weeds and laurel to filter phosphates that would otherwise leach into the lake. They maintain an expansive lawn without the use of fertilizers or weed killers. They are also avid environmentalists, as proclaimed by their license plates "Earth 1" and "Earth 2."

Mark and Jean are also supporters of the Highland Lake Watershed Association and graciously allowed us to hold the Evening at Highland Lake event a few years back (and this year as well!). They deserve this award due to their care of their property in an ecologically sound manner, support of HLWA, and concern for the health of the lake.



## HLWA Sewer Grinder Pumps

by Jim Rollins, Director of Public Works

The homes around Highland Lake are served by a low-pressure sewer system. Everything you pour down the drain and flush down the toilet flows into your "grinder pump." Your grinder pump does exactly that. It grinds up all the solid matter and liquids into a slurry. While grinding, the pump generates enough pressure to pump this slurry to the sewer treatment plant located on North Main Street.

These 20+/- year-old pumps and their controls work in a very harsh environment, and if used properly and on a regular basis they perform their duties very reliably. Use on an occasional basis can be more challenging. Pumps have many more problems when they sit for more than a few weeks without use.

Proper use is very simple. Human waste, sink and shower drain water are the only things that should make their way into your grinder pump reservoir.

*Do not allow* any of the following to be flushed or rinsed down the drain: glass, metal, shellfish shells, diapers, socks, rags, plastics, feminine products, swifters, kitty litter, cooking grease. **Note:** *Many products claim to be flushable but still cause problems.*

FYI, Grinder pump rebuilds typically cost \$1,100 - \$1,200 and replacements cost about \$2,000.

When problems do occur, the sewer alarm outside on the sewer pump control panel will turn on the red light and the buzzer will sound.

*If your alarm is "going off":*

Mon.–Fri. 7:00 – 3:30 contact Public Works - (860) 379-4101.  
Nights, weekends and holidays, call the Police Department (860) 379-2721. They will contact Public Works.

You may silence the buzzer (by pressing the black button under the sewer pump control panel) until someone from the crew gets there in the morning, corrects the problem and resets the alarm.

You should limit your water use to about five flushes, which is the emergency capacity of the pump chamber.

### What to Expect from Public Works

There are five men in the crew that maintain and repair 330+/- grinder pumps as well as the entire water distribution and sewer collection systems throughout town. Someone is available every morning 365 days a year. On weekends and holidays, two of them typically show up at the DPW at 7:00 a.m. to take care of the daily routine tasks and deal with any Police Department call-ins from the previous night.

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## Picnic!

by Jackie Mulvey

The HLWA Annual Picnic was held on July 18 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Pat and Donald Masucci. The sun shone brightly on a happy group who, as usual, were well fed by the myriad of food stuffs brought by the attendees, as well as burgers from the grill overseen by chef Donald. I do not believe there were many dinners served at home that night!

This is a great event, held every year and open to all. It is a chance to keep up with your neighbors during a time when many of us are jam packed with visits from family and friends. So keep this in mind, and see you next year?!!!!!!!



Left to right: Mary Barbro, Jan Becker, Donald Masucci, Marlene Rouleau, Arlene Fazzino, Aljean Owens, Pat Masucci and Sara Munley

## Evening on Highland Lake

by Jill Ricci

We were blessed once again with an enchanting summer evening to hold the 11th annual Evening on Highland Lake event on August 8, 2015. The guests were as lovely as the evening, savoring a taste of fine food and beverage at the water's edge. This year our enjoyable time and lovely view of the lake were by courtesy of the Blairs on the west side of third bay. This gracious couple are wonderful hosts and good friends of the lake, recently having been awarded the "Blue Circle" award as valuable stewards of healthy lake landscaping. We truly thank them for hosting this fabulous evening full of laughter and merriment.

Whether catching up with old friends or making new ones, a delightful evening was had by all. Special acknowledgment goes out to our wonderful and loyal community vendors, who go above and beyond to ensure the guests had plenty of delicious food and drink. Our thanks to Ledgebrook Spirit Shop, the BearClaw Coffee House, Chatterley's Restaurant, Chili's Restaurant, Crystal Peak, Freund's Farm Market, Health Food Corner, Log House Restaurant, Mario's Tuscany Grill, McGrane's on the Green, Noli's Restaurant, Texas Roadhouse, Tributary Restaurant, the Winsted Diner, and Winsted Super Saver.

Providing heavenly music floating on the summer breeze was Gale Gardiner, a talented musician whom we were grateful to have joined us. This year featured the added bonus of chair massages by Georgi Andrews, a wonderful addition and especially appreciated by those who received this luxury. The event was orchestrated by Patty Masucci, a longtime HLWA Board member whose tremendous talents for organizing and running this event always make it a success! This fundraising event continues to be HLWA's most successful and well-attended event, raising funds through ticket sales and raffles that benefit the continued health and well-being of our beloved gem of a lake. We thank all of you who continue to come out and support our efforts. Enjoy the rest of the summer!!

*Clockwise from top: Patricia and Wayne Warren and Carol Zacchio; Clare Stevens and Bob Moore; Suzi and Frank Carfiro and Jane and Paul Cohen; Nancy Reardon and Brigitte Rouleau.*



# Highland Lake Watershed Association Annual Meeting

by Rosy Molinelli

On the morning of July 11, the HLWA held its 2015 Annual Meeting at the Franciscan Center of St. Joseph Church in Winsted. The venue was the same as recent years, but the format was new, sleek and highly successful.

President Sam Sciacca demonstrated his business acumen by encouraging each Standing Committee - Water Quality, Membership Services, Marketing, Government Relations, Legacy and Finance - to submit a written account of its Fiscal Year 2015 accomplishments. These accounts were collated into an attractive, informative and professional first Annual Report, which was introduced with a President's Message and concluded with an Independent Accountant Report by King, King and Associates of Winsted. This sixteen-page booklet, presented upon arrival to all HLWA members, provided accurate and up-to-date information on the accomplishments of elected Board Members and their committees throughout the year. Just as importantly, it saved a great deal of time by foregoing verbal committee reports. This allowed all present a real opportunity to participate actively in discussion through questions, responses and comments to and from each of the presenters. The end result was a valuable one-and-a-half-hour program that satisfied all 73 persons in attendance.



The meeting began with President Sciacca (left) ascertaining a required quorum and successfully seeking ratification of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes and Board of Directors actions for Fiscal Year 2015. Sam then introduced the 12 Board Directors and explained the contents of the informative Annual Report. This was followed by the

Nomination of four standing Board Members who were presented for a successive three-year term by the Nominating Committee Chair, Rosy Molinelli. All four Directors, Sally Carotenuti, Dick Labich, Beth Papermaster and Clare Stevens, were unanimously approved.

There were several outstanding guests/presenters. Dale Martin, our highly respected and capable Town Manager who has proven to be a good friend to the Town of Winchester, our local businesses and the HLWA, recounted his efforts to bring our new Police Chief to Winsted. Dale expressed his belief that Chief William Fitzgerald was chosen not only because of his success and proven competence in Rhode Island, but because of his belief in being proactive, attentive to individual requests and responsive to community needs.

Following the introduction, Police Chief Fitzgerald addressed participants by articulating his philosophy of organization,

communication and accountability within the police department so police administration and officers can better meet the needs of the townsfolk and the Winsted community at large. Chief Fitzgerald (right) proceeded to respond to a myriad of questions from those present and remained well after the meeting to speak with a host of individuals who were anxious to introduce themselves and personally welcome him to Winsted.



Representative Jay Case, a Highland Lake resident, friend and supporter of HLWA, has been consistently responsive to our needs. Once again, he was on hand to answer queries and to present up-to-date information on Sucker Brook Dam and other legislative/state issues that affect both Highland Lake and the Town of Winchester.

Last, but not least, Bob Moore (known to many residents of Winchester as an outstanding realtor and a highly successful business proprietor of R&B Sports) was one of three realtors scheduled to participate in a panel discussion regarding property values on Highland Lake. Due to an unforeseen business issue and a family emergency respectively, two of the scheduled panel members were reluctantly unable to participate. Bob aptly took the helm and fielded questions prepared by moderator Sam Sciacca and also responded to questions raised by attendees. He received a warm applause from all those present for rendering one more job well done!

The highlight of the meeting was an outstanding presentation by HLWA Director and Water Quality Chair, Clare Stevens, of two prestigious Highland Lake Awards. Clare presented the Blue Circle Award to Jean and Mark Blair for their efforts to protect water quality. Clare also presented the Friend of Highland Lake Award to Jim Rollins, currently Director of Public Works, for his many years of service on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

Open Session included questions, concerns and comments from individuals on such issues as timing of Diquat application, policing on the lake, road conditions, 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, boating/jet ski speed, etc. There was ample time for all membership issues to be addressed adequately.

The HLWA Annual Meeting of 2015 was a huge success. Kudos to our President Sam Sciacca and the Board of Directors for all their efforts to keep the members of the Association well informed and to conclude business in the hour-and-a-half allotted time so our membership and participants could return home and enjoy the quality of life in Winchester and the beauty and bounty of Highland Lake.

**Note:** Special acknowledgment and gratitude to Winsted's Dunkin' Donuts for contributing coffee, tea and donuts for this annual event.

## Photo Competition

by Beth Papermaster

HLWA and Morsel Munk cosponsored the first annual Highland Lake Photo Competition this August. Many photographers took to the lake and submitted wonderful pictures highlighting Highland Lake. There were several categories from which photographers could choose: wildlife, water action shot, weather, fishing, Resha/Holland Beach, and family fun. Winners received gift cards to Morsel Munk.

Each week of the competition one photo was featured on HLWA and Morsel Munk's Facebook pages. Morsel Munk, located on Main Street in Winsted, sells "outdoor gear & fun stuff," including all sorts of water "toys" such as tubes and stand-up paddleboards. Whether you are fishing, sitting on a dock, wakeboarding, jumping into the water or watching the sun set, Highland Lake is a special place for all to enjoy. We are grateful to the many photographers who helped capture the joys of the lake.

Congratulations to our winners:

1st Place: Lara Green-Kazlauskas

2nd Place: Olivia Lemieux

3rd Place: Ellie Gunn

Randomly Selected Photo: Robert Cooke



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



Random

## Membership Services Report

by Patty Masucci

We had a lovely summer, with a successful picnic (though delayed by rain) and food/wine tasting! Now here's what we are looking forward to next. We're not sure if you will get this newsletter in time for the relay, but we wanted to mention it.

September 12 - The "It'sAllAboutFun" Relay Race is put on by Winsted Recreation Department and HLWA. Be at Resha Beach at 8:00 a.m. to register and collect your bag of items necessary for your competition. The race will start at 9:00 a.m. sharp. Be creative and name your team. The team with the best team name will receive a prize from us.

October 3 - The Fall Festival is being held on Main Street. Come and visit Winsted and shop for bargains here on this day.

October 4 - Our annual Fall Cleanup Day will be held on this Sunday. Lunch will be at Sarah and John Munley's house at 355 West Lake Street, and it will be a pot luck luncheon. Call Patty at 860.379.2303 to be assigned an area, and let Sarah (617.306.2196) or John (781.964.6691) know what you can bring to the luncheon.

January 2 - We are holding a New Year's Eve Dance a couple of days later . . . put on your top hat or your glittered top and come on down to Crystal Peak to enjoy a dance to remember. Before you go to Florida for the winter months, come and say goodbye to your neighbors!!!

## What's That I Hear?

*Though this is a reprint from our Fall 2001 Highland Lake News, it still holds true!!*

Although summer is over, it's never too late to remind everyone of a few basic courtesies due your neighbors.

- ◆ Keep in mind that music turned up to an unreasonable volume isn't appreciated by all.
- ◆ Don't leave spotlights on for long periods of time.
- ◆ Jet skiing in circles creates unnecessary turbulence in the water and the sound can be annoying if continued for long periods of time.
- ◆ Don't allow your dog to bark incessantly.



A little neighborliness goes a long way!

## Recipe Corner

by Marlene Rouleau

This is a great recipe for end of the season grilling. Hope you enjoy it and have a wonderful fall!

### Bruschetta Chicken

Grill 2 lbs. chicken breast filets or tenders.

Mix and marinate the following for a couple of hours.

8 to 16 oz. red and yellow grape tomatoes

2 cloves of garlic, crushed

4 tsp. small capers

1/2 to 1 cup sliced sundried tomatoes in oil

Chives and fresh basil for flavor and garnish

2 tbs. of olive oil or oil from sundried tomatoes

2 tbs. of sherry wine vinegar; or 1 tbs. sherry wine and 1 tbs. balsamic vinegar

Pour this mixture over hot grilled chicken.





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Two more pictures from the  
HLWA/Morsel Munk Photo  
Contest.





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## HIGHLAND LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

P.O. Box 1022, Winsted, CT 06098

Property owners in the Highland Lake watershed are eligible for voting membership. Others who wish to support the mission of the Association are eligible to join as an Associate Member. Membership dues are \$50.00 per year (**July 1-June 30.**) Dues and donations paid to HLWA qualify for IRS consideration as a contribution to a charitable organization and may be tax deductible.

### Primary Residence

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Lake Residence

Do you want the summer newsletter mailed to your lake address? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Lake Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Winsted, CT 06098

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues** for fiscal year 7/1/15 to 6/30/16 \$ \_\_\_\_\_; additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Please make check payable to HLWA*

### Volunteer opportunities:

<input type="checkbox"/> HLWA Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality/Water Testing
<input type="checkbox"/> Town Meeting Attendance	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Activity Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup Campaigns
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming New Owners	<input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/Fundraising
<input type="checkbox"/> Website Maintenance/Video Show	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance



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