

# Highland Lake News

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Spring

2015

## President's Message by Sam Sciacca



### Partnership

Wikipedia: "A partnership is an arrangement where parties agree to cooperate to advance their mutual interests."

Occasionally, I've been more than a bit dismayed whenever I hear talk that suggests the Town and the Highland Lake Watershed Association are somehow at odds with each other, and the well-being of one comes at the detriment of the other. You know the talk: "Those people up there" or "Those people downtown." The fact of the matter is HLWA and the Town of Winchester are inextricably linked in a partnership in which water quality/recreational use of the lake and the economic well-being of the Town go hand in hand. Don't believe me? Consider the following:

- More than 25% of the Town's tax revenue comes from just 10% of the population associated with lake properties. If lake property values decline due to declining quality of the lake experience, everyone suffers.
- HLWA contributes substantial amounts of money and manpower to lessen the cost to the Town for activities such as water testing, roadside cleanup, and herbicide treatment.
- The Town and HLWA collaborate on budget priorities and coordinate with Town committees such as the Water Level Committee and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, which in turn allows HLWA to focus efforts on any gaps that exist in lake stewardship.
- HLWA contributes to a number of community charities and efforts unrelated to the lake, such as Friends of Main Street, Special Olympics, and the Laurel Festival.
- The Town enforces boating regulations, dock and mooring regulations, and zoning requirements; applies herbicide to control weeds; and controls water levels - which all improve the lake experience for residents and visitors alike.
- Teaming up together last fall, the Town and HLWA submitted a successful Department of Energy and Environmental Protection grant request for the treatment of aquatic invasive species, which will ultimately save the Town and taxpayers \$15,000.

“.. HLWA and the Town are a partnership ...”

The lake is an incredible resource for the Town, providing public recreation, attracting out-of-towners who build and spend money here, and increasing property values which increase tax revenue. Protecting the lake should be (and in fact is) an important issue for the Town. And in this regard, HLWA and the Town are a partnership, working together to advance our mutual interests in protecting the lake. So the next time you hear someone talking about "lake people" or "town people," remind him/her we are all "those people."

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## Legacy Program

by Dick Labich

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

The Legacy committee recently sent out our annual letter to open space property owners in the watershed requesting their consideration of donating their properties to the HLWA Legacy program. We expect many of these landowners will respond favorably to the letter. These donors are aware of our goals for preservation of the lake and also realize the tax benefits that are available for these donations. They also realize open space is necessary to reduce the pollutants that would otherwise enter the lake.

The Legacy program continues to be successful. We have closed on more than 31 properties around the lake and are in the process of closing on a few more. In addition to that, we have received generous donations of money for the program. Our latest donation was for four lots totaling a quarter of an acre on Sterling Road.

It should be noted anyone considering a donation to the Legacy program should make out a check payable to the "HLWA Legacy Program" and send it to P.O. Box 1022, Winsted, CT 06098. 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.

## **Send Us Your Email Addresses!!**

*HLWA sends out emails on upcoming events, items of interest, town happenings, etc., and we would like to have as many watershed residents' email addresses as we can. Please send your current email address to [hlwa@snet.net](mailto:hlwa@snet.net). If you think we do have your email address but you have not received an email from us recently, please send it in again as we may have missed it or have it incorrect. Thank you so much!*

## Welcome to Highland Lake!!

by Patty Masucci

If you are new to the lake or have moved here in the last year, we welcome you!!

The membership greeting committee has not visited anyone in the last three months. We had hoped to visit you this winter during January, but with all the snow and storms recently, we have not ventured out to meet you. But we promise to try to visit you before spring arrives.

The lake is a wonderful place to live - a place to raise children and a place to grow old with other people loving this location as much as you must have, having moved here recently. If you notice a new resident has moved into your neighborhood, please contact either Terry Platt ([wplatt@snet.net](mailto:wplatt@snet.net)) or me so we may visit them and bring them a small memento of our visit. Remember, we are a community here at Highland Lake, and if you have any questions, you may call anyone on the Board of Directors to discuss what might be the problem. If we do not know the answer, for sure we will seek out the answer for you.

The membership services committee runs events throughout the year so we can learn how to take care of our lake and how we can meet one another. Just such an event is coming up in April - the annual spring cleanup. A few volunteers gather to walk a designated area of the lake and clean up any and all trash that can be seen for about 10 feet into the wooded areas around the lake. A truck or vehicle goes around to see if anyone needs help lifting any item or if large items such as tires, etc., are found in the woods. We ask all participants to wear good walking boots or shoes and to wear gloves. A tee shirt with the HLWA logo on it is given to each volunteer, and a luncheon is planned at 12:30 p.m. that same day for all to meet, talk and get to know each other. Please call Patty Masucci at 860.379.2303 to volunteer for this event. You will be assigned an area to clean. Use 35-gallon trash bags, and more will be provided for you from the vehicle canvassing the lake roadway. I can't wait to meet you in April!

### **HLWA Board of Directors**

Sally Carotenuti (Treasurer)	860.803.2344
Fran Delaney	860.379.7701
Ray Fugere	860.738.9781
Dick Labich	860.738.0167
Pat Masucci	860.379.2303
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## Water Quality Update

by Clare Stevens, Water Quality/Environmental Committee Chairperson

As we are presently experiencing extraordinary climactic conditions leading to frigid temperatures, it seems difficult to think learned scientists around the world have declared “global warming” is a major problem! From my “citizen scientist” perspective, our world is undergoing a period of extreme weather patterns that will need further monitoring to determine scientifically what is promoting these changes. We had lower-than-usual temperatures in CT all last summer with less of our customary lengthy periods of heat and humidity officially termed “heat waves.” Perhaps that should have been our forewarning that this winter would be somewhat cooler. Another indicator our weather prognosticators seemed to have overlooked was the lack of hurricanes. The prediction of 14 such dangerous storms never materialized. Was there something brewing in the upper atmosphere back then?? I will not try predicting what the future months will bring; I don't hear the experts stepping forward at this point. The lesson is that Mother Nature is difficult to predict; she is powerful and whimsical!!

### Data Collected by the HLWA Water Quality Committee - June-September 2014

Thanks to Jackie Mulvey who organized the water monitoring/sampling team including Jackie, Ray Juros, Wayne Warren, Steve and Jan Becker and Steve and Rose Molinelli, our 17th year of collecting data proceeded in spite of my absence. I was able to join the team in September when I returned to CT after Gerry's passing; it was a glorious day of watching two pairs of eagles soaring against the clear blue sky, watching the sun sparkling on the lake surface and feeling the wonderful cool breeze that winged its way over the water's surface. For me, it was a wonderful memory of the many excursions when Gerry was with us and taught a lot of volunteers how to use the Secchi Disk appropriately and manage the cleverly designed water sampler; the simple device that uses rubber stoppers on each end of a clear plastic, two-inch diameter tube and surgical tubing to allow those stoppers to be opened while being lowered to the lakebed (60 feet at our location in second bay), then clamped shut to trap our water samples that are sent to UConn for lab analysis - it can take your finger for a nasty ride if not done really delicately. *Wow*, those of you who have braved learning this delicate technique, I laude you!

Here's the story from our data. Each summer since 1997, the Water Quality Committee (WQC) has tracked the following data (parameters = scientific term) monthly from May through October, or the active lake environmental season. Recall that HLWA hires Dr. George Knoecklein (limnologist - “lake doctor”) to conduct in-lake and stream samplings and conduct monitoring in April (just after ice-out) and in November (just before ice formation). The parameters measured and recorded, for every meter of lake depth, are Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen and Conductivity using the Hach meter. We also test the water clarity using a

Secchi Disk and collect water samples the UConn lab analyzes for Phosphorous, Nitrogen and Ammonia.

Lake water quality data must be framed in the mindset that monthly data may reveal changes, particularly the temperature, that are seasonal and weather directed. Obviously, the lake starts each season in April right after ice-off with the same temperature of 32 degrees F from the surface to the lakebed. Soon the sun's warmth impacts the surface and down the water column until the sunlight can no longer penetrate as particles of silt, small cells of plant life (phytoplankton - such as algae) and small invertebrates (zooplankton) reduce the water clarity and block sunlight. Thus, the Secchi Disk data indicates the zone in the water column that can be seen by the naked eye and warmed by the sun. Generally, Highland Lake's clarity is dependent on the quantity of silt that washes in during thawing of the watershed, accumulated silt, and amount of precipitation in the spring. In 2014, the clarity averaged 2.5 meters (8.5 feet) in early June. By the end of June that figure had increased, and we averaged 4 meters (13 feet). However, the pollen season, increased productivity and more precipitation reduced that to 3 meters (10) feet by the end of July.

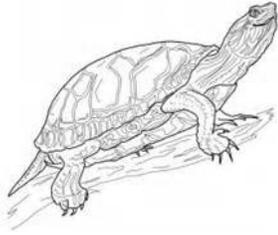
Dr. Knoecklein and I track trends; last summer's data was typical to that we have compiled over the past five years. I will not go into an explanation of the trends in oxygen depletion, phosphorus loading and nitrogen levels because Dr. Knoecklein has agreed to attend our Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 11, 2015. He has just been authorized by the HLWA board to prepare a PowerPoint presentation for that meeting that will give his thorough explanation of the data collected since 2010. I encourage you to begin to think of water quality-related questions you may want to ask of him. As the time approaches, I will collect and collate them to avoid duplication and maximize the effectiveness of our time with him.

One last comment - the data collection done by Dr. Knoecklein and our water quality Committee is vital in two respects. First, it gives Dr. Knoecklein the needed information to update our Highland Lake Management Plan and make recommendations for continued reclamation projects, strategies for protective actions needed to preserve the water quality and perhaps enhance it. Second, the water quality data is needed for grant writing. When the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) announced the availability of money for an Aquatic Plant Control Program, Jackie Mulvey, Sam Sciacca and I worked hurriedly to meet the requirements, write the narrative, and complete the grant in time to submit the five copies to the DEEP by the deadline. From my records of the Water Quality data and two very professional studies Dr. Knoecklein had done in 2008 and 2010, I was able to contribute the many pertinent references to plant studies done and water quality impacts. Grant money is a scarce commodity, and we were able to successfully garner \$15,000 in a match with money in the Town budget for Highland Lake. Thus, we will be able to double our efforts to control the nonnative, invasive aquatic plants, i.e., Eurasian milfoil, variable-leaf milfoil and minor naiad.

## Highland Lake Nature

by Mary Barbro

Nineteen years ago, a lovely woman saved a turtle down by our beautiful lake. Her name is Deb Jones. The turtle came to be known as Buddy. Deb was on her four-mile walk with friends and spotted a line of very tiny little creatures in the road.



Unfortunately, Buddy's siblings had not survived a passing car. Deb scooped up the little survivor and put him in a container she found and brought him home. She cared for him but thought perhaps a nature center would be a good place for him in the future. The nature center's reply to her request was "we get turtles all the time, we're not really interested." So she continued to care for him, and at this point Buddy seemed to relate to her, crane his neck to look at her when she talked, and even come out of hiding when she called. Buddy appeared happy and healthy under her care, so he became a member of the family. The household also has two canine members who do not bother Buddy but treat him as just another family member. It was obvious Buddy was a full-fledged family member when I saw his framed baby picture and another picture with a favorite toy from five years ago. Deb purchases freeze-dried or frozen food for him. Since I had the opportunity to meet Buddy in person, I can tell you he looks quite well and made constant eye contact with me while I was speaking.

A science teacher had told Deb her find was a painted turtle, but one surprise in the story is Buddy turned out not to be a male. They found that out when she started laying eggs. Females are larger than males but males have thicker, longer tails and fore-claws. Of course you wouldn't really see this unless you had two together to compare.

The painted turtle is one of the most commonly found in Connecticut. Its name comes from the brightly colored stripes on the neck. The neck, legs and tail have red and yellow stripes and the head yellow stripes.

These turtles do well in many wet habitats, even ones polluted by fertilizers. Shallow areas with slow-moving water and soft muddy bottoms are best. They are omnivores. Their diet is largely aquatic vegetation, but they eat insects, mollusks, crayfish and carrion, too. The young are carnivores, and vegetation is added to their diets as they mature. They are prey for muskrats, frogs, larger turtles, black racers, fish and crows. The eggs are eaten by squirrels, skunks, foxes, badgers, raccoons and garter snakes. Unfortunately, many are run over by cars as well.

I've loved turtles since I was a little girl and purchased my Toby at a Woolworth's for something like \$1.00 - I don't even think it was that much. Then the little plastic home with the plastic palm tree in the middle was a must. I saw at Buddy's house the same design still exists, but in a larger size. And Buddy has the run of the room with the nice, radiant-heated floors as well.

With the wonderful warmer weather coming at some point, I hope all will remember to watch for not just the baby ducks but the harder-to-see turtles and baby turtles crossing the roads and do their best to avoid them!

## Town of Winchester Awarded DEEP Grant

by Sam Sciacca

Last year, HLWA developed a grant request for the Town to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to treat the Eurasian Milfoil infestation in the lake. Eurasian Milfoil spreads rapidly, crowds out native species of plants, makes swimming difficult and potentially hazardous, and contributes to the problems decaying foliage create on the lake bottom. I am happy to announce that in November, the state awarded a grant to Winchester for the full amount requested, \$15,000. The grant must be matched by Town funds and will be a welcomed means to stretch Town dollars and perform this important function. The grant is doubly valuable in that the Town was not allowed to apply herbicide last year due to permitting issues with the DEEP. Expectations are that due to not applying herbicide last year, this year's growth will be more than in recent years, and a more comprehensive treatment program will be needed to get the lake back to a maintenance mode for weed treatment.

As part of the overall effort, a long-range Eastern Pondmussel management plan will be developed. Eastern Pondmussel is a beneficial species of concern as designated by the CT DEEP, and the plan will outline how the mussel will be protected and how the application of herbicide will be made so as not to detrimentally affect the areas of mussel habitat.

The Town and HLWA will work together to satisfy the conditions of the grant and get the herbicide applied before the peak recreational period. Watch for notification and precautions to take when the herbicide is applied later in the spring or early summer.

## 2015–2016 Dues Notices Coming

In May, you will be receiving your dues notice for the period starting July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016. Dues are important to our activities, allowing our Water Quality and Legacy Committees to operate and our contributing to the various Town and charity functions we support. And dues are *never* used to fund social functions of HLWA. Another thing to note - your dues must be paid in full to be eligible to vote at the HLWA membership general meeting in July.

When you fill in your form to send in with your dues, don't forget to check off any boxes of interest. We are always looking for people who would like to get involved with our various committees or just help out in general.



# The History of the Development of Highland Lake - Part Five

by Dick Labich

*This is the fifth and last in a series of articles on the development of Highland Lake taken from historical records supplied by Milly Hudak of the Winchester Historical Society. This article concludes with the second attempt to secure a bridge across the first narrows in 1930.*

*However, Terry Platt, the Editor of Highland Lake News, asked me to delve into the question of how and when the water in First Bay disappeared. So we will have at least one more historical article in the summer edition of the newsletter describing this unusual event.*

Summer residents at Highland Lake who were interested in maintaining quiet Sundays at that resort were much annoyed when an announcement was made in July 1921 that the State Police had issued a permit to Samuel Bennet and D.V. O'Connel to conduct Sunday dances at the pavilion. So severe was the criticism, the promoters voluntarily announced no more Sunday dances would be held. Commenting on the episode, Editor R.S. Hulbert of the *Citizen* sagely remarked the present generation would have to make its own rule of conduct.

The Highland Lake Improvement Association was organized in the summer of 1922 and was quite active for some time in procuring needed improvements at the resort. The association was instrumental in securing electric service around the lake.

The lack of any system for specifically locating the cottages on the Boulevard led the Selectmen to appoint a committee in 1926 to make recommendations for solving this difficulty. The committee consisting of Joseph A. Norton, Louis T. Stone and Leroy B. Hurlbut, suggested the simple expedient of placing numbers on the telephone poles, commencing with 100 in First Bay, 200 in

Second Bay and 300 in Third Bay. The letter "E" was used as a prefix on the east side and "W" on the west side. The author of this article wrote it in 1940 and went on to report these numerals have practically disappeared and a much more concise method of enumeration would be much appreciated.

Once more the Chamber of Commerce, in a meeting held in February 1926, discussed the matter of a public bathing beach at Highland Lake, but as no feasible method of financing such a project seemed to be available, the matter again lapsed. However, in 1926, Gaetano Lentine built bathing houses and established a park and beach at the west entrance to Wakefield Boulevard.

On August 9, 1929, Hiawatha Lodge, the name given the Highland Lake Hotel after its purchase by the Fjelde family, was completely destroyed by fire, and since that time no summer hotel has existed at the lake. During the time the fire was raging, Loretta, a parrot belonging to Mrs. Burton Moore, which had escaped from its cage, perched in the top of a tree and called loudly "Help, Help!" Many of the guests at the Lodge were temporarily entertained at the "Oaks," Mrs. Moore's home.

In April 1927, Joseph Carey sold a large tract of land (640 acres) bordering on the east shore of Highland Lake to the Highland Lake Development Company. This company opened up the tract for building purposes, built new roads, and was instrumental in inducing many people from all over the country to build summer cottages in that section. In 1940, there were 384 cottages on the shore of Highland Lake.

A second attempt to secure a bridge across the first narrows of Highland Lake was made in 1930, when Mrs. Lydia Adams gave the residue of her estate to assist such an enterprise provided the town made use of the money within 25 years. There was some question to the legality of the 25-year stipulation, but the will was sustained by the court. However, upon the settlement of the estate, it was found there was very little, if any, "residue."



## Recipe Corner

by Marlene Rouleau

We are all looking for spring to arrive; it can't come soon enough. We still need some good comfort food to get us through the cooler days, and nothing soothes our appetites better than a cup of Terry Platt's delicious potato soup:

### Swiss Cream-of Potato Soup

- 4 pared, medium potatoes
- 2 diced bacon slices
- 1/4 cup minced onion
- 2 tblsp. butter or margarine
- 1 tblsp. snipped parsley
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- Dash cayenne pepper
- 1/4 tsp. dry mustard
- 3 cups milk
- 1/2 cup grated Swiss Cheese
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire

Cook potatoes till tender; drain. Meanwhile, saute bacon and onion over low heat, stirring, until brown and tender. Mash potatoes; add bacon, onion, butter, parsley, salt, nutmeg, cayenne, mustard, Worcestershire. Stir in milk. Heat over low heat, stirring. Sprinkle with cheese. Serve at once. Makes 4 servings.



After a winter that wouldn't end, I wish you all a beautiful spring.



## Caroling

by Jeanne Hinman

December 14, 2014 turned out to be the perfect evening to warm our hearts, souls and stomachs with "Soup and Singing."



It was another year of songs from the HLWA Carolers echoing from my home on East Wakefield. And this year was by far the "best ever." Could it have been the accompanying "band" they brought along this year??

As always, it was a fun time and nice to see new faces. Hopefully, this is a tradition that will continue for years to come. Guests totaled 33 this year.

It was a festive evening, full of good cheer and fellowship. I personally thank everyone who attended.

## Blue Circle Award

by Clare Stevens

One of the precursors to spring's arrival is our annual appeal for nominees to be recognized as having landscaped their lake property in an environmentally protective and enhancing manner. Several years ago, HLWA began presenting the Blue Circle Award to an HLWA member/family that demonstrates "best management practices" on their property. Likewise, the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has awarded HLWA the Green Circle Award for such projects as the biannual road cleanups on the entire perimeter of the lake.



I am always pleased to see so many of you who not only take pride in the appearance of your roadside and lakeside land but find creative ways to reduce erosion on the steep slopes of our glacially formed lake. Below are some of the ways you can enhance the beauty of your land and do your part in preserving the water quality of Highland Lake.

- Look at your land carefully and notice if there are areas where erosion is evident. Torrents of rain will carve out troughs, move soil and silt into the lake and add to the filling of the lakebed and general degradation of the water quality.
- Assess the slope of your land and think of ways to break the surface flow of water that erodes soil into the lake. Plateau the slope of your land with dividers such as rocks, pavers and railroad ties. Plants that develop extensive root systems, such as hostas, can border dividers and absorb surface runoff water.
- Since impervious surfaces prevent precipitation from being absorbed into the ground and enhance the likeliness of erosion, reducing the amount of surface area you cover with asphalt, cement, house and garage structures, etc., is very beneficial (smaller is better). Alternative materials include pavers, gravel, mulch and ground covers such as pachysandra and ivy. Use your imagination and create designs with interesting shapes, colors and levels.

- Divert water coming from roofs by channeling it into dry wells at the corners of your home/garage, catching it in rain barrels or using curtain drains. Check gutters and clean them out regularly so they'll work effectively.
- Eliminate the use of phosphate-containing fertilizers. Have your soil analyzed to determine the appropriate type and quantity of fertilizers you might apply to your yard or garden to support healthy plant life. Try composting to add natural, indigenous nutrients to your soil. Soil-testing kits are available for \$8.00 from Litchfield County Cooperative Extension Service at the Torrington Branch of UConn (860.626.6240).
- Reduce lawn size by creating "buffer gardens" near your waterfront. Plant ground covers, decorative grasses or low-growing shrubs; they will take up phosphorus before it enters the lake and be a last-stop measure to deter erosion.

I view the area of our yards facing the lake as a life preserver. It is the ring around the perimeter of the lake that is the final area with the opportunity of reducing the impact of erosion and curtailing the input of phosphorus, nitrogen and chemicals such as pesticides and power-washing ingredients. Thus, **if you notice a neighbor who is demonstrating good "stewardship" of our watershed, please take the time to let us know.**

### Nomination/Application for HLWA Blue Circle Award

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please write a brief description of the actions you or your nominee take that demonstrate your stewardship of Highland Lake. Refer to examples above or others you may think of.

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If you have any pictures that show the stewardship activities, they would be very helpful. Please include them with this application. **The application deadline is July 1.**

Please email your application to [hlwa@snet.net](mailto:hlwa@snet.net) or mail to Highland Lake Watershed Association, P.O. Box 1022, Winsted, CT 06098.

## Monsters in Highland Lake!

Yes, there are monsters in Highland Lake . . . monster brown trout! In December, the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) released 50 trout into the lake, averaging 15 pounds each. Some were more than 20 pounds, exceeding the current state record for brown trout. I'm sure the ice fishermen have been dreaming this winter of pulling in one of these behemoths, although it's possible a 20 pounder wouldn't fit through an ice hole.

According to the CT DEEP website, trout are Connecticut's most sought after gamefish, attracting more than 1.9 million fishing trips each year. The Fisheries Division has implemented several programs which are designed to maintain and improve trout fishing opportunities for Connecticut anglers. They stocked 400 5-year-old Giant Broodstock Seeforellen Brown Trout (averaging 15 pounds each, with some possibly exceeding 20 pounds) into eight lakes this December, including Highland Lake on 12/15. Also, on 12/16, 1,500 brown trout averaging 11 inches in length were stocked into Highland Lake.

Below is a picture of Brandon Jasensky and his father Mike (Jinx) of Torrington. Brandon won the fishing derby put on by Northwest Sporting goods on January 25. He caught a Seeforellen brown trout, 30" long, weighing 12.59 lbs. He battled for almost 17 minutes using a 24-inch jigging rod. He released it after pictures were taken to fight another day.

If you or someone you know does reel in one of these fish, please take a picture and send it in to [hlwa@snet.net](mailto:hlwa@snet.net). We'd love to post in on our website or feature it in our next newsletter.



## Water Quality in the Winter

It may seem strange to be talking about water quality in the middle of winter with 16 inches of ice on third bay, but at HLWA, water quality is something we think about all year long. So while the lake is currently going through the annual revitalization that winter brings, we are planning for the coming year and the efforts to keep the lake in the best of condition for the environment, wildlife, and recreation.

Together with the town, we are putting plans in place to resume treatment of invasive weeds this summer. Weeds such as the Eurasian milfoil proliferate rapidly, crowd out native water plants,

interfere with swimming and boating activities, and decompose after they die each year, reducing the lake's oxygen level. When oxygen becomes depleted towards the end of the summer season, it stresses some of our most valuable species of fish and allows phosphates to be released from the soil in the lake bottom, leading to offensive (and sometimes dangerous) algae blooms.

We are also planning to commission a professional assessment of the last five years of water testing that is performed. The assessment will be completed in early summer and the results will be presented at our annual meeting by Dr. George Knoecklein. Every month, from April to October, water samples are drawn at various depths in three points on the lake. This data, when analyzed and compared over a period of years, provides us with a picture of how the lake is aging, and what effects run-off, fertilizers, silt and pollutants are having on the lake and its wildlife. While it may be convenient to think of the lake as a resource that will endure regardless of our actions (or inactions), lakes are complex and fragile ecosystems which can be destroyed both by natural and man-made forces. The damage a lake incurs is not always immediately evident without testing and analysis, and sometimes lakes undergo years of abuse and neglect before the effects become apparent. But by the time that the lake shows signs of deterioration (offensive smells, cloudy water, reduced wildlife), the lake has been severely impacted, and correcting the damage can take many years of enduring an unusable lake before the damage can be reversed. Continually monitoring the things which can adversely affect the lake, and educating both residents and recreational users on mitigation techniques that can prolong the life of the lake and avoid the blight that has occurred in other bodies of water is the primary mission of HLWA, and something that we work on every month of the year.

Winter also finds us exploring resources and assistance that may be available from the state. Last year, in November, the Town and HLWA teamed up to win a \$15,000 grant to help with the treatment of aquatic invasive species. This will allow us to make up for the missed application of herbicide last summer, and stretch the Town budget for weed treatment further than ever before. We also coordinate with the Town Water Level Committee, making sure that our combined efforts achieve the maximum results for the resources at hand. But we won't stop there. We will be investigating other possible state resources which might be applied to things like open space preservation, increase/improvement of storm drains and catch basins to reduce run-off, and funds to acquire a more suitable police marine patrol boat. And while the state funding situation is uncertain, and perhaps a bit bleak, even a remote chance of success is enough to encourage HLWA to turn over as many rocks as we can in Hartford in the hope that we might find funds to be used to improve the lake.

So like the lake, which appears inactive this time of year, but underneath is renewing itself and teaming with life, HLWA is working through the long winter months to plan out the things that are necessary for a successful 2015 season, and doing what we can to ensure that boating, fishing, sailing, swimming and just relaxing on this wonderful jewel of a resource remains enjoyable for the coming year and many, many years to come.





# ECHO BAY MARINA

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## Realtors and Lake Residents



Jordan Moore



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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 \_\_\_

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

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

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

**Dues** for fiscal year 7/2015 to 6/2016 \$ \_\_\_\_\_; additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Please make check payable to HLWA*

### Volunteer opportunities:

HLWA Board of Directors	Water Quality/Water Testing
Town Meeting Attendance	Newsletter
Social Activity Planning	Cleanup Campaigns
Welcoming New Owners	Marketing/Fundraising
Website Maintenance/Video Show	Finance

(Form also available on website [www.hlwa.org](http://www.hlwa.org))



**HLWA**  
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**Winsted, CT 06098**

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## ***Some HLWA Accomplishment In 2014!!***

- Assisted Town officials in applying for and ultimately received a \$15,000 DEEP AIS Grant for herbicide treatment.
- Donated \$25,000 to Winchester Land Trust for purchase of five acres of forested land within the Highland Lake watershed.
- Coordinated the manufacture and installation of two Highland Lake signs. This was made possible by the generous donations of many lake residents.
- Sponsored "Evening on Highland Lake," which was a well-attended and successful fund-raising event.
- After years of trying to get the state to maintain, repair and clean up the Sucker Brook Dam, work has begun.

Brandon Jasensky and his 30-inch trout! See the article on page 7.

