

Highland Lake News

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Fall

2014

President's Message by Sam Sciacca



This edition of the newsletter heralds a number of important developments for the HLWA. Foremost, it is the first edition in eight years in which the President's letter is not being written by Dick Labich. Dick resigned from the President's office in July, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, service and dedication to HLWA that will likely go unequaled by me or anyone else for many years to come. I know in the coming months, as I address the issues and matters that routinely develop which could impact both HLWA and Highland Lake itself, more often than not I will be asking "What would Dick have done?" Fortunately, I won't have to go far for an answer as Dick has (thankfully!) elected to remain on the Board and continue serving as our Legacy Committee chair. As Past President, he will also be a member of the Executive Committee and will help me and the other officers along in the transition process.

Secondly, by the time this newsletter reaches you, HLWA will have participated in the single largest transaction (dollarwise and areawise) to preserve open land around Highland Lake. Together with the Winchester Land Trust, the membership of HLWA will have been instrumental in permanently preserving approximately five acres of land directly abutting East Wakefield Boulevard, ensuring this land continues to serve as a buffer against surface water runoff and development pressure, two leading contributors to water quality degradation.

Thirdly, we are going to embark upon the development of a vision for HLWA. Called 2020 Vision, this one-year effort will produce a document that will outline HLWA's interests, goals, challenges and strategies leading up to the year 2020. As part of the process, we will be examining our current programs such as Legacy, Water Quality, and Membership Services to determine how to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and end results of our efforts in these areas. But we will also be looking into other areas that are within our charter, such as examining what role HLWA should take in water activity safety and enforcement, expanding our membership base and participation, and if/when/how to lend our collective voices to policy and political processes on the local and state levels. It's also my intention that the work will include consideration of how email and social networking could be employed to improve our communications reach and effectiveness. My direction to this group will be to start with a blank sheet of paper and reach out to HLWA members, nonmembers, community leaders and organizations, state agencies, and any other possible source of ideas and information which will help us build this vision.

And to our members who generously contribute their dues and services for HLWA activities, I hope you will consider contributing your ideas and insights to this effort. Whether as an active member of the 2020 Vision crafting team, or simply taking the time to send your thoughts and ideas to the group, your contributions in this area will ensure we do have twenty-twenty vision for the right direction of your watershed association.



Need to reach me via email? Got a complaint? Suggestion? Just want to share something about the lake? You can email me at president@hlwa.org. This will find me anywhere and everywhere, and I will get back to you with an appropriate response.

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Highland Lake Nature

by Mary Barbro

Busy Bears and More

The garbage is finally out of my house awaiting pickup. My normal routine now is to keep it inside all week rather than clean it all up outside after the bear is finished with it. My bigger fear is I don't want to see the bear hit by a car crossing busy Boyd Street. Unfortunately, that is its path during the evening or early morning hours when it goes to Holland Beach and a few select garbage cans in the area as well. While on our early morning walk, we see its footprints in the sand as well as garbage strewn about. My neighbor alerted me to the fact it comes down our hill onto West Lake Street and then down to Holland Beach and its favorite stops. It got on top of Beckers' garbage receptacle and fell through the plastic top. I hear and see for myself many of you are having these issues. I think I won't resume putting out my garbage again till late November when they take their winter's rest. On a recent local broadcast, a DEEP employee encouraged people to put bird feeders out only from November to March so as not to tempt the bears to come in so close.

Many bird sightings are being enjoyed. I started to do research into herons and egrets since I know so little about them. I found it very frustrating and still know very little. Much of what I read indicated the distinction between an egret and heron is rather vague and depends more on appearance than biology. The particular day I started to think about it was largely because one swimmate mentioned seeing six in one ride down the lake, and then another asked, "Has anyone ever seen a baby heron," to which we all answered no. All I have so far found out about that is the babies grow tall extremely quickly, but the feathers would be the giveaway as to its age. I will have to look into this further since this just came up the day before I am writing this article.

Another interesting bird story comes from Shirley Allshouse who spotted a bird she has not seen in her 48 years of being on the lake. She along with her passengers spotted a very large, all-white bird high above in a tall tree. I consulted with our bird-loving friends Clare and Gerry Stevens, and we both think it could have been a great egret but can't swear by it. If anyone else has seen this, let us know.

We have felt sorry for the mother ducks watching their late-born ducklings this year. They have nothing but relentless work trying to watch them all. One mother duck we observed had seven to watch, but the one we see the most had four and maybe now three. They seem to be constantly in trouble, though, and her work seems exhausting. One day we saw one of the babies fall



through a drainage grate as we walked by. We were horrified, of course, and the mother was beside herself. She called and called to it and ran back and forth from the grate side to the waterside. The grate was impossible to lift up, but the duckling followed its mothers quacking and came out the other side into the lake. On another day, Willie Platt found one unable to fit through a fence to rejoin its family, so he guided it to a larger space it could fit through. The mother has to deal with these situations probably every day and figure out solutions on how to keep her babies healthy and alive. She certainly doesn't take her eyes off them for a minute. Exhausting!

It has been such a busy time at the lake this summer for our native wildlife - I can't even begin to list all the sightings. This very welcomed summer with sufficient rain has made for a very green, lush landscape. The grass never went brown this year, and all the bushes and plants are more dense than I have ever seen them. The weather was comfortable and enjoyable the entire season. We can only hope the fall will be as beautiful and the winter as kind.

Happy sightings!

Who Knew?

by Sam Sciacca

After a near-miss avoidance of a catastrophe between a pack of recklessly racing standup paddleboarders (SUPs) (who shall remain unnamed) and my sailboat, the question arose as to who has the right of way. A little research has turned up the answer. The USCG has designated SUPs as vessels, similar to kayaks and canoes. As such, SUPs must yield to powered and sailing vessels.



For those of you who are wondering how an SUP could present a danger to my sailboat, you have likely never seen me sail. But in my defense, the wind had stopped, my rudder had come undone from the fitting, and the GPS on my navigation/autosteering system was unable to lock on a satellite.

HLWA Board of Directors

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Water Quality Update

by Clare Stevens, Water Quality/Environmental Committee Chairperson

August 15, 2014. This is the first summer in 48 years that my husband Gerry and I are not at Highland Lake. Gerry's health issues prohibit his travel; we are remaining in our Florida home and miss the lake, all of our wonderful friends and HLWA activities and events.

Prior to leaving Rockfern Cottage last fall, I gave the water testing/sampling equipment and instructions to HLWA President Dick Labich in case we were unable to return this spring. I am very appreciative that Jackie Mulvey volunteered to organize Water Quality Committee members in June to continue the program begun 17 years ago. Many thanks Jackie, Ray Juros, Wayne Warren, Steve and Jan Becker, and Rose and Steve Molinelli for your monthly voyages on the lake to gather the data and water samples. The continuity of data collection is important for identifying short-term changes and long-term trends.

Looking at the data the committee has sent me, it appears the water clarity, as measured by a Secchi disc, is somewhat less than in past years at this point in the season. Considering the greater than usual amount of rain, I am not surprised. Silt that enters the lake during storm events can stay suspended by wind and wave action. This data was also gathered during pollen season that reduces water clarity considerably.

Other data such as dissolved oxygen are very typical to recent years. As the summer progresses, dissolved oxygen in the bottom of the lake is depleted, and we monitor the depletion rise in the water column that could trigger problems such as algae blooms or fish kills.

Professional Analysis of Data is Important

After collecting data for five years, it is important to have our limnologist, Dr. George Knoecklein, analyze and interpret it. Over the past five years, the lake has had four shallow winter drawdowns and will have one deep drawdown this fall. Thus, the present Highland Lake Water Level Policy will have completed one cycle by next spring, and it is time to determine what impact that regimen has had. From this analysis and comparing it to previous assessments, Dr. Knoecklein can update our lake management plan. **The goal is to identify potential problems before they become unmanageable and develop strategies for mitigating them.** The analysis is also very useful to the Water Level Committee as it prepares a new five-year drawdown plan to recommend to the town a year from now.

What is the Status of the Diquat Application?

I start by thanking Dick Labich for assuming the arduous task of working with the town, Aquatic Control Technologies (ACT) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regarding the yearly treatment process for using the herbicide Diquat to control the invasive aquatic plants Eurasian and Variable Leaf Milfoil. Coordination of these agencies to forward the application through the bureaucracy is often frustrating and calls for persistence. From what is related to me, it appears this year was fraught with communication problems. ACT was informed by the DEEP that a "mussel management plan" would be required prior to approval of their 2014 application for a permit

to use diquat at Highland Lake. For the past several years, ACT has reassured DEEP the diquat would be applied far enough from the Eastern Pond Mussels that are on the "special concern" list of DEEP Wildlife, and they would not be harmed. It was assumed that action constituted the management plan. However, there was a change in personnel at DEEP Wildlife, and it appears the new person had a different interpretation of a management plan.

At this time Dick has spent countless hours pursuing a definitive answer regarding what will be required to clear the way for DEEP's approval of the permit. We are still hopeful this issue can be resolved in time for us to have an effective application of Diquat this summer. *(It has been determined it is too late in the season to proceed.)*

From my long-distance perspective, this project has been complicated this year due to confusing communication and changing personnel at DEEP. There is always some positive learning that comes from situations such as this; we will seek greater clarity from further DEEP communications. Know we will continue to pursue a resolution to this project as quickly as possible and will be consulting with professionals to determine an effective outcome.

Membership Services

by Patty Masucci

Welcome to Highland Lake and welcome to a community alive with activities and events put on especially for you and your family. The HLWA is focused on providing an opportunity for you to meet your neighbors in an exciting setting. Every year we encourage participation in two annual cleanups around the lake followed by a luncheon.

This fall our cleanup will be on Sunday, October 5, and every volunteer will receive a special gift for helping this year. So volunteer and find out what you will receive for your assistance. I need about 25 people to volunteer for this event.

By now we will know the results of our fundraiser – the food and wine tasting which was held on August 23 at the home of Stew and Karen Jones on East Lake Street. We have been blessed each year with many wonderful people opening their property and home to us for this event. And each year we have a wonderful view of the lake along with a fantastic array of food and wine of which to try.

Each year Highland Lake Watershed Association tries to bring a relay race to our area. A few of us work with the Winsted recreation director in planning this event. It is enjoyed by young and old alike, and trophies are presented to all winners. We weren't able to hold the event this year due to the transition between recreation directors, but we are starting to plan for next year's event already.

For all us residents who choose to spend the winter months here in the cold, we also participate with the Town of Winsted with the Special Olympics Penguin Plunge. In June, we sponsor an individual in the Laurel festival. These events, although not part of the HLWA mission, do help to promote our mission by bringing us closer to the officials here in Winsted and help us to promote safety using the lake.

We plan a boat parade each year after our annual meeting and have for years held an open picnic for all members of the HLWA and their friends and family.

Won't you join us now and become a part of this wonderful lake association and help us reach that part of our world that we are able? Trust me!! You will be glad you did.

The History of the Development of Highland Lake - Part Three

by Dick Labich

This is the third of 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 relates the controversy surrounding the naming of the lake as well as the organization of the Highland Lake Transportation Company.

The Highland Lake Transportation Company was organized in May 1889 by a group of men subscribing \$100 each, with a Mr. Bockee as manager and owner of five shares of stock. Hatch's Landing at the south end of the lake was leased and fitted up as an amusement park and picnic grounds.

One of the first Winsted men to appreciate the attractions of the Boulevard was C. K. Hunt. He built a summer home on "The Knoll" near Sucker Brook. He is given credit for securing the popular adoption of the name Highland Lake in preference to Long Pond or Long Lake, the names by which the body of water had been previously known.

In 1893 an effort was made by Rev. Arthur Goodenough to have the name changed to "Lake Winchester." The matter was brought up in a town meeting that fall, and as one person described the debate, "Enough eloquence was spilled to rival the U.S. Senate's discussion of the Silver Bill." Mr. Goodenough had also suggested calling Little Pond "Gilbert Tunnel Lake," but the voters turned down the idea, and Highland Lake and Crystal Lake continue to designate these bodies of water.

With the attempt of Rev. A. H. Goodenough and others to have the name Lake Winchester officially adopted having failed, the matter was again brought up in 1897 by Burton E. Moore, who circulated a petition asking the (State) Legislature to officially designate the name of the lake as "Lake Winchester." As the name of Highland Lake had by this time come into universal use in travel guides and in U.S. Survey and other maps, there was a storm of protest against the change, so when the matter came up for a hearing before a legislative committee, no one appeared in support of the bill, and the matter was dropped. Mr. Moore, however, was a very persistent man. What he could not secure in one way, he usually got in another, and when in later years he was instrumental in the building of a reservoir in Winchester for the Torrington Electric Light Co., he named it Lake Winchester.

By common consent, the name of Highland Lake had by this time come into quite general use, supplanting the old names of Long Lake or Long Pond, although the new name was most strenuously objected to by some who wanted a name more descriptively appropriate.

In February 1889, Lyman W. Case, owner and developer of Highland Park, in a letter to the Winsted Herald, objected strongly to the name Highland Lake as being too tame. He suggested an Indian name like Massacoe or Inoncktacut, which he declared to have been the Indian (name) for Connecticut.

During the fall of 1890, work was commenced on the east side drive of the Boulevard, commencing at East Lake Street. That summer, The (Highland Lake) Transportation Company was running two steamers on an hourly schedule on the lake, Woodland Avenue (an extension of Hubbard Street) was opened as an approach to the Boulevard from Boyd Street, and \$4,000 was subscribed for the building of a trotting park and fairgrounds at Sucker Brook.

During the winter of 1890-1891, a racecourse was laid out on the ice of the first bay of the lake, and several very exciting (horse) races were held there - but as Highland Lake water was still used for domestic consumption, the Water Commissioner was finally prevailed upon to put a stop to this sport. Small boys pointed out the inconsistency of forbidding them to swim in summer and allowing horse racing in the winter.

Several of the finest locations on the shore had already been secured and built upon. C. K. Hunt at the Knoll, Lester Strong at Strong's Island, and M. G. Wheeler at Point Comfort were among them. The popularity of the lake as a summer resort was constantly increasing, and with the final completion of the Boulevard, out-of-town people vied with residents of Winsted and Torrington in securing the choicest of the available building sites.

For several years Agricultural Fairs were held at the fairgrounds near Sucker Brook. Horse races and bicycle races were frequently held there, but, like its predecessor, the Carey racetrack on Pratt Hill and the Green Woods Park track near Elm Street, the Lakeside Trotting Park was not long lived.

The two steamers of the Highland Lake Transportation Company were removed from the lake in 1891. Captain George W. Lee, owner of Apothecaries Hill drug store, purchased the steamer "Carrie," which did most efficient service on the lake for many years. On July 4, Mr. Lee carried more than 1,000 passengers on this boat.

(The winter newsletter will contain another article on the history of the development of Highland Lake. It will relate the attempt in 1903 by summer residents of the lake to incorporate "The Highland Lake Improvement Association" to make the Lake District an independent and self-governing body with power to regulate all civic matters.)

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Boat Parade

by Patty Masucci

The weather was perfect, the moon was full, creating a pathway of light on the water's surface, and the boats were out ready to show off their garb. Immediately I spotted a boat decorated by the Mangione family titled "Splish Splash," and I knew right then this was definitely going to be a good year for a boat parade.

I am constantly amazed by all the different ideas people conjure in their minds for the boat parade. Another boat to enter the scene was a Santa boat, and as I approached it, Santa himself was losing his red pants. So funny!!

Of course, Mark and Jean Blair could not be beat with their Star Boat which looked just as good in daylight as it did at night fully lit up. Jean has a wonderful, creative mind and must plan well in advance for the boat parade. I believe they have won a prize each year. They were a patriotic boat one year carrying important dignitaries, such as the Statue of Liberty and Abe Lincoln, they were a Viking boat, and then last year a Peace Boat. I think I am going to ask Jean to decorate my boat next year!

Over the years Highland Lake has had some wonderful entries - a working volcano, a firetruck with a spraying hose, spring blossoms, and pirates galore.

But I want to *stress* the boat parade is for *all* boats, not just decorated boats. One year we had about 80 boats in the parade; this year we had only about 25. But *fun* is what we are all about, so hop in your boat and join in!!!

Other boats to join in the fun were a beach party boat, a soccer boat, a UConn boat and a Football Party on shore. The winners were Most Original: Pergas – Toga Party (bottom), Most Energetic: Rouleaus – World Cup Soccer (second from bottom), Beckers – UConn Basketball (top right), Most Comical: Mangiones – Splish Splash (middle right), Most Patriotic: Blairs - Star Boat (bottom right), Judges Choice: and Landlubbers Award: O'Donnells – New Orleans Saints Football Party.

A plaque with pictures of past decorated boats and announcing the 2014 Winner was the prize awarded to each winner. I really feel for the judges (Shirley Allshouse, Wendy Allshouse and one friend) who had to pick the winners. It is a difficult job, but on a fun note they do get to move about the boats freely to look over the entries and need not stay in formation. And we'll have *fun! fun! fun!* 'til your daddy takes the T-Bird away!!! (Now I am dating myself!)

Next year, please join in the fun and be out there with or without decorations.





Legacy Program

by Dick Labich

HLWA Members Approve Donation of \$25,000 to the Winchester Land Trust for the Purchase of Five Acres as Open Space on East Wakefield Boulevard

At the HLWA annual meeting on July 12, 2014, the HLWA members unanimously approved the motion to donate \$25,000 to the Winchester Land Trust for the purchase of approximately five acres of undeveloped land on the east side of East Wakefield Boulevard called the Martin property. Graham and Grace Martin were longtime residents of Winsted as well as members of the HLWA. The Winchester Land Trust is purchasing the property from the Martin estate.

Newly elected HLWA President, Sam Sciacca, provided the audience at the Annual Meeting with a slide-show presentation outlining the issues with the donation, after which the membership present at the meeting unanimously approved the donation to the Winchester Land Trust.

As Jen Perga, President of the Winchester Land Trust (WLT), reported in the spring issue of *Highland Lake News*, the HLWA and WLT are working together on projects to ensure as much open space as possible is preserved in the watershed. Our first joint project was HLWA's purchase in 2007 of the eight-acre parcel on West Wakefield Boulevard called Long Pond Ridge. The property was immediately turned over to the WLT. Today the HLWA owns more than 30 parcels totaling nearly four acres, and the WLT now owns 19.3 acres in the Highland Lake watershed.

On August 18, the WLT closed on the transaction, removing the potential for development which could cause further stress to the well-being of the lake. Groundwater runoff, with the sediment and fertilizers that it carries, can be the number one cause of degradation of water quality for a lake. Development, which typically results in a loss of trees and increased cultivation, exacerbates this process. Due to the size of the 421 East Wakefield property, had the land been purchased by a developer, it is likely we would have lost a valuable buffer of trees and shrubs to cleared building lots, paved driveways, and fertilized lawns.

Due to the generosity of the HLWA membership and the WLT which contributed the majority of the funds for the purchase, we have prolonged the water quality and beauty of the lake by that much longer. Our sincere thanks go out to Jen Perga, President, and to all the membership of the WLT for taking the initiative on this project and partnering with HLWA to support our efforts to preserve the lake.

The Legacy program is a very important part of the aims and goals of the HLWA. It is important to preserve property in the watershed as open space to reduce the runoffs of silt, sand, road salt, fertilizers and pesticides that normally travel within the ecosystem of the lake. By protecting the land in the watershed, we are protecting the quality of the water in the lake and ensuring the long-term quality of life on the lake for future generations. Hence, the name we provided this program was Legacy. The Legacy open space program will help to ensure the environmental protection of Highland Lake for many years to come.

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. Before considering any donation to the Legacy Program, you should consult your tax accountant or financial adviser. If you have any questions, please call Mike Peacock at 860-738-1941 or Dick Labich at 860-738-0167.

Charity Swim/Paddleboard Event Raises \$2,745

by Sam Sciacca

For the past couple of years, some of our more energetic members have conducted a charity swim of the lake and a paddleboard event to raise awareness of the importance of water quality. This year, Larry Beck and Jan Gyurko participated, raising \$2,745 for HLWA Water Quality programs. If you run into either of these two people, please be sure to thank them for the time and effort they expended to preserve the water quality of Highland Lake. And a special thanks from the HLWA goes out to all those members and friends who supported Jan and Larry with pledges and encouragement. Things like this demonstrate the caliber of individuals that make up the HLWA.



Jen Perga (WLT President), Shelley Harms (WLT Vice President & Signator), Skip Rodgers (Attorney for WLT) and Sam Sciacca (HLWA President)

In Memory of Gerald N. Stevens 1942 - 2014

by Dick Labich

A good friend of Highland Lake and a personal friend of many of us passed away in Florida on August 19, 2014, after a long and courageous battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Gerry was the husband of HLWA past president and HLWA board member Clare.

Gerry was born in New Haven, CT and grew up in Hamden, CT, graduating from Hamden High School and later earning a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Connecticut. Upon graduation he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force. Gerry later earned a Master's Degree from Rollins College in Florida in 1968 and attained an honorable discharge with the rank of Captain in 1969. He became a Certified Public Accountant and during his career worked at Ernst and Ernst, the International Silver Company and the Emhart Corporation. He later served on the Board of Directors of the Winsted Memorial Hospital, on the Board at the Northwest YMCA and chaired the New Hartford Pension Committee.

Clare and Gerry were a remarkable team, working together for the environment and to preserve Highland Lake. Clare has been the Water Quality and Environmental Chairman for the HLWA for many years, and during that time she and Gerry were responsible for the monthly water testing - collecting the samples, having them analyzed, collecting the data, and reporting the trends on the quality of the water. Gerry was a great support for Clare and was an essential financial advisor for the HLWA board.

Clare and Gerry loved to sing, and they sang with the Litchfield County Choral Union for 35 years. Many of us would attend their annual recital in the great hall in Norfolk each August and always come away with a renewed respect for their talent. While in Florida each winter, they sang with the Treasure Coast Classical Chorus.

Gerry was a personal friend of mine - even though he was an avid Boston Red Sox fan. He was passionate about the Red Sox, trout fishing, bridge and golf and, oh yes - Clare. For a few years Gerry and I played golf once or twice a week during the season in Massachusetts with two very close friends of his, Jimmy and Bill. I really enjoyed their company and felt honored to be included in the foursome. Unlike most golfing foursomes, we never finished the round by visiting the 19th hole for a little libation, but Gerry, Bill and I would always have a "senior breakfast" before the round at the Big Y, Friendly's or Dunkin' Donuts, depending on which course we would play. It was a ritual.

None of the foursome were very good, but perhaps Jimmy was the best of us. Gerry spent a lot of time off the fairway and in the woods; however, he had an uncanny ability to find lost golf balls. My wife Jean and I were under orders to collect egg cartons to store his dozens of golf balls when he returned from Florida each spring. The balls were always in remarkable condition and he always donated them to the HLWA annual tag sale where they were quickly sold.

Gerry was passionate about many things, but two will always stick in my mind. He loved his golf and he loved his shed. He built a small shed at the rear of his property and he loved to spend time with his workbench and his tools in the shed. I used to kid him and call it his "man cave."

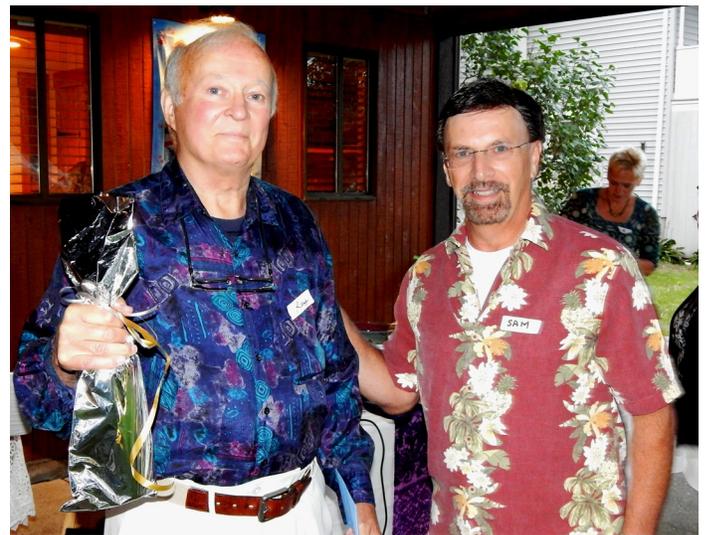
Gerry always drove us to the Massachusetts golf courses, and he knew every back road shootout imaginable. During the two-hour ride to and back from the course we had many great conversations about the Red Sox and the Yankees, national and local politics, and many other subjects. Gerry had a great financial background and a lot of common sense. I will always remember those conversations. He was a good man and I will miss him.

Evening on Highland Lake is a Hit!

by Sam Sciacca

Good food . . . good wine . . . great friends . . . fantastic art pieces . . . wonderful music . . . and a gorgeous setting on first bay. This was the recipe for a fabulous evening at the 10th annual Evening on Highland Lake. Stew and Karen Jones were our gracious hosts of the event, opening up their beautiful lawn and home to more than 120 attendees . . . the largest turnout ever for the food and wine tasting and art show. The organizing team, led by Mary Barbro and Jean Labich along with their helpers, did a marvelous job in making sure every detail was just right for the evening. Patty Masucci, our Membership Services Chair, was at her usual top-of-her-game with regard to the logistic arrangements. We were also pleased to have Gay Schempp lend her professional assistance to the art exhibit again this year. More than 40 vendors and artists participated in the food and wine tasting, art exhibit, and/or donated to the raffle. This event has become a yearly highlight of the HLWA calendar and is a great way to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and celebrate the community spirit and camaraderie of HLWA. Hope you think about joining us for next year to make 2015 even better!

Our thanks to Ledgebrook Spirit Shop, The BearClaw Coffee House, Brio Tuscan Grill, Chatterley's Restaurant, Chili's Restaurant, Crystal Peak, Health Food Corner, Log House Restaurant, Mario's Tuscan Grill, McGrane's on the Green, Monaco's Ristorante, Noli's Restaurant, The Swingin' Parrott Pub, Texas Roadhouse, Tributary Restaurant, The Winsted Diner, and Winsted Super Saver.



Ray Juros receives a thank you gift from HLWA President Sam Sciacca for his work on the Highland Lake signage project.



Recipe Corner

by Marlene Rouleau

Since the cooler weather is coming, I thought a good soup recipe would fit the bill.

Canadian Cheddar Cheese Soup

Makes 6 cups

Ingredients:

- 1/2 pound of bacon, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 medium-size red onion, cut into 1/4-inch pieces
- 3 celery ribs, cut into 1/4-inch pieces
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 4 cups milk
- 3/4 pound white cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 tablespoon hot pepper sauce
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup warm beer
- Chopped scallions or chives, for garnish

1. Cook bacon in a 4- or 5-quart saucepan over medium-high heat, stirring frequently until lightly browned, about 5 minutes.
2. Add onion, celery and butter; sauté until the onion softens, about 5 minutes.
3. Reduce heat to medium. Add flour and stir constantly for about 4 minutes.
4. Whisk in chicken stock and bring to a boil for 1 minute. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
5. Add milk and continue to simmer for another 15 minutes. Do not boil after adding milk.
6. Remove from heat. Stir in cheese, Tabasco, Worcestershire, salt and pepper until cheese is melted and soup is smooth. Stir in ale. If soup is too thick, thin to desired consistency with warm milk.
7. Serve hot, garnished with scallions or chives.

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Blueberries are at the end of their season, but for a last hurrah, I have a simple but delicious blueberry crumble.

### Blueberry Crumble

- 6 cups fresh blueberries
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 3/4 tablespoon cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Preheat oven to 375° with rack in the middle of the oven. Butter an 11"x8" baking pan. Combine sugar, flour, cinnamon and berries, mix, and then drizzle with lemon juice.

#### Top with:

- 1/2 cup sifted flour
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup dark brown sugar
- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup old-fashioned Quaker oats
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Mix till crumbly. Sprinkle over berries. Bake 25-30 minutes till bubbly.

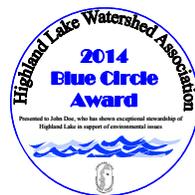
Enjoy these great recipes!

## 2014 Blue Circle Award

The recipients of this year's Blue Circle Award, Mike and Sue Peacock, purchased their third bay property in 1978. Like many lakefront properties, the lot is steeply sloped and had been neglected for many years. In the beginning, runoff from each major rain event left ruts in the soil and clouds of brown-tinged lake water. Over the last 30+ years, the Peacocks have managed the runoff by terracing the property with stone and timber retaining walls, extensive use of gravel and washed stone, and perennial gardens of shade-loving plants like hostas, ferns and daylilies.

The only impervious surfaces on the property are the roofs of the buildings. All drainage from roofs is channeled into heavily vegetated spaces.

Wherever possible, vegetated buffers have been established along the lakefront. The only "grassy" area on their waterfront is



the unfertilized section where they store their docks in the winter. Most of the greenery is actually native wildflowers which have "volunteered" to grow on the steep slopes.



Original trees have been preserved as much as possible. The Peacocks were forced to remove a couple of their beloved oaks after their falling limbs poked a few holes in their kitchen roof during the infamous "Halloween Blizzard" back in 2011.

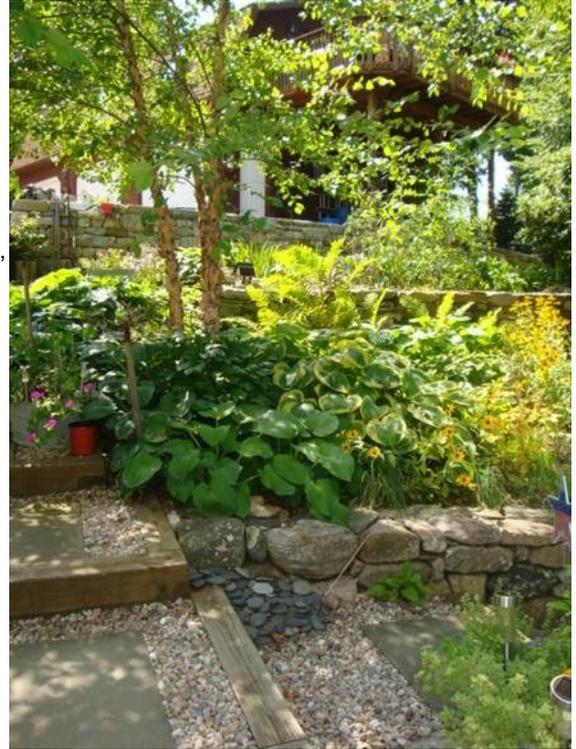
Investing a fair investment in sweat equity (Sue in the garden, Mike on the wheelbarrow), most of the improvements were done at a relatively modest cost. The stone walls are "dry" walls (no mortar or extensive footings) and many of the stones were already on the property. Pressure-treated 6x6 timbers were used for the many steps and a few of the retaining walls. PT timbers are heavy to handle but provide safe and uniform steps.

HLWA encourages its members to participate in HLWA-sponsored activities and its board of directors as well as serve on town boards and commissions. The Peacocks have lived full time on the lake since 2000 and for most of that time have been active members of HLWA and served on town commissions. Sue was for many years a member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission,

five years as Chairman. Mike is currently Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission.



Mike & Sue Peacock, with 2013-14 HLWA President Dick Labich



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All owners of land in the Highland Lake watershed are entitled to membership in the Association. Membership dues are \$50.00 and are tax deductible since HLWA is a nonprofit organization. Please make check payable to HLWA.

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