

Highland Lake News

From the Highland Lake Watershed Association - A Nonprofit Organization Dedicated to the Preservation and Protection of Highland Lake and Its Watershed

Fall

2019

President's Message by Beth Papermaster



Thank you to the many people who attended the July 13, 2019 HLWA annual meeting. For those of you who were unable to attend, here is an edited version of my remarks.

The Highland Lake Watershed Association proudly celebrates our 60th anniversary this year. That is 60 years of protecting and preserving Highland Lake and its watershed.

Over those 60 years, Highland Lake has withstood many threats to its health. I am optimistic the lake will successfully weather, yet again, the challenges it faces at this time. However, there are many forces beyond our control that can and will impact our lake. Over the past 10 months, our lake faced two challenges: the unknown impact of the catastrophic failure of the diversionary conduit at Sucker Brook Dam and the dramatic reduction in water clarity this past spring.

At the end of June, through the determination and hard work by our State Representative Jay Case, Governor Lamont approved the bond providing funding for the repairs at Sucker Brook Dam. Construction should be under way by the time you receive this newsletter.

At this point, it doesn't appear the conduit failure has significantly impacted the lake, but we will continue monitoring the situation. We will continue to try to understand the impact the failure had on the lake. DEEP officials agreed to future conversations if the need arises.

After the significant decrease in water clarity this spring, the Town engaged Northeast Aquatics to conduct the monthly water quality testing. We hope to continue having our volunteers conduct water testing to augment what the professionals are doing. The increased presence of diatoms in the water this past spring serves as a warning - a "canary in the coal mine" if you will - and all of us must be vigilant in protecting our lake.

I am not going to detail all the many actions you can take to protect the lake - I have outlined them in the recent newsletter and there have been many articles over the years about how to be good stewards of the lake. The most important thing to remember is anything that goes into the lake stays in the lake forever. You can't remove the nutrients, phosphorus, sediment, etc. that flows from your property into the lake. So please think hard about how you can better protect the lake.

(continued on next page)

Drawdown of 3 feet begins November 1.
Check hlwa.org for details

Check out our new advertiser on page 18
and all our other wonderful advertisers!

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President’s Message (cont.)

The good news is the June and July water quality readings showed the clarity returned to normal. Tests do not show the presence of any cyanobacteria at this time - that is the bacteria that leads to a blue/green algae bloom, and for that we can all take a temporary sigh of relief.

As you can see, HLWA is much more than an organization that puts out a wonderful newsletter and has fabulous parties. We work hard, year round, to protect your interest. And I will be very honest. We need your help. Our board should be 12 members but is now at only nine. This is not sustainable. Many of our board members are wearing multiple hats, covering the jobs of more than one committee chair. (Just before publication, we added two wonderful new board members - see page 15. We still need one more board member.) This is not sustainable. If we can’t get more help from others such as you, we are not going to be able to be the guardians of the lake Highland Lake needs. (Please see the “Help Wanted Ad” posted on the next page.) I can’t stress enough that as our lake continues to face challenges, and if we do not have a strong HLWA board and volunteer core, the implications for all of us are severe. Please . . . help us and help your lake.

In closing, my “vision” for the coming year is two part. First, that we will grow our volunteer core and strengthen our board. And, second, that HLWA and the Town of Winchester will capitalize on our great partnership, taking significant actions together that will further protect our lake for the next 60 years and beyond. This will be possible with your help, and I thank you, in advance, for your continued support.

Please email me at president@hlwa.org and we can discuss opportunities for you to make a difference.



Community Donation from HLWA

by Jill Ricci

So many of you have donated kindly to HLWA over the years, and we cannot thank you enough for your generous support! It is you, our friends and members, whose support allows us to continue the important work of advocating for and safeguarding the health and protection of our beloved lake and its watershed. We also know you join us in supporting our local community and participating in many of the activities that bring us together and support our town.

This summer, HLWA joined in a local community collaborative called Fit Together. Sponsored by the Northwest Community Fund, its goal is to identify and implement environmental and social improvements in Winsted and the surrounding area with the ultimate objective of making our community a healthier place to live. The initiative this year was to install bike racks at various places around the area to promote and encourage physical activity and provide a safe and convenient place for folks to park their bikes while they shop, attend school, go to the park, and/or visit Highland Lake.

You may have noticed the bike rack HLWA has sponsored.



It has been installed at Resha Beach! We encourage you to take notice of it, have pride in our community involvement and, most especially, park your bike on it! As always, please ride with care, always on the right with traffic, wear your helmets, and obey all rules of the road. Motorists, please give cyclists ample room and courtesy when passing. Remember, **Share the Road!** And please enjoy the new bike racks!



Storm Drains – You Can Help!

by Carol Zacchio

There are many things Highland Lake watershed residents can do to help keep storm drains that are located in front of or near your property clean and clear from debris.

- Clean up fallen leaves and twigs covering and around storm drains
- Clean up trash near storm drains
- Trim your trees so dead branches don’t find their way into the storm drains
- Pull out any growth of weeds or seedlings around the drain

Why is this important? A drain covered in leaves and debris will have trouble keeping up with the flow of water and will begin to flood the area. Most of the storm drains around the lake ultimately empty into the lake. What goes into the drain could end up in the lake!

Report any full catch basins or flooding issues to Winsted Public Works at 860.379.4070.

Highland Lake

HELP WANTED

Watershed Association

We are a **100% volunteer organization** and need your help to keep HLWA strong.

We have "jobs" for everyone!

If you enjoy **word processing** we really need you!

Do you like to work on a **computer**?

Can you set up and run our **Instagram** account?

Writers, proofreaders, grant writers, event planners — we need you!

How about a nice **walk through the woods**?

Many jobs can be done **remotely** (like when you are wintering in Florida!)

All work can fit around **your busy schedule**.

Let us know what you can do to help your HLWA.

Advertiser Coordinator for Newsletter & Website

(1 needed)

- This can be done remotely!
- Handle all communication with newsletter advertisers
- Create and mail/email solicitation letter and form
- Collect payment and send payment reminders
- Maintain list of advertisers
- Keep designer/publisher informed of paid advertisers
- Coordinate advertiser's presence on the HLWA website
- Need Microsoft skills and willingness to use OneDrive (will provide instruction)
- Works with the Marketing Chairperson

Reporters for the Newsletter (5 needed)

- Write articles on a variety of topics
- Interview individuals for articles
- Works with the Marketing Chairperson

Newsletter Proofreader (1 needed)

- Proofread the 4 issues of Highland Lake News
- Work with Highland Lake News Editor

Social Media Assistant (1 needed)

- Create and maintain a HLWA presence on Instagram
- Coordinate efforts with Facebook Monitor
- Works with the Marketing Chairperson

Water Sampler (4 needed)

- Available mid-week, once a month, May through October
- Go through training
- Work with a team of 3-4 other volunteers
- Helpful if you have a pontoon boat but not a requirement
- Works with the Water Quality/Environmental Chairperson

Data Entry of Water Results (1-2 needed)

- Enter water results data to an Excel spreadsheet
- This can be done remotely!
- Works with the Water Quality/Environmental Chairperson

Land Stewards (4 needed)

- Available twice a year to visit all of the properties that HLWA owns to ensure that the properties are in good condition. Visit as a team.
- Works with the Legacy Committee Chairperson

Membership Clerk (1 needed)

- Check computer in Winsted Assessor's office for any property sales and make appropriate name/address changes on mailing lists (member & nonmember) on OneDrive (will provide instruction and training)
- Create list of all new residents
- Work with the Membership Chairperson

Greeter (2-4 needed)

- Welcome new residents during summer months
- Work with the Membership Chairperson

Boat Parade Coordinator (1 needed)

- Develop vision for the boat parade and help make this event bigger
- Promote the event
- Enlist judges
- Determine prizes, collect prizes and distribute them to the winners
- Work with Social Activities Chairperson

Photo Contest Coordinator (1 needed)

- Organize details with Morsel Munk
- Set dates for submission
- Promote the contest
- Collect and tag all submissions (electronically)
- Work with judges to determine winners
- Work with Morsel Munk to get the prizes and distribute them to the winners
- Work with Social Activities Chairperson

Tell us what you want to do to help: EMAIL HLWA@HLWA.ORG

Where the Water Level Policy Comes from and Some Facts about the Highland Lake Water Level Committee

by Shirley Allshouse, *Chairman*

- ◆ The Water Level Committee is not affiliated with the Highland Lake Watershed Association. It is an independent, nonpolitical ad hoc committee of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) of the Town of Winchester.
- ◆ Why does it exist? About 40 years ago, the Town purchased the lake flowage rights from the Union Pin Company, which for years had used the water to run turbines that powered their factory. That transaction meant the unpredictable and harmful fluctuations in the water level could end. However, it ushered in a period of what I call “drawdown by request.” The BOS was not equipped to deal with the complexities of the lake ecology versus the desires of individuals demanding diversion of water for their projects.
- ◆ When was it formed? In 1992, the BOS formed the Water Level Committee (I was a charter member and Clare Stevens was chair). One selectman serves as the liaison to the BOS. Our sole charge was to study all the effects of drawdowns to the lake and to create a comprehensive long-term water level policy. It took the issue out of the political realm and allowed a focused concentration on the scientific and legal elements involved in diverting water from a 445-acre lake.
- ◆ How does it work? The five-member Committee, representing different locations around the lake (important for observation of effects of water level on dissimilar areas of the lake), gathers information and data from scientific studies, professional consultants (Dr. George Knoecklein, limnologist), past history of drawdown effects, anecdotal evidence, and other sources and creates a five-year water level policy. The proposed policy is presented to the BOS for approval. If the BOS approves, it becomes the applicant that files a permit request to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC). If the IWWC approves, it issues a permit to the Town to implement the policy which is carried out by the Department of Public Works.
Although that ends one primary function of the Committee, we continue the information-gathering activities noted above necessary to prepare for the end of the policy term and the creation of a new policy.
- ◆ What are some of the things we have learned in 27 years? Deep drawdowns are not an effective means of weed control. There are significant negative effects to the lake ecology from diversion of water. If coves are dry during freezing temperatures, there is high risk of floating islands (“floating bogs”) to form and damage waterfronts and beaches, as has happened several times in the past. The desires of individuals for easier access to do waterfront maintenance must be balanced by best practices of lake management. Legal issues of access to the water (frozen or unfrozen) by all shorefront residents must be considered.

There are challenging issues that have been and continue to be addressed by the Water Level Committee, but we have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge over the years and strive to add to that knowledge and preserve and protect Highland Lake, our number one goal.

Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

by Beth Papermaster

Winchester's Town Manager Bob Geiger was the keynote speaker at HLWA's 2019 annual meeting.

Hailing from Ohio, Bob served in the U.S. Navy with the Defense Intelligence Agency stationed in Central America.

A graduate of Wright State University (BA), Antioch College (MA) and Harvard Business School, Bob began his professional career in manufacturing management, progressing through executive officer positions at both Pitney Bowes and Nashua

Corporation. He successfully restructured divisions in large corporations as well as designed and implemented recovery plans for smaller companies. Bob has proven abilities leading teams in environments which required extensive change in strategy and organizational development. Additionally, Bob was a general partner in the private equity firm of Stolberg Partners and served as a key executive in portfolio companies of several other private equity firms.

Bob served as a consultant with companies in the graphic arts, manufacturing, food, mail order, fashion, automotive, service and distribution industries. He spent four years in Europe working as a turnaround consultant as well as serving on several company boards representing major European and American “special situations” investment funds.

In February of 2016, Bob became Town Manager. He has steered Winsted through challenging times with great success. Highland Lake is an important part of the Town and Bob greatly appreciates the role the lake plays in the overall health of the Town. Residents on Highland Lake have much to offer the Town. All of us can help by supporting local businesses and nonprofit organizations and doing what we can to help Bob in his efforts to revive and “restructure” Winsted. Bob's door is always open and he invites you to share your ideas and concerns with him.



Bob and Beth

Goodbye to Retiring Board Members

by Sam Sciacca

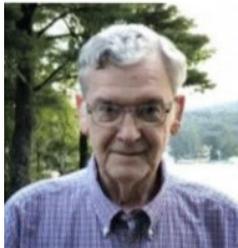
This year we say goodbye to two long-serving Board Members.



Rose Molinelli has been with the Board since 2004. While on the Board, she has served in a number of roles, including water sample gathering, membership and leading the 2020 committee, but one of the most vital positions she held was Chair of the Nominating Committee. For many years, Rosy led a dedicated group of individuals

who recruited, vetted, and recommended candidates to serve on the HLWA Board. This function is critical in ensuring we have continuity on the Board, and her committee was always able to provide the Board with qualified and dedicated candidates, including many of the current serving Board members.

Ray Fugere is leaving the Board after serving for 18 years, many of those as Vice President of the Association. Active in a number of roles, the last few years he has been serving on our Finance Committee. Ray's experience on the Board has been invaluable, especially for the newer members who counted on his guidance and wisdom as our longest serving Board member.



Please join the Board in thanking Rosy and Ray for the many years of service to the HLWA and in wishing them the best.

Boat Parade 2019

by Jill Ricci

What a fabulous boat parade we had on Highland Lake this year!!! On the evening of July 13, we were all delighted by the enthusiasm, originality and creativity of the boat parade participants as well as the excitement generated by the spectators along the shores. Once again, the annual Highland Lake Boat Parade enjoyed a successful evening of merriment and some good old-fashioned fun as dozens of boats participated in the longstanding event. This year the boats paraded counterclockwise (the direction alternates each year), and we were fortunate to have a beautiful evening of weather to enjoy the parade! Our thanks to the marine police boat who provides the escort for us each year. We applaud the clever folks who decorated their crafts in creative ways to try to earn admiration and attention. The 2019 Highland Lake Boat Parade winners are as follows:

Judges Choice: Alan & Liz Zakrzewski (bee happy buzz boat)
 Most Colorful: Paganelli family (flamingo boat)
 Most Enthusiastic: Abundio family (green grass skirt boat)
 Most Original: Ficalora family (bubble bath and shower boat)
 People's Choice: Paganelli family (flamingo boat)
 Presidents Choice (Most Fun): Jarvis family (Christmas boat)
 Most Patriotic: Pelletier Family (children waving flags boat)

It's not too early to be planning your theme and decorations for next year's boat parade, whether on land or by boat. Please plan to join in the fun next summer!

We are inviting (pleading) to have someone step up to be the Boat Parade coordinator next year. Responsibilities would include promoting the event, perhaps establishing a theme, obtaining, awarding and distributing prizes, and calculating the votes. If you would be willing to fill this role, **please** contact Beth Papermaster at president@hlwa.org. All who enjoy this wonderful tradition would appreciate your help!



New Connecticut Invasive Species Act

by Beth Ballantine

Invasive species are a threat to lakes all over Connecticut. Foreign plants and species are often transferred when boats are moved from one body of water to another, bringing with them any plant or wildlife that may have attached itself to the vessel. The aim of a new bill signed into law on July 9 is to raise money to combat invasive species transferred by motorboat. All boats registered in the state intended for use on a lake, river or pond are now required to purchase an invasive species stamp. The fee for the stamp is \$5 for in-state boaters and \$20 for out-of-state boaters who utilize Connecticut's waterways. Like other boating registrations, stamps will expire on April 30 the following year.

Many lakes in the state are experiencing increased pervasive and invasive aquatic species and toxic cyanobacteria blooms. According to Hillary Kenyon, Environmental Scientist, Northeast Aquatic Research LLC, there are only two recorded lakes having no invasive plants in Connecticut, Winchester Lake and West Hill Pond. Thirteen invasive species and plants have been identified in Connecticut waters. Invasive plants are expensive to manage. According to Lisa Conant, Vice Chair, Coventry Town Council, Coventry has been working with DEEP for several years to monitor and control the Hydrilla problem in Coventry Lake. The annual cost of treatment is \$125,000 and will require six to ten more years of treatment. Hydrilla can easily spread and it is very likely it was introduced to Coventry Lake via watercraft.

Funds raised from the Invasive Species Stamp will be directed to the Connecticut Lakes, Rivers and Ponds Preservation account, to be used to combat this problem as well as provide educational materials on the problem. One controversy of the law is out-of-state boaters are not required to register their boats in Connecticut so will likely not purchase a stamp. Another is invasives can also be spread from canoes and nonmotorized boats that are not registered.

This stamp will not completely solve this problem. It's much easier and cheaper to help prevent the spread of invasives than to try to eradicate them. According to the Connecticut DEEP, you can do your part by practicing the Clean, Drain and Dry technique every time you leave a boat launch.

Clean:

- Inspect and remove all visible plant, fish, and animals as well as mud or other debris at the launch. Do not transport them home.
- Check trailer - including axle and wheel areas - in and around the boat itself: anchor, props and jet engines, ropes, boat bumpers, paddles (anything that came in contact with the water).



Drain:

- Eliminate all water from every conceivable space and item before you leave the area you are visiting.
- Remove the drain plug from boats and put boat on an incline so the water drains out.
- Drain all water in live-wells, bilges, ballast tanks, transom wells, kayaks, canoes, rafts, motors, jet drives, boat hulls, scuba tanks and regulators, boots, waders, bait buckets, seaplane floats and swimming floats.

Dry:

- Dry equipment, if possible, to allow for five days of drying time before entering new waters.

Additionally, under the law, boaters must inspect their vessel for vegetation and aquatic nuisance species and properly remove and dispose of all vegetation and nuisance species before transporting the vessel. You can be fined \$95 per violation.

If you move your boat from Highland Lake to other bodies of water, please ensure you do not endanger the lake by spreading foreign species and plant life. And, of course, follow the Clean, Drain and Dry technique when returning to Highland Lake!

Deadline Extended for 4th Annual HLWA-Morsel Munk Photo Competition



The Highland Lake Watershed Association and Morsel Munk are sponsoring the 4th annual HLWA-Morsel Munk Photo contest. Get out your cameras and start snapping shots of Highland Lake - wildlife, water action shot, fishing, family fun, etc.!

To enter, email your digital photo to marketing@hlwa.org. Please include your name and the title of your photo. No professional assistance or photo editing allowed.

The deadline for submissions is midnight on **October 31, 2019**.

Awards will be presented as follows:

- First Place: \$75 gift certificate to Morsel Munk
- Second Place: \$50 gift certificate to Morsel Munk
- Third Place: \$25 gift certificate to Morsel Munk

All photos may be featured on the HLWA and Morsel Munk websites, Facebook page and other forms of communication.

Questions? Contact marketing@hlwa.org

Vacation House Check Program

The Winchester Police Department is proud to offer a "House Check" program designed to provide our residents increased peace of mind while away from their homes during vacations, work-related travel, or for other reasons. There is no cost for this service.

Information submitted by the resident makes it possible for the police department to contact the resident, or their designated keyholder, in the event a problem develops at their residence. The House Check Program provides an overall increase in police presence around your home as well as your neighborhood during your time away. This program is a public service to help safeguard citizens' properties and allow for a rapid response and owner notification in the event of a problem.

Please understand this program is no substitute for normal precautions a resident should take when away from home nor does it imply any guarantee or assurances as to the safety of your home. It is still recommended when away from home that you stop deliveries of the mail, paper or any other regularly scheduled deliveries and activate any alarm system you may have at your house.

When you are planning to be out of town or away from your home for a period of time, you can fill out the Residential Security Check Application Form and Information Guide, located in the main lobby of the Winchester Police Department, to request a vacation house check.

The police department will periodically check your house and have your contact information on file in case of an emergency. For security reasons, only hand-delivered requests with photo ID will be accepted at the Winchester Police Department.

Requesting a vacation house check does not guarantee a burglary or other crime will not occur at your residence, and it is only intended to be a request for the Winchester Police Department to check your home periodically, based upon the availability of an officer. No vacation checks while the homeowner is gone from the home are guaranteed. No additional police response or protection is being guaranteed by requesting a vacation check other than normal police services and protection which are provided to the general public. Consequently, it is recommended you make every effort to safeguard against losses including securing of high-value property, using proper locking devices, alarm systems, etc.

Work During Drawdown

Any homeowners planning on doing any retaining wall or dock work should contact Pam Colombie, Land Use Administrative Assistant (pcolombie@townofwinchester.org), to determine if a permit might be required.

Crows' Nest

by Cathie Houlihan Perga

Nestled in the woods on the shore of second bay is a very, very old cottage. It has been in the Houlihan family for more than 75 years, and they have chosen to keep it a cottage. It does have Wi-Fi, electricity and plumbing, but it is rustic. Unique on the lake, it has two acres of very private woods with a wonderful shoreline.

Its name, Crows' Nest, came from the first owner, Charles Carey, who sold it to the Houlihans. It is no exaggeration to say hundreds of people have enjoyed partying and staying at the Crows' Nest over the years.

And before the Houlihans? Clare Steven's mother related to us many years ago her family rented the original one-room cottage. She said a curtain divided the room so the boys were on one side and the girls on the other. We estimate that would have been around 1915.

The Houlihan "children" (now 60-80 years old) remember skating at the Pavilion, scavenger hunts in the neighborhood, and their mom, Irma (now 104 years old!), being the only mom to operate a motorboat – 7.5-hp Evinrude.

Their father Jim Houlihan's memories were of canoeing to the Big Island for dances at the Highland Lake Club.

The next generation of Houlihans look forward to many more years of fun at Highland Lake.



Budding Fisherman

by Brooke and Don Crossman

In a time of smartphones, tablets, video game systems, and basically endless amounts of technology at everyone's fingertips, it is a beautiful thing to be able to unplug and reconnect with the surroundings in nature. Fishing is a wonderful pastime that teaches patience, resilience, and allows you to leave the technological world behind.



Meet Greyson Lee Crossman - a 7-year-old who loves life, sports, nature, and especially fishing. Grey has become quite the little legend within the fishing community around Highland Lake. Greyson comes from a very long line of fishermen (Great Great Grandpa Happ Crossman and Great Grandpa Grump Crossman were both local fishing legends around the Northwest Corner). Greyson started his love of fishing when his parents Brooke and Donny Crossman purchased their first home on Highland Lake when Grey was just two years old. Grey was immediately drawn to the water and **loved** to fish. His love of fishing started with catching the pumpkinseeds, bluegills, and some small perch. Grey would set up his Great Grandpa Grump's fishing bucket (once lost in a windstorm but found about a quarter mile away by our lovely neighbors) to see how many he can catch in a single day. Eventually he graduated to a larger fishing pole, and soon the size of the catch was growing as well. He landed his first big catch when he was just four years old. He netted a large brown trout, and his hunt for the "big one," or "mounter" as he would say, grew.

Greyson has always wanted to catch a fish big enough to mount so he could keep the memory forever. Well, this was the summer for the big catch. This summer Greyson has pulled out several largemouth bass (always on his own) weighing in over 3 pounds, 4 pounds, and the biggest one of all . . . 7 pounds. The evening he caught the 7-pound largemouth bass, he had the look in his eye and he knew this was the one, "the mounter." Without hesitation, Greyson looked at his dad and said he wanted to put it back just like he does all of the fish he catches so it could produce more fish (it was a female) and get bigger. As parents, Brooke and Donny could not be more proud of our little fisherman. We hope the stories of Greyson help to encourage more children to reconnect with nature and enjoy the outdoors.

Laurel Festival Community Service Award

by Nancy Reardon

Winsted celebrated the Annual Laurel Festival, and Highland Lake Watershed Association was thrilled to be the sponsor of the Community Service Award. This award was given to a local student who "demonstrates a strong commitment to improving the quality of life for people in the community." She is a student who "exemplifies a true spirit of volunteerism."



Highland Lake would like to congratulate the compelling and inspirational Mackenzie Gauthier of St. Paul Catholic High School's 2019 class. McKenzie is the daughter to Toby Barry and Peter and Darlene Gauthier, and she was sponsored by Winchester Land Trust.

Included in McKenzie's abundant list of achievements are: the Presidential Award for Academics, Bristol Sports Hall of Fame Award, National Honors Society, National Spanish Honors Society, the Eversource Challenge Award, and essay contest winner from Senator Witkos and Senator Chapin. She is a seasoned basketball and baseball player who's been committed to her teams for an impressive number of years.

McKenzie volunteers wherever she can - at various basketball camps, Yankee Institute, Bristol Public Works Department, and St. Paul. Her volunteer work involves many areas that interest her, including hazardous waste removal and assisting in political debates. Her life experiences and adventures have compelled her to major in criminology at Stonehill College in the fall.

"Winsted is home to me and always will be. No matter how far in life I go, Winsted will remain my home . . . the town is special to me because of the close-knit feeling of our community."

Fall Cleanup

Summer is over, and the lake needs your help before winter arrives.

Join us for HLWA's Fall Lake Cleanup on Sunday, October 6, 2019

Meet at Resha Beach at 9:00 a.m. for hot chocolate, coffee and donuts. Work gloves and garbage bags will be available if you need them.

(If you are not able to help on October 6, you can clean up on October 5)

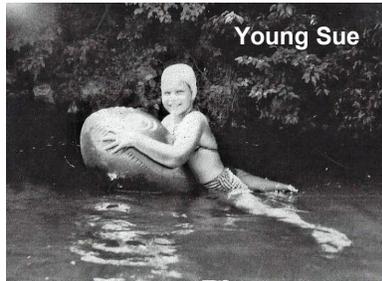
Please drop your trashbags off in the Winsted Town truck in front of 111 West Wakefield Boulevard

Sign up now for a specific stretch of road - email annelippincott0@gmail.com

My Life at Acorn Lodge

by Sue Peacock

My love affair with Highland Lake began in 1947 when I was five. My parents, Louis and Dorothy Prevost, bought a seasonal cottage on Cameron's Point (southern end of the lake - originally called Hatches Landing). When we opened the cottage for that first summer in 1947, acorns were found everywhere - inside the cabinets, beds, drawers, couches - all brought inside by mice and chipmunks for winter storage. Hence the name of our cottage - Acorn Lodge.



Back in the 1940s and '50s, the lake was seasonal, with no indoor heating or insulation. Although we had indoor plumbing with delicious well water, there was no shower. Everyone bathed in the lake! A fire in a small "Ben Franklin" stove kept us warm on cool and rainy days.

The house, cold and damp when we'd arrive for early-season weekends, soon warmed up with the fire in the Ben Franklin. Still, we climbed into cold, damp beds, hoping our bodies would soon warm up the sheets. Whoever woke up first in the morning started another fire before we climbed out of our warm beds. The house always smelled of wood smoke!

The lake came back to life Memorial Day weekend when everyone returned to open up their cottages. Once neighborhood men returned all the floating docks to the lake, summer officially began, even though the water was too cold for swimming.

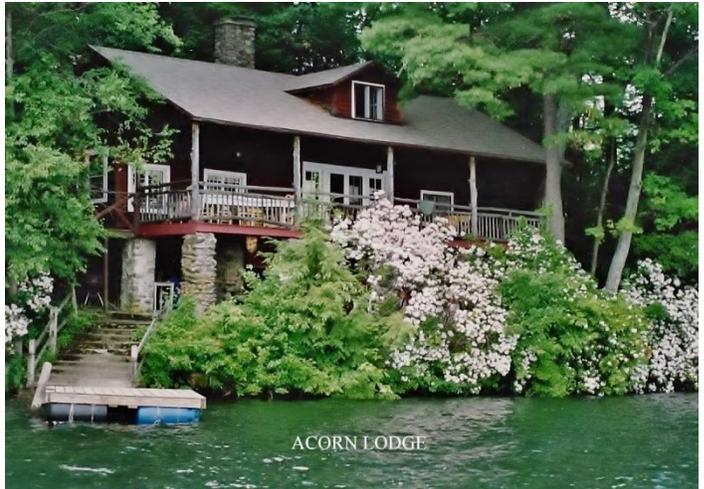
Summers seemed endless. Days of swimming, paddling, rowing, sailing, fishing, hiking, picnicking, campfires, blueberry picking on Platt Hill, watching summer storms "march" down the lake, skinny-dipping on hot summer nights, and falling asleep to the sounds of lapping waters and organ music from the Electric Park skating pavilion across the lake.

All too soon Labor Day arrived - time to return to school. The neighborhood would gather for a final picnic in Hennequin's pine grove. Men strung lights and set up picnic tables. Women baked cookies and cakes and made coleslaw, baked beans and macaroni salad. Children collected firewood for the campfire. After a delicious meal, we would gather around a campfire to sing and roast marshmallows.

The next day men hauled docks and boats to dry land while women emptied out kitchen cabinets, stripped beds and packed clothes and food. Water was drained from house pipes and toilets to avoid the damage from frozen pipes over the winter months ahead. We shared hugs and tears as, one by one, families departed for their winter homes.

Our family would continue to spend autumn weekends at the lake. I never attended football games in my hometown of Southington. Back before I-84 and Route 8, we would travel the back roads

every Friday night from Southington to Winsted, arrive at the cold cottage, light a fire in the Ben Franklin and go to our cold beds. Our reward was being at the beautiful quiet lake as the leaves turned bright colors in daylight and the lake shimmered beneath the full moon as the autumn nights settled in. The lake was ours. September and October still remain my most favorite months to be at our beloved lake!



Our Place at the Lake

June is past, so is July.

August is ending – likewise I.

*The pattering feet of summer and sun
are over, complete, exhausted, done!*

*I've fed the young as well as the old,
I've cooled the warm, I've warmed the cold.*

*The wounded and weeping, I have consoled;
the tender and touchy, I have cajoled.*

I have steeled the scared, I have scared the bold,

I have bit my tongue 'til it was controlled.

*I've broiled the steaks, I have casseroleed,
and the grocer thinks I am made of gold.*

(The other bills I have pigeon-holed.)

And frankly friends, I am ready to fold!

*Next time I live, I'll make the most
of being the **guest**, not the **host**.*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

HIGHLAND LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.
 P.O. BOX 1022, WINSTED, CT 06098-1022

The Highland Lake Watershed Association (HLWA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of Highland Lake and its watershed.

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.

Annual **fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020** membership **dues** are: \$50.00

I would like to make an additional **donation** of: \$ _____

Please make check payable to **HLWA** and mail to above address. **TOTAL enclosed:** \$ _____

(Dues and donations paid to HLWA qualify for IRS consideration as a contribution to a charitable organization and may be tax deductible.)

Name(s): _____

Primary/mailling address: _____

If your primary address is not in CT, do you want the summer newsletter mailed to your lake address? Yes ___ No ___

If your **lake address** is different from mailing address: _____

Primary phone: _____ Cell or lake phone: _____

Email: _____

Volunteer opportunities:

<input type="checkbox"/> HLWA Board of Directors	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Data Collection
<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	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance

(Application is also available on our website www.hlwa.org)

[You can pay your dues using **Venmo** at Highland Lake Watershed Association !!]

Board

Laura L'Heureux - 860.690.4308

Anne Lippincott - 860.307.6591

Evan MacDermott

Beth Papermaster, President - 860.614.2740

Willie Platt, Vice President - 860.379.0017

Jill Ricci, Treasurer - 860.324.7673

Nancy Reardon - 860.836.7506

Sam Sciacca - 203.464.5703

Jim Welton - 203.589.0542

Stuart Yaffee - 860.916.1830

Carol Zacchio, Secretary - 860.379.3267

Setting Sail at The Marina/An Evening at Highland Lake

by Anne Lippincott

The evening of July 27 was filled with beautiful skies, warm weather and a happy excitement at the Marina on Highland Lake. The evening was a wonderful celebration of the Highland Lake Watershed Association's 60th anniversary. The theme for this great event was Setting Sail at The Marina!

The tables were adorned with snacks and a variety of toy boats with twinkling lights. The Verona Pizza firetruck was busy all night creating gourmet pizzas and salads. They also provided Italian ices, cannolis and watermelon. Ledgebrook Spirit Shop was set up under the big tent along with Winsted's new brewery, Little Red Barn, ready for tasters! Keith Barber provided the night's attendees with continuous songs from a variety of genres. There were great gift cards from local businesses at the "teacup" auction which was also under the tent as well as a few bigger sports-related packages to bid on. There was something for everyone!

From the Winsted police officer stationed in the street to all the attendees, a good time was had by all! Guests enjoyed mingling with friends as well as meeting new people. Several people enjoyed walking across to the lake side of the Marina to enjoy the beautiful lake view. Attendance for this great event was close to 170 people!!!

HLWA is grateful to the Marina at Highland Lake, Diana and Jordan Moore, and Jeanne and Eric Richard for opening up their property to support such a worthy cause as raising money to protect and preserve Highland Lake and the watershed. A huge thank you to all who attended the event as well. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Auction Thank You!

The following businesses and individuals were very generous in donating items for the silent and "teacup" auctions.

Apple Cinemas
 F&G Richards Jewelers
 Ledgebrook Spirit Shop
 Little Red Barn Brewery
 McGrane's Restaurant
 Mario's Restaurant
 Morsel Munk
 Pet Supplies
 R&B Sports World
 The Marina at Highland Lake
 Joanne and Matt Smith
 Merrill and Mark Mandell
 Belinda and Jim Welton
 Anne and Jeff Lippincott



Thank You to Our EHL Patrons!

Ellen and Richard Babcock
 Kate and Mark D'Addabbo
 Beth and Dan Papermaster
 Joanne and Matt Smith
 Grace and Bryan Southergill
 Ellen and Gerald Southergill
 Perez/Mocarski Family

Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated!





Recipe Corner

by Anne Lippincott

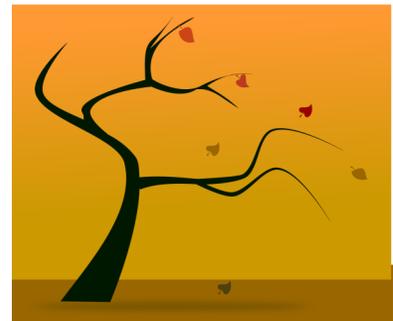
This recipe is a throwback from an old local cookbook. It's a great fall recipe!

(Junior Women's Club of Winsted, Favorite Recipes Cookbook)

Pork Chop and Apple Casserole

- 4 cups peeled, thickly sliced apples
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tbsp. flour
- 1/2 tsp. each nutmeg & cinnamon
- 4-6 lean pork chops
- Seasoned breadcrumbs

Place sliced apples in a well-greased, flat baking dish (13x9). Mix sugar, flour, cinnamon and nutmeg. Combine well with apples. Coat chops with bread crumbs. Place chops on top of apples and bake uncovered at 400 degrees for 50 minutes. "So easy—so tasty!"



The American Mural Project Is Coming Together!

(HLWA occasionally highlights local nonprofits in our Highland Lake News. This article is reprinted with permission from Susan Dunne and The Hartford Courant. If you have any suggestions about a nonprofit for us to highlight, please email marketing@hlwa.org.)

13 years and millions of dollars later, the ambitious, enormous American Mural Project is coming together.

For two decades, Sharon artist Ellen Griesedeck has had a dream to create a mural honoring working men and women, five stories high and 120 feet wide, inside an abandoned mill. She knew from the start it was a crazy passion.

(For the rest of the article please see the following link from *The Hartford Courant* archives: <https://www.courant.com/ctnow/arts-theater/hc-ctnow-art-american-mural-project-winsted-20190701-5o2fc7fgojby3m7pg5aqt7nw2q-story.html>)



The Paper Route

by Eugene A. Scalise

(This is an excerpt from HLWA's "Reflections" book published in 2010.)

My name is Eugene A. Scalise. I grew up in Winsted as did my wife, Eleanor Bleuher Scalise. We are in our 80s now but can reflect on some wonderful times related to Highland Lake.

As a young boy before World War II, I delivered newspapers and magazines all around Winsted. At about age 13 or 14 in the late 1930s, I was offered the opportunity to deliver the Sunday Hartford Courant around Highland Lake.

Upon learning of this, my parents, Marie and Gabriel Scalise, surprised me with the gift of a brand-new, bright-red, Elgin, balloon-tired bicycle.

My delivery began after church on Sunday when I picked up my papers at a little store on Pratt Street near Upson Avenue, not far from home on Bridge Street. I sold the Sunday Hartford Courant for 50 cents. I do not remember what portion was mine to keep. I had a front basket on my new Elgin bike and two side canvas bags filled. I biked up Pratt Street to the head of the lake at the Vaccaris' home. The operating ice house was the first landmark on my route, followed by Loveteres' store on the corner of Lake Street. That was followed by the double spillway with the operating Pin Shop factory just below.

Woodland Park, with its swimming, picnicking and dancing, was located as I rounded the corner onto Wakefield Boulevard and past Holland Beach. Just beyond, opposite lakeside, was a freshwater spring which attracted many passersby. Paper customers were not always the same, and I called upon any persons available on my route. The next landmarks were in passing the cottages of known acquaintances . . . Fracasso . . . Dolinski . . . Stevens . . . etc. At the end of third bay was a discontinued horse-trotting park as I rounded the lake's end. One of my best customers in third bay was the owner of the Yale University bulldog mascot. I got to see that mascot and received a good tip every Sunday.

The next landmark was the Pavilion, a popular dance hall and family swim place with good food and ice cream store. My mother, Marie, delighted in telling her story about the Pavilion during the 1920s, early in their marriage. As Chairperson of the Program Committee of a local women's group, Mom attempted to secure a dance orchestra for a special attraction at the Pavilion. For transportation to the Pavilion, Mom reckoned that attendees could avail themselves of the Winsted/Torrington Trolley, popular at the time. She wrote the then popular Guy Lombardo Orchestra and asked if a schedule was possible and what they could do for



one thousand dollars. The orchestra's agent replied that "For a thousand dollars they could send a piccolo player and a sheet of music." Later on, I learned to roller skate on that same dance floor.

Between second and first bay came Wheeler's Point, which was good for Sunday paper sales and good tips. Completing the route required entering the several off-roads from Wakefield

toward the cottages on the water. Those roads were all dirt with tree roots exposed and they required careful bicycling. A few customers were located a good hike off Wakefield and took some time to deliver their paper. The paper route told me that the mileage around Highland Lake was 7½ miles.

During the last two years of our time at Gilbert School, it was routine in summer months for the girls to somehow arrange for a "sorority cottage" and the boys to arrange for a "fraternity cottage." And that scheduling seemed to take place at about the same time in the summer.

And so . . . the memories persist.



Welcome New Board Members

Stuart Yaffee was introduced to Highland Lake in 1971 by his wife, Gail. His wife's family has owned the lake residence since 1944. Stuart was a Financial Advisor for 35 years. He served on the Board of Powder Forest Homes Association in Simsbury for 10 years, serving as president for 7 years. As President of the Powder Forest Homes Association, he had dealings with Simsbury Town officials: Fire, Police, Public Works, the Building Department, and the Town Council, skills which he will bring to HLWA. Stuart values the work the Highland Lake Watershed Association Board does and looks forward to being a part of it.

Evan MacDermott and his wife, Donna, first purchased a home on Highland Lake in 2002. They moved full time to Highland Lake from Simsbury in 2015. They have two adult children. Evan worked as a Forester for many years and now is a lumber salesman. Evan loves Highland Lake and enjoys fishing and watching wildlife at the lake. Donna recently retired from teaching kindergarten for 36 years. Evan looks forward to playing an active role on the Board with a focus on Water Data Collection.

Friend of the Lake – Terry Platt

by Carol Zacchio

The Board presents this award annually to someone who supports the mission of HLWA. Terry Platt received the award this year at our annual meeting held on July 13. Terry served on the HLWA Board of Directors from 1999 until 2017. Since her “retirement” from the BoD, she continues to edit and publish the Highland Lake News, design the ads, as well as update our website and Facebook page. Every three months Terry spends many hours working on the newsletter – articles and ads miss deadlines, but Terry does not! She continues to be a supporter of HLWA events and documents the events with photos which she quickly posts on Facebook for the community to see.

Congratulations, Terry!



During the annual meeting: top, the attending members; bottom left, Sam Sciacca; bottom right, Ray Fugere and Beth Papermaster.



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AmazonSmile Generates Money for HLWA!

By Terry Platt

The screenshot shows the AmazonSmile charity lists page for Highland Lake Watershed Association Inc. The page includes the following information:

- charity lists**
- Donate what's needed today
- [Shop Charity Lists](#)
- Highland Lake Watershed Association Inc** [Change](#)
- Location: Winsted, CT
- Support your favorite charity at no extra cost when you shop at [smile.amazon.com](#).
- [About AmazonSmile](#)
- Generated by you
- \$12.78**
- as of August 06, 2019
- All charities have received
- \$134,890,393.33**
- as of May 2019
- [Your AmazonSmile impact](#)



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. I've been doing it for a few years now - this year as of August 6, I've donated \$12.78!! The amount, of course, increases through the year and should jump up a bit more after holiday shopping!

If a lot of us sign up for this, it could amount to a nice

amount of money! To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](#) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Select Highland Lake Watershed Association. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](#) will result in a donation.