



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

## Summer

2018

### President's Message by Sam Sciacca



*(This is the last of four articles on HLWA issues)*

After four years of serving as President of HLWA, I have exhausted my eligibility to serve in this role in accordance with our Bylaws. Consequently, this will be my last letter to all of you.

I first have to say this has been a remarkable experience for me. The exposure I have had with so many members/volunteers who put in countless hours toward HLWA's success is truly inspiring. Whether it be for a major event like the Evening at Highland Lake or a roadside cleanup, there are always those who pitch in and do what needs to be done to make these activities a success. Similarly, the Board of Directors has done an outstanding job and will no doubt continue to do so in the future. I have no illusions that the advances we have seen in the last four years can be attributed to me . . . the same degree of success would have been experienced by any President who benefitted from the wisdom, assistance and support of the Board that I have enjoyed in my term.

And a heartfelt "Thank You" goes to the Town. At every step when we needed the assistance, cooperation and understanding of the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Procurement Manager, Police Chief, and all the various Town committees we have called upon, we have received their complete support and encouragement. I would also like to thank Jay Case, who these past years has been instrumental in helping us navigate the sometimes murky waters of Hartford. Few HLWA members may be aware of what Jay does for us, but I can assure you when we needed it, he provided assistance that was both instrumental and timely.

The past four years have seen some significant change in the HLWA community. Our Board has experienced a turnover of members of greater than 50%, which has resulted in new ideas and energies being brought into the organization while retaining the history and tradition established many years before I was a member. I believe this mix of old and new has much to do with the fact our general membership is at a record high. With this we have experienced some changes - older traditions and activities such as the tag sale and picnic have been phased out due to changing interests, but new ideas such as the "Meet the Board" night and catered food for the Evening on Highland Lake have developed. A Finance Committee now oversees our financial affairs, and computer assets have been acquired to allow transfer of the Secretary and Treasurer functions with a minimum of effort. We continue to advance the use of technology for our business and information dissemination . . . call-in participation for Board Meetings now is accomplished through a web-managed system, and online surveys allow the Board to quickly gauge the interest of our Board and membership. The continued renewal of the Board and resulting injection of new members and ideas was the hoped-for effect when the Bylaws were revised to include term limits a number of years ago, and the foresight of the Board in doing so seems to be producing positive results.

So in closing, it has been a privilege to be of service to the Board as President these last four years. I came into the position well prepared and well counseled by my predecessors, and hopefully I will be able to continue that tradition and lend whatever assistance I can to your new President.

*Check out all our wonderful advertisers!  
Can you find the old one?*

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## Legacy Program

by Mike Peacock

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

In previous articles, we have highlighted the enduring value of watershed land preservation and its importance to maintaining the clarity of our water, the beauty of our green hills and, last but not least, our property values.

There was a time when our hills weren't so green and wooded. To get an idea of how far we've come in the last 100 years or so, compare the recent aerial photo of third bay with the postcard from 1915. Contrast the extensive pasture land on the postcard with dense forest seen from the air.

Going back further to the early 1800s, Connecticut had become a major farming state supplying food and wool to a rapidly growing young nation. In 1820 only 25% of the state was forested. With the opening of the Erie Canal in 1830, Connecticut's farms began to face competition from the larger, more mechanized farms of western New York and Ohio Valley.

Before long, these competitive pressures along with the lure of manufacturing jobs resulted in the abandonment of farms, and the forests returned to much of Connecticut. Recent surveys done by the US Department of Agriculture have shown forests now cover 60% of the state's 3.1 million acres. Not surprisingly, Litchfield County is the most forested of the eight counties with 75% coverage. Connecticut is now the 13th most forested state despite having the 4th highest population density. Few places on earth have so many people living among the trees!

We continue to have success with our own modest efforts to preserve forests in the Highland Lake watershed. In the fall, our land stewards - Mike Peacock, Willie Platt and Mike DeClement - completed our annual inspection of the 42 parcels acquired so far with the Legacy Program. As usual, we had to replace a few missing stakes and pick up a little trash, but overall the land is in very good condition and quite beautiful. Anybody who likes the outdoors and hiking in the woods is welcome to join us - we're always looking for new members. If you're interested, give me a call on 860.379.1941 or email me at [mhpeacock@charter.net](mailto:mhpeacock@charter.net).

At the time of this writing, we're about to send out 92 letters to potential land donors. Just a reminder - anyone wishing to make a

donation to the legacy program should make a check payable to "HLWA Legacy" and send to P.O. Box 1022, Winsted, CT 06098 or at [hlwa.org](http://hlwa.org) using PayPal..

One last note - we must be doing something right. According to the 2017 townwide revaluation, an acre of waterfront land on Highland Lake is now worth \$458,000, up 20+% from the 2012 revaluation.

## Marine Patrol Update

Per the *Waterbury Republican-American*, police are revamping their marine patrol division for Highland Lake. Starting Memorial Day weekend, police will have an officer patrolling the lake in a boat from noon to 8:00 p.m.

The public meeting discussed on page 7 provided valuable input into his plans for increased patrols. Residents indicated they would like to see increased patrols on Friday and Saturday nights, when speeding boaters and jet skiers make excessive noise. The noon to 8:00 shift (an "evening shift") had never been done before.

Police Chief Fitzgerald said one officer will work noon to 4:00 p.m. and another from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, as well as holidays such as Memorial Day. Those hours could be expanded if an officer wants to work them and the shift supervisor has enough staff to handle other calls, he said. But a supervisor also could take the marine patrol officer off the lake if there are more pressing matters at hand elsewhere. The hours are flexible and can be adjusted according to what needs are there.

An increase in staffing is making it possible to revive the marine patrol. Budget cuts in years past largely eliminated it. There are now eight officers who are eligible to do it. They know how to swim and each will take "familiarization training" so they're able to operate the patrol boat safely. He said the marine patrol may incur some overtime because he is going to mandate the weekend shifts be patrolled, but he expects that cost to be minimal. He said he set aside up to \$5,000 in his department budget for the marine patrol.

As for having an officer patrol the lake on a weekday, he said a supervisor will have to determine whether there is a need and can spare someone to do it.

Fitzgerald said he is considering having all officers trained for marine patrol by next year. They also would take boat safety courses offered by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.



## Water Quality/Environmental Update

### Powerboating and the Lake Environment

by Sam Sciacca

We are blessed with a lake of sufficient size to support a variety of powerboating activities. And while power sports in general do not adversely affect the lake environment, there are some things which boaters can and should do to keep our lake as clean and environmentally sound as possible.

**Fuel Spill Control** – Keep a fuel spill kit on board your boat for small spills during refueling. Kits are available through the CT DEEP and at boating supply stores/marinas. In the event of a large spill, notify the Fire Department.

**Bilge Pumping** – Rather than pumping your bilge directly into the lake, pump it into a five-gallon bucket and dispose of it on land. Bilges are typically contaminated with gas, oil, and other engine fluids, and dumping this into the lake should be avoided if possible. It's also worthwhile to note bilge pumping from one lake to another is a primary vector for invasive species, so those of us who use powercraft in multiple waterbodies should be particularly careful in this regard.

*Pump your bilge into a five-gallon bucket and dispose of it on land.*

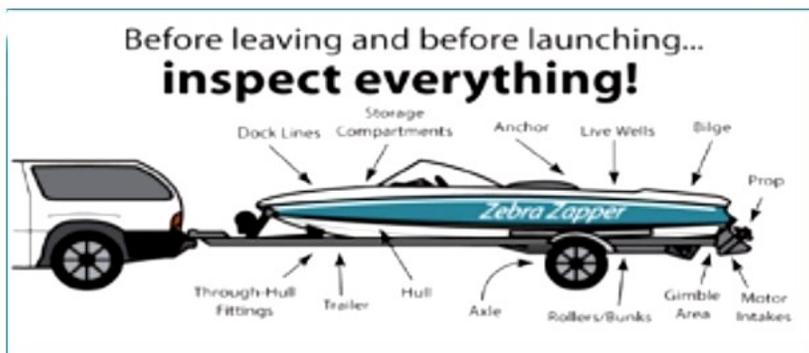
**Inappropriate Craft Usage** - There have been occasions in the past few years where craft not intended for water use have been observed on the lake, snowmobiles being notably among them. While perhaps amusing to some, more often than not this activity results in a vehicle being submerged which was not intended to be submerged, leading to potential oil and fuel leakage. Please refrain from such activity which, in addition to being potentially detrimental to the lake, may result in an unsafe situation.

Powercraft enjoyment is an essential part of the lake experience . . . please do so with the lake environment in mind.

### Clean Boating

by Jan Gyurko

While most of the boats on Highland Lake stay on Highland Lake, others travel to other bodies of water for fishing or recreation and



then return home. It's not just motorboats that travel; my husband and I have taken our kayaks and paddleboards on vacation with us and then brought them back to Highland Lake. We have always been careful to wash them down as described in the following reprint from CT DEEP before putting them back in the water at home.

#### What can I do to prevent the spread of nonnative species?

Excerpts from [http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/boating/boating\\_guide/part6.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/boating/boating_guide/part6.pdf)

Connecticut offers a wide variety of boating opportunities. Whether your boating preference is freshwater lakes and ponds or the salty water of Long Island Sound, you should be aware aquatic invasive species have entered CT waters and may be here to stay. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are nonnative plants or animals that tend to grow at a rate such that they can displace beneficial native species, disrupt the ecosystem and drastically reduce recreational activities, including swimming.

Local boaters can help by removing the species on their boats and trailers and properly preparing and maintaining their boats' bottoms. Clean, Drain, Dry your boat and gear.

#### BEFORE LEAVING THE LAUNCH:

- ◆ Clean: remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- ◆ Drain: eliminate water from equipment, such as a live well, before transporting.

#### AT HOME PRIOR TO YOUR NEXT LAUNCH:

- ◆ Dry: anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, anchors, propellers, fishing equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.) for a minimum of one week.
- ◆ If drying isn't possible, wash with hot water (preferably high pressure).
- ◆ Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.
- ◆ Dispose any unused bait in an upland trash.

### Winchester Police Institute 24-Hour Crime Tip Hotline

The Winchester Police Department has announced they have instituted a 24-hour Crime Tip Hotline, functioning as a way for citizens to report any illegal use or possession of narcotics along with other unlawful activity. The hotline telephone number is 860.379.1950. The Crime Tip Hotline is maintained and answered by the Criminal Investigations Division. A private voicemail system is utilized. Callers will have the option of remaining anonymous.

Please note this is not for emergencies. For an emergency, call 911.

## Blue Circle Award

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.

There are ways you can enhance the beauty of your land and do your part in preserving the water quality of Highland. 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 stewardship of Highland Lake.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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@hlwa.org](mailto:hlwa@hlwa.org) or mail to Highland Lake Watershed Association, P.O. Box 1022, Winsted, CT 06098.

## HLWA Sponsored Jacob Marchand for Laurel Festival King

Winsted, Connecticut was nicknamed "The Laurel City" because of the abundance of laurel growing throughout the area. In June of 1934, the tradition of "The Laurel Festival" began and the first Laurel Queen was crowned. The Laurel Queen began as a beauty pageant but has since turned into a scholarship program for both young men and young women.

Each year, the Laurel City Commission organizes a festival, ball and gatherings to bring together a group of young men and women from Winsted to enter into the program. First a "Meet and Greet" is held. This is usually early spring. Photos are taken of the contestants in May for newspaper articles, Facebook, the website and programs. At the meet and greet, the contestants learn about what makes a Laurel King or Queen. Each young lady or gentleman is given information and is acquainted with the tradition. Each candidate either finds a sponsor on their own or gets assistance finding one from the commission. The sponsor

will help him or her on their journey to potentially becoming the next Laurel King or Queen.

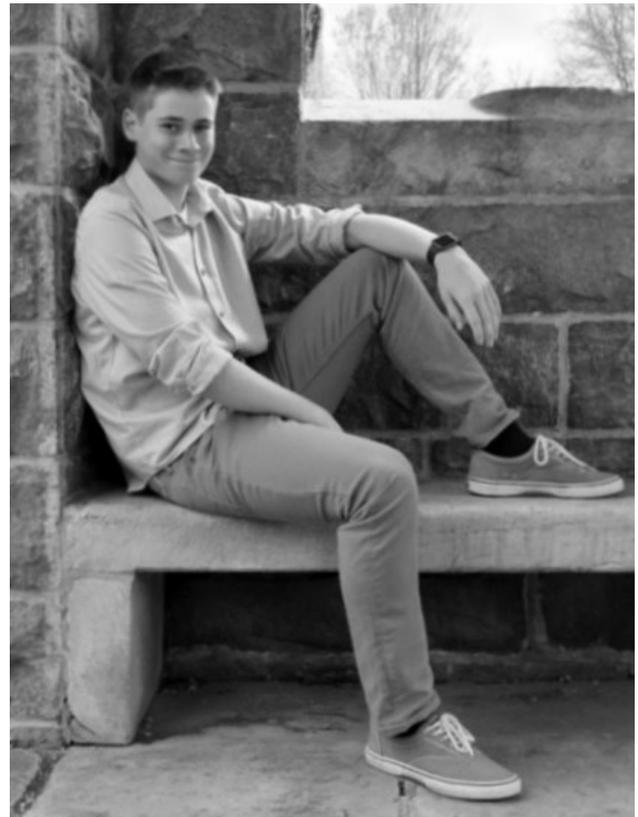
The weekend of the Laurel Festival includes a Friday night Ball where everyone is invited and attire is formal. Interviews with the nominees are held Saturday morning, usually at Town Hall. They are asked about how they are progressing in school, what their community involvements are, what accomplishments they have, as well as what dreams and goals they see in their future.

The contestants join in the fun with friends, family and townspeople over the weekend. Sunday is the Laurel Parade, and after the parade the new Laurel King and Queen are crowned!

HLWA has sponsored a contestant every year since 1981! HLWA has provided funding for decorating the contestant's float for the parade and placed an ad in the Laurel Festival booklet.

This year's festival was held on the weekend of June 8, and we sponsored Jacob Marchand as a contestant for Laurel King. Jacob is the son of Jennifer and Peter Marchand. He is a junior at The Gilbert School where he consistently earns high honors and participates in both Basketball and Track and Field. Jacob was recently accepted into the National Honor Society. He also works part time and tries to find time to play sports with his friends. He volunteers with the Gilbert Student Ambassadors program which helps international resident students acclimate to the school and community. Although he doesn't know for sure what he will study in college, Jacob plans to pursue a four-year degree, most likely in a business-related field.

Our newsletter went to the printer before this year's crowning of King and Queen – was our young man crowned?



## Special Annual Meeting

This year, the format of our Annual Meeting (July 14) will be different from our normal routine. The Board has commissioned George Knoecklein of Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) to present the findings of NEAR's five-year assessment on the status and trends of water quality of the lake. It will also be an opportunity for members to ask George about lake-specific issues such as weed control, algae, invasive species, neighboring waterbody experiences and other developments related to our primary mission of protecting the lake and the greater watershed.

In order to maximize our time with George and keep the meeting focused on lake-related issues, we will suspend our usual practice of inviting Town officials to speak or address members' questions on non-water quality issues such as taxes, Town issues, police activities/matters, infrastructure maintenance, etc. We will also attempt to move as quickly as possible through the business portion of the meeting and forgo public presentation of any awards the Board elects to make. An announcement of any awards will be made and entered into the minutes of the meeting.

The Board recognizes these other issues are of importance to many of our membership, but the cost and logistics of arranging for George to address the HLWA necessitates the occurrence be fairly infrequent, and we would like to take advantage of this opportunity to the maximum extent possible.

## Home Address Sign Program UPDATE!

by Jan Gyurko

Years ago, HLWA began the program of making and delivering house address signs and dock signs. Homes around the lake are not always easy to find, and a well-made and well-placed address sign helps for a speedy response to what might be a crucial medical problem. The Winchester Police Department, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Personnel need accurate house identification to guarantee a prompt response. Easily visible numbers are also important to commercial delivery services. **And** the Winchester Board of Selectmen passed an ordinance requiring a home address sign on your dock!

In recent years the sign program was handed over to the Winsted Ambulance Explorers Post 162. The signs provide uniform, visible, reflective numbers for the homes in our community and aid the police marine patrol in case of an emergency.

- Emergency responders can only help you when they find your location.
- Posting your address number provides easy identification of your location for responders who are not always exactly familiar with your area.
- Every second counts during an emergency. Posting your address number allows emergency responders to save critical time especially if your home is hard to locate.



- Homes are often hidden from view at the beginning of the driveway, and your only posting numbers on your home does not help first responders.
- Posting a reflective sign will help first responders reach you, especially at night.
- Posting your address on your dock is required by Winchester ordinance.

Dock and Mooring Ordinance (Sec. 162) requires "Reflectors shall be affixed to the ends of a dock." In addition: "The street number of the property (in numbers at least 3 inches high) shall be affixed to the end of a dock so as to be visible from the watercourse."

For ordering, there is an online order form, through Google Forms: <https://goo.gl/forms/aRNU67qiga2sop4O2> or go to [winstedambulance.org/explorers](http://winstedambulance.org/explorers) and click the yellow button in the middle of the screen to order.

If anyone has questions, email [explorers@winstedambulance.org](mailto:explorers@winstedambulance.org) or contact Ryan Weiss at 860.459.5114.

## P&Z Commission Seeking Input on Short-Term Rentals

The Planning and Zoning Commission has created a *Short-Term Rental Review Committee* to examine the prevalence of short-term rentals in town as they consider the possibility of some type of regulations to govern the practice. A **public informational meeting** has been scheduled for **Monday, July 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Blue Room at Town Hall, 338 Main Street.



This meeting is planned as an opportunity for the subcommittee to gather information and learn more about the experiences of residents with either leasing their properties short term and/or from property owners who are neighbors to those who engage in short-term leasing. A short-term rental is often considered a lease or rental agreement that is available to folks for less than thirty days.

To this end, the committee is seeking the public's input in advance of the informational meeting through a brief online, anonymous survey.

Please go to the Town website for previous meeting notes and research that has already been done and to take the survey: [www.townofwinchester.org](http://www.townofwinchester.org). Look for the link under "News" and on the Planning and Zoning tab. Also, check the website to confirm date and time of the meeting as things have been known to change.

## Paddleboarding on Highland Lake

by Rachel Tenney

Whether you live on the lake all year round or just spend weekends and summers there, you know all the awesome activities you can enjoy - boating, fishing, tubing, wake surfing, water skiing and much more. You may even catch a flyboarder out there - you know, the superhero-looking person who is jetted several feet above the water, then goes straight into a dive! Or you may notice a glimpse of our talented wake surfers. This has become extremely popular over the past few years, and some of our fellow Highland Lakers have started participating in competitions across the country. I have to admit I enjoy giving wake surfing a try myself, but my overall favorite is *paddleboarding*.

If you really want to explore one of the hidden treasures on the lake, paddleboarding is it. It's not only great exercise but is a great way to meet up with friends and get to know your neighbors. Exploring the lake on a paddleboard allows you to take in its beauty in a way you couldn't on a boat. Kate Daddabbo says "My favorite nights are our full moon parties. Friends and family paddle to the middle of the lake when the moon is the brightest! It's so peaceful but also exciting! The kids cover themselves in glow sticks and have a party out there. Maybe you've heard us all sing."

My two sons Liam (10 years old) and Ryan (8 years old) have been swimming and paddleboarding since they were little. We spend the summer living at the lake and enjoy taking advantage of the calmness during the week. My husband is typically the one who takes the boat out on the weekends, so we quickly realized paddleboarding was the only way we were able get around on the water. We go for early morning rides to relax or in the afternoons and evenings to socialize. This year our goal is to get our 70-pound Labradoodle to come along.

It wasn't long before we discovered all the hidden beauties the lake has to offer. On weekends when the water tends to be a little busier, we try to go out first thing in the morning as a family. Although the lake is not active with watersports, nature sure is active. We have paddleboarded alongside a family of ducks while watching fish jump out and back in the water (this is when we see the eagle swoop down to try and catch one). We have discovered the nest where one of the Highland Lake eagles live. It's amazing when you see the eagle soar down to the water and fly away with a fish in its talons. On the way back from our morning journey, we usually look for and pay a visit to my father-in-law and brother-in-law who are out fishing by that time.

On Sundays we love to take advantage of quiet time. It has become our thing to watch all the boats scurrying home before that 5:00 p.m. hour on Sunday afternoons. We watch as the water transitions from its waves to a peaceful quiet glass. That is around the time we all hop on those paddleboards. It may take us to a spot where we just lay and look up at the sky or perhaps stop by a

neighbor's dock for an afternoon visit. Being one of the clumsiest people out there, I never thought I would be able to get on a paddleboard, but I am so happy I did. It is much easier than it looks, so if you haven't given it a try, I encourage you to make this the **summer you do!!** Hope to see you on the water.



## "It's All About Fun" Relay

by Beth Ballentine

Please join us at the Winsted Recreation Department's "It's All About Fun" Relay around Highland Lake on Saturday, August 25! All ages and ability levels are welcome. Open to individuals or teams of 2, 3 or 4. Whether you're in a competitive mode or just out to get some exercise, it's all about fun! It includes a 1.9-mile run, an approximate one-mile kayak or paddleboard ride, a seven-mile bike ride and a 150-yard swim. To register and for more information, go to [winstedrec.com](http://winstedrec.com) or [hlwa.org](http://hlwa.org) for the registration form.

The Winsted Recreation Department is also looking for volunteers to help out that day. If interested, please contact Director Tanya Risucci at [trisucci@townofwinchester.org](mailto:trisucci@townofwinchester.org) or 860.738.6964.

## Highland Lake Boat Parade

Saturday, July 14, 7:30 p.m.

Rain Date: Saturday, July 21, 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a slow cruise around the lake. The Winchester Marine Patrol will lead the parade beginning at Holland Beach and it will proceed around the lake in a clockwise pattern.

Be creative. Be exciting. Have fun and decorate your boat or your shoreline. Let's light up the lake and show some Highland Lake spirit!

Prizes will be awarded - Landlubbers (for a display along the shoreline), Most Original, Judge's Choice, Most Colorful and People's Choice. Winners will receive a \$20 gift certificate to Foxtails Fine Catering & Café.

After the parade, you can vote on the boat you like! Either go to our website ([hlwa.org](http://hlwa.org)), follow the instructions, and click on the link provided; or go to our Facebook page (Highland Lake Watershed Association).

## Why Join HLWA?

- **Cleaner Water • Education • Special Events • Meet Neighbors**
- **Make New Friends • Make a Difference • Share Ideas**
- **Help Improve Quality of Life Around the Lake**

How does HLWA do this?

- Encourages enjoyment of Highland Lake and its watershed through education and events
- Works with local authorities to benefit residents, maintain water quality and safety
- Conducts monthly water sampling and testing April through November
- Raises money to protect and preserve water quality and natural resources of the watershed
- Acquires forested land in the watershed to preserve open space and reduce water runoff
- Sponsors events like "Evening on Highland Lake," Boat Parade, Meet the Board
- Organizes spring and fall cleanup campaigns to pick up trash from lakeside roads with potluck luncheons afterward
- Educates, informs and updates area residents with quarterly Highland Lake News, website, Facebook and email
- Participates in local philanthropic events such as the Penguin Plunge to benefit Special Olympics and Bubbles and Truffles to benefit Friends of Main Street
- Continues to grow with technology with improved website, Facebook and email communication
- Remains open to new ideas that will help HLWA continue to fulfill its mission



### Already a Member? Renew Now!

by Carol Zacchio, Secretary

Your membership in the HLWA has made a difference in the preservation of Highland Lake for our use and the use by future generations. The beautiful lake we enjoy is an asset to the community in part because of your generosity. We thank you for your financial support as well as your commitment to volunteer your time.

It is time to renew your membership or become a new member for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Applications have been mailed out or use the one in this newsletter or on our website. You can renew and make additional donations using the PayPal link on our website, [hlwa.org](http://hlwa.org).

Please consider volunteering to be a board member, work on a committee, or work on an upcoming event. We look forward to having you as a member!

### Safety on the Lake Forum

by Candy Perez

A forum to discuss "Safety on the Water" was held on March 22 at the Winsted Town Hall. More than sixty people attended the event. The panel included Police Chief Fitzgerald, Police Officer Kevin Kinihan, Recreation Director Tanya Risucci, Fire Chief

David Sartirana, Fire Chief Peter Marchand, and DEEP Mike Payton. Mayor Candy Perez moderated the discussion.

The evening began as participants were asked to share their concerns as well as identify three dates of importance for marine patrol coverage. The panel and participants then discussed the comments for clarifications and information. Topics and discussion included bubblers, boat size, "quiet hours," loud noise, State-owned boat launch, parking, marine patrol, speed and being close to shore, dock and moorings, the narrows, jet ski behavior, responsibility of lake rules, rescue capabilities, bass tournaments from out of town, and beach issues.

The Police Chief will take into consideration the input given for marine patrol deployment (see Marine Patrol article on page 2). The Chief will also enforce the jet ski speed through the narrows as the narrows are only 270 feet wide and jet skis require 200 feet from shore (boats 100 feet). Noise complaints regarding boats will be treated as any other noise complaint in town.

DEEP clarified some information including the fact that fees are not charged as most of the fee would go to the federal program under which the launch was built. He also discussed major cutbacks in staff at the agency, limiting people available to respond from the State. Boat size restrictions apply to length but not weight or width and are local in nature. DEEP does not enforce this; it's the Town's responsibility.

The recreation director explained you do not need a permit for the beach, only for parking during lifeguard hours. The number of people on a beach when lifeguards are on duty needs to be limited to the amount lifeguards can safely watch in accordance with accepted best management practice. This only occurs two to three times a year.

The Fire Chiefs talked about the rescue equipment each department has.

### Winchester, CT - 20 Towns (WFSB)

On Thursday, May 24, Channel 3 took **20 Towns in Twenty Days** to Winchester, a jewel of Litchfield County. HLWA made their presence known by waving banners and wearing Highland Lake T-shirts (see picture on right)! Thanks to all who showed their support: Larry and Janet Beck, Carol Zacchio, Willie Platt, Steve and Jan Becker, Jan Gyurko, John and Sanda Ursone, Laura L'Heureux, Candy Perez - and all the way from Canada Rebecca Fleming, and from California Shea Gyurko and Kiel Latimer!! Great support – **thanks!**



**FOUND DOCK**  
522 East Wakefield Boulevard

## 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** *Correspondence will be mailed to your primary residence unless you indicate otherwise*

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

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

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

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

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

Lake Street: \_\_\_\_\_, Winsted, CT 06098

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

**Dues** for fiscal year 7/1/18 to 6/30/19 \$ \_\_\_\_\_; additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Please make check payable to HLWA**

### 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

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



## Old Boats and Leftover Paint

by Betty Formaggioni

Back in the early 1900s, although my family did not have much money, my father managed to buy a piece of property at Highland Lake. My older sister was a baby then, and there are stories of her crib sinking in the mud!

He loved the water and wanted boats. We talk often of him and his old wooden launch. At one point, a nearby scout camp was

*Some of the ones who worked so hard to clean up on April 22. Right - Tony and Carol Zacchio; far right - one of the Gilbert School students who volunteered for cleanup; below - Forman School student cleanup volunteers.*

getting rid of two old wooden rowboats and, of course, my father bought them! He taught me to row when I was only four years old!

These well-used camp boats needed repairs and paint. My father was very handy and resourceful. Once they were cleaned up and fixed, they were put in the water and immediately sank! This was actually okay, however, and happened every year after that, because once the old wood soaked up enough water, the boards would swell and the boats would float!

Being less than wealthy and very frugal, my father couldn't afford to buy exterior paint for the boats. So, he took leftover cans of interior paint my mother had from painting bedrooms, mixed them all together and we happily rowed all that summer in light purple boats!

The photo shows Betty rowing and older sister Virginia along for the ride!

## Spring Cleanup 2018



## Then and Now

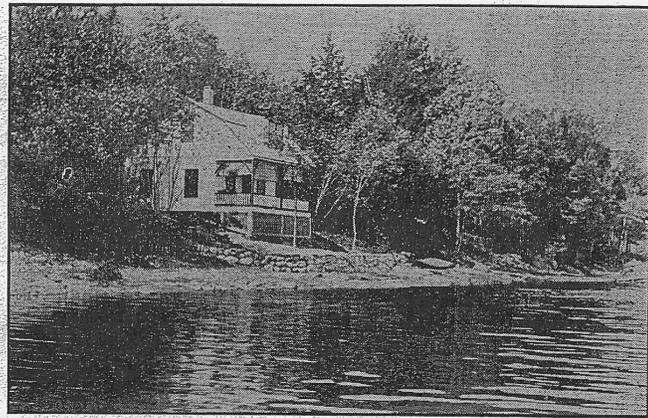
by Jan Gyurko

Patty and Don Masucci have been kind enough to loan me their collection of old postcards, Who's Who books, and other fascinating history pieces from years past. I thought it would be fun to see if I could identify some of the locations around the lake. I'm starting with a reprint of the text from *A Trip Around Highland Lake* which was a fundraiser for the local YMCA from June 1910. I thought I would create a little series identifying some of the places mentioned in the guide. If you recognize any of the cottage names or any family members and want to contact me for a follow-up article or additional information, I would be thrilled!!

## IOWNA – WEONA Who Really OWNS-A??

I found a card in the collection that looked like a family took a photo of their property from the water and had it made into a postcard. The postmark is July 29 - either 1900 or 1908. The writing is difficult to read, but it looks like there might have been a bit of competition with a relative who owned another property. It says "This is our attempt at a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Benedict camp on Highland Lake Winsted. (Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Bay) E. W. Benedict" The sign nailed to the tree says WEONA CAMP. It obviously is a campsite complete with a tent, picnic table, clothesline and hammock! Can anyone help with the location of this?

The other picture is from the guide A Trip Around Highland Lake and is captioned IOWNA, which at the time was owned by P. B. Gray. It is very interesting trying to track down the exact properties and owners from so long ago – the Winsted city clerk's and assessor's offices have become very familiar with my face, having spent many hours there asking many questions of them!!



IOWNA, P. B. GRAY'S COTTAGE



## A Trip Around Highland Lake

*The following is the text from a trip around Highland Lake from Friday, June 24, 1910 put on by the Young Men's Christian Association. Can you find a relative or identify your property?*

### **Picturesquely Beautiful Highland Lake**

**TAKE THE MOTORING TRIP AROUND WINSTED'S IDEAL SUMMERING PLACE ON FRIDAY JUNE 24 - YOU WILL ENJOY ITS DELIGHTS AND HELP THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.**

This 7-mile trip around Highland Lake by automobile given under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association of Winsted, Friday, June 24, will arouse your most enthusiastic admiration, if you are a lover of nature. The lake is nearly three miles long by one mile wide and has an elevation above sea level of about 950 feet; 140 feet higher than Winsted. Abutting its curving shore line is one of the most charming drives to be found at any New England Summer resort. Sloping hills of luxurious green, at the base of which is nestled the picturesque lake itself, and beds of mountain laurel in gorgeous bloom add to the splendor of the scene from land and water.

A total of 110 cottages now dot the shores of the lake, which is more popular each season with the summer vacationist. Over two-thirds of the cottages are on third Bay, where land next to the water is valued at from \$10 to \$12 per front foot, and as a general rule cannot be acquired for less. Summer homes can be rented at from \$40 to \$80 per month.

Best views of cottages are secured from the lake, which, when weather conditions are favorable, is alive with craft of all descriptions. The largest and best boat is Highland, owned by Capt. William H. Tiffany. It will carry 30 passengers, is equipped with a double cylinder engine and is first class in all its appointments. Other boats also carry passengers. The number of power driven craft exceeds fifty and canoes and rowboats are counted by the hundreds. Boating and bathing unite to make this lake one of the most pleasant locations for summer homes that you can imagine. You can fish to your heart's content. And how you will sleep—rest for body and soul.

It is the intention of the Young Men's Christian Association to make this pilgrimage an annual event for the benefit of the

association. The various committees in charge are made up as follows:

**General** – Miss Olive Barber, Mrs. E. W. Munson, Miss Lila P. Cook, Mrs. Frank H. Darling Secretary W. F. Maylott.

**On Automobiles** – E. R. Holmes, Charles L. Alvord, Winslow Goodwin.

**On Union Station and Lawn Party** – L. J. Deming, Amos Sanford, Frank Goodsell, Allen Blake, Kenneth Messenger.

**On Launch Trip** – J. Albert Smith, Leland Gates, W. H. Tiffany.

### **The Tourists' Guide**

Leaving West Lake Street, a few minutes' ride from Main Street in the heart of the downtown business district, the trip around the lake is begun. For seven miles this beautiful driveway, a monument to a former townsman, the late Harvey Wakefield, who left money to pay for its construction, runs within close proximity to the lake which it encircles. The first three cottages on the westerly side of first bay are the property of Ferdinand Fortier. The one on the highest elevation was built by D. S. Moore, a former president of the Winsted Young Men's Christian Association. Daniel Lynch and family, of Brooklyn, will occupy the largest of the trio, having rented it for the season. The cottage on the brow of the hill is owned by Rufus E. Holmes, who is deeply interested in the success of the Young Men's Christian Association in Winsted. Beyond are the buildings of his model Highland Lake farm, one of the best dairy institutions in Litchfield County.

Wewicha was built by Robert Persons in 1909. Our Folly, now the property of Miss Mary Nichols of Danbury, was erected a few seasons ago by Miss Grace Stevens, who afterward disposed of it to E. E. Sackett. Takitezy, the red bungalow between the lake and the boulevard, was christened by its owner, C. C. Middlebrooks, after he had retired as sheriff of Litchfield county.

Next is the residence of B. E. Moore, from which a view of the entire lake is obtainable. A. B. Fancher, not unlike Mr. Moore, resides in his place year 'round. Cold Spring, so called, and its environs were improved by the late Henry Gay, who also built the brown stone watering trough on the opposite side of the boulevard. In olden times dances were held in the pine grove, which was also a Mecca for picnic parties. Walledoff, the property of Benjamin

Richards, is appropriately named, tiers of stone walls dotting the slope between cottage and boulevard.

In order to establish a driveway a few rods past this point, large quantities of rock had to be removed, as the ledge extended to the water's edge. The locality is generally known as the Tablet because it bears a tablet containing the following inscription:

A TRIBUTE OF REMEMBRANCE  
TO  
HARVEY WAKEFIELD,  
A CITIZEN OF WINCHESTER,  
IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF HIS  
BEQUEST TO THE TOWN, WHICH  
HAS ENABLED IT TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC USE THIS  
LAKESIDE DRIVE.  
1887

One human life was sacrificed in the building of the boulevard and the victim, Charles Carey, a brother of Joseph F. Carey, was killed a short distance south of the ledge by an explosion of dynamite.

*(Continued in next issue)*

HLWA is thrilled to announce that you can now buy  
HLWA swag directly at Land's End.

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**Recipe Corner**

by Marlene Rouleau

I was a recent guest at my daughter Renée Lemieux's home for a cookout. She had an assortment of meats - chicken, beefsteak and lamb. All were marinated in this marinade called the

**"Best Marinade Ever"**

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup Worchester sauce
- 1/8 cup lemon juice
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 tsp. rosemary
- 2 tbs. Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 2 tsp. garlic powder
- 16 chicken breasts or 3.5 lbs. of chicken or meat

Marinate 4 - 24 hours. Grill and baste with marinade; you can serve over hot chicken or other meat. A good recipe for summer grilling. Enjoy.



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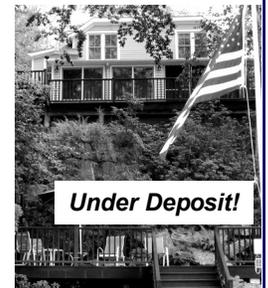
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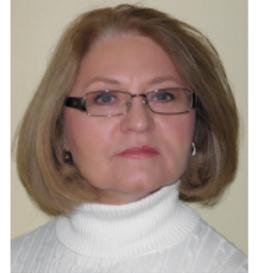


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