



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

Summer

2019

President's Message by Beth Papermaster



Welcome to summer 2019 at Highland Lake!! We had a strange winter and very wet spring, so here's hoping for beautiful weather this summer.

As explained in many previous articles, HLWA volunteers collect water samples, measure data, and use a Secchi disk to test water clarity monthly, May through October. In April and November, Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) conducts the testing. George Knoecklein, Limnologist and Certified Lake Manager from NEAR, reported back to HLWA and the Town of Winchester that the April 4, 2019 water clarity reading was half of what it should be. NEAR discovered abnormal cloudiness and higher-than-normal phosphorous.

To be specific, the cloudiness was caused by an overabundance of diatoms, a form of algae, due to an increase in nutrients in the water. Algae, not dirt, were impeding the clarity of the water. While this particular algae is benign, their presence at such high levels indicates the lake could be shifting - but not in a positive way. Diatoms flourish in colder water, when the lake is mixing. We've been told that when the water begins to warm and stratify, the algae will die away. Once the diatoms die off, the lake is expected to be clear for a period of time. It is possible, however, that later in the summer season other, more unpleasant algae will grow, feeding off a continued increase in nutrients.

Nutrients flow from many sources, and the higher-than-normal rainfall exacerbates the problem. Reducing the influx of nutrients into the lake should be a high priority for all of us in the watershed. The board is working closely with the Town regarding the deterioration of lake water clarity. We are considering different options for monitoring and testing the lake water, amongst other actions. But, to help the lake recover, we need you to do your part.

Important actions you can take include:

- * **Restrict the use of lawn fertilizers**
- * **Do not wash your car near the lake**
- * **Clean up after pets**
- * **Leave trees and bushes intact on your property**
- * **Do not feed ducks and geese**
- * **Do not put leaves or grass clippings in the lake**
- * **Clean storm drains near your house**
- * **Block runoff into the lake**
- * **Thoroughly clean your boat after visiting other bodies of water**
- * **Plant a buffer garden near your waterfront**
- * **No big wakes near the shore**

For more suggestions, check our website - <http://hlwa.org/goodsteward.html>

Welcome our new advertisers on pages 14, 15 and 16! And check out all our other wonderful advertisers!

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So You Think You Saw an Eagle – or Not!

by Carol Zacchio

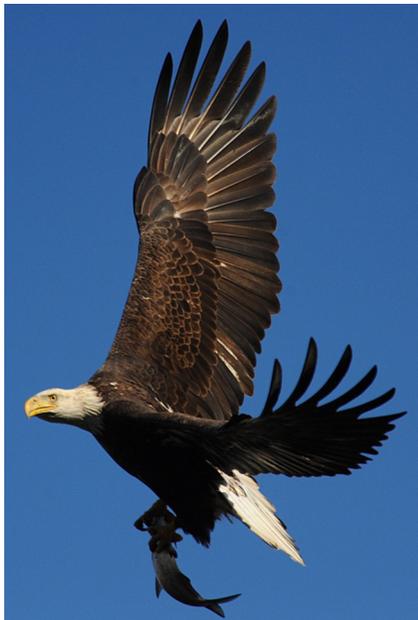
A large bird sighting at my house is time to stop what you are doing, look up into the sky or run for the binoculars. We especially enjoy the grace and majestic flight of a bald eagle soaring over the lake, just enjoying the updraft or “fishing.” We don’t often get to see the eagle catch a meal, but sometimes we see him/her enjoy a fish in a nearby tree. We always consider it a lucky day when we see a bald eagle.

Are all the soaring large bird sightings a bald eagle? No, they are not. We are fortunate to have bald eagles, osprey and turkey vultures. I have been told of golden eagle sightings at the lake, but I personally have not seen one (at least that I recognized). The CT Audubon Society says a Golden Eagle is a scarce bird in Connecticut but may be seen in the northwest corner during the autumn migration October through November. They do winter in Connecticut in small numbers.

So how do you identify the soaring bird above the lake or shoreline?

A mature (4+ years old) bald eagle (top picture) is easy - white head and tail, dark brown body and wings, yellow beak and feet. In flight, a bald eagle holds broad wings flat like a board and steady. Its diet is mainly fish, but it hunts mammals and waterfowl.

Now comes the hard part - identifying a juvenile bald eagle (years 1-3) from a golden eagle, turkey vulture and maybe even an osprey. A juvenile bald eagle has a mottled brown-and-white body and wings, with a brown head, tail and beak. The mottled coloring



evolves over 3-4 years. A golden eagle is a more solid brown under the wings and body and flies with its wings slightly raised.

A turkey vulture has a small red head, dark body, and when flying their wings are raised in a V and it makes wobbly circles. Like the golden eagle, the turkey vulture diet is small mammals. An osprey is smaller than an eagle and has a brown back and wings, black beak and a white belly and underwings. An osprey’s head is white with a broad brown line through the eye area, and it circles with slightly bowed wings which look like an M from below. Their diet is almost exclusively live fish. If the bird dives into the water to catch a fish, it is most certainly an osprey and not an eagle.



I used the website: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bald_Eagle/id to write this article, and it has a lot of interesting bird information and pictures.

Bald Eagle Nesting Period Chronology in Connecticut

Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.
		Nest Building >>									
				Egg Laying/Incubation >							
						Hatching/Rearing Young >>>>					
								Fledging Young >>			

Winchester 250

by Candy Perez

At the Board of Selectman meeting on January 7, it was the consensus of the board to begin to plan for the 250th anniversary of the Town (1771-2021). As Phillip Allen of the Economic Development Commission noted, "Depending on when the year's activities begin, we will have 24 to 28 months to build a successful celebration of our sestercentennial (the fancy Latin word for 250th anniversary). The Town of Winchester was incorporated May 21, 1771."

Instead of the fancy sestercentennial name, the newly formed committee has dubbed it Winchester 250. This celebration will be in partnership with all the organizations in town, especially the churches, schools, and other organizations that can connect back to the early days. The Highland Lake Watershed Association has sent Jim Welton as the HLWA representative, as HLWA will play a strong role in planning the activity celebrations. Stay tuned!

Laurel Festival - HLWA Community Service Award

This year Winsted is celebrating its 85th Annual Laurel Festival. Last year's festival was a huge success with the Laurel Festival Ball hosting 260 people and \$4,700 being awarded in scholarships. Due to their success last year, the amount to be given this year in scholarships has increased to \$5,500.

The Laurel City Commission is busy planning this year's festivities. The festival will run June 7-9, with the Laurel Ball kicking off the weekend fun on Friday, June 7.

This year, the Highland Lake Watershed Association is thrilled to be the sponsor of the Community Service Award. Laurel City Commission Chairman Melissa Bird says, "This award will be given to the candidate who exemplifies a true spirit of volunteerism. Volunteerism is a strong feature of leadership, a trait that a community needs in all of its citizens. The student who is ultimately chosen will demonstrate a strong commitment to improving the quality of life for people in their community."

Look for details about the Laurel Festival Community Service Award recipient in our next newsletter.

Secure Your Boats and Belongings

by Carol Zacchio

We all love our water "toys" – boats, kayaks, paddleboats, canoes, boards, blow-up floats and balls. Many of these "toys" are susceptible to the wind and waves - and not just in the summer. Once they "escape" in the wind or waves, they become "lake litter" and may become the problem of property owners downwind. As I write this I look out on a mostly submerged paddle boat that "escaped" last fall, was frozen in the ice and is now stuck either in shallow water or on a rock, and it will be difficult to remove and dispose of by someone who does not own it.

Remember, storm winds can be especially strong blowing over the water during all seasons. What can you do? Be sure to secure all belongs each evening, when you leave at the end of the weekend, and at the end of the season. Check ropes to make sure they are strong and not frayed.

Your neighbors will thank you.

Boat Parade

by Anne Lippincott

Now is the time to start planning for our annual boat parade! Be creative. Be exciting. Get your family and friends involved in decorating either your boat or your shoreline. Let your Highland Lake spirit shine and make this a year to remember!



There will be a slow cruise around our lake. The Winchester Marine Patrol will lead the parade beginning at Holland Beach and proceeding around the lake in a counter-clockwise pattern. The boat parade will begin at 7:30 p.m.

There will be judges and prizes will be awarded.

After the parade, you can vote on your favorite boat! All are welcome to vote online. Either go to our website (hlwa.org), follow the instructions, and click on the link provided; or go to our Facebook page (Highland Lake Watershed Association) and click Like on the photo of the boat/shore you like best!

So, get your team together and start planning your theme now!!!!

Advice from a Lake

Be clear

Make positive ripples

Stay calm

Shore up friendships

Take time to reflect

Be full of life

... Anonymous

You are invited to the

Highland Lake Watershed Association

Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 13

9:00 a.m.

(Registration begins at 8:30)

St. Joseph Franciscan Center

31 Oak Street, Winsted

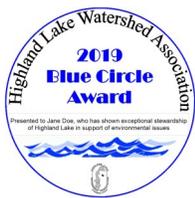
Special Guest Speaker:

Bob Geiger

Town Manager, Winsted

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 Lake. 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 _____

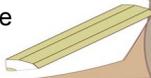
Please write a brief description of the actions you or your nominee take that demonstrate stewardship of Highland Lake.

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 or mail to Highland Lake Watershed Association, P.O. Box 1022, Winsted, CT 06098.

Upcoming Events

July 13 - Annual Meeting & Boat Parade
July 27 - Evening on Highland Lake





Winsted's Highland Lake Relay Race

Saturday, September 7, 2019

Race begins at Resha Beach, Highland Lake
Run, Kayak, Bike and Swim

Race time 9:30 a.m. Please be there to
check in no later than 9:00 a.m.

RUN	1.9 MILES RESHA BEACH AROUND SHORE DRIVE, AROUND PERCH ROCK TRAIL, BACK TO RESHA BEACH
KAYAK, CANOE OR STANDUP PADDLE	FROM RESHA BEACH TO HOLLAND BEACH AND BACK
BIKE	7 MILES AROUND THE LAKE FROM RESHA BEACH
SWIM	150 YARDS AT RESHA BEACH

Register as an individual Iron Man, 2 Members Tin Man,
or as a team (up to 4 members)

Cost \$20 iron, \$30 tin or \$50 for team

Register at **Winstedrec.com**

860-738-6964

trisucci@townofwinchester.org

<http://www.townofwinchester.org/>

Sponsored by The Winchester Recreation Department

Boating Reminders

Here are some of the Highland Lake Boating Regulations as set forth by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

- 6 MPH limit from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.
- 6 MPH limit from 5:00 p.m. Sunday to 1/2 hour before sunrise on Monday (Sunday before Memorial Day to Sunday preceding Labor Day).
- 45 MPH limit on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.
- Boats greater than 22 feet in length and pontoon boats greater than 30 feet in length are prohibited.
- No staging of personal watercraft, motorboat or water-skiing activities from the town-owned beaches or park. No overnight mooring.



WAKE RESPONSIBLY

1 Stay at least 200 feet away
from the shoreline, docks, or other structures.

2 Keep music at reasonable levels.
Sound travels well over water. If it's loud enough to hear at 80 feet back, it is likely loud enough for homeowners to hear, too.

3 Minimize repetitive passes
on any one portion of shoreline. Once you've run the same line for a while, move on to another area.

REMEMBER, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN WAKE.

wsia
WATER SPORTS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
"To Promote & Protect"

Wake On. Wake Responsibly.

The Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) is the towed water sports industry's leading advocate. Their mission is "to promote and protect all towed watersports." WSIA created a Wake Responsibly campaign that encourages boaters to be respectful of the shoreline and other people on the water. Wake Responsibly promotes three simple ways for all to, well, wake responsibly:

- 1. Stay at Least 150 Feet Away** - Those massive wakes that are prime for your surf game are not so prime for the shoreline and structures on your waterway. Staying at least 150 feet away from docks and beaches allows boat wakes to reduce enough to minimize any adverse effects when they hit the shore.
- 2. Keep Music at Reasonable Levels** - We realize marine audio stereos are better and louder than ever before. Although water activities and cranking tunes go hand in hand, it is important to be considerate of the time and situation as well as homeowners who might prefer calm and peace over the weekend's new album on blast.
- 3. Minimize Repetitive Passes** - Repetitively driving back and forth in the same line can damage shores and docks. After a few passes . . . take a break, move to another location, and return later.

(courtesy of www.wakeresponsibly.com)

Evolution of the Castles on Highland Lake

by Sue Peacock

I have spent my life loving Highland Lake. Since I was five years old, I have spent every summer at the lake. I know its sights, its sounds and its feel. I know its seasons, its storms, its history and its people. I know its joy and its sadness. It is a total treasure to be cherished, protected and passed along through the years ahead as new people discover it and learn to treasure it.

Our children and grandchildren live in distant places. We joyfully gather every summer and on other special occasions. Highland Lake is the "glue" that keeps our family together.

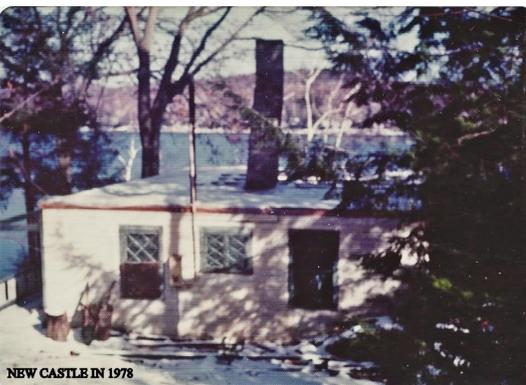
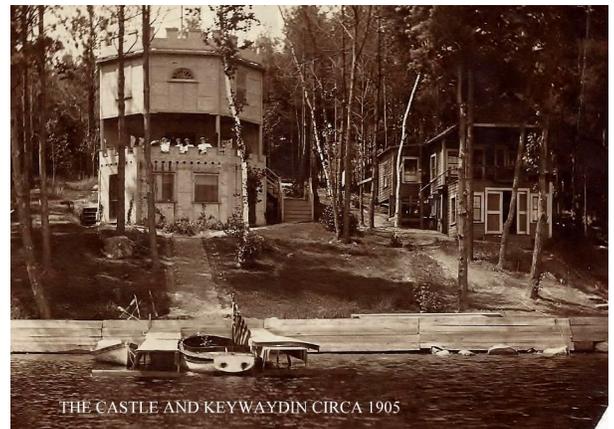
Back in 1960, I introduced my Tufts College boyfriend, Mike Peacock, to the lake. He fell in love with me and the lake. Oddly enough, his father, Roland Peacock, had discovered this same lake in 1914 when, as a Bowden College freshman, he had taken the trolley all the way down from Freeport, Maine to sell encyclopedias - a common way for college students to earn summer money in those days.

As the story goes, he only sold one encyclopedia but he happened to meet a young lady named Dorothea Wingerbocker. Her family's summer home was located very near to where my family's Acorn Lodge would be purchased 33 years later in 1947. This story, which we always heard from Mike's dad, was confirmed when we found a small Bible addressed to Roland from Dorothea as he went off to serve in Europe during World War I.

Mike and I married in 1964, settled in upstate New York with our two children, and continued spending many summer weekends with my parents at Acorn Lodge. In 1978, elderly neighbors Lauriston and Carola Moore suddenly decided to sell their 850 East Wakefield Boulevard property. We quickly became its proud new owners. The cottage had been rented out for many years while the Moores lived in a small apartment located over the detached garage on the property.

We traveled from Clifton Park, NY for more than 20 years as we began to make the changes to this historic property, which at one time featured a structure called the Castle.

The Castle, an octagonal brick structure built in the early 1900s, was a meeting place for Sunday church services and other gatherings on the south end of the lake. Views of it can be seen in old postcards of the era. It was torn down when it was observed to be teetering toward the lake. To this day we find bricks when digging in the gardens. (The photo above shows the Castle as it appeared in 1905.)



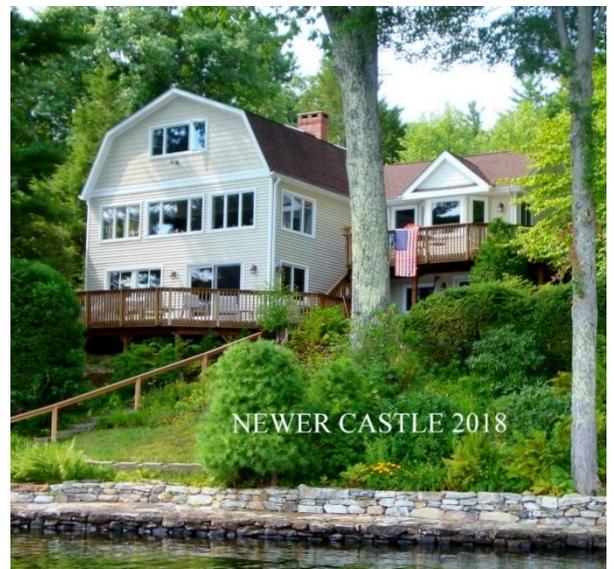
We purchased a wooden structure built in the 1920s to replace the brick Castle. Known as the New Castle, it was in total disrepair after years of neglect. Thus, we began the challenging renovations required to make it our own.

Our dear next-door neighbor, Dorothea Kramer, also a lifelong resident of the lake, passed away in her 80s. We purchased her small green cottage (Keywadin) in 1985. By adding her property to ours, we were able to expand our house for year-round living. (Keywadin can be seen on the left.)

Beyond the expansion and remodeling of the house, we terraced the sloping property with stone walls and perennial gardens.

Our rewards have been uncountable. Years of gardening, swimming, boating, picnics, July 4 celebrations, boat parades, Laurel festivals, tea parties, wine tastings, entertaining guests from afar and, the best of all, the many lake friendships.

Now we've "out-aged" our beautiful home. It's time to move on to our next adventure. As we leave Connecticut and become residents of sunny Florida, we wish the future owners a long and happy relationship with our beloved house and this endlessly beautiful lake.



Memories of Highland Lake

HLWA received a beautiful letter from a woman, Jean Cappabianca Bulette, who spent most of her childhood on Highland Lake. Jean lives in Washington State and wrote to us during an unusual snow storm that ultimately dropped 30 inches in her town. Here are some excerpts from her letter. I know you will enjoy reading some of her memories as much as I did.

I was born in 1952 in Winsted and grew up there at Highland Lake until age 23 when I left for Hawaii to marry my husband.

The most fun we had was swimming at the lake. My sister Jayne, the Groppo kids (Al and Janice) and I would ride our bicycles around the lake and hit all the swimming holes. Our favorite was Taylor Brook. We would pack a lunch, ride our bikes the seven miles around and would have to be back by the time Mom got home from work at 5:00 p.m. (In winter) we went ice skating and ice fishing with my Uncle Phil Roy, who was a hockey skater, and he pulled us around on sleds. I remember the bonfires we had at the beach . . . The first time my husband ice skated was at the beach, and they had a bonfire, hot cocoa and donuts. Although he spent little time on his feet, we had a fun time.

I learned to fish for sunfish, or at least that is what we called them. They were so small, but Grandma would clean them and we ate them. We used sticks with fishing line and a hook on the end, dug our own worms and fished. We didn't have a dad to teach us, so we improvised. Resha Beach was where we did our swimming as they always had a lifeguard, so mom felt we were safe. We bought candy at Bruno's little store across the street.

In my teens, I had a friend and uncle who lived on the lake, so I learned to water ski. We had clean, wholesome fun. Because of my amazing memories of Highland Lake, I wanted to live on a lake after I married and wanted my children to grow up with the same memories. My husband grew up in Alabama, and his father built their house on a lake, so he, too, had wonderful memories of his childhood . . . When our two children were growing up, we had a ski boat and a jet ski. We added a hot tub and stocked the refrigerator. The old saying "stock the refrigerator and they will come" is true! We always had kids at our home . . . And now we are sharing our dream once again with our five grandchildren. They love to come out. We have a paddleboat, kayak, fishing boat, and next summer we will have a slide on our dock. A child's paradise.

I miss all the wonderful times on the lake but have been able to recreate some of them here. It is seldom cold enough for long enough for the lake to freeze to make it safe for skating. But summer is another story.

Thank you to Jean for sharing her fond memories. If you would like to share your own memories, old family photos, etc., please email us at hlwa@hlwa.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fishing This Year

by Jim Welton

What can you say about the fishing this year? It's more wet than usual! With all the rain and cold weather we have had, there have not been as many fishermen as usual - so there are still many fish to be had. A quick note on bass - the cold weather has delayed and prolonged the spawning season, and we will probably see bass on the beds until June.

Trout fishing has been pretty good for those who have been willing to put on their long johns and brave the cold and wet weather. Trolling has been effective, but you can still catch them by fishing from docks on the shore. According to Dave Ragozzine from Still River Outfitters (see picture), popular lures include Phoebes, Rapala's, spinners and spoons. Using live shiners (hooked through the lips) on a slip float rig is a foolproof method to catch trout from boat or shore. Dave is a great resource for information, tips and tricks to catch the many rainbow, brook and brown trout that share the lake with us.

Just a quick reminder of the large amount of truly trophy-sized trout there are in our waters - and if you catch one of them, please send me a picture for the next issue of the newsletter. Until the next time - which better be much warmer and dryer!



Brook trout caught near the boat launch by Dave.)

Save the Dates!!

- ◆ **HLWA Annual Meeting: July 13, 2019**
 - 9:00 a.m. at the Franciscan Center
 - to volunteer to set up, contact annelippincott0@gmail.com
- ◆ **Highland Lake Boat Parade: July 13, 2019**
 - parade will begin at 7:30
 - parade to run **counterclockwise**
 - rain date July 20, 2019
 - see page 3 for more details on this fun parade!
- ◆ **An Evening On Highland Lake: July 27, 2019**
 - 60-year celebration!
 - this special event will be held at **The Marina at Highland Lake**



Ask not what the lake can do for you, but rather what *you* can do for the lake! The lake needs you!! Please consider joining or renewing your membership and using your thoughts, ideas and talents for HLWA!

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 !!]

<p>Committee Chairs Finance: Carol Zacchio Government Relations: Sam Sciacca Water Quality/Environmental: Rose Molinelli Legacy: Willie Platt Membership: Jim Welton Social Activities: Anne Lippincott</p>	<p>Board Laura L'Heureux 860.690.4308 Anne Lippincott 860.307.6591 Rose Molinelli 860.379.5495 Beth Papermaster 860.614.2740 Willie Platt 860.379.0017 Jill Ricci 860.324.7673 Nancy Reardon 860.836.7506 Sam Sciacca 203.464.5703 Jim Welton 203.589.0542 Carol Zacchio 860.379.3267</p>
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Spring Cleanup

by Anne Lippincott

*Rain, rain, go away,
Come again another day,*

All HLWA members want to clean up the lake and play, so,

Rain, rain, please go away!

Spring cleanup at the lake this year began with coffee, hot chocolate and donuts at Resha Beach. Before heading out to clean up our shores, approximately forty people gathered to chat and enjoy a hot beverage. There were groups of lake residents and nonlake residents, as well as students from both the Gilbert School and the Forman School. We were lucky in that the rain held off just long enough for us to gather. Before disbursing, garbage bags and gloves were offered to all volunteers. The town truck, located at a residence on the lake, was filled by the end of the day!

Many volunteers expressed their surprise at the amount of trash being collected. One volunteer said "We had a great time cleaning up crazy amounts of trash!! It's actually so sad how

people just toss things out their window or deliberately dump large items! We couldn't even transport it all to the truck . . . "

A huge thank you to all who helped out at this semiannual event.

Just a note - if you are ever out for a leisurely stroll around the lake, take a small garbage bag with you - unfortunately, there will be more trash to pick up!!!

Our next cleanup will be in the fall. In the meantime, we are geared up to enjoy a wonderful summer on the lake!

**TO MAKE A DONATION
TO THE
Highland Lake Watershed Association**
through the Northwest Connecticut Community
Foundation please visit:

<https://www.northwestcf.org>
Click on "Give to a Fund" in the upper right corner
Click on "Browse Funds" and scroll down to
Highland Lake Watershed Association Fund
Follow the steps from there.

Or by **check**, made payable to
Northwest Connecticut Community Fund
(put Highland Lake Watershed Association Fund in the memo),
mail to:
Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation
33 East Main Street, PO Box 1144
Torrington, CT 06790



Recipe Corner

by *Diana Moore*

Everything but the Lettuce Salad

Two cans of small black olives, drained
 One can of chickpeas, drained and rinsed
 Two pints of cherry or grape tomatoes, sliced in half
 About 10-12 ounces of fresh mozzarella, either the small pearls or a big ball cut up in small chunks
 1 can of whole baby corn, drained and cut into bite-size chunks
 1 English cucumber, sliced and quartered into thick bite-size pieces
 3 firm but ripe avocados, cut into bite-size chunks.

Toss gently together with homemade Italian dressing, using the Italian season packets and oil and vinegar!

Enjoy!!!!

(You can also add one pound of cooked pasta to make this a great pasta salad)

"I **love** this recipe!! I make it all the time. It looks great and is delicious. I am so glad Diana gave it to us!" *Beth Papermaster*



Lake Cleanup - Two Teen Volunteers' Perspective

by *P.J. and Michael Gauthier*

We have been doing lake cleanup for about four years now. We started doing lake cleanup because our mom runs around the lake and she notices there is a lot of garbage on the road and off into the woods. We thought it would be a good idea to help out and get involved with cleaning the lake, so we signed up for the cleanups.

Two places we find very messy are the ledges in second bay on the west side and the road behind Taylor Brook Park. The ledges have a lot of bottles and garbage in the cracks of the rocks. (We even heard there is someone living there!) Taylor Brook also has a lot of garbage around the sides of the roads. It looks like it is a dumping zone because we find tires, garbage bags, fast food containers, cups, etc. We even saw a couch and a game table there a couple of years ago. In other places around the lake, we usually pick up little alcohol bottles and plastic bags. For this last cleanup on April 28, we pulled a decomposing tube and rug out of the water - it was pretty disgusting and very difficult to pull out.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone else who helps at the cleanup. It's important for everyone pitch in to help keep our lake clean.



2019 PENGUIN PLUNGE!



Please Welcome Our New Neighbors!



The grand opening of The Marina at Highland Lake on May 24

4th Annual HLWA-Morsel Munk Photo Competition

The Highland Lake Watershed Association and Morsel Munk are thrilled to announce 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.

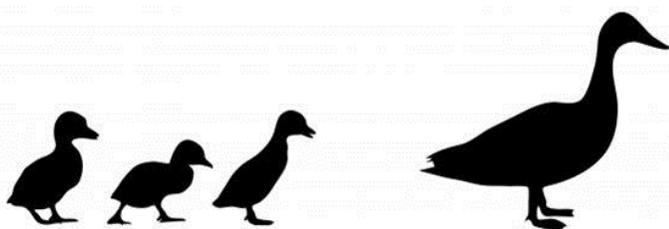
The deadline for submissions is midnight on Friday, August 23, 2019.

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



Update on Sucker Brook Dam Repair

by Beth Papermaster

You will remember that back in early October 2018, there was a catastrophic failure of the diversionary conduit at Sucker Brook Dam. A great deal of sediment was displaced as a result of this failure. HLWA, the Town of Winsted and State Representative Jay Case worked quickly to get the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on site to make the area safe and reduce further erosion. Over the course of the winter, we continued to work to ensure repairs would be made properly and as quickly as possible.

In mid-May 2019, DEEP awarded the project to a contractor, and we are awaiting funding. On May 21, at the invitation of Representative Case, HLWA Board member Willie Platt and I met with a delegation of DEEP, Town and State officials at the site. At the meeting, Betsey Wingfield, Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Quality, and her team made it clear this project is a high priority. However, as of publication time of this newsletter, State funding had yet to be secured.

We won't know until the work begins how much sediment from the failure ended up in the lake. The sediment may also have carried added nutrients into the lake. While DEEP is taking full responsibility for the repair of the dam, they indicated they are not taking responsibility for any negative impact on Highland Lake. We pushed Deputy Commissioner Wingfield on this issue because a state project failed, so they should handle the reparation. We did receive a commitment to have further conversation after it is determined how much sediment found its way into the lake.

Governor Lamont has placed the State on a "Debt Diet," canceling several months of Bond Commission Hearings. Representative Case is working with our State government to get the funding request before the Governor and obtain his support to put this before the State Bond Commission. I am hopeful that by the time you read this, funding will be secured and construction will have begun.

We want to thank Representative Case for making this project a priority and advocating on our behalf. We also want to thank Town Manager Bob Geiger, Mayor Candy Perez and Director of Public Works Jim Rollins for working with HLWA to protect Highland Lake. Please know your Town officials love Highland Lake and appreciate the importance of keeping the lake healthy, not only for the 450+ lake homeowners, but for every town resident. Highland Lake is a natural resource that all of us treasure and work hard to protect.

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(Remember to always check the website for any Lost & Found articles)

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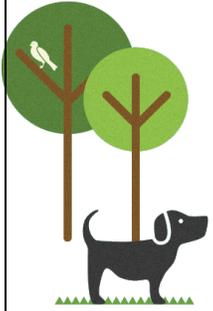
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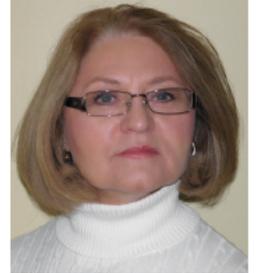


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