

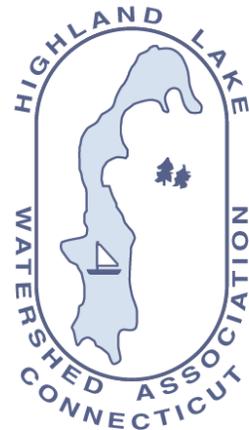
# Highland Lake Watershed Association



## ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 2020

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# President's Message

The past several months have changed the way most of us go about our daily lives. For me, along with the many challenges of limited contact with family and friends and the anxiety of going anywhere in public, there has been a bright light. Since mid-March my family and I have been spending more time at Highland Lake. Watching the transition from winter to spring and into summer, even seeing snow in May, has been a delight. It makes me appreciate the lake and the work the HLWA does even more.

While we may not see each other in person, the work of HLWA continues. Members of the HLWA Board of Directors spend hours every week year round, doing the important work to maintain HLWA and protect Highland Lake. Without our volunteer board members and other volunteers, HLWA would cease to function.

Let me give you some examples:

- \* HLWA monitors water quality and tracks water data results. This allows problems to be identified quickly and long-term trends to be tracked and analyzed by a limnologist. Typically volunteers take monthly water samples May through October, and Northeast Aquatic Resources (NEAR) takes samples in April and November. Due to concerns about COVID-19, HLWA hired NEAR to conduct the water sampling until such time when volunteers feel comfortable working in close proximity. This is an unexpected but important \$6,000 expense.
- \* Highland Lake has many varieties of native weeds, two varieties of invasive milfoil and one newly detected protected species of pond weed. For the past several years, an herbicide has been used to kill the invasive milfoil. NEAR conducted the pretreatment weed survey in May, and less than 1/4 acre of milfoil was discovered. This is significantly less than the 10 acres treated last year and the 80 acres treated the year before. We are investigating reasons for this, and NEAR will be conducting some further tests. It was decided, therefore, to pivot to hand-harvesting of the milfoil this year, a first for us. We are fortunate the Town of Winchester pays for weed treatment and lab analysis of the water. However, it is the HLWA Board that works with the Town to secure bids, award contracts, communicate with contractors to ensure the work is completed, as well as review reports and make recommendations. Without the HLWA Board as stewards, there wouldn't be any entity focused on these very important tasks.
- \* CT DEEP has certain requirements before any weed treatment. This year a mussel survey was required because there is a protected species of mussel in the lake. HLWA coordinates this survey to make sure it is done in a timely manner. Even the boat parade requires a permit from CT DEEP which HLWA applies for.
- \* HLWA stewards nearly six acres of donated land under our Legacy program. This forested and protected land helps to limit runoff into the lake which can introduce both harmful sediment and nutrients which feed aquatic plant life and harmful algae.

# President's Message

## (cont.)

- \* One of the biggest threats to the health of Highland Lake is runoff from your property and from the road. HLWA is exploring how we can play a role with the Town in creating and implementing a Storm Water Management plan. This would focus on the roads and the hundreds of storm drains around the lake. But you, as a property owner, can do your part to protect the lake from your roof and driveway runoff and other harmful activities near the water. Rain gardens, riparian gardens, terracing land as well as limiting impervious surfaces can all reduce the velocity of water runoff.
- \* The HLWA website and newsletter educate and inform the public about important issues related to lake stewardship, safe boating, lake history and issues of interest to the community.

We appreciate your membership, support and trust in HLWA. Thank you to those of you who generously donate above and beyond the \$50 membership dues. This year we need your support more than ever. Due to social distancing guidelines, our much enjoyed "Evening on Highland Lake" is cancelled. This event is more than just a great night on the water with friends. It is HLWA's big annual fundraiser. The loss of revenue from this event and the added expense of hiring NEAR to collect water data mean a \$6,000-\$10,000 loss to our annual budget. Please consider making a donation to HLWA. To show our appreciation, all donors of \$100 or more will be recognized in an upcoming newsletter. To donate, please send checks to HLWA, PO Box 1022, Winsted, CT 06098 or Venmo @highlandlakewatershedassociation. Your support is greatly appreciated. (Please let us know if you prefer your gift to be anonymous.)

If you have any questions or would like to know how you can help, please email me at [president@hlwa.org](mailto:president@hlwa.org).

Be well,

Beth Papermaster, President, HLWA

# Treasurer's Report

One of the most important roles of the Highland Lake Watershed Association is to oversee the finances of the organization which allows us to continue with our mission. This includes safeguarding funds and being good financial stewards on behalf of the membership. Serving on the Finance Committee this year were the Treasurer, two board members and one non-board member of HLWA.

We are pleased to report the finances of HLWA remain strong due to the contributions of our membership and the success of our past events. As you may already be aware, we switched in 2020 from a fiscal year ending June 30 to a calendar year for reporting purposes. The financials distributed show a comparison of calendar year 2018 to calendar year 2019. HLWA assets have grown from \$313K to \$318K in 2019 primarily due to contributions of funds. The income was lower by \$10K in 2019 primarily due to fewer donations (\$3K) and the removal expense of potentially dangerous dead ash trees (\$6K).

Our finances are recorded in professional accounting software on an HLWA-dedicated computer to keep financial records/transactions. Each month bank reconciliations are completed and financial reports are prepared for the review and acceptance of the board of directors and are reviewed annually. The HLWA Bylaws require a qualified non-Director to review the books and accounts of the Association at each fiscal yearend. This review was performed by a thorough overview of the financials as well as a detailed examination of an audit selection of receipts and expenses with supporting documentation, bank reconciliations and accountings records again this year. No discrepancies were identified.

Also new this past year was the participation in the Northwest CT Community Fund. The HLWA Finance Committee researched options for a prudent and responsible placement of the funds collected and, based on our findings, recommended to the HLWA Board of Directors they approve the submission of an application for membership and transfer of limited funds into a non-endowed account in the Fund. The primary benefits of establishing a fund with the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation are the flexibilities (and controls) that exist to protect the interests of our nonprofit while offering return and growth on our financial assets. We wish to convey the important message to our members that we have independent oversight for endowments, potentially attracting larger and planned gifts from donors such as cash as well as stock, jewelry, and other noncash donations. The economies of scale achieved by investment in the fund allow for a diverse investment portfolio with average returns of 5-7% annually and low investment fees. Although the fund is not without risk, over time we would expect to experience a return on investment, and best practices and prudent financial oversight includes seeking low-risk investment returns for long-term funds.

On behalf of the HLWA board of directors, I wish to thank each and every one of you, the members, for your consistent and dedicated financial support of our mission. We all love our lake and understand the importance of maintaining and improving its health and quality. This takes dedicated effort, hard work, precious time and, of course, financial resources. We are appreciative of your contributions.

Best,

Jill Ricci, Treasurer, HLWA

# Highland Lake Watershed Association

## Profit and Loss

### Previous Year Comparison

	<u>Jan - Dec 19</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 18</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Amazon Smile Program	24.74	22.18	2.56	11.5%
Donations	4,600.65	7,275.65	-2,675.00	-36.8%
Membership Services - Income	26,919.00	26,160.00	759.00	2.9%
Newsletter Advertisements	4,505.00	4,776.00	-271.00	-5.7%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>36,049.39</u>	<u>38,233.83</u>	<u>-2,184.44</u>	<u>-5.7%</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<u>36,049.39</u>	<u>38,233.83</u>	<u>-2,184.44</u>	<u>-5.7%</u>
<b>Expense</b>				
Charitable Contributions	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.0%
Communications/Education	4,731.88	3,587.09	1,144.79	31.9%
General and Administrative	3,059.92	6,179.00	-3,119.08	-50.5%
Legacy Program	8,312.30	1,002.12	7,310.18	729.5%
Membership Services - Expense	9,670.78	8,811.76	859.02	9.8%
Water Quality	5,191.29	2,620.00	2,571.29	98.1%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>31,466.17</u>	<u>22,699.97</u>	<u>8,766.20</u>	<u>38.6%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>4,583.22</u>	<u>15,533.86</u>	<u>-10,950.64</u>	<u>-70.5%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>4,583.22</u></u>	<u><u>15,533.86</u></u>	<u><u>-10,950.64</u></u>	<u><u>-70.5%</u></u>

# Highland Lake Watershed Association

## Balance Sheet

### Previous Year Comparison

	<u>Dec 31, 19</u>	<u>Dec 31, 18</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
<b>Checking/Savings</b>				
NW Community Bank	70,853.55	104,770.33	-33,916.78	-32.4%
NW CT Community Fund	43,500.00	5,000.00	38,500.00	770.0%
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>114,353.55</u>	<u>109,770.33</u>	<u>4,583.22</u>	<u>4.2%</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>114,353.55</u>	<u>109,770.33</u>	<u>4,583.22</u>	<u>4.2%</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Furniture and Equipment	917.28	917.28	0.00	0.0%
Land Holdings	203,810.00	201,850.00	1,960.00	1.0%
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>204,727.28</u>	<u>202,767.28</u>	<u>1,960.00</u>	<u>1.0%</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>319,080.83</b></u>	<u><b>312,537.61</b></u>	<u><b>6,543.22</b></u>	<u><b>2.1%</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable	428.85	428.85	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<u>428.85</u>	<u>428.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>428.85</u>	<u>428.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>428.85</u>	<u>428.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Equity</b>				
Opening Balance Equity	282,988.88	281,028.88	1,960.00	0.7%
Retained Earnings	36,059.61	28,471.91	7,587.70	26.7%
Net Income	-396.51	2,607.97	-3,004.48	-115.2%
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>318,651.98</u>	<u>312,108.76</u>	<u>6,543.22</u>	<u>2.1%</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>319,080.83</b></u>	<u><b>312,537.61</b></u>	<u><b>6,543.22</b></u>	<u><b>2.1%</b></u>

# Highland Lake Watershed Association Friend of the Lake Award



Patty and Donald Masucci

## Highland Lake Watershed Association 2020 Friend of the Lake Award

Presented to Donald and Patty Masucci,  
who have shown exceptional stewardship of  
Highland Lake in support of environmental issues



Longtime lake residents Pat and Donald Masucci spent many years working tirelessly to strengthen and enrich the Highland Lake community. At any lake or town event you would find Patty and Donald on site promoting and selling an array of Highland Lake merchandise. Patty curated a wonderful “store” of Highland Lake swag and Donald was always by her side doing the heavy lifting and showing his support.

Patty is one of the lake’s biggest cheerleaders. As a member of the HLWA’s Board of Directors from 1990 until 2017, Patty served as Chairperson of the Membership Committee. Under Patty’s direction, the HLWA Welcoming Committee visited all lake newcomers, bringing good cheer and special treats. As Social Activities Chair, Patty planned winter dances, lake cleanup lunches and summer picnics. She also ran Evening on Highland Lake, HLWA’s signature fundraising event, growing the event over the years to become the highlight of everyone’s summer. Donald was always ready to do what was needed from storing and moving boxes of HLWA merchandise, selling raffle tickets, putting up tents, handing out trash bags on cleanup day.

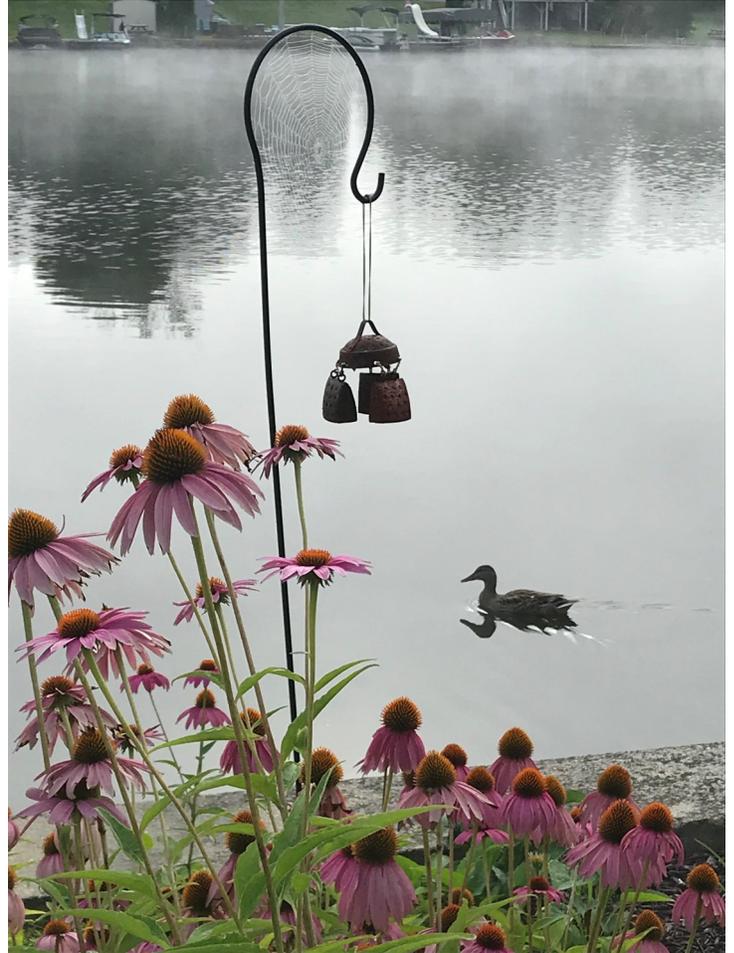
Patty and Donald are indeed a dynamic duo and our lake community is stronger and better thanks to their many years in service for us all. With deep respect and gratitude, it is our honor to bestow upon them the Friend of Highland Lake award.



# HLWA/Morsel Munk 2019 Photo Contest



1st Place - ***Flying Through Summer*** by Jennifer Speziale



Third Place - ***Serenity*** by Carol Zacchio



2nd Place - ***On the Rail*** by Gary Minetti

## Honorable Mention

*Top left - Amazing Sky by Georgi Andrews*

*Middle left - Moon on the Lake by Terry Platt*

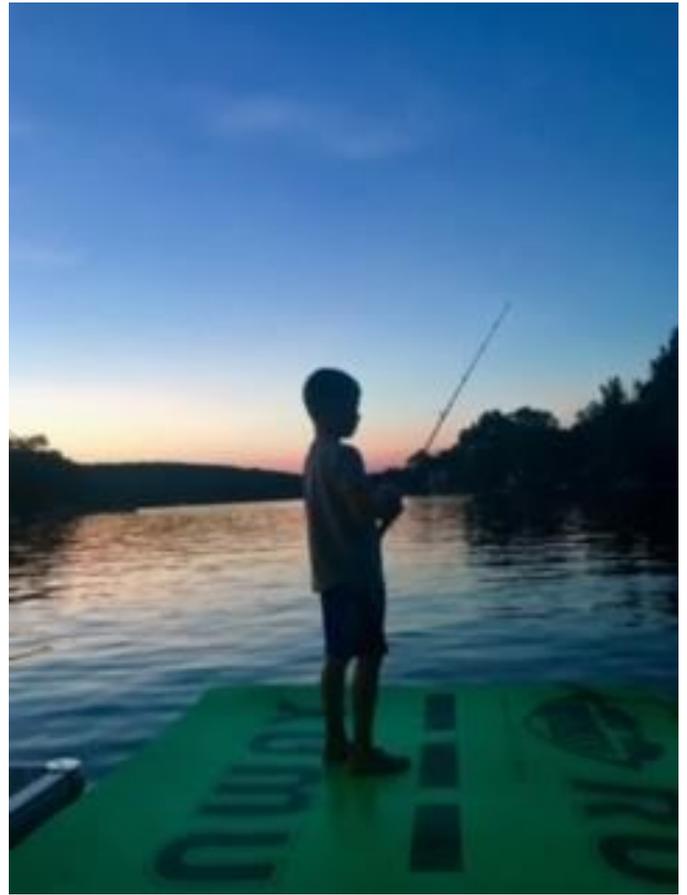
*Middle right - Freedom by Jim Welton*

*Bottom - Beauty After the Storm by Lisa Traub*





*Well Stocked, Catch and Release by David Preusse*



*Fishing at Sunset by Brooke Crossman*



*One Fish Two Eagles by Terry Platt*



*Early Morning Fall Fishing Georgi Andrews*



*Ride 'Em Cowboy by Gary Minetti*



*Duck Hunting by Michael Goncalves*



*Let the Games Begin by Nicole Wither*



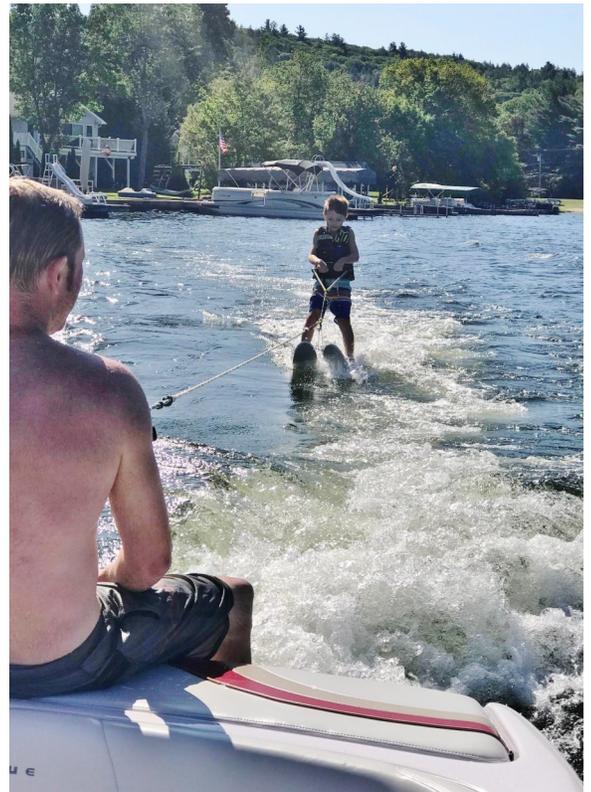
*Making Waves Georgi Andrews*



*Life on the New Lilypad 1 by Beth Ballantine*



*Lake Life by Jim and Eileen Pagano*



*Learning to Ski 1 by Georgi Andrews*



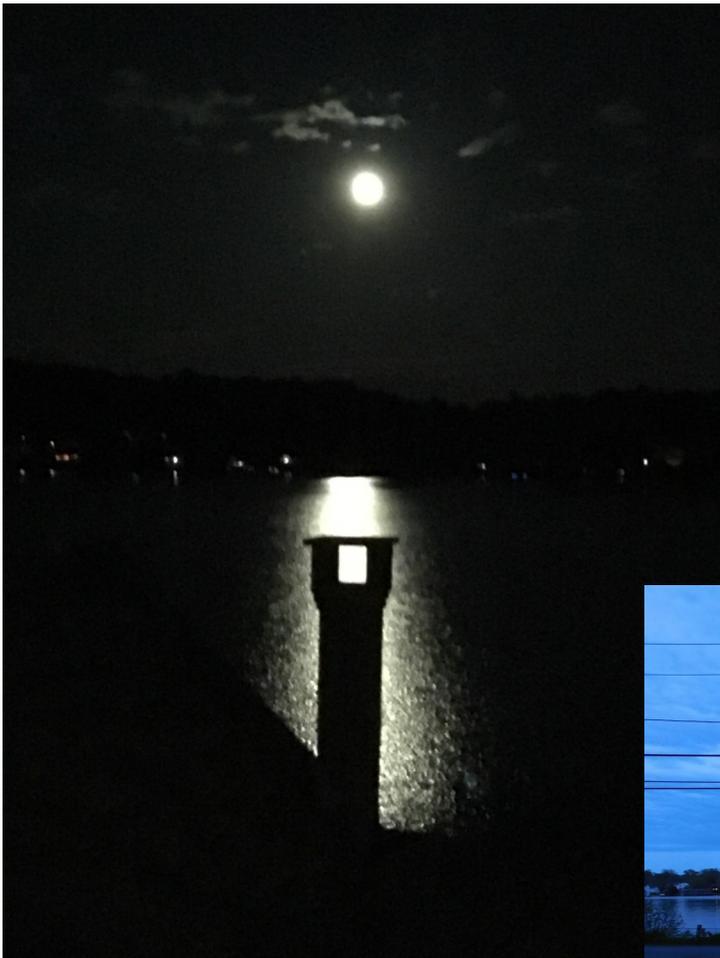
*Life on the New Lilypad 3 by Beth Ballantine*



*Lake Fun 2 by Georgi Andrews*



*Fun-Filled Summer Days by Jennifer Speziale*



*Moonshine by Jerry Traub*



*Chilly Lakelife Night  
by Georgi Andrews*



*Firepit by Terry Platt*



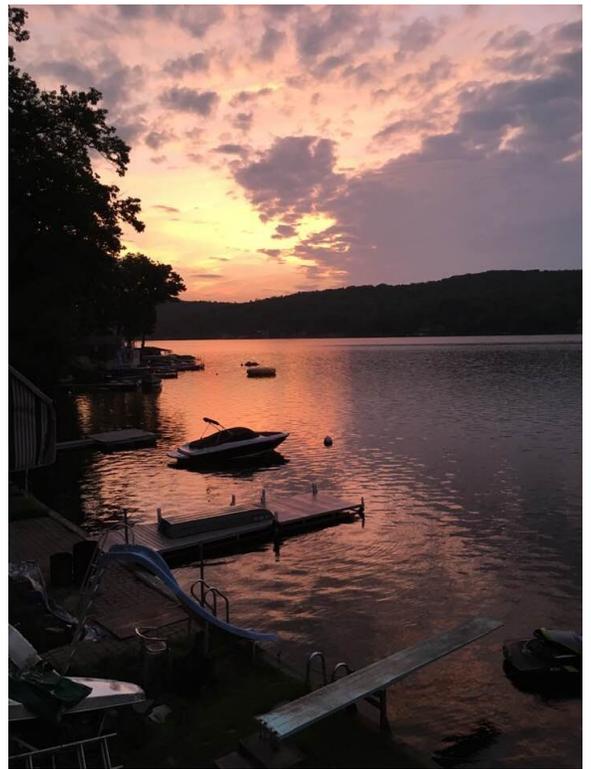
*Watchful Heron by Carol Zacchio*



*Lens Ball 2 by Ryan Pelligrinelli*



*Morning Sky 3 by Georgi Andrews*



*Good Morning by Lisa Traub*



*South Point Saturday 2 by Brian Ney*



*Pretty in Pink by Karen Jones*



*Lake Life View 2 by Georgi Andrews*



*Feels Like Home by Maria Miele*



*Heron on Shore in Fall by Terry Platt*



*Lake Life Fall by Maria Miele*



*Pink Sky by Shawn Quinn*



*Reflections by Bob Dombi*



*Bald Eagle by Gary Minetti*



*Furry Friend by Georgi Andrews*



*Heron Flying by Terry Platt*



*Wildlife by Georgi Andrews*



*Mama and 3 Cubs out for Walkabout on  
Carey's Point by Mark Murning*



*Geese and Icehouse by Terry Platt*



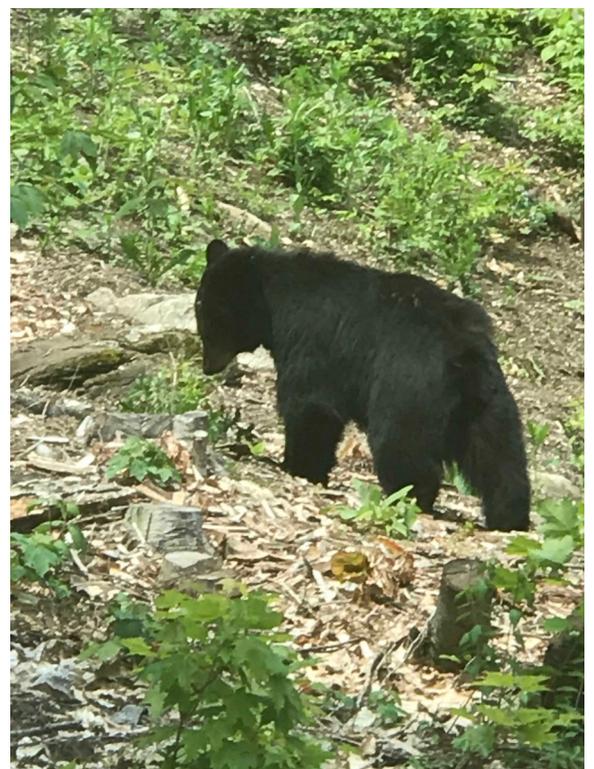
*Heron Hangout by Georgi Andrews*



*Dock Friend by Georgi Andrews*



*Autumn on the Lake by Jennifer Leach*



*Furry Friends 2 by Georgi Andrews*



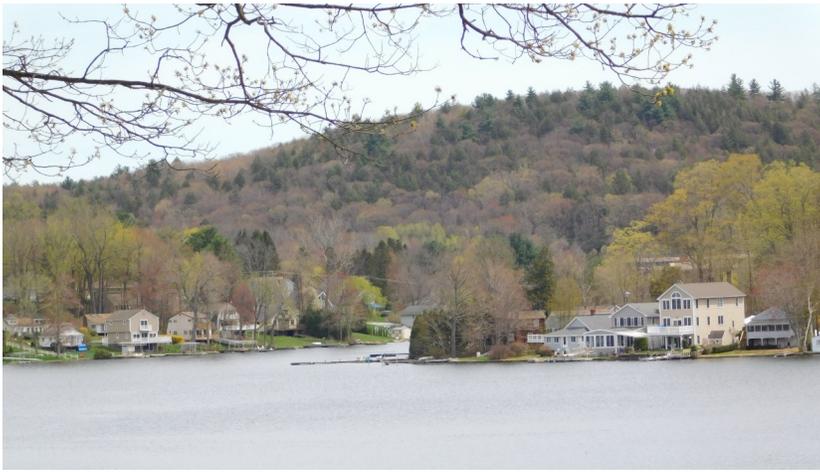
*The Beauty of Winter on the Lake by Candy Perez*



*Winter Fun by Georgi Andrews*



*On Frozen Pond by Kristen Preusse*



*Spring by Terry Platt*



*Waiting for the Sun by Carol Zacchio*



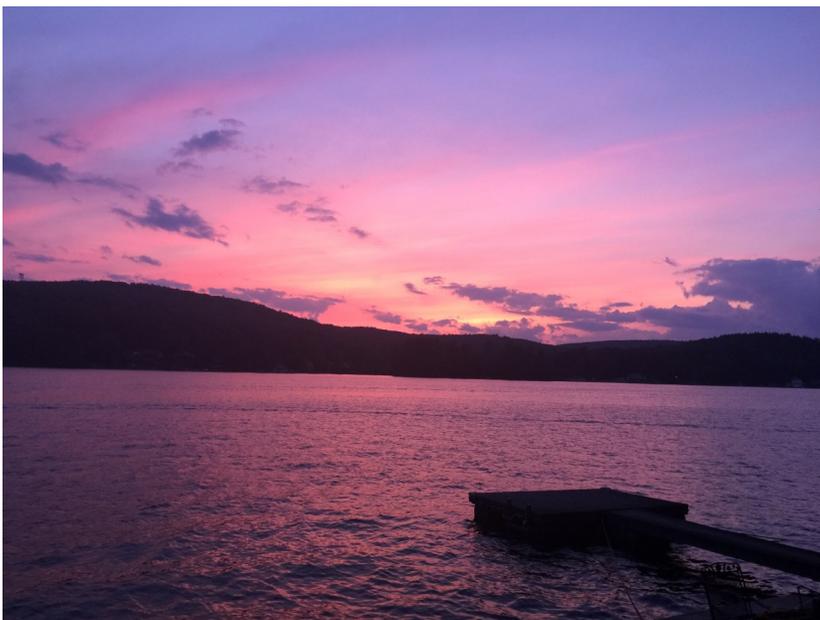
*Lake Living Bliss by David Preusse*



*Lens Ball 1 by Ryan Pelligrinelli*



*Leisure Time by Georgi Andrews*



*Third Bay Sunset by Jane Biondi*



*Dropping By by Kristen Preusse*



*Blast-Off by Karen Jones*



*The Point by Terry Platt*



*Leisure Time by Georgi Andrews*



*Last Ride by Jennifer Leach*