



# Highland Lake News

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

Summer

2021

## Protecting Lake Health with Riparian Buffers

by Cynthia Rabinowitz, Executive Director, Northwest Conservation District

Over the last 40 years, I've been called on periodically to help landowners restore land around lakes where clearing of trees has occurred, mainly to improve the view. I get it – I really do! Who wouldn't want to look at a beautiful water-view from a patio or deck? The problem is *aquatic habitats are fragile, precious and need the protection of vegetated riparian buffers*, especially buffers that included trees, to keep the waters clean and habitats intact. The good news is a beautiful landscape can be had while satisfying the need to protect our natural aquatic resources.

Many lakes in Connecticut are impaired or have lowered water quality. The causes of impairment are usually human impacts across diverse ecosystems connected by the water that drains through these systems. The waters of Connecticut all drain to Long Island Sound, which also has impairment issues.

One of the easiest ways to help protect water quality in lakes is maintaining a vegetated riparian buffer around the lakeshore. This simple action will have knock-on positive effects for lakes.

Here are just a few of the benefits:

*“ . . . aquatic habitats are fragile, precious and need the protection of vegetated riparian buffers ”*

- Filtration of stormwater runoff by plant roots that helps clean the nutrients and pollution in the runoff, keeping lake water cleaner and purer.
- Trees in the buffer provide shade over the edges of lakes, providing cooler water that favors certain species of aquatic animals.
- Woody debris provides important habitat for many creatures and creates traps for sediment.
- Riparian buffers slow the runoff of stormwater, allowing more water to penetrate the ground, contributing to groundwater reserves and slowing flooding.
- Vegetated buffers provide habitat for a vast array of animals, including birds, amphibians, mammals, insects, and microorganisms.
- Trees are excellent at sequestering carbon and reducing carbon emissions, offsetting emissions from human activities such as driving.
- Roots of trees “hold” on to the soil, stabilizing the banks of waterbodies and preventing slumping and instability.

Without a vegetated buffer, stormwater runoff directly enters lakes and other aquatic environments such as wetlands, streams, rivers, and lakes. Stormwater from residential properties, roads and driveways often carries pollutants from a variety of sources:

- Lawn fertilizers and lawn chemicals
- Household cleaning products, or car washing products
- Leakage of oil or other materials from vehicles, or equipment used for mowing, leaf blowing, outdoor house cleaning, etc.

*Check out our new advertisers on page 17 and all our other wonderful advertisers!*

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- Salt or sand used in road deicing
- Soil erosion, especially on steeper sites common around lakeshores, allows sediment to be washed into adjacent lakes. This problem ultimately contributes to reduction of oxygen availability in lakes and to climate change. Research has shown sediment entering lakes contributes to the establishment of aquatic invasive plant species.

Vegetated buffers reduce the need for mowing. They also reduce the opportunity for terrestrial invasive plant species to find a foothold to start growing and spreading.

We humans are part of the ecosystem, and it is important to balance the human desire to manipulate the landscape with the need to protect natural resources. Applying landscape design principles can help satisfy the desire for views and access to the water's edge, while protecting the ecosystem. Options to consider include opening narrow lanes or paths through existing riparian buffers; removing lower limbs of trees to open a sightline through the trees to a view beyond; and planting trees and shrubs to vegetate a denuded riparian buffer. Landscape design teaches framing a view is more visually effective than clearing it wide open.

*“ . . . it is important to balance the human desire to manipulate the landscape with the need to protect natural resources.”*

The natural beauty of trees and shrubs may be augmented by planting ferns and other herbaceous plants in the understory. Creating openings in woodland buffers for seating areas foster the enjoyment of the lake or wetland with minimal disturbance to the ecosystem.

The Northwest Conservation District is available to advise on “dual-use” approaches to lakeshore-property management. Contact us at [info@nwcd.org](mailto:info@nwcd.org) or call 860.626.7222 for more information.



## Spotlight on Volunteers – Robert Dombi

by Jill Ricci

It is said behind every successful organization, there is an extraordinary volunteer team. Well, that couldn't be truer for HLWA. There are so many of you who have contributed your time, financial support, skills and effort toward supporting our mission, and we thank you all! To recognize the appreciated individual contributions, we share a spotlight in each newsletter edition.

This edition's spotlight shines on Robert Dombi. Bob has resided in first bay with his lovely wife Claire for about a decade, where they host their children and grandchildren often. They love the specialness and tranquility of the lake, and Claire will often post the most beautiful pictures she has captured of wildlife, sunsets and lake life. Bob is dedicated to keeping the lake clean and shoreline intact so generations of folks will also be able to enjoy the wonderful family activities the lake offers and create special memories as his family has.

Bob's special contribution to all of us is in the realm of finance. He is a valuable member of the HLWA Board of Finance where he serves to advise and provide insight and consult. He began his career in public accounting and continued his career in commercial real estate and investment management. His extensive experience and knowledge of investments, accounting and finance make him perfectly poised to add significant value to our financial decisions and goals. In addition, he provides the invaluable service of reviewing our books and records for accuracy in accordance with our charter bylaws. Bob is thoughtful, perceptive, and astute, and his delightful personality combined with his intelligent finance skills result in his having provided meaningful and respected contributions over the years. Please give Bob a big shoutout of thanks when you see him next. We truly appreciate his superior finance skills and his gift of time and energy. Thanks Bob!



## HLWA Donates More than 300 Vintage Highland Lake Postcards to Beardsley Library

by Jeannette Brodeur

A box of more than 300 beautiful vintage Highland Lake postcards that sat tucked away for many years has been donated by the Highland Lake Watershed Association (HLWA) to the Beardsley Library.

The Beardsley Library was thrilled to receive the donation and is digitizing all of the hand-colored photo postcards, many of which date back more than 100 years ago, and will display them as part of its Genealogy & Local History Collection.

"We were very grateful to receive the donation of the postcards because we have few original images of Highland Lake in our collection - and it is such an outstanding local attraction," remarked Verna Gilson, research assistant of the Genealogy & Local History Room at the Beardsley Library.

The HLWA recently acquired the postcards from longtime Highland Lake resident Donald Masucci. His wife, Patricia, who died in November, had found many of the postcards at a garage sale. The collection of postcards sat unseen in a box inside a chest in their home for quite a long time, noted HLWA President Beth Papermaster. Patty Masucci had served as secretary for the HLWA for many years.

"It's truly amazing that back in the 1900s to the 1940s, this many postcards were produced, but it's because Highland Lake was really such a big tourist destination," Papermaster remarked.

The postcards depict such scenes as a couple riding on a horse-drawn carriage on the boulevard to views from the piazza of the Highland Lake Hotel in 1908. There are scenes from all areas of the lake over the years including First Bay, the Narrows, Carey's Point, Point Comfort, the Boat Landing, Wintergreen Island, Perch Rock Cove and Tablet Rock. Some depict "bathing" at the lake in 1910 as well as skaters on the lake and a group of people gathered at the Dancing Pavilion at Electric Park. There's even a 1914 postcard of cows at the lake.

"It's a great repository of history," Papermaster said of the collection. "You get to see the progression of the lake. It's important to share this with the public. These postcards are really historically fascinating."

"Another item that the HLWA donated to the library was a letter written on June 5, 1933 from someone who lived on Highland Lake to a woman named Mrs. Staff who was renting their cottage. The writer, who is unknown, says they installed a new dock and also painted the canoe a "pleasing green color" and cleaned out the rock garden "so that the grounds look more charming than ever." The letter goes on to discuss accepting their offer of \$20 per week to rent the cottage for the season. Papermaster noted what a bargain that was for a lake rental for the season, even back then.

Papermaster said the treasures the association has just donated to the library inspired the group to sift through their old files, which included several front sections from local newspapers during the 1955 flood, all of which were donated to the library.

"On behalf of the HLWA, President Beth Papermaster donated many "Who's Who & Where at Highland Lake" pamphlets to the library as well," Gilson said. "They list the names of Highland Lake residents (and the names of their cottages), dating back to the 1940s."

"This is valuable historical information that is worthy of preserving and sharing, so we are in the process of digitizing the postcards and HLWA's book 'Highland Lake Reflections' to our library's webpage," she said.

"As a lover of libraries, I think anything we can do as an association to promote the Beardsley Memorial Library and their collection of Highland Lake is wonderful," Papermaster said. "This collection is really special. It's truly a treasure."



*Driving on the Boulevard, Highland Lake, Winsted, Conn.*



*Near Cold Spring Highland Lake, Winsted, Conn.*



*Boat Landing, Highland Lake, Winsted, Conn.*

## Personal Watercraft/Jet Ski Usage

The Town of Winchester Marine Patrol members have expressed concern regarding some of the safety rules regarding personal watercraft/jet ski usage and manually propelled boating activities (i.e., rowing, stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), canoeing and kayaking, etc.) are not being followed on Highland Lake. The restrictions are excerpted below, and the particular problem items are bolded below.

Here is the link to CT DEEP's Boater's Guide for a complete guide to rules and resources: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/Boating/boating\\_guide/boaterguidepdf.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/Boating/boating_guide/boaterguidepdf.pdf).

Please be sure all individuals using your equipment are aware and have read of all rules and regulations.

### Personal Watercraft Restrictions

Personal Watercraft are subject to the following operation restrictions:

- No person shall operate a personal watercraft between sunset and sunrise or during periods of reduced visibility.
- **No passenger shall ride in front of the operator on a personal watercraft.**
- **No passenger shall ride upon a personal watercraft unless the passenger is able to securely hold onto the person in front of them or to the handholds on the personal watercraft and is able to keep both feet on the deck of the personal watercraft so as to maintain balance while the personal watercraft is in operation.**
- All persons aboard a personal watercraft shall wear a United States Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device, and no operator of a personal watercraft shall allow any person to be aboard who is not wearing such a device. Inflatable life jackets are not allowed.
- **No person shall operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of Slow No-Wake within 200 feet of shore or of a dock, pier, float or anchored or moored vessel, unless said personal watercraft is approaching such float, dock or shore for the purpose of enabling a person engaged in waterskiing to take off or land.**
- No person shall operate a personal watercraft towing a waterskier without satisfying the Safe Waterskiing Endorsement requirements, and no person shall waterski while being towed by a personal watercraft unless: (1) a capacity label affixed by the manufacturer indicates a carrying capacity of at least three persons: the operator, the observer and the skier; (2) minimum overall length of 119 inches, minimum overall width of 46 inches, minimum horizontal seat length of 39 inches [at least 13 inches additional seat length per person for greater than three person capacity]; (3) handholds at or near the rear of the seat suitable for use by a rearward-facing observer; and (4) an observer age 12 or older facing the skier at all times. The boat operator, observer and waterskier must obey all other waterski rules.



- No person operating a personal watercraft shall cross or jump the wake of another vessel when within 100 feet of the vessel creating such wake, in such a manner that the hull of the personal watercraft jumping the wake completely leaves the water.
- A "shut-off lanyard," if so equipped, must be attached to the operator, his clothing, or his personal flotation device in a manner which will shut off the engine in the event the operator is ejected from the personal watercraft while under way.

### Important Information Before Paddling Out

Manually propelled boating activities are rapidly evolving. It seems new styles of these boats and ways to enjoy them are appearing nearly every day. Boats such as pedal-driven kayaks and inflatable stand-up paddleboards are attracting many new boaters and opening up new waters for many. Although these boats are attracting attention, traditional canoeing and kayaking activities are also gaining in popularity.

Unfortunately, the increase in number of manually propelled boaters has also increased the number of paddling-related injuries and deaths. No formal education is required to use a manually propelled boat in Connecticut. However, there is legally required gear you must have on your vessel and recommended gear and tips that will help keep your day on the water safe, more comfortable and fun from the start.

### Regulations

**Wear a Life Jacket!** The majority of paddlers who have died in Connecticut were *not* wearing a life jacket. Sadly, if they had been, the outcome of these accidents could have been much different. **Connecticut law requires there be a properly fitting life jacket for everyone onboard a manually propelled vessel at all times.** It also requires all children less than thirteen years of age at any time during the year, and all adults between October 1 and May 31, wear a properly fitting life jacket while onboard a manually propelled vessel.

**Note:** Stand-up paddleboards are considered vessels (boats) by the U.S. Coast Guard unless they are being used in a surf zone or designated swim area. Anyone who is using a stand-up paddleboard is required to abide by all boating laws.

**Sound-producing device:** The sound of a whistle, horn, or other device will travel farther than your voice and attract attention. **Connecticut and federal laws require a sound-producing device onboard all vessels.**

**Lights:** Anytime between sunset and sunrise or during daylight periods of reduced visibility, lights are required on any paddlecraft. Lights may be in the form of anchor lights, bright white lights, or a VDS type lights. Paddling at these times can pose enhanced risk and is not recommended.

See CT DEEP Boater's Guide for more information regarding Paddling Awareness:

[https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/Boating/boating\\_guide/part8pdf.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/Boating/boating_guide/part8pdf.pdf)

## A Poem for Gil by Jack Sheedy

Jack Sheedy is a local writer. When he was younger, he spent a number of hours at the lake enjoying a swim. This poem is written for his friend Gil who drowned while swimming with him across the lake.

Jack is the author of "Sting of the Heat Bug," "Magical Acts in Two Suitcases" and "It Bears Repeating: Twice-Told Tales of John P. Sheedy." He is a feature writer, hard news reporter, essayist and playwright. His honors include awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and the New England Newspaper and Press Association; in 2000, his play "Guardrail Nikes," was a winner in the Connecticut One-Act Play Festival competition. His articles have appeared in numerous regional and state publications and have been syndicated on Catholic News Service. Sheedy is an award-winning correspondent for the Catholic Transcript, the magazine of the Archdiocese of Hartford. He lives in northwestern Connecticut.

### Highland Lake, Winsted, CT *for Gil*

This is where I lost you.  
Here, at this boat launch.  
Each anniversary I ponder  
How I could have brought you to the surface sooner,  
held your wrist tighter so you could not slip  
forever from me.

Today, geese waddle along the shore,  
ducks quack and glide on calm water  
over the spot where you vanished.

Now an Air Nautique speedboat  
noses into a trailer on the ramp,  
pilot securing it to a chain by the winch  
and a truck pulls it, dripping, from the lake.  
How easy that was.

## Taken from Who's Who and Where At Highland Lake, 1953 Edition

Residents of this fair city are becoming more conscious each day of the beautiful landmark they have at their disposal in the waters of Highland Lake. It has only been during the past several years that the existence of the lake has been appreciated. Since that time local officials have done their utmost to improve its facilities and make it into the summer resort that it really is.

As each year passes, more work is taking place on Town-owned property in an effort to attract even larger numbers of persons to its beautiful shores.

Those who have resided in Winsted for 50 years or so have seen startling improvement in its facilities. Since the first cottage was built around its shores, the number has increased to an estimated figure of more than 500 today.

Many years ago the Highland Lake Hotel prospered as the result of its many summer visitors, but since then the structure burned to the ground and it has never been rebuilt. The Highland Lake pavilion was once the scene of varied activities as a trolley line that ran to the location from a point halfway between Winsted and Torrington.

Due to the increasing number of cottages at the lake, fishing went on the downgrade during the past several years. However, the Northwestern Connecticut Sportsmen's association, a most active group of local men, dedicated to do something to remedy the condition. The result of their work was evidenced more this spring than ever before when untold numbers of black bass were seen spawning along the shores of the three bays.

In 1952 the association acquired between 2,000 and 3,000 large mouth bass which were dumped into the lake along with some 3,000 young perch. The association is now engaged in raising 1,000 small mouth bass which are expected to be dumped into the waters at a later date. Summer residents have had, and will continue to have, many fine hours of relaxation as the result of the efforts of the local sportsmen's group.

Members of the Northeastern Connecticut Sportsmen's association have taken it upon themselves to keep a close watch over fish that are taken from the lake, with the idea that conditions can be maintained to insure excellent fishing at all times. As this work is being done entirely voluntarily, these Winsted men deserve much credit for their untiring efforts, for without them the lake would probably be fished dry within a short period of time.

Officials of Winsted are constantly striving to improve conditions at the lake to make the summer stay of vacationists that much pleasanter. Apparently, from the number of persons pouring into Winsted during this season, their efforts are not in vain.

The water level has remained high all through the spring, due to heavy rains, giving reason to believe that it will remain in a similar state throughout the summer months.

## Algae Straw

by Lynn Carter, Water Quality Committee

This summer, at the suggestion of Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR), our HLWA volunteer water collectors began collecting samples of phytoplankton and zooplankton. While on the lake conducting the annual pretreatment weed survey, Hilary, from NEAR, trained Beth Papermaster and Lynn Carter on how to collect these important samples. Each month we will collect two additional samples each from 1st and 2nd bays.

The Algae Straw is a large plastic tube used to measure the free floating plants known as phytoplankton. The phytoplankton, through photosynthesis, produce oxygen and other nutrients for the other organisms in the lake.

The Zooplankton Net is used to capture and measure the Zooplankton which are the tiny animals that feed on the phytoplankton and filter the water column. The Zooplankton determine the type of fish inhabiting the lake.

This trophic level (position in food chain) maintains the health, balance and water clarity of the lake ecosystem.

HLWA invested in this new sampling equipment to help keep our commitment to monitoring and protecting the lake.

Hilary from NEAR (Northeast Aquatic Research Center) is shown demonstrating the Zooplankton Net and the Algae Straw.



# 2021 HLWA Spring Cleanup!

Our thanks to the many volunteers who came out on this beautiful spring day to clean out the litter from the roadside and lakeside!



## The Way We Were in the 1940s

Amelia Wilber gave the Historical Society a promotional booklet about Winsted that, although not dated, seems to be from 1941 or 1942. It makes for fascinating reading for those of us who remember that time. It's aimed at tourists and vacationers in general and compiled by the editorial staff of the Winsted Evening Citizen.

*We all like to make comparisons between what we are today and what we were "back then," and the first category is in communications. Back in those pre-WWII days we were proud there was prompt service in the dispatching of a telegram, cablegram or radiogram through the Western Union Telegraph Co. For a trip back to the city, a timetable will disclose when the next train leaves on the New Haven Railroad. Several bus lines also served the region.*

*The town boasted having two national banks and two savings banks as well as a new federal building and Post Office. There is a full-page ad for both the Winsted Savings Bank and the Mechanics Savings Bank (with a parenthetical saying "the bank near the park"). The Hurlbut National Bank has a smaller ad stating, "Capital \$205,000 Surplus \$205,000." The First National Bank had a still smaller ad of four lines with the statement, "A good bank to be with."*

*Highland Lake was, of course, the crown jewel in their recreation department, and in the text describing it they say the following: "Nowhere in New England is boating pursued on a larger comparative scale. The ample aquatic facilities include good diving boards of several heights, water chutes and other such fun contraptions. Gala water carnivals are annual fixtures."*

*"Length-of-the-lake swims are frequently essayed by crack marathoners. The current record for the course, which approximates three miles, is a flat 59 minutes, set in 1939 by Naugatuck's Alex Sullivan. For many years the mark was held by the outstanding movie actor, Leo Carillo, who churned over the route in fast time when here for a vaudeville appearance back in the long ago.*

*"There are both dancing and roller skating to be enjoyed at Highland Lake every season, and the members of the younger set patronize these enterprises liberally. The revival of the old-time recreation of roller skating has flourished here in no uncertain manner in recent years, particularly so as many of the adult visitors use this medium to obtain a beneficial exercise."*

*There is an ad reading: "When in Winsted be sure to visit Highland Lake Park. Supervised roller skating on the finest dance floor in the state, with special classes for beginners, whether children or adults. We also have the finest beach for swimming at the lake with a float, diving tower and water chute at your disposal. Soft drinks, candy, light refreshments are available. Located on Third Bay - Wakefield Boulevard."*

*The pleasures of fishing on the various streams and lakes in the immediate vicinity are extolled. Hunting, including coon and foxhunters, they say had many followers in the area.*

*Some ads read: "Four and five room cottages to rent by week, month or season, situated on Third Bay, Highland Lake, call telephone 84." "Royal Scarlet Food Store featuring free delivery and low prices. Located in the Hotel Winchester Building."*

*Reuben Topf of 508 Main St. advertised a full line of men, women and children's clothing as well as a large assortment of house furnishings. "Our motto: Big sales - small profits."*

*There is a photo of the Colebrook River Ski Jump accompanied by text that reads: "Connecticut's largest ski tow, the 'Silver Streak,' is located here, as is the Winsted Ski Jump, one of the greatest such slides in the world. (No mention of Colebrook!) The ski tow has a 1,400-foot run and features both advanced and beginner's slopes. The perilous ski hill was erected in 1934 and drew an estimated 20,000 fans to the inaugural tourney, causing the biggest traffic jam in the state's history. Anton Lekang, former national amateur champion, holds the hill record of 230 feet. A junior hill built by the North End Amateur Ski Club is within the limits of the city proper and a wide variety of cross-country trails, downhill runs and practice slopes are scrupulously cared for by both state and private interests.*

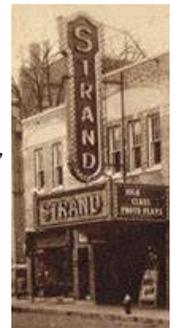
*"Among Winsted's important enterprises is a modern theater, the Roger William Strand, which installed in 1940 the first complete theater air-conditioning system in Litchfield County. The management presents a double-feature program, which is changed three times weekly with a set policy of showing the major attraction starting at or shortly after 8:30 each evening."*

*Other advertisers are: The Standard Cycle and Auto Supply Co., Morris Dolinsky, proprietor; Francis Bros. Meat Market "Open Day and Night," tel. 537; J.C. Burwell, (then in their seventieth year); Daniel's Curtain and Decorating Shop at 420 Main St.; Robert Morgan, Contractor and Builder; The Amoco Service Station, operated by Peter L. Maloney at 787 Main St.; The Tiffany and Pickett Co. "All kinds of lumber, mason and building materials, coal and coke."*

*The Lingerie Shop, 619 Main St., owned by Miss. Louise L. Collins; The Winchester - a friendly hotel. James R. Bailey, Landlord. Featuring the new men's bar; Barreuther Bros., Chevrolet sales and service, 7 - 11 Lake St.; Smith's - a complete line of men's clothing, shoes and furnishings, 404 Main St.*

*The Economy Market, 607 Main St. "We maintain free delivery service with two daily deliveries to Colebrook and vicinity."; J.J. Newberry's 5-10-25 cent store; The Boston Store, owned by J.P. Davidson & Son; King Bake Shop, Walter and Paul King; Hutton Brothers Plumbing, 9 Union St. (I would like to add here that the Hutton Bros. had come to this country from Scotland, where all hot and cold water fixtures are reversed from those in America, and as they never changed their ways, I wouldn't be surprised if there are still a few of the Hutton Brothers versions scattered about the region.)*

*The Park Hotel - Rooms from \$1.00; with private bath, from \$2.00. A. Bonadies, Prop.*



*"Supervised playgrounds enable the younger folk to pass their idle hours in sunshine and safety. There are two such projects - Rowley St. playgrounds in the east end and the Fourth School playgrounds in the west end. Both operate over an approximate ten-week period.*

*"Numerous summer camps for boys and girls flourish nearby, namely Camp Berkshire, Camp Delaware, Camp Neewah, Camp Pioneer, Camp Sequassen, Camp Wabigoon, Camp Wahanda and Camp Workoeman."*

*Much was said about the medical facilities available to the entire area with much justifiable praise to the Litchfield County Hospital.*

*"Fraternal activities are carried out on a large scale, with the groups including the Winsted Club, Elks, Eagles, Knights of Columbus, Italian-American lodges, Red Men, Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Masons, Winsted Women's Club and others.*

*"Visitors enjoy hiking through the thousands of acres of woodlands ideal for such a purpose. Popular destinations of the various walkers are Jumbo Rock, a massive boulder perched near the edge of a sheer cliff on First Mountain, so called, and Devil's Jump-Off, another sharp cliff."*

*The churches mentioned are First and Second Congregational, First Baptist, Methodist, St. James Episcopal, Beth Israel Synagogue, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic and A.M.E. Zion.*

*The members of the Board of Selectmen at the time of this publication were: Robert E. Maher, mayor; Joseph W. Darcey; W. James Walker; Theron N. Bronson and George L. Benedict, Sr.*

*Winsted was justifiably proud of their fire dept. The text points out few towns the size of Winsted receive the caliber of fire protection the Laurel City boasts. Supt. Donald McPherson and his 130 fellow firemen worked from four fire stations that housed a pumper having a 100-gallon booster tank and a pumper of 200-gallon capacity that responded to chimney fires and other small blazes. (Today's pumpers have 1,000-gallon capacity.)*

*Perhaps the greatest change between sixty some-odd years ago and today can be seen in what they referred to as their "typical industries." Here is their paragraph on the subject:*

*"Typical of New England cities of this size, Winsted has its share of industries, and manufactured goods bearing a local trademark are shipped to all points of the globe. Gilbert clocks, woolen products of the Winsted Hosiery Co. and the New England Knitting Co., electrical appliances made by the Fitzgerald Manufacturing Co., Jewell Manufacturing Co.'s wood articles, scythes, tools and similar implements turned out at the Winsted Manufacturing Co., and Winsted Edge Tool Works, the Mason Silk Co.'s thread, wire fashioned by the Sweet Wire Corp., Dano Electric and Hudson Wire concerns, the products of Union Pin and American Knife companies and name tapes of the Sterling Name Tape Co. are noted commodities."*

*Among the institutions mentioned as giving a sense of uniqueness were the Laurel Festival, the Winchester Historical Society and the Little Red Schoolhouse.*

*Perpetuating the remembrance of the early educational era is the Little Red Schoolhouse, typical of those quaint buildings set in a scene of matchless rustic beauty and which are fast disappearing from the hilly New England terrain where they have long been a familiar sight.*



*This shrine where our forefathers studied their three R's is located on the Platt Hill-Winchester Road at the fork branching off toward Highland Lake and was built in 1815. The school today almost exactly resembles the original model.*

*The pitched roof, covered with hand-fashioned, rived shingles, is a throwback to the olden days. Desks, books and other mementoes of an earlier period are on display and in addition to an increasing number of exhibits each year.*

*The school doors now swing open to the general public only once a year when the Little Red Schoolhouse Association holds its annual conclave on the third Sunday in June. Alumni, erstwhile teachers and friends from far and near congregate in a pleasant assemblage. The day's celebration opens with a special service in the Winchester Congregational Church in the morning, following which the group adjourns to the schoolhouse for a basket lunch, business meeting and an hour devoted to reminiscences.*

*The Little Red Schoolhouse Association with its yearly reunion is indeed one of the most unique organizations in the country.*

*Here are some additional advertisers not mentioned previously:*

*"Ralph R. Meggison, Smith Hill, phones 1302 and 524. Contractor and Builder, tile bathrooms and tile kitchens a specialty."*

*"Seery's Atlantic Station, next to the Park Hotel. Open 24 hours a day. Tel. 500."*

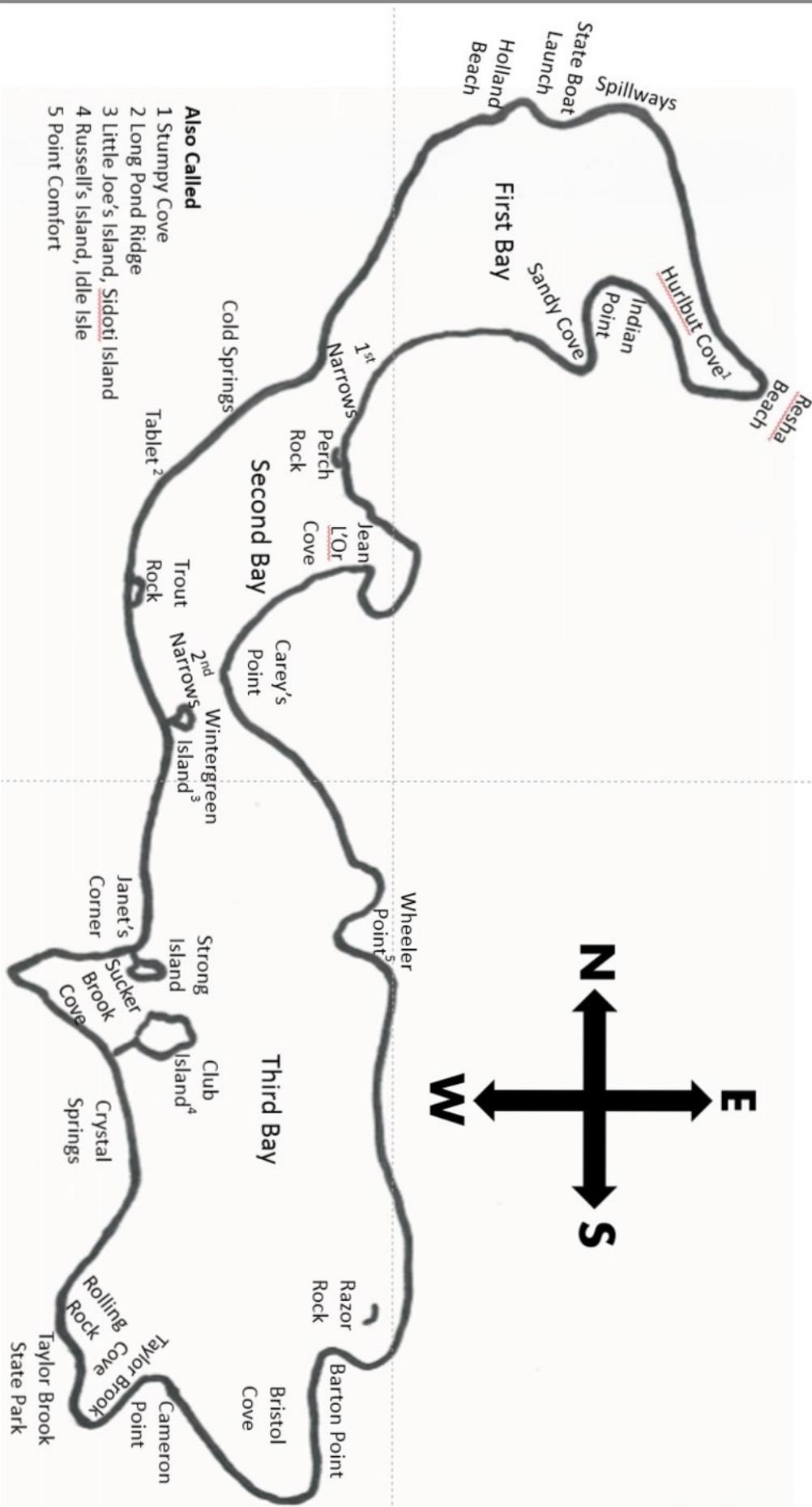
*"The Clinton Studio and Camera Shop. Authorized dealer for Eastman Kodak, Bell & Howell, Agfa-Ansco and Keystone. Clinton Ford, Prop."*

*Gladys Ford, Clint's wife, many of you will remember as one of those tireless workers for the Red Cross who somehow got us through those terrible weeks following the Flood of 1955. She was one of the kindest women I ever knew.*

*"Candies that are pure and fresh - salted nuts; we roast and sell them." Atkins Kandy Kitchen, originator of the world-famous Christmas Ribbon Candy. 560 Main St. Established 1887.*

*"Maden & Kelley Garage - Pontiac sales and service, 337 Main St." I remember the garage simply as Maden's Garage, and it was built spanning Mad River. You could drive in off Main St. and exit on Willow St. just west of the Case Ave. Bridge. The flood of '55 carried off all the middle of this building.*

*We'll bring this reminiscence to a close at this point, but I must say the most momentous change from then until now is the virtual extinction of every single one of the manufacturing plants that had been the lifeblood of the community.*



What's in a name? So the saying goes,  
 Who is this Stumpy? He has a cove?  
 If ever you've wondered of a narrow or park,  
 Take a look see, it might have a mark  
 On this map here with lots of the names  
 To take along on a ride or make it a game!  
 Have copies for all, drift for a while  
 Find Comfort, Corner, Beach, Rock & Isle  
 Maybe make a collage with the photos you snap  
 Add to a wall art along with this map  
 Keep us abreast of your finds and your fun  
 Update us too if you find other ones!

## HLWA Installs New Signs at Boat Launch

by Beth Papermaster

In the last issue of the Highland Lake News, I wrote about the survey HLWA conducted last summer. In the survey, many of our members expressed concern that boaters may be unaware of boating regulations and, in particular, the regulations that are specific to Highland Lake.

A few of the comments:

*“Rules are not followed because too many boats come in at the launch and they don’t know the rules of the lake.”*

*“It is important that renters and day boaters know the rules and regulations of the lake. It seems that more people are not following the 5:00 Sunday quiet time rule. There are a number of jet skis who come very close to boats.”*

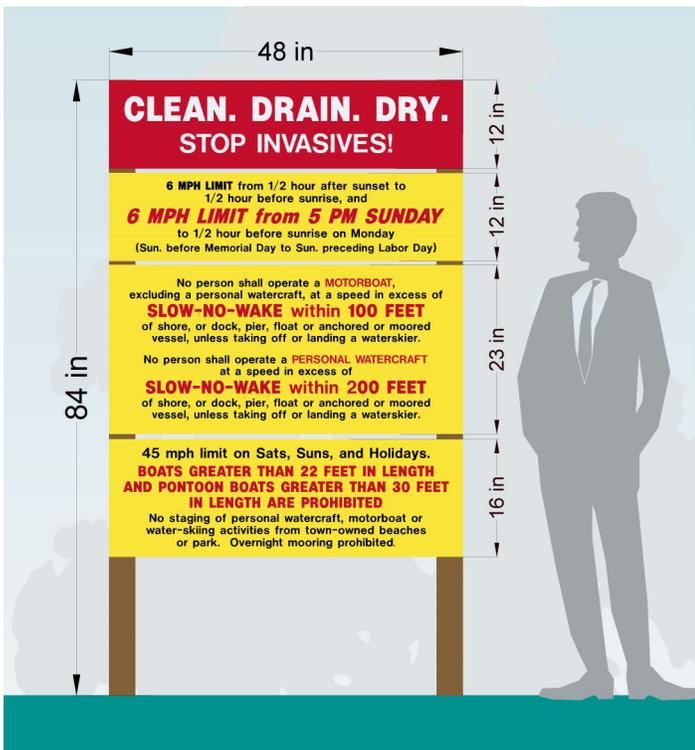
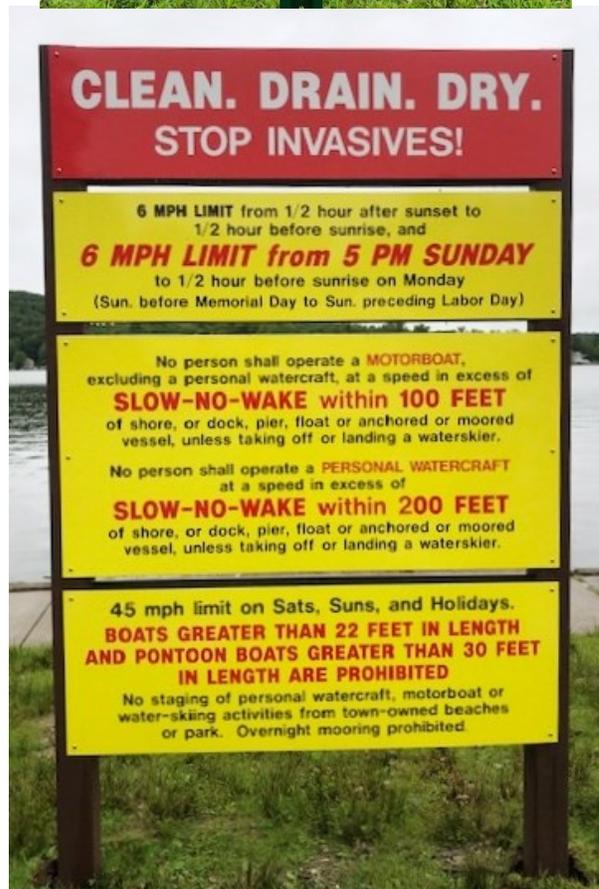
*“The 5 pm Sunday no-wake rule is increasingly trampled. I’m not sure if it’s due to ignorance or indifference, but many of the culprits appear to be boaters who launch at the public ramp. At minimum, there should be a prominent sign at the ramp advising boaters of the rule, and strict enforcement.”*

*“Laws and rules need to be posted and enforced, especially at boat launch.”*

We listened to you and took action. I am very pleased to present to you pictures of the mockup of the larger sign and of the two signs that are in place at the boat launch. We worked closely with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) who required the wording match the regulations exactly and also determined the location of the signs at the boat launch. This larger sign is double sided and in a very visible location.

We made the signs very colorful and easy to read. We are hopeful boaters will read the signs and take the information seriously and help keep boating on Highland Lake safe. HLWA paid for the fabrication and installation of the signs.

Thank you to CT DEEP for collaborating on the signs. Thank you, to you, our members and supporters. Your membership dues and donations make important projects like this possible.



## Membership Committee

Annual Membership in HLWA begins January 1 and ends December 31. Please consider joining or renewing your membership for 2021. Just complete the application below or on our website.

If you already renewed your membership this year – *thank you!*

We have many new residents in the Highland Lake watershed, and 27 of them joined HLWA for the first time – *thank you!*

If you made an additional donation – *thank you!*

Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Your membership and additional donation support the important work of protecting our beautiful lake.

Donations of \$100 or more, in addition to your \$50 dues, will be recognized in a future issue of the Highland Lake News. Dues and donations to HLWA qualify for IRS consideration as a contribution to a charitable organization and may be tax deductible.

### Annual Membership Application

**Annual Membership Dues** \$ 50 Jan. 1 - Dec. 31

**Additional Donations:**

\$25    \$100    \$150    \$200

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Surprise Us!**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

My employer will match my gift

Please make checks payable to: **Highland Lake Watershed Association (HLWA)** or

**Venmo us:** @HighlandLakeWatershedAssociation

**Mail application to:** HLWA, P.O. Box 1022, Winsted, CT 06098-1022

Donations of \$100 or more, in addition to your \$50 dues, will be listed in an issue of the Highland Lake News.

I/We would like to be listed as \_\_\_\_\_, or  remain anonymous

### Membership Information

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lake Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address has changed

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want the summer newsletter mailed to your lake address?  Yes  No

**Preferred Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteers are the backbone of HLWA. *We need you!*

Yes I want to volunteer.  Please have someone contact me - (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Become an HLWA Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome new residents	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup campaigns
--	--	--

<input type="checkbox"/> Steward HLWA-owned land	<input type="checkbox"/> Write a newsletter article	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan social activities
--	---	---

**Thank you to Little Red Barn** for hosting the 2021 Annual Meeting. We thought you would enjoy this poem, written a few years ago by Beerman, a.k.a. Nils Johnson. Visit [www.lrbbrewers.com](http://www.lrbbrewers.com).

## Brew Street Blues

I was sitting at my desk one Monday,  
I knew this would not be a fun day.  
How can I make my dreams come true?  
Just want to brew craft beer for all of you.

First step to make the dream come true  
Is to Brew Brew Brew.  
Time to fine tune my craft  
By making you a fine, tall draft.

Oh, to make my desk become a cask,  
Is this really too much to ask?  
Hops, barley, and wort  
Would become my new TPS reports.

As I sit and dream  
I need a scheme . . .  
Got to find a way  
To take these office blues away.

To be a brewer, I would become a doer.  
I shall proclaim, with no shame,  
I BREW CRAFT BEER my dear,  
That is my game!

To hear the crack of the grains, the smell of the hops.  
Shall I brew a porter, stout, or ale?  
I would do it all without fail.  
Oh please tell me this tale  
Will end with me achieving my Brewery Holy Grail!

Porters, Ales, Lagers,  
Bitters, Wheats, Stouts . . .  
That is what it's all about.  
ABV, IBU, AAU,  
All I want to do is calculate you.

Oh Lord, if this is meant to be,  
Could you please advise me?  
Is there hope that little ol' me  
Will someday be as happy as yeast  
Eating its sugary feast?



All I want to do  
Is brew craft beer for all of you . . .  
Share a passion for suds  
With all of my buds.

I sit at my desk dreaming of brews  
Until my boss shouts my TPS report is past due.  
Reality becomes a must,  
Oh, I wish it were "Brewery or Bust!"

I yearn to run away  
And return to the place where brewery dreams linger.  
Return to that dream that is a true humdinger.  
It's all about leaving the staples, paperclips, and reports behind  
with a flick of a finger.

I shall work toward the dream of a little place we'll call the LRB . . .  
I could be brewing up good times with all of thee.  
Friends, family, and beer,  
We would do nothing but cheer!

If my dream of brewing for you  
Does not come true,  
There's just one thing left for me to do . . .  
Walk down to the river and sing  
The Brew Street Blues.

Until we meet again dear readers . . .

Cheers!  
Beerman



*Thank you to our hard-working volunteers, Kim Marchand, Willie Platt and Tony Zacchio, for reinstalling the newly repaired welcome sign.*

## Annual Meeting 2021 - Your Lake Needs You

by Beth Papermaster

*(Annual Meeting Remarks edited for publication)*

It was wonderful being at the Little Red Barn with more than 80 HLWA members, live and in person, for our 2021 Annual Meeting. Thank you for coming out to join us. Thank you also, to Nils Johnson, Matt Day and Nathan Day for hosting us.

The past 16 months were extremely challenging for all of us in so many different ways. I am an optimist by nature and tend to see the positive sides of things, even in a global pandemic. My husband, Dan, and I were fortunate to be able to move to the lake during COVID and have our adult children with us for many months. Having them home was a bonus and time I treasured. And every day I was able to look out my window and see our beautiful lake in all of its glory and appreciate it more than ever.

The changes on Highland Lake over the past year plus have been incredible. Turnover in homes, new construction, major renovations, new boats, new visitors to the lake. It is great to see so many people discover our lake and appreciate what all of us have known for years - Highland Lake is clean, beautiful, and the perfect place to be with family and friends.

Since we last met in person in 2019, the HLWA board has been very busy.

Thank you to our hardworking, wonderful board members: Carol Zacchio, Jill Ricci, Willie Platt, Evan MacDermott, Stuart Yaffee, Sam Sciacca and our two newest board members, Jeanne Marchand and Lynn Carter. And welcome to our newly elected board member Candy Perez.

It is very important that all of you, our valued members, are aware of the many ways this very dedicated group of volunteers help make our lake experience better and protect our lake.

- As Town representatives we work with Northeast Aquatic Research, a professional limnological research and lake management company. Together, we monitor water quality and work to protect the lake.
- We take monthly water samples and just recently started collecting zooplankton and phytoplankton samples from 1st and 2nd bays.

- We reinstalled the "Welcome to Highland Lake" sign. HLWA paid for the removal and repairs to the sign and HLWA volunteers installed it.
- We publish three issues, annually, of the Highland Lake News.
- We maintain a website that has important information for all homeowners and boaters.
- HLWA regularly communicates with Police Chief Fitzgerald regarding lake safety issues. The new boat launch signs will, hopefully, help make the lake safer. Invariably, when discussions of boating regulations take place, the question of enforcement arises; whether or not the Marine Patrol should be acting only to remind violators of the rules or to issue tickets as a means to deter violation of the rules. It is not the position of HLWA to determine what is the most effective means to encourage boaters to follow the Connecticut Boating Regulations. That decision must be made by the Town and the Marine Patrol. However, it is the position of the HLWA Board that public adherence to these regulations ultimately benefits our lake and our members, and disregard for these regulations is not beneficial to HLWA's mission nor the well-being of our members. HLWA will continue to encourage and support efforts by the Town and the Marine Patrol to ensure Connecticut Boating Regulations are observed by all boaters.
- We communicate regularly with the Town Manager. We recently took the new town manager, Josh Kelly, on a boat tour. It was his first time on the water - it was 100 degrees out but he really appreciated experiencing the lake from the water. Joining us on our boat tour was the Town's new, part-time Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Agent, Michael Stankov. Michael is already out around the lake flagging violators and stopping unpermitted projects. As a reminder, if you plan on doing any modification to the ground within 100 feet of the lake or **removing trees**, you should have a conversation with the IWWC agent to determine whether your activity requires a permit. Be aware the Town is very closely monitoring all activity around the lake.
- During quarantine many new people moved to the lake - visiting them to welcome them to the lake was not possible. We created a Welcome booklet and mailed a copy to each new resident. The information in the booklet is so important that we are going to revise it as a Lake Homeowners guide and share it with all of our members.



- We check the post office box, go to the bank, send out dues letters, process dues and donations, manage membership lists, steward our finances, and run all of the bookkeeping and administrative tasks necessary in running our nonprofit, volunteer-run organization.
- Together with the Town we tasked Northeast Aquatic Research with conducting a Watershed Investigation. NEAR conducted the investigation and is finalizing the report. The report will examine the state of the Highland Lake watershed as a whole, along with individual discussions dedicated to each location considered a potential site for Low Impact Design projects. These discussions will include an explanation of the site and cause for concern, site photos, GIS way points, and specific recommendations for improvement. The report will serve as a focus for HLWA's efforts to protect the lake in the years to come.
- While I could go on telling you about more things we do, I want to wrap up this list with weeds. HLWA works, as an agent of the Town, to arrange for the survey of the weeds and weed treatment. The permitting process took much longer than expected and treatment was delayed by three weeks. Thank you to DEEP Deputy Commissioner Betsey Wingfield, State Representative Jay Case, State Senator Craig Miner, and Speaker of the House Matt Ritter for helping expedite the process.

HLWA is an all-volunteer organization. If we don't have a volunteer willing to do something, it won't get done. It has been difficult finding enough people who are willing to put in the time and do the hard work of making our organization thrive. Our current board is tapped out and we have had to make some adjustments to what we do.

I hope many of you are asking yourselves "**How can I help?**" Well, I can answer that . . .

A year from now both our treasurer's and secretary's terms expire. We need someone to join the board with the intention of becoming treasurer and someone to be secretary in a year. Jill Ricci and Carol Zacchio would like to begin training people now so the transition will run smoothly.

We eliminated one issue of our newsletter, the Highland Lake News and now publish three issues a year. We need someone to run the newsletter. This does not need to be a board level position. Thankfully, Terry Platt will continue doing the layout and editing. We need someone who will think of article ideas, help find people to write them and steward the process. If we don't find someone soon, in 2022 we will be forced to move to two newsletters a year or, eventually, even just one.

Last not but not least, we need a new board member to be Social Activities chairperson to run our lake cleanups, winter Meet and Greet, a signature summer event and boat parade.

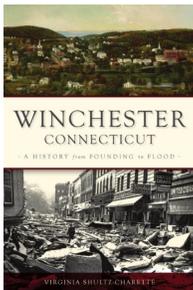
I am going to be honest. HLWA is the only entity focused on protecting **your** lake. **Your** home. **Your** investment. Let me say that again - **HLWA is the only entity focused on protecting your**

**lake.** We have wonderful people who devote hours on a weekly or monthly basis. It is not enough. I need your help. **Your** lake needs your help. I need your commitment of time and leadership to get things done. Nonprofits everywhere are struggling to find people to be in leadership positions, and HLWA is no different. But because we are an all-volunteer organization, there is no staff person to fill in the gaps. Contact me or any one of our board members to talk about being involved.

As I said earlier, Highland Lake is clean, beautiful, and the perfect place to be with family and friends. I am optimistic that together we will protect the lake and help it thrive for generations to come.



## Winchester, Connecticut: A History from Founding to Flood



Author and historian Virginia Shultz-Charette was one of the guest speakers at HLWA's Annual Meeting. Virginia read some excerpts from her new book *Winchester, Connecticut: A History from Founding to Flood*.

*"Winchester and Winsted once blossomed with commerce. From cheeses that were sold to the most exclusive restaurants in major cities to tourism that proclaimed "the lake's the thing," the towns thrived. The production of clocks, clothing, knives and gold- and silver-plated coffin trimmings helped establish the region's prominence. Famous names like Rockwell, Beardsley, Boyd, Gilbert and Strong highlight the town's history, not only due to their business acumen but also because of their philanthropy. Colonel Samuel B. Horne, who earned the Medal of Honor in the Civil War, along with noteworthy journalists and artists all made their home here. And then, in 1955, disaster struck. Join local historian and author Virginia Shultz-Charette as she recounts the town's development and how the great flood changed everything."* (arcadiapublishing.com)

Virginia first became aware of Winsted when her family - cousins and all - would come up on an annual pilgrimage to Resha Beach in the early 1960s. In 1980 she had the opportunity to move to Winsted and did not hesitate.

Several years later she attended Northwest Connecticut Community College (NCCC) where she received an Associate's degree in Social Sciences. In 1986 she transferred to St. Joseph's College where she double-majored in American Studies and Art History. She graduated summa cum laude and ranked first in that year's class. She continued her education at UMass-Amherst where she received her Master of Arts in the field of American History with concentrations in Women's Political History, Civil War History and Public History.

For several years she served as an adjunct at NCCC teaching U.S. history, has had an occasional column in the Winsted Journal called *Past is Prologue*, and had a TV show on the local access station by the same name. Currently she serves on the Soldiers' Monument Commission. *Winchester, Connecticut: A History from Founding to Flood* is her second book for Arcadia Publications.

To purchase the book, please visit [arcadiapublishing.com](http://arcadiapublishing.com) or call Virginia at 860.379.2368 to purchase a book for \$20 (pickup only). Also, True Value Hardware may have a few copies left.



## Swimming with a Group

Do you enjoy swimming but don't want to do it alone? There is a swim group on Highland Lake that swims together a couple of times a week. No pressure - swim with a noodle! The current group is a very social bunch and much conversing happens as we swim along. If interested, email Terry Platt at [wrplatt@snet.net](mailto:wrplatt@snet.net).

## HLWA Store

Introducing our new logo cups!

For these and other logo items please contact Marcia Winn at [mlwinn22@gmail.com](mailto:mlwinn22@gmail.com).



## Drawdown Schedule for 2021

On November 1 a three-foot drawdown begins and will be maintained, as much as possible, until the ice is sufficiently off the lake. Water will then be allowed to refill to the usual over-spillway level. The Town Water Level Committee will be proposing a new five-year schedule to the Town Selectmen and IWWC to begin in the fall of 2022.



*In June, the HLWA Board of Directors got together for the first time in person since early 2020. Pictured from left to right are Carol Zacchio, Jeanne Marchand, Willie Platt, Beth Papermaster, Stuart Yaffee, Jill Ricci, Evan McDermott, Sam Sciacca and Lynn Carter.*



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Email: [hlwa@hlwa.org](mailto:hlwa@hlwa.org)

Website: [www.hlwa.org](http://www.hlwa.org)

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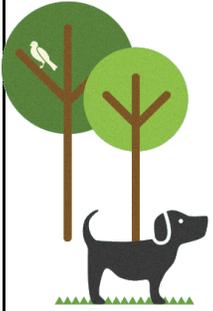
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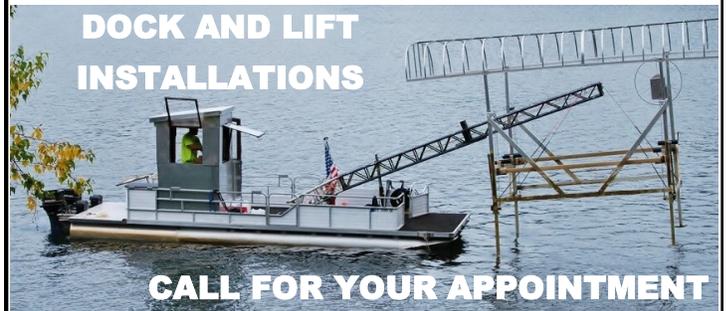
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## Photo Contest!

The Highland Lake Watershed Association is proud to announce the next HLWA 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](mailto:marketing@hlwa.org). Please include your name and the title of your photo. Please limit the number of submissions to 10 per person. No professional assistance or photo editing allowed. The deadline for submissions is midnight on Tuesday, August 31, 2021. Winners will be announced Saturday, September 11, 2021. Questions? Contact Marketing at [marketing@hlwa.org](mailto:marketing@hlwa.org).

## Boat Parade!

**Saturday, July 31, 7:00 p.m.**

Join us for a slow cruise around the lake. The parade begins at Holland Beach and will proceed around the lake in a counterclockwise pattern.

Decorate your boat and docks. Show your lake pride from your boat and from land!



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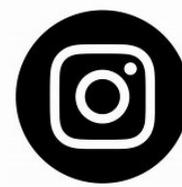
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