



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

Summer

2023

President's Message *by Candy Perez*



We are having quite the summer with rain and smoke from wildfires in June and July. Hopefully everyone is making the best of it with board games, shopping downtown, and sneaking out on the lake between raindrops. Let's cross our fingers the rest of the summer brings better weather.

We would like to thank many of you who came to our annual meeting. We appreciate you took time out of your Saturday morning. It was a great turnout.

While water quality is our core mission, we also like to get together as a lake community. The Evening on Highland Lake is back after a hiatus during the COVID pandemic. Annie Simard and her committee have been working hard since April to organize the event - we hope many of you can make it. Our hosts, Karen and Stew Jones, have been friends of HLWA for many years, and we thank them for their support of the event.

As we witnessed from the storms in July and the amount of runoff that came into the lake, we have to be vigilant in our quest for better drainage and protection. While we work with the Town on drainage, land practices such as swales, rain gardens, less impervious surfaces, and other water management techniques can be applied by homeowners. We are listing a few resources on this page. While we may not be able to contain all of the water that came in such a short time, every little bit helps.

Please find information in the newsletter regarding the partnership with the Winchester Land Trust (WLT) to forever protect the 500 acres on the east side of the lake on pages 8 and 9. Annual meeting members in attendance were supportive of the project and voted unanimously to give financial support to be able to apply for a state grant for the acquisition. We have also been fortunate to have members with expertise offer their help with the project now and moving into the future. Beth Papermaster is the Project Manager for HLWA on this project. She has been guiding discussions with the WLT, the grant writer and attorneys, and she is available to answer any questions.

We are fortunate to have so many care about the health of the lake and welcome our new members with a special recognition for our longtime members.

We appreciate all of your help and time.

Resources for Storm Water Management

Homeowners Guide to Do It Yourself Storm Water Management

<https://www4.des.state.nh.us/SoakNH/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/NH-Homeowner-Guide-2016.pdf>

Rethink Runoff

<https://rethinkrunoff.org>

How Do Trees Reduce and Remove Pollutants from Stormwater Runoff?

<https://cwp.org/reducing-stormwater-runoff/>

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Many Years of Dedication to Preserve and Protect Highland Lake - The Laurel Ridge Project

by Clare Stevens

A lake is a reflection of its watershed. The land area that drains from the ridgeline into any lake is the source of water for the lake. HLWA has been working to protect the watershed since 1959 when a group of lake property owners decided to form an informal association. They were advocates to the Town of Winchester's Boards and Commissions regarding a variety of lake issues including taking concerns primarily to the Board of Selectmen (BOS), Inland Wetlands (IWC) and Planning and Zoning Commissions (P&Z).

In 1990, the Town was mandated by the state to write a 10-year Plan of Conservation and Development for the entire town. It was determined a committee could focus on developing a management plan for Highland Lake that would be helpful due to the unique and complex issues germane to lake management. This committee along with IWC assessed all lake issues and made recommendations.

During the past 30 years the Highland Lake Management Plan's recommendations have been the guide for creating the Highland Lake District as a section of the P&Z regulations and developing a science-based professionally designed Water Quality Monitoring Program and Water Level Committee to develop a lake water level drawdown policy. Also, the Plan recommended an Educational Program to cultivate knowledge of and interest in conserving and being stewards of water bodies such as Highland Lake. Feasibility studies were conducted (paid for via the Clean Water Act) regarding creating and implementing a Drainage System to update the concrete pipes laid initially to take water away from the roads and directly into the lake. Another major issue was sewerage the lake. Had that not been implemented, Highland Lake's water quality would be very poor, property values would have fallen dramatically and the Town would have had a huge liability to contend with.

The importance of maintaining as much of the 4,000 acres of Highland Lake's watershed as protected, forested open space has been HLWA's first priority. In 2005, an attempt was made to purchase the 500 acres on the east side of the lake, but CT DEEP made a bid that was far too low. Another attempt was made in 2011 when another Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant program was accepting applications. Quickly, HLWA partnered with the Winchester Land Trust (WLT), formed another committee and presented a very strong rationale for funding. But the appraisal was not enough.

Each of these attempts to protect the land was driven by the knowledge Highland Lake's water quality, quality of life and property values could be disastrously damaged if the ridge lost the trees and was developed. Over the years, HLWA has consulted Dr. George Knoecklein (limnologist) to present scientific data about the health of the lake. Conclusions were that without protection, nutrients such as phosphates would have the potential to load the lake with the elements that promote aquatic plant and algae growth.

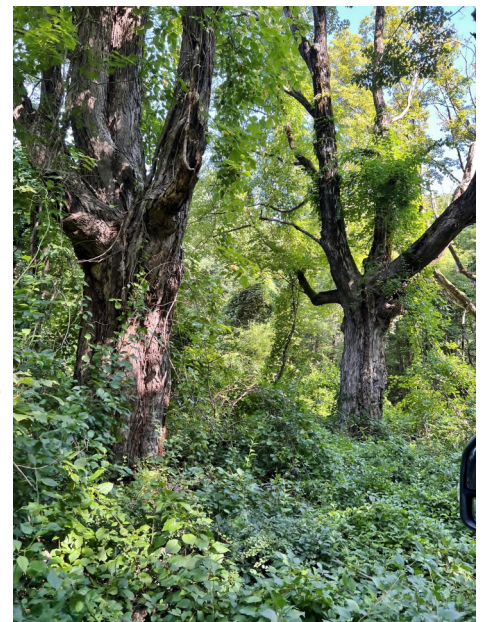
At the July 9, 2023 Annual Meeting of HLWA members and representatives from the WLT, approval was voted to make another partnered grant application for the State's Open Space and Land Acquisition Grant Program and the Federal Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program. Together they would provide approximately 90% of the purchase price. The grants will be submitted by September, reviewed and the decision will be made in the spring of 2024.

In addition to the protection of Highland Lake, this "green corridor" formed by a chain of State and Town of Winchester parks, forests and water bodies is important to protect. They include the Algonquin State Forest, Paugnut State Forest, Taylor Brook State Park, Sucker Brook Dam, Platt Hill State Park, Crystal Lake, Rugg Brook Reservoir, Winchester Lake, Park Pond, Mad River, Still River, Highland Lake, and many other smaller water bodies. These combined open spaces provide habitat for a large variety of trees, birds, bushes and animals such as deer, black bears, raccoons, bees, butterflies, osprey and eagles! The 508+ acres will enhance the ability of wildlife to migrate or to reside year-round.

We are hoping the variety of recreational and educational opportunities would distinguish our plan and increase its chances of approval and full funding. The partnership with WLT whose mission is to "serve as steward of the town's rural character and open spaces, striving to foster the preservation of Winchester's unique lands and natural resources forever" works.

The many efforts to preserve and protect the HLWA from 2005-2024 (19 years) speaks loudly! The watershed's 508 acres is vital to the longevity of Highland Lake. The lake is very important as an asset to the Town's economy, aesthetics and recreational offerings. We trust that, with the state and other grants along with personal donations, we will have sufficient funds.

Our persistent pursuit of the forested watershed will honor our stewardship of Highland Lake and pass it, with good water quality, to the next generation for the enjoyment of the abundant wildlife, natural beauty and rejuvenation of their spirits. How fortunate we are to enrich our lives knowing that "A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature, it is the Earth's eye . . ."



We trust Laurel Ridge will be a dream come true!

Evening on Highland Lake

by Betty Martin

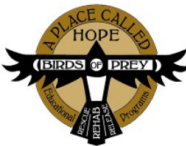
August 19 will be the 16th Evening on Highland Lake (EOHL) if my research is correct! From 2005 until 2019, the event occurred each summer until the pandemic hit us in 2020. The festivities this summer will be the first EOHL since that dreaded period in our history. Looking back at HLWA's previous newsletters (2014-2019), I found wonderful articles and photos from these past events. Each year a generous resident of our lake offers their property to host the event, and in each of the past six occurrences Ledgebrook Spirit Shop has been wonderful in providing wine/spirits and beer vendors. This year will be no different. They have already secured 15 vendors to participate. The hosts for 2023, Karen and Stu Jones, have also charitably provided their property in three of the last six events (2014, 2016 and 2018). EOHL has also included various food and entertainment venues. Many past evenings have included food from local restaurants, and this year we will resume this tradition hoping to make it more of a "Taste of Winsted!" Entertainment has also varied over the years. This year we are excited to have a popular Connecticut band, the Savage Brothers.

Music and celebrations have been longtime happenings on the lake. The history of such gatherings and tying them to more recent times is seen best during the 2017 EOHL hosted by Matt and Joanne Smith in their family barn. This EOHL was titled "Electric Park," connecting the historical nature of the property. It had been the location for what was known as Electric Park and later Highland Park. Looking back at various Highland Lake articles written by members of HLWA in a wonderful collection called "Reflections" published in 2010, I read about many wonderful memories related to this park. It was considered a popular lake resort on the east shore of third bay described as a small "Coney Island" type amusement park with a large dance pavilion. The main trolley line ran between Torrington and Winsted, and a branch line ran from the main line to the pavilion. During the 20s and 30s, the Pavilion hosted well-known bands of the day, sometimes with a "battle of music," having a band perform at each end of the dance pavilion. The Pavilion was then used for roller skating during the 40s with a jukebox providing the current music. Sadly, the Pavilion burned down in the 50s and was then sold as building lots. In total, it operated for 37 seasons.

It seems very appropriate that our newer tradition of EOHL brings together the lake residents with food, drink and music to create new lasting memories.



A Place Called Hope



Here on Highland Lake we are fortunate to have a pair of resident eagles, ospreys, magnificent hawks and owls. "A Place Called Hope," a wildlife rehabilitation organization, has been calling attention to the number of these birds succumbing to rodenticides poison used to kill mice and rats. These birds hunt and eat these rodents and ingest the poison as well. It causes a cruel death. They bleed out as rodenticides are anticoagulants. Pets can also be affected if they too chase and ingest the mice.

Many Audubon chapters have sent warnings about this persistent problem. For those of us who remember the news of DDT in the 1960s, our nationwide symbol the Bald Eagle was near extinction with only 417 nesting pairs of bald eagles found in the lower 48 states.

Please help keep our environment healthy for all. Please go to <http://saferodentcontrol.org/site/> for tips on recent control that will not harm our birds and pets.



Laurel Festival

The Highland Lake Watershed Association sponsored Mary Sullivan in the Laurel Festival. Her parents own a summer cottage on East Wakefield Boulevard. Mary was chosen as first runner-up!



Mix & Mingle

by Donna MacDermott



In an effort to provide a social opportunity for lake residents old and new to spend time together, we had our second Mix & Mingle on June 9 at the Little Red Barn Brewery. Approximately 130 friendly and enthusiastic lake residents participated in

two hours of socializing and fun. We all enjoyed Little Red Barn's hand-crafted beer and other offerings, and many bought dinner from the Greenhouse Tavern Food Truck. Signup boards were available for residents to find other people who enjoy the same activities such as swimming, playing pickleball and reading books. Highland Lake goods were sold and five prizes, which included gift cards from our local businesses, were raffled off. A big thank you to all the lake residents who made this event such a big success. We're so lucky to have the Little Red Barn in our town. It was the perfect venue for this event!



Denise Pratt, New Board Member

I was born and raised at Highland Lake and have many fond memories. To name a few, penny candy at Toto's, end-of-summer ski tournament, Bruno's Market, the first boat made of plywood, and a Johnson outboard. Having one brother and one sister was the perfect number for a skier, driver and shotgun along with generous parents providing the boat and gear. In more recent years, a whole new set of happy times are happening with my daughter and son as well as extended family who continue to love all four seasons at the lake. My favorite HLWA events are the spring and fall cleanups!



Highland Lake. It's in Your Blood

by Frank Miller

Many years ago when I was a mere pup not even a year old, my mom and dad brought me to their "summer home" in the Berkshires to avoid the sweltering heat on Long Island. We stayed in a small cottage we called Stardust on the shore of Second Bay next to what was called "Cook's Island" in my grandmother's day, and "Sidoti's Island" for Vincent Sidoti (a local dentist) when I grew up there. The photo is Stardust with Sidoti's Island on the left.



I would spend the next 18 summers on Highland Lake, from eight months old to 18 years old, when sadly the cottage was sold. I returned on my own for the next two years, staying in Colebrook with a buddy's family and working at a variety of jobs including stuffing boxes at Holiday Handcrafts, Madin's Garage (and Pontiac Dealer) and the Town of Winchester doing my part to keep the grass mowed at the Town's cemeteries. I also helped plant a few souls in their final resting places, but I will leave that story for another day.

My family (my maternal grandmother and various aunts, great aunts and an assortment of siblings) spent our idle youth swimming in the cool waters of Highland Lake. My grandmother owned "Stardust," her sister "Dot" was next door "Aspenwood" and "Nonnie" lived in back in a Sears & Roebuck house they picked out of a Sears Catalog. Various uncles and cousins built the houses on the waterfront.

After heading to Virginia for college, a variety of girlfriends kept me from my first love, Highland Lake, and for the next 18 years I only visited in my dreams.- pleasant memories of the best of times. When I was 36 with a wife and children of my own, I returned to the lake, renting a cottage in the "commercial" section of First Bay. I launched my boat at Toto Lovetre's and headed straight for the very end of the lake, Third Bay, to Barton's Point where my best buddies lived. I pulled up to their dock and guess what? Tad and Bill (Bartles and Carnelli) walked on out. I was home, at last.

Many years have passed since that sunny day in 1986, but I manage to stay in touch with those guys and swing by for a visit now and then. In fact, my wife and I took the Port Jefferson Ferry across after a high school reunion (#55!) and drove up Route 8 to spend some time on my favorite lake.



Spring Cleanup The Highland Watershed Association's tradition of a spring cleanup around the lake continued this past spring with Greg Kyrytschenko leading the group. Thanks to many hands, trash was picked up along the road. The Town of Winchester Public Works Department provided the truck to take the trash to the transfer station.

My Secret Garden

by Eileen Pagano

Sometime this summer, take a stroll along East Wakefield Boulevard. Be on the lookout for an arbor adorned in bright pink mandevillas. Then poke your head inside to discover my secret garden.

Come by anytime! You may find me there, endlessly weeding, rain or shine. Something is always blooming! Daisies, native coneflowers, hibiscus from home and Great Grandpop's garden abound. Pink and red roses were planted our first summer. Tomatoes and brightly colored zinnias were grown from seed and brought here to thrive. Black raspberries cascade along the fence, planted by nature.

It wasn't always this way! My tiny haven was once a place of disrepair, an unkempt collection of weeds and trash. All the family helped remove three truckloads of brush. Mounds of soil removed revealed terracing and slates down below.

With every new season more character emerges. Hummingbirds are regular visitors. Flowers lost to a harsh winter or late frost are replaced by flowers grown in our home garden. Stone steps now meander down the hill to the lovely lake below. Stones from Long Island, Connecticut, Maine, Virginia and California support the steps. Adirondack chairs donated by all our children provide comfy seats to soak up the sun and search for butterflies.

My Secret Garden has become a sanctuary to remember our cherished dog Lily and to help our beautiful little Amelia



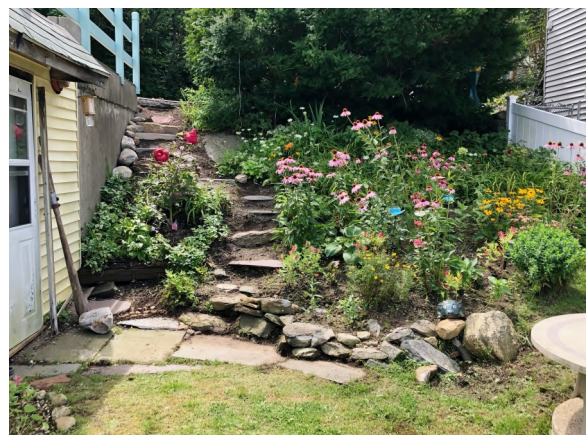
Amelia

plant her first garden flower. It is a place of peace and renewal . . . a place for family to come, for children to play and to greet neighbors. I'm looking forward to your visit!

Before



After



Boat Parade

The 2023 Annual Boat Parade was fun for all in the parade and those who cheered the boats from shore. The weather was the best of the summer.



Meet Your Neighbor

Samuel Goncalves - "Sammy G"



Which bay to you live in? I live in third bay right by Wheelers Point

How long have you lived on Highland Lake? I've lived here full time for 2.5 years, but before that seasonally for 8 years!

Are you full time or

seasonal? I am now full time!

What is it about Highland Lake that drew you to live here? It was ultimately my parents' decision but just the lakeside lifestyle and sunsets were what did it for us!

What do you do for work? I am still a student at the Gilbert School but also own a coaching business to teach Wakesurfing (Hit me up if you are interested!)

What do you do for play? I love to wake surf, wrestle, lift, run, and hangout with friends.

Favorite local restaurant? Either Mario's or Rowley- depends on my mood.

Local "MUST DO" recommendation? Get behind the boat and surf!

Audio or Turning the page? Turning the page.

Salty or Sweet? Sweet, ice cream and Reeses peanut butter cups are my kryptonite.

Bucket list item? Going skydiving, visiting Japan, traveling through Europe, winning a state wrestling title, winning a wake surfing world championship



Best piece of advice you ever got? "Don't Suck" - My dad

Words to live by? Excuses are for wussies" -

Spencer Lee Professional Accolades Professional wake surfer at 17 years old, placed top 3 in all World Series of Wakesurfing events this year, 5x professional podium placer, 4th place finish at the 2022 World Wakesurfing Championships, 5th place finish at the 2021 World Wakesurfing Championships

Amateur Accolades Over 15 Competition wins, 100% regular season win rate as a Junior and Amateur, 2x Tour Champion as a Amateur and Semi-Pro, "Junior Wake surfer of the Year" in first competitive season



A Lake Has a Life

by Shirley Allshouse

Monitoring and protecting the 3.1 billion gallons of water in our beautiful lake is a daunting job.

From the very beginning of HLWA, known then as the Highland Lake Taxpayers Association, taking an active role in preserving our water quality was a priority. In fact, in 1975 we commissioned a private environmental study of the lake, and it was that effort that demonstrated to the Department of Environmental Protection that we were worthy of further help in studying and protecting Highland Lake. The DEP followed up with a study resulting in a 42-page report. Then, as a direct result of our involvement and serious interest in water quality, we were one of seven lakes selected to undergo a yearlong comprehensive study under the Federal Clean Water Act. That 1980 study resulted in a foundational 131-page report covering all aspects of the lake and its watershed along with recommendations for lake and watershed management which remain relevant today.

I found one of the most interesting conclusions from that report was the emphasis on the importance of our forested watershed. Taking into consideration the size and depth of the lake, its tributaries, the density of housing, etc., our water quality should have been worse than the numbers showed. The lake was in very good condition (oligotrophic - perhaps a young adult in the life of a lake). It had low nutrients and high levels of dissolved oxygen. It turned out that one of the very most important factors that produced this result was the surrounding wooded watershed



that filters the water coming into the lake. In fact, it was also stated by Dr. Knoecklein in his study that potential development on the hills of the eastern watershed would put the water quality in jeopardy. Nutrient levels would most certainly increase and flow into the lake from the tributaries on the east side.

Some additional things HLWA has done over the years included requesting inspection of septic systems and then supporting a sewer plant expansion and sewer line around the lake. We requested the town discontinue the annual oil/sand application to Wakefield Boulevard, do frequent sweepings, and install and clean catch basins.

HLWA joined lake management groups and also published its own lake management plan.

It encourages lake residents to practice their own personal "lake management" like refraining from using fertilizer on lawns, which adds to the nutrient load and feeds weeds and phytoplankton. It purchased more testing equipment and engaged Dr. George Knoecklein (Northeast Aquatic Research) to conduct an ongoing program of monitoring and testing.

Despite all our efforts, the lake has continued to age, and stronger steps are needed going forward. Now it is at a more mature stage in the life of a lake (more nutrients and less dissolved oxygen).

The recent announcement of cooperative efforts to acquire and preserve that huge portion of our important watershed is exciting and would go a long way to protect the value and beauty of the lake. I hope that everyone who cares will support the project.

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HLWA Photo Competition

The HLWA Photo Contest is still going on! Snap some 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 extended through Labor Day. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be announced and receive gift certificates to a local store or restaurant. By submitting a photo you agree all photos may be featured on the HLWA website, Facebook page and other forms of communication.

Creating a Legacy: Laurel Ridge

The Winsted community has the once-in-a-generation opportunity to take action to protect and preserve Highland Lake forever. Through a partnership of forward-thinking individuals, the Highland Lake Watershed Association and the Winchester Land Trust are working together to secure funding to purchase Laurel Ridge - 508 acres of forested land on the east side of Highland Lake. This property, owned by an LLC, is currently in the state's 490 forest program and is not for sale for development.

The Winchester Land Trust (WLT), in partnership with the Highland Lake Watershed Association (HLWA), is applying to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant to help us protect and preserve 508 acres of land between Route 800 and East Wakefield Boulevard. WLT will be the owners of Laurel Ridge.

The missions of these two nonprofit organizations align:

The Highland Lake Watershed's mission is to encourage the restoration and conservation of the natural resources of the Highland Lake Watershed as well as to protect and conserve fish and wildlife, forest and other plant life, water sources and soils. We promote the understanding among citizens of the Town of Winchester of the need for such restoration and conservation to provide a legacy for the future.

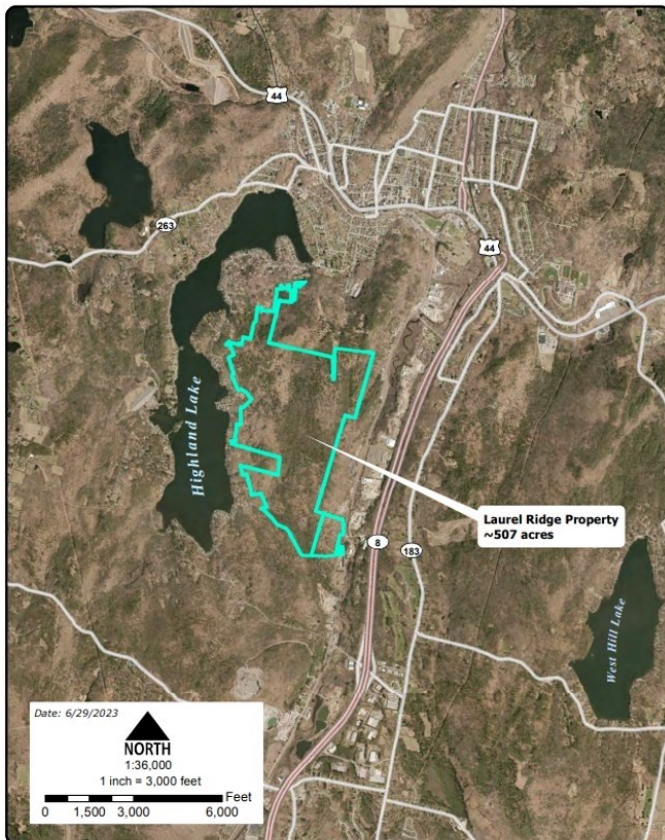
The Winchester Land Trust serves as steward of the town's rural character and open spaces, striving to foster the preservation of

Winchester's unique lands and natural resources forever. The trust informs and educates the community to promote the benefits of land conservation for balanced growth.

Facts about Laurel Ridge

- Laurel Ridge is a critical part of the Highland Lake and Still River watersheds.
- Maintaining it as Open Space will help ensure Highland Lake stays healthy and clean for the enjoyment of Winsted citizens, as well as the many out-of-town people who travel to fish, swim, and enjoy water activities on Highland Lake.
- Good water quality maintains high property values of homes around the lake, which contribute roughly 1/3 of the Town's grand list.
- The Still River is labeled as "impaired" by DEEP. Keeping land forested in the Still River's watershed reduces polluted runoff and enables the ecosystem to recover.
- There are 508 acres with frontage on Route 800 and East Wakefield Boulevard.
- There are seven intermittent streams flowing directly into Highland Lake.
- It protects the health of Highland Lake and the Still River with dense trees working to naturally filter water and runoff.
- It supports an amazing variety of wildlife and plants. The State's Natural Diversity Database documents two rare, State-listed species of plants on the property, one of which is the New England sedge which lives in seepage swamps. The Eastern Pond Mussel in nearby Highland Lake is another Species of Special Concern.
- The clean waters of Highland Lake serve as a vital stopover for species such as Mergansers (seen in the hundreds), Gadwalls, Shovelers and Ruddy Ducks. In the summer, Belted Kingfisher, Bald Eagles and Osprey are observed.
- Storied Winsted history – Laurel Ridge was home to the Carey Racetrack on Pratt Hill, the outline of which is still visible.
- It is an important connectivity for a very large wilderness corridor. To the south, across large parcels of undeveloped 490 land, is the extensive Paugnut State Forest and Burr Pond State Park. To the west, Laurel Ridge connects to many parcels owned by WLT and HLWA including the five-acre Stevens Preserve and 25-acre Cannavo Woods (connected via HLWA preserved parcels).
- Laurel Ridge is nearly all core forest. The understory is dominated by mountain laurel.
- WLT will create public hiking trails so people can enjoy the new preserve via hiking, birdwatching, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.
- It's consistent with the Town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The 2021 POCD states a primary goal of protecting the town's natural resources, in particular its water bodies and drinking water. The POCD emphasizes the

Laurel Ridge Property Winchester, Connecticut



Map Prepared by: Stacy Deming, GSP Housatonic Valley Association Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut

importance of preserving more open space to protect Winchester's community character and quality of life. It places high value on connecting existing open spaces to form a system of greenways and on preserved open space that is available for the public to enjoy.

- Laurel Ridge provides Winsted residents and visitors a scenic ridgeline to be enjoyed from land (on Route 8) and water (on Highland Lake).
- Winsted will become a premier day-trip destination with many new hiking trails. By connecting to the Sue Grossman Greenway, visitors will have easy access to Laurel Ridge and many exciting trails.
- There will be significant carbon absorption by the multitude of trees.
- Laurel Ridge contains phosphorus that would be released through soil disruption if developed. Phosphorus would contribute to weed and algae growth in Highland Lake and the Still River.
- Downstream waters in the Mad River, Still River and Farmington River will have an added layer of protection.
- Laurel Ridge protects the economic contributions of Highland Lake to all Winsted residents.

There are many threats to the health of Highland Lake. HLWA works closely with the Town of Winsted to monitor water quality and to identify and respond to any changes in water quality. Every one of us is responsible for the health of the lake. Being a responsible property owner is a critical line of defense. The roads and catch basins around the lake threaten the health of the lake, and it is unlikely major action to improve them will happen anytime soon. Open, protected forested land in the watershed will add a significant layer of defense.

Northeast Aquatic Research's 2020 Water Quality Report and Long-Term Assessment states the following:

"Based on the Connecticut DEEP lake trophic categories, Highland Lake is defined as oligomesotrophic bordering on mesotrophic. Total phosphorus in the surface waters rarely exceeds 20ppb and the yearly average in surface waters rarely exceeds 15ppb. However, surface water TP concentrations in recent years (2016 to 2020) are, on average, ~2ppb higher than historical surface water concentrations. Total nitrogen in the surface waters has not exceeded 250ppb on record since 1979, and for the past seven years the yearly average has remained near or below 200ppb. Water clarity in the lake typically remains better than 3 meters, with the yearly average falling between approximately 3 meters and 5 meters over the past 16 years. These data suggest the lake condition is relatively good overall.

"In the absence of efforts to reduce nutrient loads, the lake condition will inevitably worsen over time at a faster rate than would occur in a natural, undeveloped landscape."

The Highland Lake community has the fortunate and increasingly rare opportunity to proactively protect the lake from accelerating decline by making improvements to the watershed."



(The full report can be found at www.hlwa.org under the Lake Information tab, Highland Lake Info.)

The purchase price is \$2.2 million. The maximum amount we could receive from the State and Federal grants is 90% of the purchase price. We are working on the OSWA grant which is due on October 2, 2023. Applicants will be notified in spring 2024 if they will receive a grant. If the OSWA award is granted, we then apply for the Federal Highlands Conservation grant.

There are additional expenses including legal, grant writer, Yellow Book appraisal, survey and more at an estimated cost of \$120,000.

Our goal is raise \$340,000 through private donations and small grants.

Projected property purchase closing is summer 2025.

This is a long and difficult process, and we are hopeful Laurel Ridge receives the maximum amount allowed by both the state and federal government. Raising an additional \$340,000 is critical to the viability and success of this project. Naming rights for trails, clearings and more will be available. In the coming months you will learn more about the project and how and when the fundraising campaign will unfold. If you would like to learn more on how you can help, please contact bethpapermaster@gmail.com.

In the future, we will need your help to clean trails and volunteer to be a Laurel Ridge Steward.

***Together we can protect Highland Lake
and its watershed for generations!***

Laurel Ridge Team

Candy Perez, HLWA President
Beth Papermaster, HLWA Project Manager
Jen Perga, WLT President
Shelley Harms, Grant Writer
Jeff Smith, Attorney

Annual Membership Application

The Highland Lake Watershed Association is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of Highland Lake and its watershed. Your membership (and additional donation) supports the important work of protecting our beautiful lake.

Annual Membership Dues:

 \$ 50

Jan 1 – Dec 31

Additional Donations:
☐ \$25

☐ \$100

☐ \$150

☐ \$200

 \$ _____ **Surprise us!**

\$ _____ Total enclosed

☐ My employer will match my gift

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

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

Membership Information

Name(s): _____

Lake Address:

☐ Mailing address has changed

Mailing Address: _____

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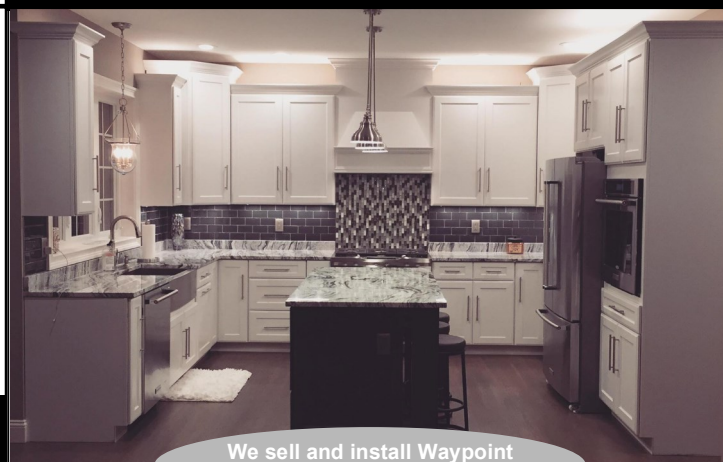


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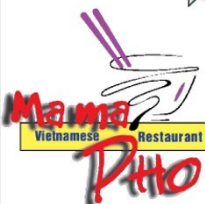
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