



WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION

Wolfeboro Waters Quarterly E-Newsletter

Edited by Reilly DeBow and Abigail Adams

Wolfeboro Waters is a committee created in response to the Town of Wolfeboro's concerns about the water quality of our lakes and ponds.

We came into existence after the first cyanobacteria outbreak occurred in Winter Harbor on Lake Winnepesaukee in 2018.

We are a committee of volunteer citizens appointed by and reporting to Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen.

We have initiated communication and outreach programs to develop more community awareness and involvement in protecting these precious resources.

We hope you will [join us!](#)

Wentworth Watershed Association

4th annual Water Summit



On May 14th, more than a hundred town residents and lake minded visitors from nearby towns gathered for the Water Summit. The fourth annual Water Summit is presented by Wentworth Watershed Association in partnership with all the lake associations in Wolfeboro. These include Rust Pond Association, Mirror Lake Protective Association and Lake Winnepesaukee Association. Wolfeboro Waters was one of the sponsors of the Summit.

This year's water quality topic focused on salts and sediment in stormwater runoff. Ted Diers, Watershed Administrator at NH Department of Environmental Services dove into the topic of salt application- in his talk, "The Good, the Bad and Ugly of Water Quality," Ted talked about the state of water quality in New Hampshire. He shared some encouraging stats about the normalization of best management practices and water infiltration practice by the state, municipalities, and residents. He showed how climate change is starting to affect lake health with earlier ice outs, rising temperatures, and

more reports of cyanobacteria blooms. He also explained that with so many freezes and thaws over the winters, roads are getting icier, so more road salts are being applied.

Most of his talk focused on the impact that road salts have ground water and surface water. A major takeaway is that once salt enters an environment it never leaves. He also explained that the salt we are seeing in lakes today was the salt that was applied 10 years ago. The salt we are applying this year will be seen in lakes and ground water over the next 10 years, so we can expect the issues to increase dramatically in coming years from the increase of salting over the last 20 years. He urged towns and the public to reduce salting as much as they can because chlorides affect human health, wildlife, aquatic organisms, terrestrial and emergent plants, and aquatic plants. Basically, chlorides in the environment affect all living organisms.

He urged community members to hire Green Snow Pros (trained plow drivers who know best practices for sanding and salting), monitoring salt application and speaking up when parking lots are crunchy, reducing the use of water softeners and properly maintaining dirt roads. Education is the key to changing people's behavior so please talk to your neighbors and business owners and share how salt and sediment reduces water quality. Be part of the solution!

Russ Lanoie who literally wrote the book, *A Ditch in Time*, on dirt/ gravel road maintenance, taught the hands-on dirt road workshop that took place at the Wentworth Watershed Association headquarters on June 18th.

Spokespersons from each lake association shared current initiatives. These included the completion of the construction portion of the Phase IV- 319 project at Pierce Camp Birchmont and Fernald Avenue (Wentworth Watershed Association and Town of Wolfeboro), the watershed management plan for Wolfeboro Bay (Lake Winnepesaukee and Wolfeboro Waters Committee), the Rust Pond planned project to mitigate the sedimentation of the shallows by their dam, and the data project that is being completed by the Mirror Lake Association.



Here's What To Look Out For:

Cyanobacteria (formerly known as blue-green algae) are photosynthetic bacteria that utilize the sun's energy but also behave as bacteria. Cyanobacteria are some of the *earliest* inhabitants of our waters around the world. So, they naturally occur in all our lakes, though in relatively low numbers in New Hampshire.

Many species of cyanobacteria grow in colonies or large concentrations to form surface water "BLOOMS." Blooms are usually blue-green in color and consist of thousands of cells. Research indicates that cyanobacteria abundance increases as lake nutrients increase, however, each type of cyanobacteria has its own unique requirements for growth.

There are serious concerns associated with high concentrations (BLOOMS) of cyanobacteria. Many types of cyanobacteria produce toxins (toxic chemicals also called cyanotoxins) and have been reported to adversely affect humans, pets, and livestock globally.

IF YOU SEE A CYANOBACTERIA BLOOM:

CALL:

NH Department of Environmental Services Hotline: 603-848-8094

and

Wolfeboro Dispatch Center: 603-569-1444

(Snap a photo if you can!)

Water Samplers are Back on The Lake!



Pictured Above: a training session for water samplers out on Lake Winnepesaukee.
Bree Rossiter, Conservation Manager for LWA is leading the training.

Water Samplers in Wolfeboro sample our surface waters in cooperation with UNH, Wolfeboro Waters, Wentworth Watershed Association, Mirror Lake Association and Lake Winnepesaukee Association.

Wolfeboro Waters recently added sampling of Upper Beech Pond which is the water supply for the Town of Wolfeboro.

Wolfeboro Bay Watershed Environmental Study



BIG NEWS!

The Town of Wolfeboro, relying on an initiative of the Wolfeboro Waters Committee, is partnering with the Lake Winnepesaukee Association (LWA) to undertake the most significant study in history of Wolfeboro Bay and its watershed.

Relying largely on funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the project will bring together experienced environmental consultants, conservationists from the LWA, and a steering committee consisting of Wolfeboro residents. Together, the participants will conduct a detailed study examining the health of

Wolfeboro Bay, Back Bay, and the land and water that empty into those water bodies.

The project will identify the primary sources of phosphorus entering Wolfeboro Bay, prioritize identified sources for further action, conduct educational efforts to make landowners and visitors of the sources and impacts of pollution, and develop preliminary designs to address sources of impairment.

The Town is currently seeking volunteers to serve on the steering committee for the project. Information can be found on the Town web site.

The ARPA money, awarded by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, is awaiting approval by the Governor and Governor's Council. Once the funding is confirmed, the project is expected to run about two years, starting later this year.

The Wolfeboro Waters Committee is a citizen group appointed by the Board of Selectmen to provide input to the board on issues related to water quality in the town's lakes and streams.



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