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## WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION

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Wolfeboro Waters Quarterly E-Newsletter

Edited by Abigail Adams and Libby Peard

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**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 initiate communication and outreach programs to develop more community awareness and involvement in protecting these precious resources.

[Wolfeboro Waters.org](http://WolfeboroWaters.org)

ALL WATER WARRANT ARTICLES WERE APPROVED BY  
WOLFEBORO VOTERS

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

***You can help to take steps  
to keep the town's lakes and ponds  
in pristine condition.***





## Support Articles 13 and 31

"If passed, Articles 13 and 31 will support efforts to protect the condition of the water," states Wolfeboro Waters Communications Subcommittee Chair Abigail Adams.

### **Article 13: Sewer Line Extension**

"This is addressing two sections of town where septic systems are not working well or are in failure," explains Wolfeboro Waters Committee Chair Linda Murray. "In Jockey Cove, water has tested high for E. coli over some periods during the last two summers."

Passing of Article 13 will also let the town connect the sewer system to bathroom facilities located at Carry Beach.

### **Article 31: Water Resources Non-Capital Reserve Funding**

"We know some of the money in the current fund will be spent in 2023 to deal with this washout at Whitegate Lane, and Albee Beach," clarifies Murray.

Adding money to the existing fund will allow the town to address storm water runoff issues and emergencies going forward.

When there is a washout, any contaminants in its path are carried with the water running into the lake.

**Paid by Wolfeboro Waters Committee, Town of Wolfeboro**

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**Gardening time! How to fertilize with water quality in mind.**





If you love your lakes and streams and you hate cyanobacteria....

Remember that all of us (even those who are not on the water) are in the watershed. That is to say, what we put in the ground and on our gardens and lawns ends up in streams and lakes.

For guidance on gardening with watersheds in mind, please check out [Lake Safe Fertilizing](#) from the Wentworth Watershed Association, an important community partner providing valuable Lake Minded Resources through the Association website. You can also access a series of presentations from UNH on [Landscaping for Water Quality](#).



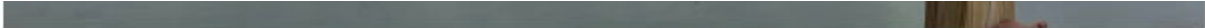
## It's also the season for gravel road and driveway maintenance...

Maintaining your gravel camp road or driveway is one of the best ways you can help protect the watershed because pollution from storm water run-off is among the most significant contributors to water quality decline. Read more about the critical importance of [road maintenance](#), from partners at the Wentworth Watershed Association, and check out [an owner's manual for those who live and travel on dirt and gravel roads](#) by Russ Lanoie.

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## Are you drinking lake water?





**As the ice goes out, cottages begin to open up and there are many folks who draw water out of the lake for daily use. A plumber in the Wolfeboro area estimates that more than 20 percent of shorefront cottages take their water from the lake.**

Treatment options for lake water include:

Sediment filter: remove dirt, sand and sticks

Charcoal filters: remove tannins and certain organic compounds.

Ultraviolet filters: kills but does not remove most bacteria

Reverse Osmosis filter: REMOVES CYANOBACTERIA AND ASSOCIATED TOXINS.

**No** other filtration system can do this. Boiling water containing cyanobacteria can kill them but can also break them open and release any associated toxins.

Reverse osmosis filters are expensive so are usually installed on only a limited number of faucets.

Take home message: Unless you have a reverse osmosis filtration system, it is safest not to drink or cook with lake water. It is fine to shower and do dishes with water that has not gone through the reverse osmosis filtration (it is like swimming, yes) unless there is an observable cyanobacteria bloom (green scum) and then you want to stay away from using that water for anything.

We are not plumbers! Best advice is to talk to your plumber for further information about water filtration systems if you are drawing water out of the lake. Also, the NH Department of Environmental Services provides guidance on [the use of lakes and streams for domestic water supply](#).

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**Here is an update on Wolfeboro Waters Citizen Science at work.**





**The Assessment Subcommittee of Wolfeboro Waters** (some members shown in photo) is made up of volunteer members. They have worked intensively over the last two years, in collaboration with Wolfeboro lake associations and scientific experts from a variety of state and national sources, to research cyanobacteria and its presence in our lakes. Since the cyanobacteria bloom in Winter Harbor in 2018, they have worked closely with NHDES' cyanobacteria program and have identified several different types of cyanobacteria found in Wolfeboro's waters. These include the very visible late-summer *Gloeotrichia*, and *Dolichospermum*, which was observed in bloom quantities in Jockey Cove this summer, as well as the tiny *Picocyanobacteria*, called cyanobium, which are not visible to the human eye.

With the help of UNH and other experts, they are looking at their own lake water to identify and quantify the naturally occurring cyanobacteria.

Wolfeboro Water's Assessment Subcommittee recently shared their findings with NHDES and its Advisory Committee as NHDES develops the Cyanobacteria Program plan that is mandated by November 2023 under a recently passed state law.

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**Are you concerned about stormwater runoff  
and water quality in Wolfeboro lakes?**

**WATER SUMMIT**

# WATER SUMMIT



**MAY 13 • 9AM to 12PM**

The Great Hall at Wolfeboro Town Hall

registration & coffee at 8:30AM - mid-morning refreshments

Your quality of life and Wolfeboro's economy are dependent upon clean water. Watershed management plans identify water quality threats, propose solutions, and create strategies to preserve our waterbodies

Join us at our fifth annual Water Summit. The keynote speaker is Forrest Bell, Principal at FE Environmental. Forrest has been involved in the development of many watershed management plans in our area beginning with the Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake Watershed Management Plan in 2012. His team is currently working with the Town of Wolfeboro and Lake Winnepesaukee Association on the Wolfeboro Bay Watershed Management Plan. Participants will hear about the planning process along with actions that they can take on their own properties to help improve water quality

Our local lake associations will provide updates on current water conditions, stormwater management projects, cyanobacteria reports, aquatic invasive species control, upcoming workshops, volunteer opportunities and more.

**All welcome! FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



Presented by

**WENTWORTH WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

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## Cyanobacteria



**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!)**

Advisories are issued by NHDES when samples are collected and cell counts exceed the threshold of 70,000 cells/mL.

Alerts are issued by NHDES for lake-goers to be on the lookout for developing conditions, especially those near shores with high recreation potential. Observations are cyanobacteria sightings that have been visually confirmed.

For [Cyanobacteria Facts and Actions](#), here's another contribution from the Wentworth Watershed Association.

