



SINGLETARY SUN

THE VOICE OF THE LAKE SINGLETARY
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is finally upon us. After more than a few early teasers, consistent seasonal temperatures have prevailed and are heading us towards the most active season on the lake.

Our spring is heralded by visiting migratory birds like the swans and several variations of mergansers that make their brief stops to ply the chilly waters surrendered from the melting ice. Following those short-term visitors are the familiar seasonal residents comprised of ducks, geese, herons and our own squadron of aerial fishermen, the ospreys. I didn't overlook the magnificent eagles, but they are happily with us year-round at Singletary. Now, I'm starting to see the small turtles out soaking up warmth from the ever more direct rays of the sun as we move towards summer., I can only think how fortunate we are to be able to live in this beautiful venue surrounded by such wonders of nature.

While on the topic of nature, we were provided great conditions for our drawdown this past winter. The shallow bottom was fully exposed to hard freezing conditions before any insulating snow fell. Hopefully the freeze was able to thin out some of nature's not so welcome interlopers, the non-native and nuisance weeds that try to envelop our shoreline waters. More recently the refill has progressed on track, thanks to Dave Rudge, who manages the lake level for the Town of Millbury. In case you were not aware, Millbury owns the water rights for Lake Singletary.

With all that's trending positive, the temperature, the reemergence of all the natural beauty around us in concert with a full lake, what more could we ask for? Not surprisingly, a lot of you have been asking for something else, information about our current lack of an operational boat ramp. As most of you know, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts owns the public boat ramp and operates it through the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Several years ago, the state developed a plan to rebuild and correct issues that had developed with the aging ramp. This past year the project was granted funding. I'll start with the most obvious question on everyone's mind. The Contractor's Completion Deadline, a state term, is May 24th, 2019. In conversation with MassWildlife management, I was told they are anticipating a completion and reopening a week or two earlier. The project improvements will include a longer and deeper concrete underwater ramp. This is designed to eliminate the depression and resulting large mound created over every season from power loading. On the west side of the ramp there will be a floating dock to make launching and retrieval easier. A concrete sidewalk will be added from West Main Street to allow safer access to a new shoreline fishing area. Finally, the regraded parking lot will be paved. No additional parking spaces are being added, so the maximum daily usage will remain unchanged. I will keep you informed of the progress through our members email list. This a good time to make sure we have your correct email.

As I said earlier, we are heading into our most active time on the lake. I hope to see all of you in and around the lake or at one of our upcoming association events. Let's all work together to make this another happy and especially safe year for Lake Singletary. Thanks to the work of our board, the member volunteers and your support, our association remains strong.

See you on the lake soon,
Paul Kawolis
President



FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE!

We once again showed our PATRIOTIC SPIRIT with our annual 4th of July BOAT PARADE. Boats were decorated with lights and patriotic attire. Whether you were part of the parade or on shore, it was fun for all! Thanks for all who participated and for all of those who cheered from ashore!!!



MORE PRARADE





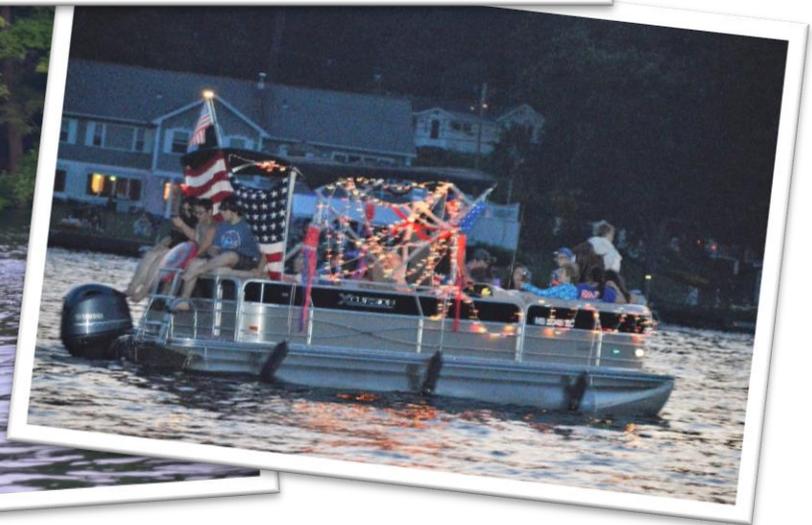
MORE PARADE



MORE PARADE



EVEN MORE PARADE!



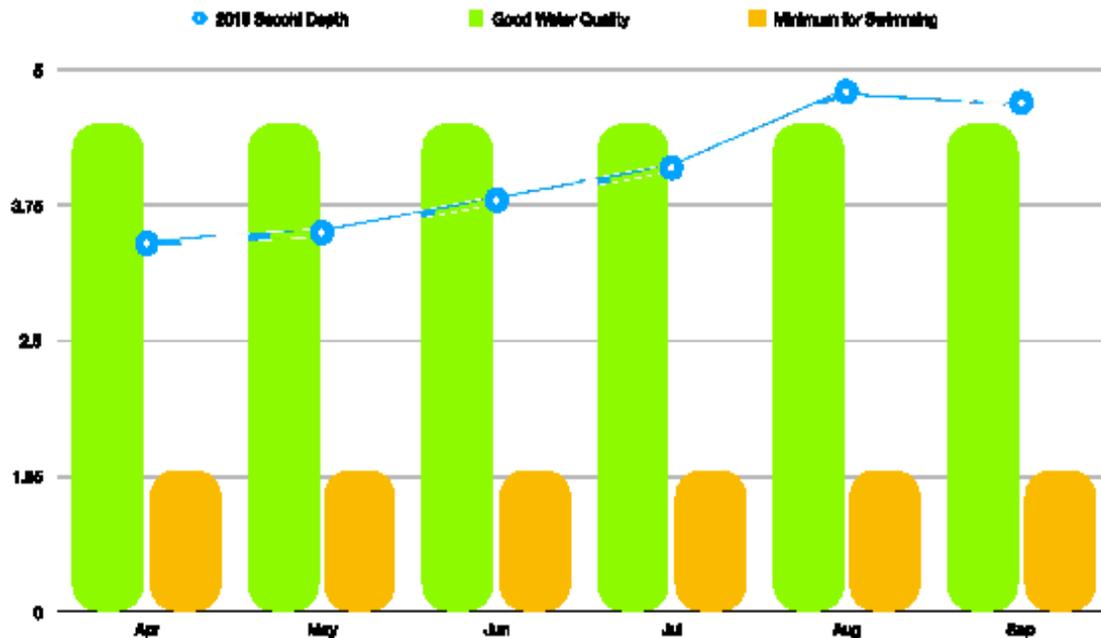
THE RAFTING PARTY



VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY MONITORING

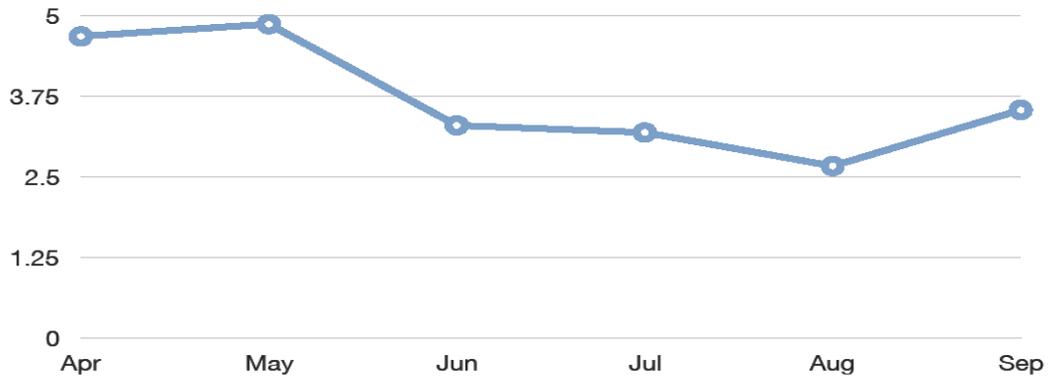
We begin our spring season this year with a with a full lake and a new boat ramp. The initial look at the health of the lake bodes well for another great summer. The LSWA water monitoring program tests the water quality of Lake Singletary monthly, as weather permits. In doing this, our volunteers compile data by using both our own equipment and through laboratory analysis of collected water samples. We typically track dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature, PH, chlorophyll-a, phosphorus and clarity. This long-term data is important for maintaining the health of the lake and can be viewed on the LSWA website. If you are interested in helping this group of dedicated volunteers, please contact Wayne Junnila to join the fun.

2018 Lake Singletary Secchi Readings



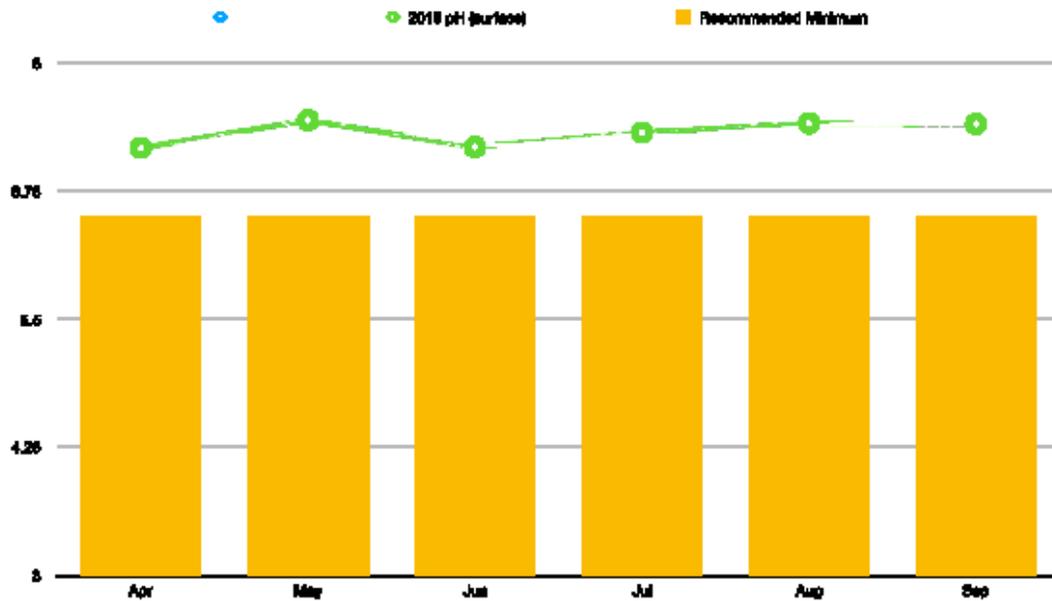
MORE WATER QUALITY

2018 Lake Singletary Chlorophyll a



Chlorophyll a levels are often used to predict the possibility of algae bloom

2018 Lake Singletary Surface pH





LSWA BOARD MEMBERS

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A very special thank you to the Board members who retired this year: Rose Direnzo, Brian Mellen and Rosemary Salem. We all appreciate your significant service and dedication to the protection of our watershed

VOLUNTEER NEEDED: The Association is looking for a volunteer who is willing to take over updates on our already established website. Some basic training will be provided. Please contact Paul Kawolis if you are interested.

2018 DONOR HONOR ROLL

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**THANK YOU TO ALL
LSWA MEMBERS.
YOUR SUPPORT IS
IMPORTANT AND
APPRECIATED!**

If you would like to join
us, it is not too late for
the 2019 season.

Send dues to:

LSWA

P.O. Box 332

Sutton MA 01590

MASSACHUSETTS BOATING LAW SUMMARY

Minimum Age Restrictions: No person under 12 years of age may operate a motorboat, unless accompanied on-board and directly supervised by a competent person 18 years of age or older. Personal watercraft (PWC) users must still be at least 16 years of age in order to operate, with no exceptions.

Safety Education Certification: Youth who are between 12 and 15 years of age must complete an approved basic boating course in order to operate a motorboat without adult supervision. Upon successful completion of such a course, students are issued a state "boating safety certificate" which must be in the possession of the certified operator when underway. Personal watercraft users who are 16 or 17 years of age must also complete such a boating course. Youth less than 16 years of age are not allowed to operate personal watercraft.

Accident Reporting: The operator of any motorboat involved in an accident which results in personal injury, death, or property damage (over \$500) shall immediately notify the MA Environmental Police and file the appropriate accident report within the required time frame. (2 days-fatality; 5 days - all other accidents)

Safety Equipment: Most of the state equipment carriage requirements are similar to federal laws. This primary list includes life preservers, fire extinguishers, signaling devices, visual distress signals, and navigation lights. In Massachusetts, life preservers are required to be worn by: (1) youth less than 12 years of age (2) personal watercraft users (3) waterskiers (4) canoeists/kayakers from September 15 - May 15. A boat owner or a boat's operator is responsible to ensure that passengers on-board wear life preservers as required. Additionally, the state requires that all motorboats (with the exception of personal watercraft) be equipped with an anchor, manual bailer, and line. A paddle or an oar is required on boats less than 16 feet in length. Motorboats towing skiers must also be equipped with a boarding ladder. Registration and numbering of all boats powered by machinery is required.

Prohibited Operation: The following types of operation are extremely unsafe and are prohibited:

- Operating any vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs. A blood alcohol concentration of .08 BAC is the current standard of intoxication in Massachusetts.
- Operating a motorboat within 150 feet of a swimming area, whether public or private.
- Operating at an excessive speed considering weather conditions, boat traffic, and other hazards.
- For inland waters, operating at a speed greater than 45 mph is considered negligent operation.
- Operating a motorboat without properly working lights.
- Operating a motorboat during the nighttime while towing waterskiers, tubers, etc.
- Operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of a swimmer, waterskier, mooring area, marina, boat launch, or when the operator's vision is obscured in any way.
- Operating in an overloaded condition (carrying total weight that exceeds capacity plate recommendations or is excessive considering water conditions)
- Operating with passengers on the bow, gunwales, or any other place where there may be a chance of falling overboard.

Personal Watercraft Operation : Personal watercraft (PWC) are considered motorboats by law and must comply with all boating laws and navigation rules, including the speed and operation provisions above. Additionally, PWC users must adhere to state regulations specific to personal watercraft operation including:

- Wear an approved life jacket (PFD) at all times (operator and passengers).
- Attach the safety lanyard to the operator and the cutoff/kill switch.
- Always operate at slow, no-wake speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of a swimmer, the shoreline, waterskiers, a boat launch, a raft or float or a moored or docked boat.
- You must not operate a PWC: If less than 16 years old; Under the influence of alcohol; Between sunset and sunrise; At high speed in congested areas; On waters under 75 acres; While towing persons on skis, tubes, etc.

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-boating-law-summary-0>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring Wing Ding	Saturday, May 18th	Annual LSWA social at the Dudley Gendron Post. Everyone is welcome! Come meet your neighbors and kick off the summer season. Dinner, raffles and live entertainment.
4 th of July Boat Parade	Wednesday, July 4th	8:00 PM Meet at the Southwest end of the lake
Rafting Party	Saturday, August 3rd	Bring your boat and tie up at Gull Island 3:00 PM 'till whenever. . . .
Annual Meeting Open to all members	Wednesday, August 28th	7:00 PM St. Mark's Church

A sincere THANK YOU to all the Lake Singletary Watershed Association's members. Your continued membership and volunteer support enables us to enjoy and protect this beautiful watershed.

A friendly reminder, if you have not already done so, please remit your 2019 dues (dues and donations are tax deductible).

, please remember to visit our beautiful website, where you will find additional information and links regarding our watershed:

www.lakesingletary.org