Fall 2024

THE SINGLETARY SUN

THE VOICE OF THE LAKE SINGLETARY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

"Dedicated to the preservation and protection of Lake Singletary and its watershed"

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Well, friends, it happened again - another lake season has drawn to a close. As evenings get chilly and days get shorter, it is a time to share and savor our memories from the summer and hold them warm in our hearts. Hopefully everyone was able to enjoy the perfectly splendid weather this summer and create yet another set of memories, stories and lake adventures.

As always, I would like to thank everyone that has contributed their stories and pictures for the newsletters over the last few years. Please keep them coming. For this issue, we had some exceptional submissions, including the pictures of the Aurora Borealis, a great article on our friends the Cormorants, the 4th of July boat parade, the rafting party, the golf outing and just memories and pictures of every day life on this little slice of heaven that we call Lake Singletary.

Our calendar of events for 2025 is pretty much set – everyone that lives on the lake is always invited and welcome, and as the saying goes, the more the merrier. We also have an active FaceBook group to keep us all in touch and up to date about upcoming events and key dates.

I hope you enjoy this Fall Edition of the newsletter and have a wonderful holiday season whether you stay here at the lake or are off to warmer locales.

Have a great off-season, and see you in the Spring!
Jim Hull – LSWA Newsletter Editor

WHAT'S INSIDE

Calendar of Events ..... Page 2
Life on the Lake ..... Page 3
Lake Maintenance ..... Page 5
July 4th Parade ..... Page 6
Rafting Party..... Page 9
Golf Tournament ..... Page 11
Winter Lake Safety..... Page 14
Board Members and Contacts .... Page 15
Mass Boating Rules ..... Page 16

2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
Earth Day Cleanup	Saturday, April 26, 2025	8:30 AM Meet at the boat ramp
Boat Parade	Friday, July 4th	Meet at the Southwest end of the lake for an 8:15 parade start
Rafting Party	Saturday, August 2rd	4:00 PM Gull Island
Annual Meeting Open to all members	Wednesday, August 27th	7:00 PM St. Mark's Church
Annual Golf and Dinner Outing	September/October – Date TBD	Time TBD

Want to keep up to date on events, meet new lake friends or just enjoy the beautiful photographs of our lake?

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!
https://www.facebook.com/groups/3216376521791259

Any LSWA Member that is current on dues can join – we are already at 134 members and growing every week. Join up, stay connected and keep in touch.

Did you know?

Raking or blowing leaves into the lake is a significant contributor to Algae Blooms

Algae require phosphorous and nitrogen to grow. Nitrogen is abundant around us (the air we breathe is 78% nitrogen), so a good way to limit algae growth in the lake is to limit the phosphorous that gets into the water. In addition to runoff from fertilized yards and failing septic systems, a major source of phosphorous is decaying leaves.

You can help! During fall cleanups, avoid blowing or raking leaves into the lake. Both the Millbury and Sutton transfer stations have dedicated composting areas. Or, you can use a mulching blade on your mower to mulch the leaves and use them in beds around your house. As the leaves decay the phosphorous migrates back into the soil and not into the lake!

Another tip – if you use fertilizer on your lawn, choose a low or zero phosphorous option and avoid applying fertilizer near the shore line. A great option is to plant native grasses along the shoreline. These act as a natural buffer to contain runoff, and a natural barrier that keep geese off your yard

LIFE ON THE LAKE

Nature's Diver - The Cormorant

"Thence up he flew, and on the Tree of Life, / The middle Tree and highest there that grew, / Sat like a cormorant…" – John Milton, "Paradise Lost"

Cormorants are aquatic birds like ducks, geese and herons. However, cormorants belong to their own family of birds called Phalacrocoracidae. They are found worldwide and prefer coastal areas, lakes, rivers and wetlands. They often nest in large colonies in trees or on cliffs. Their typical lifespan is about 6 to 10 years.

While ducks will feed on the surface or dabble in shallow water, cormorants primarily dive to catch fish. They are exceptional divers. Their bodies are built for speed in the water, reducing drag as they swim. They have webbed feet that act like flippers, allowing for strong propulsion underwater. Their long flexible necks help them maneuver to quickly catch fish.

They dive from the surface and can reach considerable depths and can hold their breath for several minutes, allowing them to stay submerged while hunting. They see well underwater because they have specially adapted eyes.

After diving, it is common to see them perched holding their wings out to dry. Their feathers are not completely waterproof helping them dive more effectively, but it also means that they need time to dry off. They preen their feathers as well which helps maintain the condition of their feathers, keeping them clean and organized for better flight and insulation.

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In summary, they are fascinating birds that we are lucky to have on our lake

Have a Story you want to share? Email JHull444@Gmail.com

LIFE ON THE LAKE

The Splendor of the Aurora

This Summer and Fall offered an incredibly rare experience for those that looked to the North – the Aurora Borealis was visible several nights and we received many incredible pictures taken right here on our Lake and across the area.

Have a Story you want to share? Email JHull444@Gmail.com

LAKE MAINTENANCE

A primary role of the Lake Association is coordinating maintenance of the lake. Our weed treatment was done this year on Juy 25th by Solitude Lake Management located in Shrewsbury. 22.1 acres of eurasian water milfoil plus other nuisance weeds and 18.4 acres of fanwart were targeted.

You may have noticed the airboat was out all day on the lake as a separate treatment was also done for algae. Use of an airboat allows them to be able to safely treat shallow areas. The post treatment survey showed that the treatment was successful.

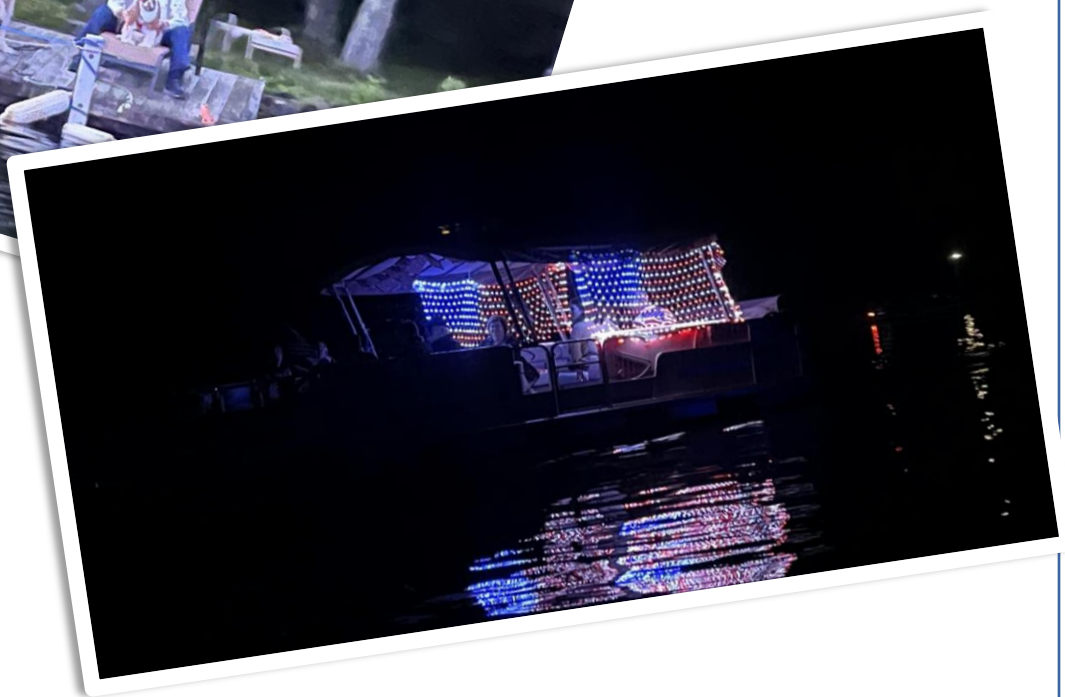
JULY 4TH BOAT PARADE - 2024

Our first July 4th boat parade had 5 boats, and happened over 20 years ago. This year, there were over 30 boats parading around the lake. Participants as well as bystanders on shore, displayed their patriotic spirit. Boats were adorned with lights, along with creative and festive July 4th decorations. People on shore cheered, waved flags and set off fireworks as the parade passed by their shoreline

Decorate and join us again next year for a great time!
Meet at 8:15pm in the South cove on the 4th for an evening of celebration

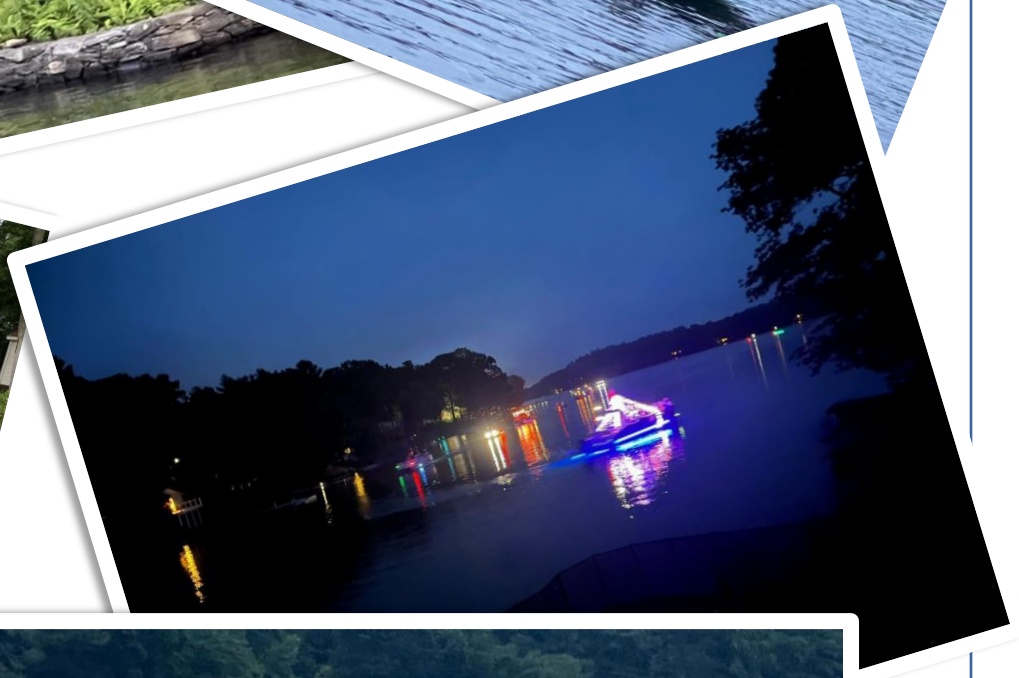
See more photos in the FaceBook Group!

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE A GREAT PARADE!



See more photos in the FaceBook Group!

A FUN TIME HAD BY ALL!



See more photos in the FaceBook Group!

AUGUST RAFTING PARTY

Our annual rafting party was Saturday August 3rd. Pontoon boats and motor boats rafted together in the middle of the lake next to the big rock. There was plenty of delicious food like homemade chocolate chip cookies, hot dogs wrapped in dough and fried chicken.

Ben, Andrew, and Adam came with their parents and sister Josie and brought their swimming raft. They had fun swimming and playing on it and others, like Jim Nash, joined them as you can see below. Some just took an evening swim as the water was a perfect temperature. When people discovered that Ben had never heard the song "Bennie and the Jets", the serenading began!

Everyone had a great time and are looking forward to doing it again next year. The rafting party is held on the first Saturday in August.

See more photos in the FaceBook Group!

AUGUST RAFTING PARTY

See more photos in the FaceBook Group!

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Jim Nash – Golf Tournament Coordinator

I woke up to 75 degrees, low humidity and a beautiful blue-sky morning on Saturday 9/14 and thought “what a great day to play some golf”. As luck would have it, the LSWA golf tournament was scheduled for later that afternoon. This year’s tournament was held at Highfields Golf Course in Grafton, MA. We had our biggest turnout this year with 13 teams and 52 golfers.

In the team competition, we had 2 teams tie for 1st place (-4 score). We had a very complicated tiebreaker to decide the winner that only Matt Connors could understand.

- 1st place went to the Charest Team (Dan and Justin Charest plus Nial Barton and Eric Swanson). They upped their game this year after finishing in 2nd place last year.
- 2nd place team went to Harris Marcum and his golf buddies --- Conner Soucie, Jay Wenzel and Rob Sabourin. Great job by all the winners!

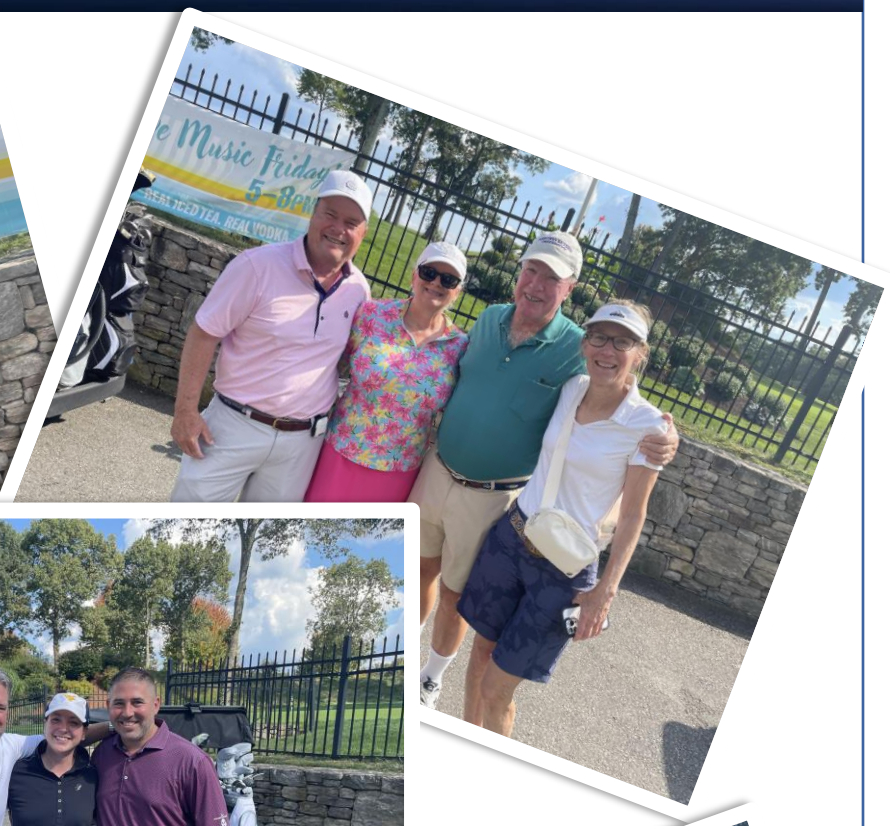
We also had some individual competitions for Closet to Pin and Longest Drive.

- Closet to pin (Ladies) - Laurie Mellon (24’)
- Longest Drive (Ladies) – Kelly Salmon (~200 yds)
- Closet to pin (Men) – Parker Wellington (8’)
- Longest Drive (Men) – Nate Sobiech (~350 yds, cart path assisted)

The golf tournament was followed by a group dinner with 65+ people attending. I hope that everyone had some fun and enjoyed the day! Looking forward to doing this again next year.

See more photos in the FaceBook Group!

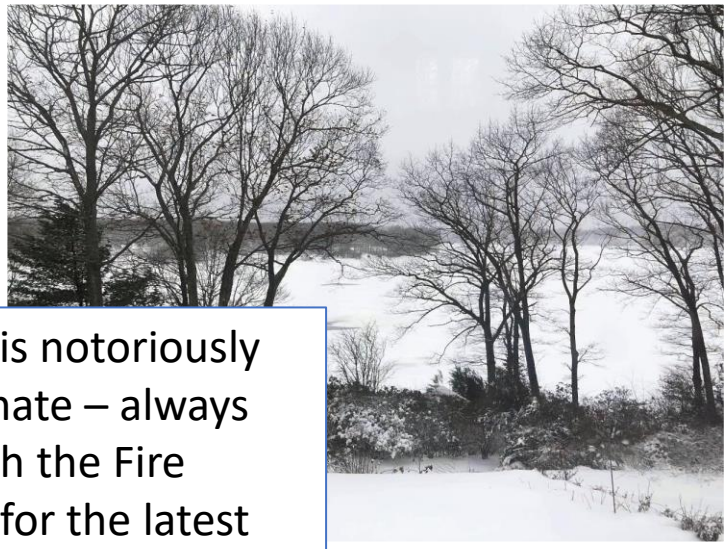
ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

WINTER LAKE SAFETY

ALWAYS USE CAUTION ON THE ICE!



Ice thickness is notoriously hard to estimate – always check with the Fire Department for the latest information before venturing onto the ice

For more info: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/ice-strength-and-safety

LSWA BOARD MEMBERS

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	Tom Wotjkowski	t_c_wojtkowski@hotmail.com	508-415-1669

MASSACHUSETTS BOATING RULES

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.

Have a Memory you want to share? Email JHull444@Gmail.com

MASSACHUSETTS BOATING RULES

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

THANK YOU to all LSWA Members!

We want to thank all our members who continue to fund The Lake Singletary Watershed Association's efforts to maintain and improve our lake through your dues contributions.

Additionally, we thank all of you that support us through participation in our association's projects and social events.

Thank you for being a part of another safe and fun year on and around Lake Singletary

If you are not yet a member, it is never too late!

Send Dues to:
LSWA
P.O. Box 332
Sutton, MA 01590