

# SINGLETERARY SUN

Fall 2011

THE VOICE OF THE LAKE SINGLETERARY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



*“Dedicated to the Preservation and Protection of Lake Singletary and its Watershed”*

## President’s Message

### Your Association

#### Board of Directors

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508-865-3019

##### Vice President:

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508-865-0741

##### Treasurer:

Bob LeClaire  
508-865-6763

##### Secretary:

Mona Kawolis  
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##### Board Members:

**Ken Bergeron**

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**Mark Briggs**

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**Rose Direnzo**

508-865-4780

**Sharie Grant**

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**Walter Hagstrom**

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**Tony Halpin**

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**Wayne Junnila**

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**Karen LeBlanc**

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**Dan MacNamara**

508-865-1016

**Brian Mellen**

508-865-5631

**Wayne Mong**

508-865-9493

**Dick &**

**Karen Norlin**

508-865-2581

**Mike Salem**

508-865-3761

**John Silverberg**

508-865-8130

As we come to a season close we once again had a very active and successful year. The summer presented a few challenges with the storm cycle but we worked our way through them and had a fun filled summer.

The boat parade was another success with the boats seeming to have more and more lights and decorations. Thanks to everyone who continues to support this event. This year’s rafting party was well attended and once again a good chance to meet and spend time with our lake neighbors.

On the business front we managed to finish and submit our revised drawdown plan and recently got final approval from the State and the local conservation commission to implement this new plan any time going forward. This new plan will allow us to carefully increase the drawdown depth in order to maximize our impact on the weeds along the shorelines to depths that may reach nine feet.

In other business at our annual meeting we re-elected a slate of officers and board members to do the associations business for the upcoming year.

Our initiative on an oil co-op is still a work in progress. May not be ready

for this season but during our research we discovered a website named NewEnglandOil.com. This site provides a list current oil prices from dozens of local oil dealers for your review. More to come on this plan.

For the new year we are investigating the availability of grants and reviewing quotes for updating our 15-year-old Lake Management plan.

The news on the results of the new fanwort treatment chemical called Clipper continues to be very good with test being run by our treatment company on lakes and ponds in CT and RI. This chemical has been approved by the federal government and submitted to the state of Mass. for approval in our lakes. We plan to start an initiative to accelerate this approval process with hopes of using Clipper in Lake Singletary summer 2012.

Our membership drive was successful again this year with the vast majority of property owners sending in their dues payments on a timely basis. Finally please refrain from blowing leaves into the lake during your fall cleanup. Thanks once again for your continued support of your association.

Tim Vanderlinden  
LSWA President

# 2011 LSWA Honor Roll

Paul&Lee Adams Roy & Marilyn Ahlen Bill & Charlotte Bedord Margareta Berg Ken & Kathleen Bergeron Carl & Penny Bergeson John Bergin Ed Bettke Paul & Joan Bjork Virginia Bliss Mark Briggs John & Carolyn Brigham Brad Bumpus John & Stacy Burl Michael & Rie Poirier Campbell Thomas Capistran Norman & Joyce Cardin Paul & Linda Carlson Lee Carman Michael Catino John & Cynthia Charest David, Sherry & Tom Chevalier Robert & Judy Clark Robert & Jeff Clark James & Amy Craft Helen Largess-Crewe Bob & Barbara Daigneault Dan & Mary Daly Alan & Dorothy Dearnley Joe & Kelli Deliso Joyce De Rosa John & Rose Direnzo Stephen & Theresa Dunne Mike & Judy Dunne John Esler Jenny Fields Robert & Bridget Fink* Donald Fouracre Diane Fulten Barbara & Julio Fusaro Greg Gauthier Dana & Diane Giampa Michael & JoAnne Goodfriend Everett & Janet Grahn Nancy Grant Travis & Sharie Grant Karen Green  <b>*Denotes new members</b>	Conrad & Mary Hagstrom Walter & Joan Hagstrom Tony & Elaine Halpin Janet Hammarstrom Michael & Deborah Hanlan Tom & Marie Haynes David & Deborah Hebert Jon & Donna Heslin Kathleen & David Holt Donal & Dina Jamieson Fred & Nancy Jarvis Pam Jernberg Gordon Johnson Greg & Nancy Johnson Jeff & Suzanne Johnson Russell & Mary Johnson Wayne & Ann Junnila Paul & Mona Kawolis Paul Larson Paul & Kathy Laverdiere James & Pamela Lavoie Paul & Diane Lavoie Kenneth & Karen LeBlanc Michael & Candace LeBlanc Bob LeClaire Jim & Ruby LeClaire Charles & Lynn Lidz Axel Linder Kenny Linder Alan & Ellan Marcell Paul & Vivian Marcell David Marois Normand & Gloria Marois Lynda Martin & Craig Warneke Garth Maynard John Maynard Kevin McCarthy Patricia McCarthy Theresa McDermott Daniel & Kyrenya McNamara Frank McNamara Garry & Peggy Melia Garry T & Karen Melia Brian & Laurie Mellen Stephen Mong Wayne Mong Stephen Moss* Dennis & Nancy Mulhane	Bill & Barbara Nartowt Richard & Karen Norlin Suzanne Nydam* Bernice O'Gassian Lynne Olsen* David & Ruth Parker Robert & Ginny Picking Brad & Cathy Pierce Frederick Poland Jr. Ken & Karen Rapp Frank G. Rourke Alan Rudge David Rudge Ronald & Janet Rudge Richard & Carol Rudman Michael & Rosemary Salem Donald Salerno & Marna Hasz Lucille & Jack Sampson Jacqueline Shakar & Debra Pinto Holland & Sylvia Shaw Mark Shirman John Silverberg Ronald Stead Robert Strong & Letty WheeLOCK Dottie Sundquist Don & Dolores Swatik Bill & Wendy Talcott Dominic & Cheryl Triola Fran & Kathy Triola Dana & Dolores Tschirch Steve & Lisa Vaillancourt Tim & Deb Vanderlinden Mark S. Vayo Francis Venincasa Carolyn Wellington Parker & Diane Wellington Bonnie Westerback & Jennifer Kapenas Giles & Lynn Whalen Stanley & MaryEllen Wilczynski John & Jeanne Willis Stephen Winchell Beth Winchester Chris & Kellie Windle Terrance B Windle David & Nancy Winn Gregory & Cynthia Wolodkin
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**Thanks to all LSWA members..It is not too late to be a 2011 member!!**  
**Send dues to: Robert LeClaire c/o Benjamin Ins.**  
**497 Central Turnpike, Sutton, MA 01590**

# 2011 Water Quality Update

**By Karen Norlin**

We are coming to the close of our 18th year of volunteer monitoring. For those of you unfamiliar with our program, our volunteers check in-lake clarity using a Secchi disk; pH, measure dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles from surface to bottom using a YSI meter purchased by LSWA; and collect alkalinity and phosphorus samples, which are analyzed by a water quality lab. In addition we monitor phosphorus at 3 upstream locations in the Merrill Ponds.

New this year we added pH, dissolved oxygen, and temperature measurements to the upstream locations. This data may help establish whether the Merrill Pond system is a phosphorus source (releasing phosphorus downstream) or a phosphorus sink (absorbing incoming phosphorus from the watershed). This is determined by many variables in the watershed, such as vegetation, soils, and topography, as well as the condition of the ponds themselves. We need an expert to help us evaluate the data and propose solutions for water quality improvement, and would like to include this study as part of a future update to our 1995 Management Plan.

This year, clarity changed very little from historical values, ranging from 3 to 4 meters, which is good news. Also good are pH and alkalinity values, which seem to indicate that Lake Singletary is not adversely affected by acid rain.

The not-so-good news is about phosphorus and dissolved oxygen. The trend seems to be that in-lake phosphorus at the bottom is increasing and dissolved oxygen is decreasing. This results from decomposition of organic matter in sediments. Organic matter is deposited by runoff from the watershed, as well as algae and plant die-off. As organic matter decomposes, the process depletes oxygen and releases phosphorus.

The process is cyclical. Phosphorus coming in from the watershed acts as fertilizer for plants and can cause algae blooms. The plants and algae die from natural causes or chemical treatments, depositing organic matter in the sediments. The sediments decay, releasing more phosphorus.

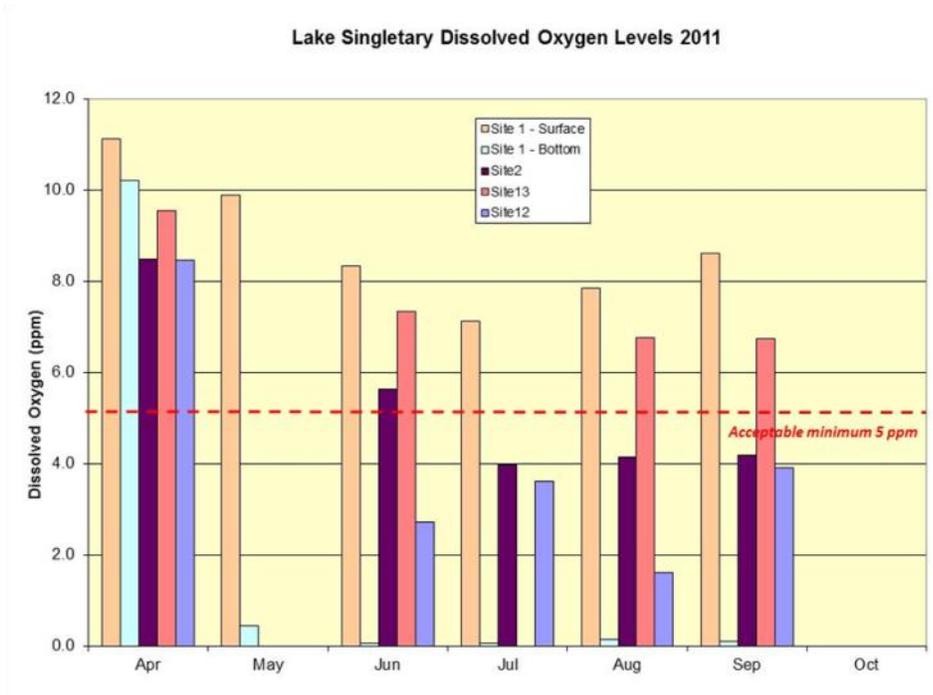
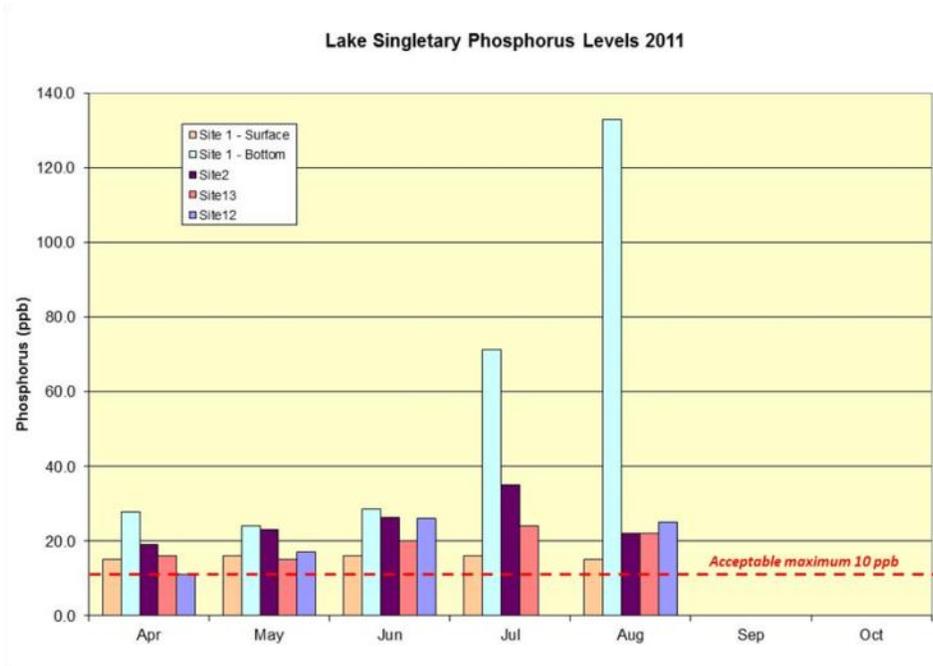
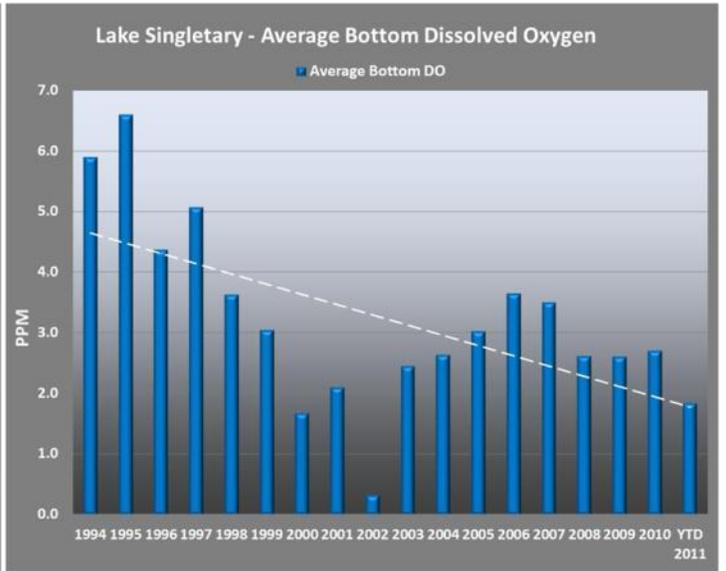
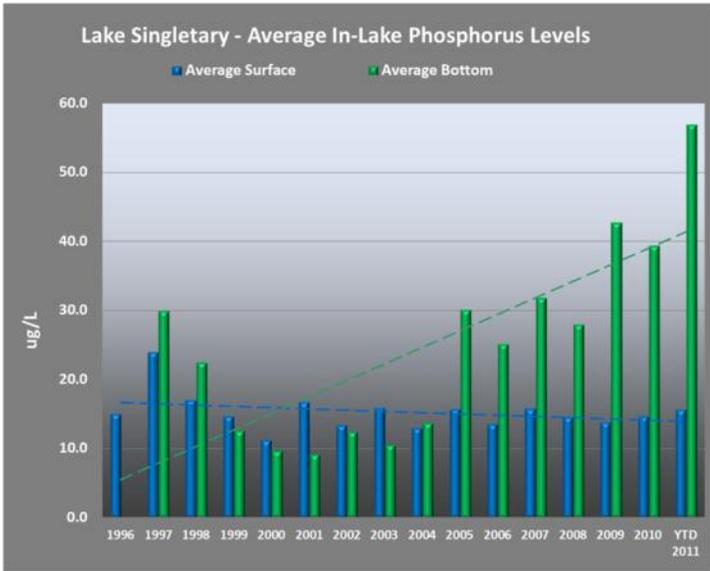
Up until recently experts said that lake concentrations greater than 30 parts per billion (ppb) were cause for concern. At last January's Congress of Lakes and Ponds meeting we heard from the premier lake scientist in New England, Ken Wagner, that levels above 10-20 ppb are now considered detrimental. Last year Lake Singletary's average phosphorus concentration was 39 ppb at the bottom, and so far this year we are averaging 57 ppb. Phosphorus at the surface has been steady at an average of 10-20 ppb. The tributaries range from about 10 to 40 ppb.

Dissolved oxygen drops below 5 parts per million (ppm), the level needed to support trout, at about 6 meters in summer, and to almost zero at bottom. Dissolved oxygen in tributaries ranges from 1-8 ppm.

What is the solution? Past activities focused on goals from our 1995 Management Plan, primarily in and around the lake. According to the data used to develop the management plan, about 1/3 of the phosphorus entering the lake comes from direct (non-point source) runoff from activities along the shoreline, about 1/3 comes from septic system leachate, and about 1/3 comes from tributary inflow and precipitation. To address this we have made an effort around the lake to conserve water, maintain our septic systems, and eliminate the use of lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus. Millbury has installed a sewer line along the most densely populated lake shore - it would be beneficial if Sutton would follow suit. Now it is time to turn attention to the watershed to reduce nutrients.

Just to give one example, Ken Wagner called lawn fertilizer public enemy #1. He cited a study in Ann Arbor, MI, where a ban on phosphorus in fertilizer resulted in a 25% reduction in stream phosphorus in the first year. Although most major manufacturers are eliminating phosphorus in fertilizer, it is still available. While lakefront residents may use zero phosphorus fertilizer, our neighbors in the watershed may not. It's time to take our message to our neighbors. This is just one example where a small change can result in a big improvement.

For more information about our volunteer monitoring program and historical water quality data visit our web site, [www.lakesingletary.org](http://www.lakesingletary.org).



# Workday at Marion's Camp

By John Silverberg

Sutton town planner Jen Hager organized a workday at Marion's Camp on Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> to place over 50 plantings around the rain gardens recently installed at the Camp. Brian Mellen, Paul Marcel, Jeff Clark and Wayne Junilla and myself put in a good morning's work to help stabilize the gardens and improve the appearance of the Camp. Jen Hager deserves many thanks in her ongoing efforts to improve the Camp both in the planning office and showing up to help with the work. Mary Joe Henry from the Manchaug Lake Association was also able to make time to help with the project. On behalf of the LSWA, we would like to thank the volunteers for a job well done!



# Sutton Fire/Rescue Practices Emergency Rescues on Lake Singletary

by Brian Mellen

Practice makes perfect, and each year Deputy Fire Chief Jim Galanos and the Sutton Fire/Rescue team practice their emergency boating rescues. This year the practice rescue (hosted by LSWA) was performed on Lake Singletary with volunteers from the Lake Singletary Watershed Association. The goal of this event is for the rescue teams to familiarize themselves with the lake's access points, size, depth, and surrounds, as well as testing their equipment to ensure everything is in good working condition. This in turn leads to a much quicker response and rescue from this great Sutton fire/rescue team, especially when time is of the essence once a boating accident occurs. Rose Direnzo, and Karen LeBlanc were this year's victims involved in the practice rescue, while staying dry on shore, Brian Mellen and Jeff Clark acted out the part of witnessing the staged accident. Hats off to Jim and his team for a successful practice, with special thanks to the victims & witnesses', John Direnzo for the great pictures, and Ken LeBlanc for escorting the deputy chief around the lake.



## Email Address Request

Are you on the e-mail list? We regularly communicate via email for event reminders, draw-down timing, weed treatment timing and other useful news. Your e-mail address will not be shared and will only be used by the LSWA for membership communications.

Please send an e-mail to [LSWABOD@gmail.com](mailto:LSWABOD@gmail.com) with Add Me in the subject and get all the latest news!

## Weed and Algae Treatments

By Dan MacNamara

The battle continues. This year we treated over 18 acres for milfoil and nuisance vegetation as well as treating the lake for algae. We conducted several informal surveys in June and found slow and spotty growth of milfoil and various types of native vegetation, probably due to the cool spring and early summer. Fanwort in the Southwest cove was 6' to 8' below surface and only on the lake bottom in the Marsh and Harris Rd coves. As the weather improved, unfortunately so did the growth rate of the vegetation!

The first formal survey was conducted July 1<sup>st</sup> by ACT and Wayne Junnila. Water clarity was excellent, however Milfoil and nuisance vegetation was found in several areas. The main problem areas included the cove on the south side of "Fire Island", Sucker Brook cove, and along Singletary road towards Marsh Road. Tentative plans were made to treat with Aquatic Herbicide July 20<sup>th</sup>. Treatments require that a Legal notice be placed in the T&G, Conservation, recreation, Board of Health and Police Departments notified, and that those specific areas be posted. An additional pre-treatment survey was conducted July 15<sup>th</sup>. At this time Secchi Disk readings showed a substantial decrease in water clarity.

Water samples were collected and tested and increased algae levels found. The LSWA Board conferred and agreed that the lake needed to be treated with an Algaecide to prevent an unhealthy and unsightly "Bloom". The Lake Treatment date was changed to July 27<sup>th</sup>, all departments were again notified, and the Legal notice updated. Warning posters were updated and the lake area was plastered with over 100 posters.

With the cooperation of the Millbury DPW, email notification, and notifications on our web site, the lake was closed to all but a few boats and we had a successful treatment.

On August 17<sup>th</sup> ACT Inc conducted a vegetation survey. All areas of treatment showed great efficacy on target species. No Eurasian milfoil was observed during the survey. Nuisance native species had begun to re-grow as expected but had not reached nuisance densities or nuisance heights in the water column. Algae did not appear problematic at the time. Additionally, Fanwort growth was closely surveyed and documented. You may have notices we decided not to hand pull with scuba divers this year. This was because ACT is reporting great results in trial areas with "Clipper" herbicide. The results at nearby Quaddick Lake in Thompson, CT were excellent! The Board agreed that the your hard earned \$5000.00 would be better saved for future applications of Clipper. Hopefully, Massachusetts approves this herbicide quickly! Call your Representative and help push the cause.

I've been assisting with weed treatments for over 12 years now and if you have any questions regarding this year's treatment, I'll be glad to help, just call 508-726-0816.

## Water Level and Drawdown

By Tim Vanderlinden

This season proved to be a bit of a challenge with a handful of very heavy rain storms that had us actually having to request the boat ramp and lake be shut down to boat traffic for a couple days at a time. Other than these few events the lake water level was once again controlled very well allowing comfortable recreational use for most of the summer season. We have scheduled the yearly drawdown to begin on or about Columbus Day and proceed to a finish target date of December 1. The new stainless steel rulers that we installed are working very well providing an easily visible index to manage the water level. New for this year we recently paid for and submitted a formal drawdown plan for approval by the state and local conservation commissions. We have received that approval and will now be in a position to increase the depth of our drawdown when we deem necessary to help weed control.

# Corridor Update – A National Park in the Blackstone River Valley

Extracted from “Corridor Update,” JHC Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, NPS, **By Lee Adams**

For 25 years, the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission has been working with many partners in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to preserve, interpret and promote public enjoyment of the Blackstone Valley’s historic, cultural, natural and recreational resources.

After 25 years, congressional authority for the Commission is scheduled to expire in October, 2012. Aware of how important the history and resources of the Blackstone Valley are, and how successful the Corridor experiment has been, Congress directed the National Park Service (NPS) to study the possibility of establishing a permanent National Park in the Blackstone Valley.

The NPS has completed this Special Resource Study and presented a preferred option, which has two components: (1) creation of a permanent, bi-state National Park, and (2) a partnership between the Park and a strong, community-based, regional organization which would support the Park but also continue to work with partners corridor-wide on important issues.

The areas proposed for inclusion in the new National Park are:

Old Slater Mill National Historic Landmark District, Pawtucket, RI

Slatersville Historic District, North Smithfield, RI

Ashton Historic District, Cumberland, RI

Whitinsville Historic District, Northbridge, MA

Hopedale Village Historic District, Hopedale, MA

The Blackstone River and its tributaries

The Blackstone Canal

To enable a smooth transition, the Corridor Commission has incorporated a new non-profit organization, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Inc., to continue its role of coordinating and supporting partnerships.

This summer, the NPS held public hearings (a notice was circulated to LSWA members) and is now responding to comments received. This Fall, NPS will transmit the final version of the Special Resource Study to Congress. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and many members of the MA and RI Congressional delegations have expressed their support for the Park and the leadership will introduce legislation to create it. Ultimately, Congress will vote on that legislation to create a permanent national park in the Blackstone River Valley.

If you would like to receive updates and action alerts you can sign up at the website below to be on an email list. If you would like to help the campaign for a park, contact our Congressional Representatives and Senators – contact information is available at [www.contactingthecongress.org](http://www.contactingthecongress.org)



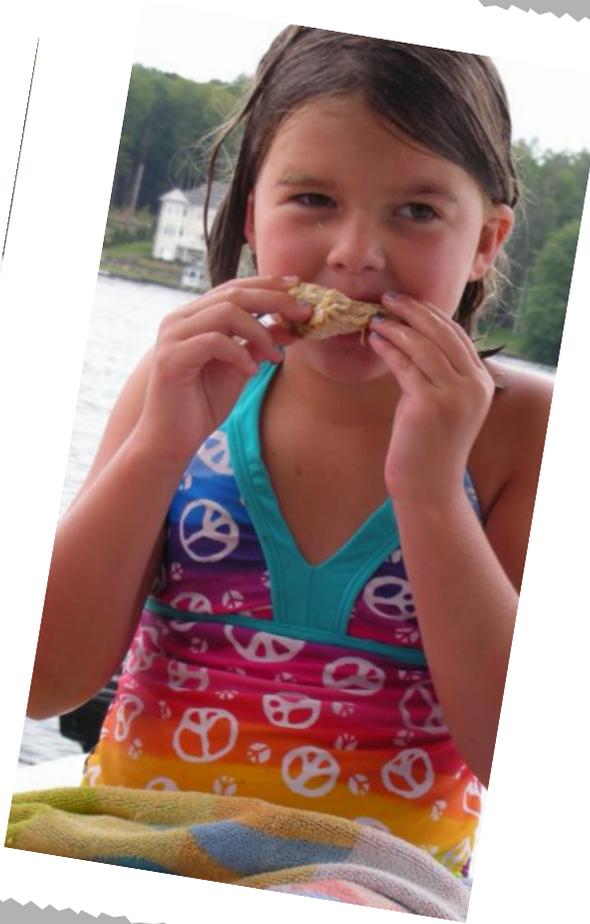
# SUMMER RAFTING PARTY



The summer rafting party was held this year on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Everyone brought delicious food to share including Pam's famous chicken wings, Elaine's awesome chocolate chip cookies and Carl's fresh hot dogs straight off the grill. Everyone also enjoyed socializing with each other and new members of our lake community. Pictures speak a thousand words so check them out!









# JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> BOAT PARADE

What great weather we had this year for the Boat Parade! We had 32 boats in all this year. Thanks to all who participated in the parade and decorated their boats with patriotic decorations and lights. Thanks to all who viewed from the shoreline and cheered and waved as the parade went by.





# Summer Fun



## Lake Singletary Word Search "Plant Life"

	C	V	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	K	J	L	H	G	F
	A	T	A	D	S	S	A	R	G	E	P	A	T	S	A	D
Eurasian Milfoil	R	E	U	R	A	S	I	A	N	M	I	L	F	O	I	L
Variable Milfoil	O	Z	X	C	I	V	B	N	M	E	R	C	T	B	Y	U
Carolina Fanwort	L	O	P	A	S	A	D	F	G	H	J	H	L	C	K	I
Chara	I	L	A	S	D	F	B	G	H	J	K	A	L	A	X	N
itella	N	C	V	B	N	M	R	L	T	Y	D	R	U	T	O	I
Bladderwort	A	W	A	T	E	R	W	E	E	D	P	A	S	T	S	T
Waterweed	F	D	F	H	J	K	L	A	E	M	S	D	F	A	G	E
Pondweed	A	H	J	K	L	W	E	R	R	T	I	W	D	I	H	L
White Waterlily	N	W	H	I	T	E	W	A	T	E	R	L	I	L	Y	L
Watershield	W	H	E	C	P	O	N	D	W	E	E	D	F	S	B	A
Cat-Tails	O	D	F	G	R	Q	I	P	M	F	S	G	N	O	V	X
Tape Grass	R	W	A	T	E	R	S	H	I	E	L	D	A	R	I	C
	T	V	B	N	M	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	S	D	F	L
	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	J

Can you find all of Lake Singletary's plant life? See if you can recognize them on our website at <http://www.lakesingletary.org/Vegetation.php>.

