

# SINGLETTY SUN

THE VOICE OF THE LAKE SINGLETTY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



It seems a short time has passed since I wrote “The long cold winter is finally passing off our stern...”, yet here we are steaming full speed ahead towards another cold and dark season of winter. Glancing off the stern from our present position, I am able to reflect on the incredible summer. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather. The summer has slipped over the horizon, not to be encountered again until we make the arduous circumnavigation through the season of icebergs and emerge into the warmer waters of next spring. I am once again reminded that unfortunately we do not enjoy the ‘endless summer’ the Beach Boys crooned about. I confess, I’m a warm weather guy; although I know many of you look forward to the unique opportunities our New England winters offer. In that spirit, I will once again endeavor to embrace the beauty and even some of the outdoor adventures this coming season offers.



On a seemingly parallel course with the sunny summer weather, our lake enjoyed a bright season with clear sailing on many fronts. This year Massachusetts finally approved the use of Clipper, the first herbicide that is effective in localized treatment of Fanwort. This non-native invasive weed that has proliferated in our lake in recent years. Prior to the approval of Clipper there were only two options for controlling Fanwort. The first was hand pulling, which we tried for several years, but our lake’s infestation proved far too extensive for this to be effective. The only other alternative, a whole-lake treatment was well beyond our budget, as we were quoted a price in excess of \$250,000 for the chemical alone, not including application. We were also warned that the whole-lake

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We all appreciate living on a beautiful lake like Singletary, but the real reward comes from taking advantage of the social and recreational opportunities it affords. With this in mind, we were fortunate to have another string of tremendous social and special events throughout the season. Kicking off the year, while being good stewards of the lakeshore we had a great turnout for The Earth Day Clean Up, followed by the always fun Spring Wing Ding, the dazzling Fourth of July Boat Parade, and The Summer Rafting Party. All of these traditional events went off without a hitch, with the exception of the Rafting Party, which due to one of the few days with less than beautiful weather, was postponed to the following weekend in the form of a wonderful impromptu rafting.



This year we added a new event for the fall season. Our new annual Lake Singletary Golf Tournament was held at The Blackstone National Golf Club. This fundraiser was conceived and headed up by Rose Direnzo, chair of the LSWA Fundraising Committee. The nine and dine format turned out to be a great success in fun and fundraising. I'll be working to improve my short game on the mini-golf circuit in anticipation of next year's event.

At the board level, we had some changes at the officer and chair positions. Bob LeClaire decided to step down from the office of Treasurer. He held that seat for our association since its inception in 1982. He will continue to serve on the board. What a run, thank you Bob! After 32 years, John Charest was elected as our association's second Treasurer. This year will also mark the 'retirement' of our current Vice President, Tony Halpin. Tony has also served for eleven years as chairman of the Membership Committee. We talked Tony out of this plan two years ago, but he wants to spend more time traveling and enjoying retirement with his lovely wife, Elaine. Tony's hard work has yielded incredible results in our association's membership roster. Thank you Tony, and best wishes. Due to the close relationship between the responsibilities of the Treasurer and Membership chair, John Charest, with minimal coercion, has agreed to serve in both roles. That's two for the price of one. Sharie Grant, our Newsletter chair, has stepped down from the editor-in-chief post due to other commitments. She continues to serve on the board. Thanks Sharie for all those wonderful newsletters! Starting with this issue, Diane Greenlaw has graciously accepted our request to coordinate and produce the Singletary Sun. Thank you to all who served in the past and to those who have agreed to take on these positions going forward.

Our association and Lake Singletary continue to be in good health, thanks to all of you who provide support toward the goal of keeping our lake a great place to live.

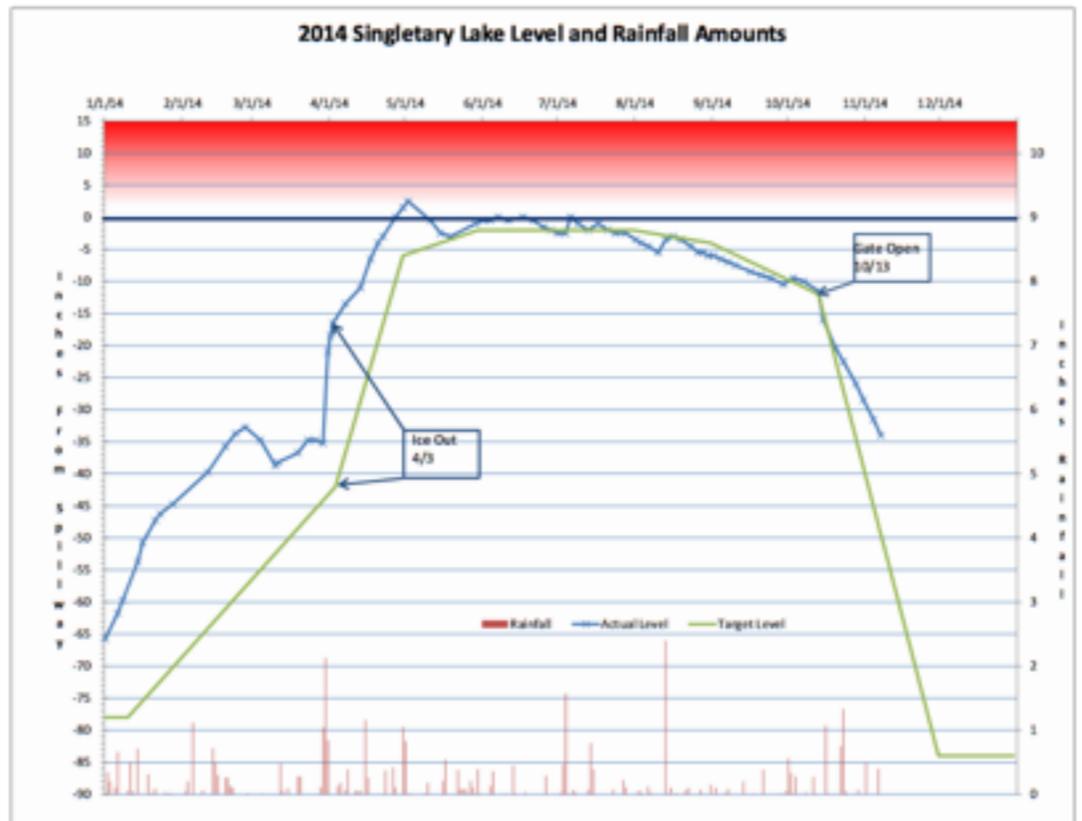
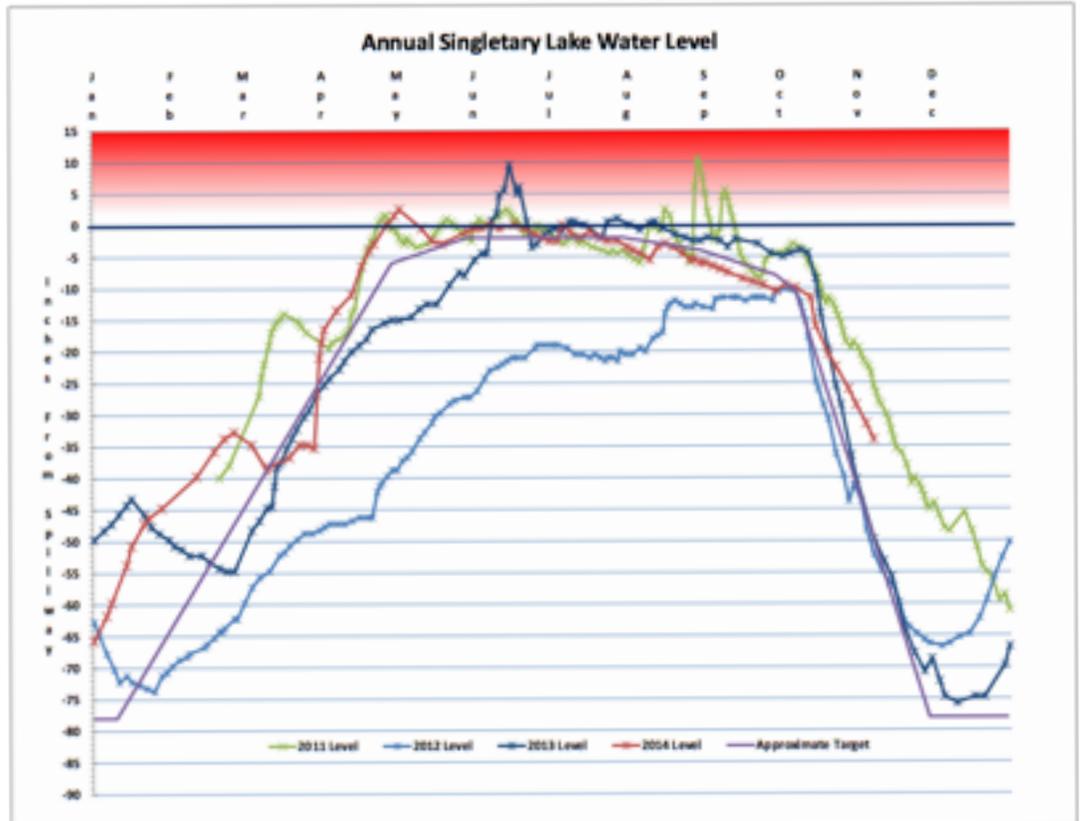
Have a happy and healthy holiday season.  
Paul Kawolis

# WATER LEVEL REPORT

*This year we enjoyed water levels that conjured up memories of *The Three Bears*: Not too much, not too little, but just right. We have two people to thank for this, Mother Nature and Dave Rudge. He is the man who literally turns the wheel at the dam for the Town of Millbury, which owns the water rights to Lake Singletary. The weather, our relationship with Dave Rudge, and his expertise managing our big bath tub with a tiny stopper, is what maintains this balance.*

*As usual, this year our drawdown began on Columbus Day. Our goal is to have the lake drawn down by the middle of December, exposing the shallow areas to weed killing freezing conditions before the snowfall insulates the uncovered bottom from the hard frost.*

*Early next year, we will begin to refill, with a goal of keeping the water level below the walls and structures on the shoreline until the damaging ice has melted. Then we have to rely on Mother Nature to complete our refill. Let's hope she's up for a repeat performance.*



# DON'T YOU JUST LOVE A PARADE!



*Lake Singletary residents sure do! Participants adorned their boats with patriotic decorations and lights. As the procession of boats proceeded around the lake, cheers could be heard from the shoreline. It was a fun night for all, whether you chose to be in the parade, or watch from shore.*



# DON'T YOU JUST LOVE A PARADE!



# VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY MONITORING UPDATE

By Karen Norlin

We have just completed the 21<sup>st</sup> year of volunteer monitoring! Our current program includes in-lake measurements for clarity (Secchi disk transparency), pH - dissolved oxygen (DO) - and temperature profiles, alkalinity, and total phosphorus. In addition, we monitor pH, DO, temperature, and phosphorus at 3 upstream locations in the Merrill Ponds.

This 20-plus years' worth of data was analyzed by Geosyntec, the consulting company we contracted with to complete the Management Plan update. The data was used to model nutrient loading in the lake. The good news is that our lake seems to be holding its own in terms of water quality. The fact that we have an active lake association providing stewardship is probably the major reason. We need to keep working on making improvements in the watershed to keep this trend going.

As you can see from the attached graphs, 2014 was one of the better years for water clarity. Water clarity is important because it gives an indication of the overall water quality, and is very easy to measure. One of the reasons for this is probably due to the low rainfall this summer. Sedimentation, nutrient loading, and resulting algae blooms due to runoff are factors that reduce water transparency.

Every person who lives on the lake, or uses it through public access at the boat ramp and town beach, has an impact on water quality. We all have a responsibility to protect the lake for our enjoyment and that of future generations. There are actions each of us can take to protect Lake Singletary, per the guidelines below:

## Keep phosphorus out of the lake:

- ★ Reduce fertilizer use or use low-phosphorus "lake-friendly" fertilizer
- ★ Keep a vegetated "buffer" between the shore and developed land
- ★ Build responsibly- obtain necessary permits, use erosion-control barriers such as hay bales and silt fence, minimize disturbed areas, and mulch and replant as soon as possible
- ★ Use phosphate-free detergents
- ★ Maintain your septic system – pump frequently and conserve water

## Protect the view:

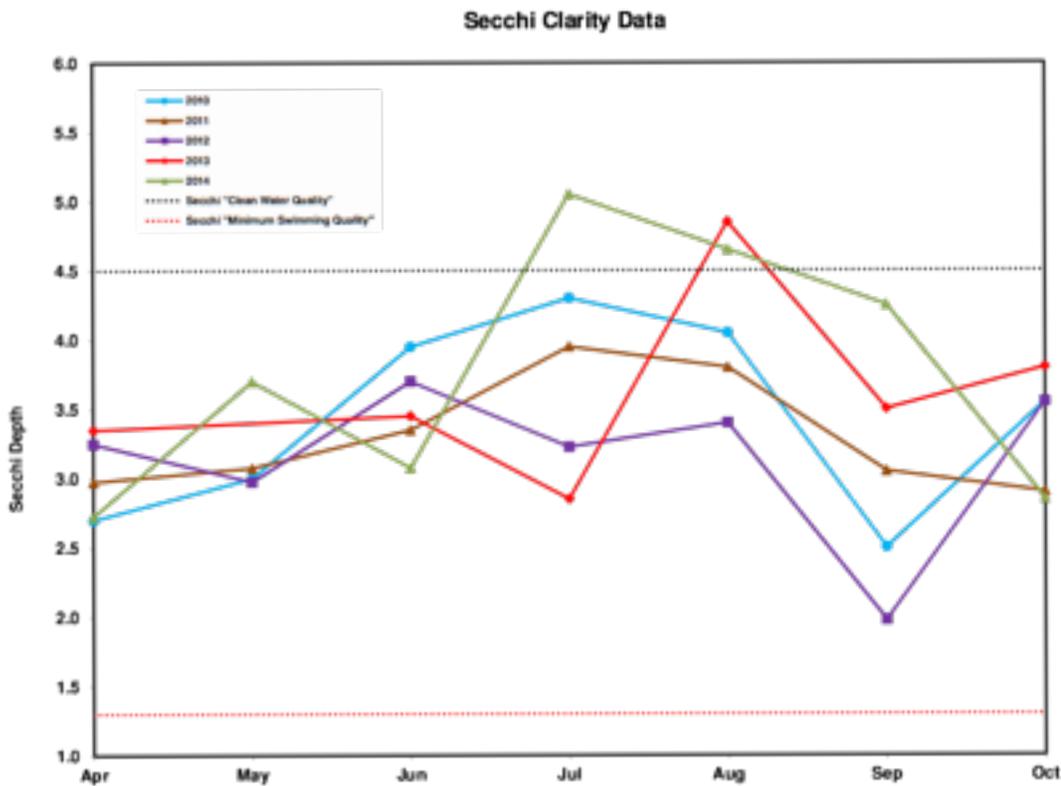
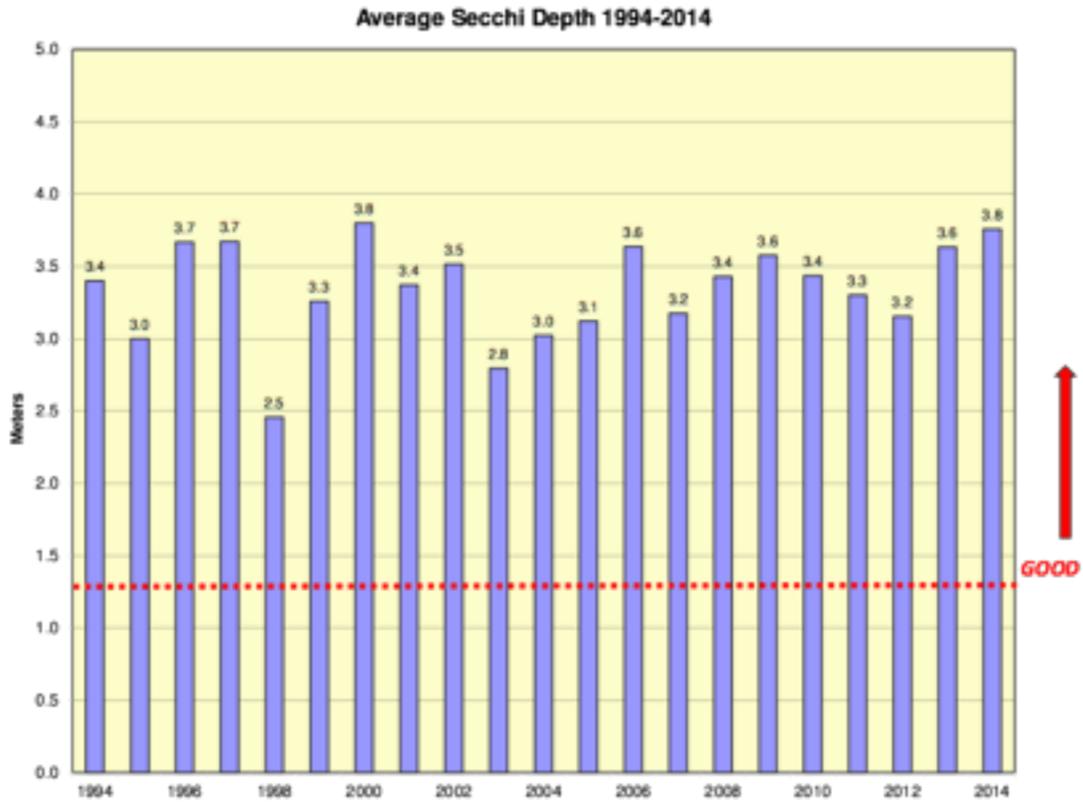
- ★ Maintain low visibility – leave a natural "buffer" along the shore to protect water quality and wildlife habitat
- ★ Limit tree cutting within 200 feet from shore
- ★ Leave the shoreline in its natural state – existing rocks prevent erosion by stabilizing the shoreline

## Practice responsible boating:

- ★ Choose a boat that fits the size of the lake
- ★ Avoid spilling gas - fix all leaks
- ★ Watch your wake – large wakes cause erosion and damage wildlife habitat
- ★ Know and obey boating laws

If interested in learning more about our sampling program, check out our web site at [www.lakesingletary.org](http://www.lakesingletary.org). Click on Maintenance/ Water Quality to explore our program.

# WATER CLARITY DATA



# GOLF TOURNAMENT

**On October 18th the LSWA held its first annual "Nine and Dine" Golf Tournament fundraiser at Blackstone National Golf Club.**

In addition to the 128 golfers who participated, 47 spouses and family members joined in for an evening of dining, dancing, raffles and camaraderie. A great time was had by all who attended.

The LSWA owes a debt of gratitude to Rose Dizenzo and her team of volunteer helpers who worked tirelessly to make the event such a tremendous success. Our host, Blackstone National's General Manager, Matt Stephens did a fantastic job of making the event one to remember.

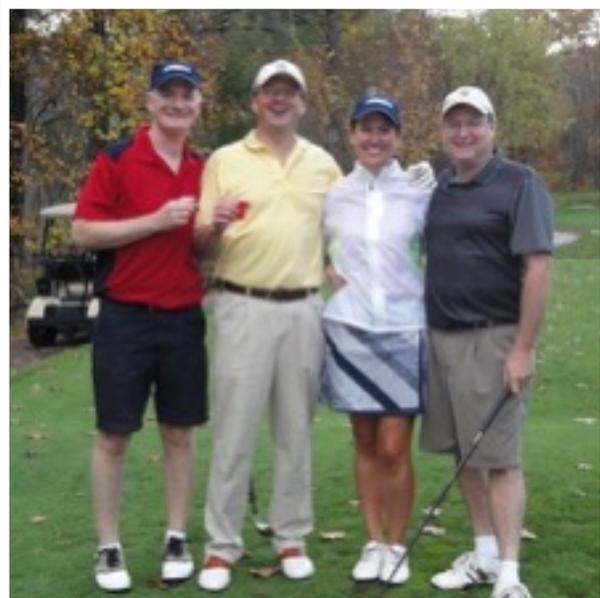
Special thanks also go out to the individual LSWA members who solicited and donated items and the following local area businesses who generously contributed to the raffle prizes:

- ▶ Dizenzo Towing and Recovery
- ▶ Linder's Inc.
- ▶ McGovern's Greendale Liquors
- ▶ Calabria Ristorante
- ▶ Sutton Wine and Liquors
- ▶ Heritage Recreation
- ▶ Paramount Realty
- ▶ Moss Brother's Landscaping
- ▶ Gorette's Supermarket
- ▶ Tony's Pizza
- ▶ Sutton Center Store
- ▶ Rosalina's Kitchen
- ▶ Panache Hair Design
- ▶ The Village Knoll

We all look forward to next year's 2nd annual LSWA Golf



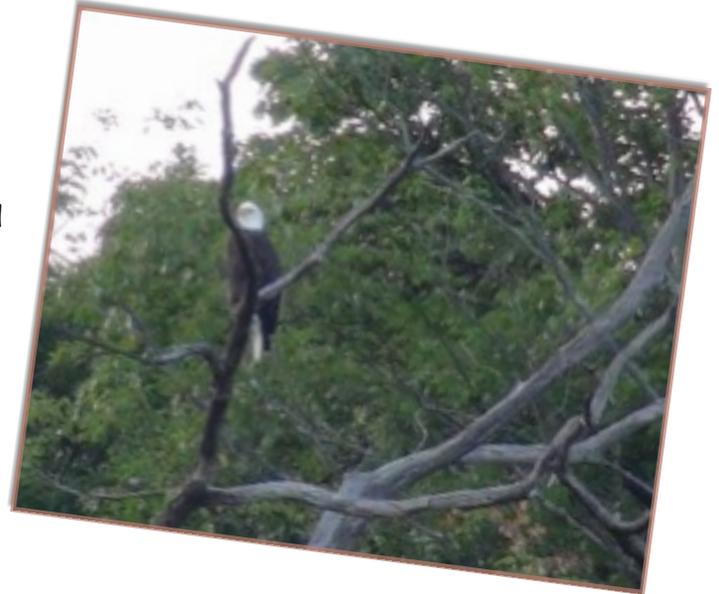
# GOLF TOURNAMENT



## LAKE SINGLETARY EAGLE CAPTURED ON FILM!

### Interesting facts about the Bald Eagle

- ◆ Our national bird is found only in North America
- ◆ They can soar over 10,000 ft. high and can see fish a mile away
- ◆ Adult identification: Dark bodies with white feathered head, neck and tail, yellow beak and feet, height 34 to 43 inches, wingspan 6 to 8 feet, weight 6.5 to 14 pounds
- ◆ The average lifespan is up to 28 years in the wild
- ◆ It is believed that they mate for life
- ◆ Both males and females build a stick nest (called an aerie) and together will care for their young
- ◆ The largest bald eagle aerie on record was 9.5 feet wide and 20 feet high weighing more than two tons
- ◆ Females lay 1-3 eggs which have a 35 day incubation period and their babies are called eaglets
- ◆ It takes about 4-5 years to acquire full plumage and to reach breeding maturity
- ◆ Their diet consists of fish, small mammals and in the winter they will eat waterfowl and carrion
- ◆ Overhunting, along with the use of DDT in the 1950's and 1960's caused their population decline
- ◆ In 1972 the Federal government restricted the use of DDT and in 1982 the bald eagle was reintroduced in Massachusetts
- ◆ In 2007 it was delisted from the federal list of threatened and endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Data obtained from [massaudubon.org](http://massaudubon.org) and [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)

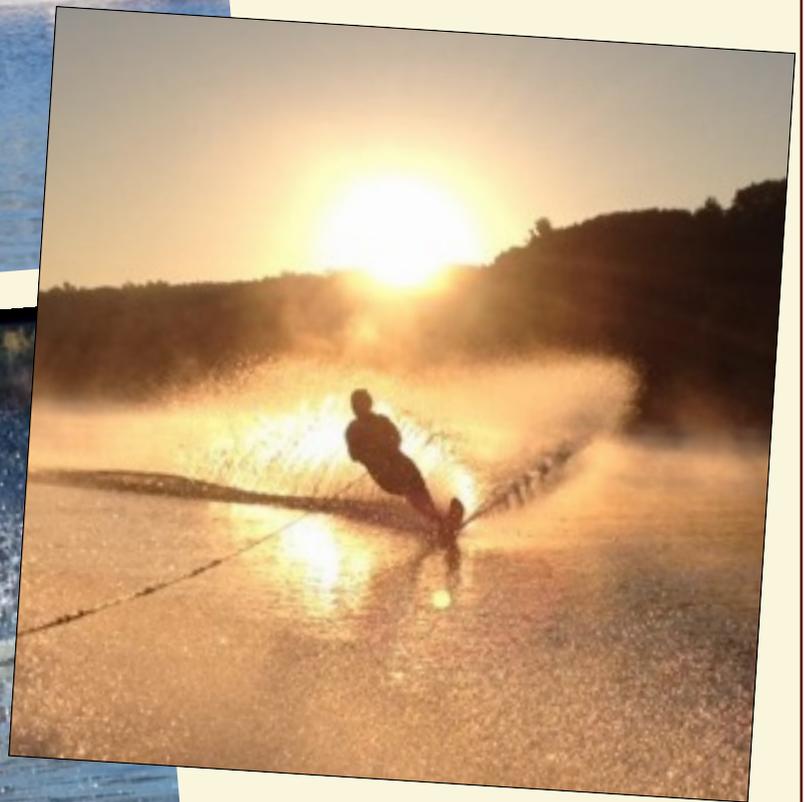
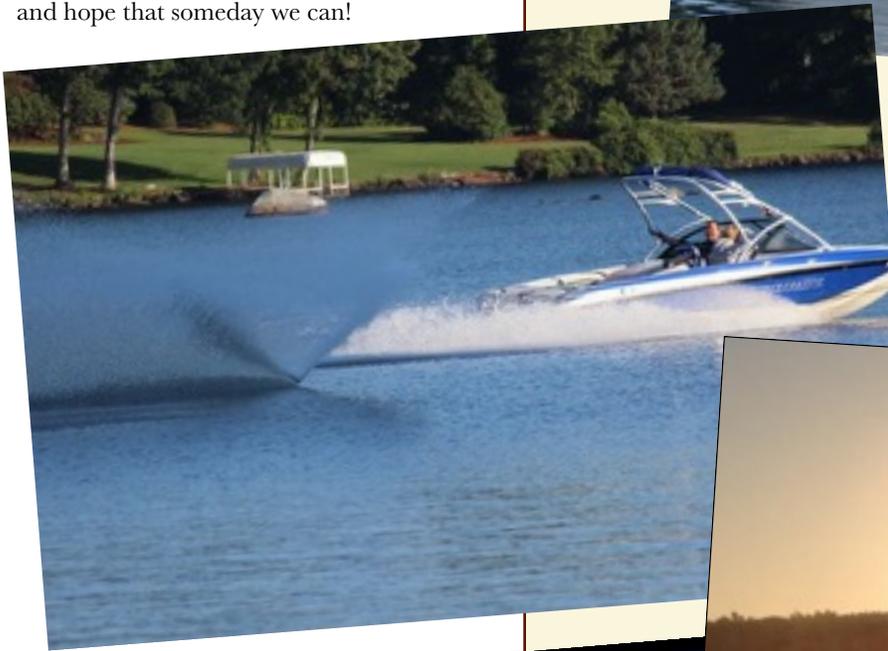


# WATERSKIING

## Mornings on the Lake

For those of you up and about early in the day, you have seen them! They grace the lake...a casual style that some of us envy. John Charest, Don Swatik, Ann Junnila, and Jan Hammarstrom!

There are others. Many who strive to have this 'effortless' display of athleticism and grace on the water. We cross our fingers and hope that someday we can!



## 'ASK ALICE'

**Q: We heard there was a house on Gull Island years ago. What can you tell us about it?**

*A: These Lake Singletary photos (taken in the late 1920's-early 30's) were submitted by Elaine Bryant who spent her life enjoying our beautiful lake! The log cabin shown in these photos was built on stilts over the rock island!*

*The couple in the photo are Elaine's parents Viola and Carl Edberg and the two boys are Viola's brother (Pete) Carl Peterson and cousin Willy Anderson. The man in the first two photos is Harold Bergeson. Many of Elaine's relatives are still enjoying the lake!*



# SINGLETERY SUN

## 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Earth Day Cleanup	Saturday, April 25th	8:00 AM Meet at the boat ramp
Wing Ding	Saturday, May 2nd	7:00 PM Dudley Gendron
Boat Parade	Saturday, July 4th	8:00 PM Meet at the Southwest end of the lake
Rafting Party	Saturday, August 1st August 8th (Rain Date)	3:00 PM Gull Island
Annual Meeting Open to all members	Wednesday, August 26th	7:00 PM St. Mark's Church

### WINTER IS COMING...

**Remember** you take a risk anytime you go out onto the ice.

**Ice thickness is not consistent.** Water currents, particularly around narrow spots, bridges, inlets and outlets, are always suspect for thin ice.

**When ice fishing,** it is always a good idea to drill test holes as you progress out onto a lake to help judge the thickness and character of the ice.



**Beware of ice around partially submerged objects,** such as trees, logs brush, embankments or dam structures.

**Don't judge ice strictly by appearance.**

**Stay away from cracks, seams, pressure ridges, slushy areas and darker areas that signify thinner ice.**

**Be aware of ice that forms at the edges of a lake** during the fall and melts at the edges first in spring. However, ice generally should be clear at least four to six inches thick to support one person.



**Be aware of ice covered with snow.** Sometimes the snow serves as insulation. Other times, it has the opposite effect by insulating the surface from freezing.

Source: US Department of Agriculture

# LSWA BOARD MEMBERS

President	Paul Kawolis	<a href="mailto:pk308@aol.com">pk308@aol.com</a>	508-865-0741
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## 2014 HONOR ROLL

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 Bill & Charlotte Bedord  
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 John Bergin  
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 Stephen Winchell  
 Beth Winchester  
 Chris & Kellie Windle  
 Terrance B Windle  
 David & Nancy Winn  
 Gregory & Cynthia Wolodkin

\*Denotes new members

**THANKS to all  
 LSWA Members!**

**It's not too late to be a 2014  
 member!**

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



SEE YOU ON THE LAKE!



**As a final note...**

We regularly communicate via email for event reminders, drawdown timing, weed treatment timing and other useful news. As a reminder, your e-mail address is not shared and will only be used by the LSWA for membership communications. If you have not done so yet, 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 electronically.

**Lake Singletary Watershed Association**

P.O. Box 332

Sutton, MA 01590