SINGLETARY SUN

THE VOICE OF THE LAKE SINGLETARY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

"Dedicated to the Preservation and Protection of Lake Singletary and its Watershed"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring at last! May teased us with sporadic warmth that was unfortunately interrupted by reminders of winter. This past winter assaulted us with wave upon wave of relentless snow. Spring seems to have us caught in an outgoing tide of minimal rainfall, making for a challenging lake refill.

How can we be struggling to refill the lake, after all that snowmelt? Most of our snow fell during periods of very cold temperatures, producing snow with a low moisture content. More importantly, since these cold temperatures formed a thick ice mass on the lake, we had a very late ice-out this year. To mitigate ice damage to walls and other shore structures, we maintain the water level no higher than three and a half feet below full, until the ice melts. This year, by the time the ice disappeared, the snow had melted and its water content was lost downstream. By the time we closed the dam to capture what runoff remained, we encountered the driest May in Worcester's weather history, breaking the previous record set in May 1959. With all that conspired earlier, to thwart our lake refill schedule, it seems that June has come in with renewed hope, in the form of much needed rainfall. Hopefully, we're back on schedule for a full lake to enjoy in the upcoming season.

On a bright note, through the hard work of John Charest, our association's treasurer, the Lake Singletary Watershed Association has been granted 501(c)(3) status. This makes us a recognized non-profit, allowing any contributions, including dues payments, to qualify as a deduction on your income tax. Additionally, it will reduce some of the association costs. We can now purchase equipment and supplies, including those used in our water testing program, without paying state sales tax. The LSWA qualifies for reduced mailing rates thanks to our non-profit status. I hope you will all join me, in thanking John, for all his efforts to bring this goal to fruition.

As we approach the busiest season of lake activities, let's strive to make it a safe time on, in, and around the water. With everyone's help, let's have a happy, healthy, and safe time on Lake Singletary.

Paul Kawolis

BUFFER ZONES

What Are They?

Although we cannot all be limnologists (lake scientists), we encourage everyone that lives on our lake to learn some basics that can make a difference in our long-term water quality. Vegetated buffers, or areas of vegetation situated between the built environment and the water, trap sediments, excess nutrients, and other pollutants, prevent erosion, and help to stabilize sloped areas and the shoreline. Pollutant removal is most effective when runoff is directed as slow, diffuse flow through a vegetated margin along the shoreline.

Nutrients, principally phosphorous, will accelerate eutrophication, which will eventually turn our lake into a meadow similar to some of the Stockwell Ponds. Phosphorous also fertilizes our non-native plant species and algae causing us to increase treatments to the lake. If you use fertilizer on your lawn, please use a product with no phosphorous ("0" for the middle number) as has been pointed out in other newsletter articles. Even if you use a lake-friendly fertilizer, a buffer between your lawn and the shore can help remove nutrients and sediments from surface runoff, especially if you have a slope running right down to the water.

Currently, all most lake-front property owners have septic systems. Even with perfectly performing systems, nutrients including phosphorous will make their way underground to the lake. Trees along the shoreline, with their deep root systems, will remove some of these nutrients and prevent them from entering the lake. Trees also stabilize the soil, deflect rain to reduce erosion, and provide shade for the shallows.

If native trees and shrubs already exist along the shoreline, leave them undisturbed. We should all consider improving our buffers. To learn how, please consult the following links to the internet which provide far more excellent information that we can provide in our newsletter. The following links give specific guidance for construction and what are the best trees and plants to utilize.

Why Do We Need Them?

Where there are humans, there is nutrient pollution. The way we live tends to over-nourish and pollute our environment. Fertilizers wash down over our carefully graded lawns directly to the lake. The oils and greases from our cars are rinsed off our driveways and roads down to the lake. We rest and play along the lake and our foot traffic tramples the vegetation. We park our cars and launch our boats as close as possible to the lake – our heavy vehicles compact the earth until its as hard and impenetrable as asphalt. Our lifestyles are hurting the lake.

Vegetated buffers are designed so that nutrients are used by the land vegetation rather than by lake algae.
If you own waterfront property, the water quality of the lake directly impacts you. If water quality deteriorates, the value of your property decreases. Boating and swimming through pond scum becomes less attractive. Fish populations can decline or be killed off completely.

Where Do You Put Them?

Vegetated buffers need to be placed between people and the lake. We need to filter the stormwater runoff from our houses, garages, driveways, roads (both paved and gravel), and road ditches through flat vegetated areas. Lakeside parking areas and playing fields should drain through a buffer too. Equally important are the streams which flow into the lake. They also need to be protected by leaving vegetated buffer strips next to them.

There is more information available on the Lake Singletary website!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Greetings LSWA members. By now everyone should have received their 2015 membership dues letter in the mail. This year's minimum membership dues has been increased to $125 in order to help cover the higher cost of the Clipper weed treatments. Fortunately, Clipper was a tremendous success last year and we expect it to continue to provide effective treatment going forward. Now that the LSWA has become an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization, your dues and any other additional contributions are fully eligible for tax deduction! In most cases, the effect of the tax deduction can fully offset the dues increase.

Please take the time to complete and or update the membership information section on the form so that our records can be properly maintained. If by chance you did not receive the mailing, the form can be found in the "LSWA Documents" section on the website. If you are interested in joining the LSWA Board or any of the active projects or committees, indicate so at the bottom of the form.

Our goal again this year is to secure membership participation with 100% of lake property owners. While we have made significant progress towards this goal in the past, we still have a way to go. Your membership dues and generous additional contributions help make it possible for the association to continue it's efforts to maintain our lake's high level of water quality.

As always, thank you for continued support!

A few pictures of our local pilots' adventures this past year!

WING DING

The annual Spring Wing Ding was held at the Dudley Gendron in Sutton on May 1st. It was great to see our lake neighbors and meet new ones!

Dinner was catered by Brothers II from Millbury. We thank the local businesses that donated prizes for our infamous raffle; Linders Inc. and Marine USA both in Worcester, Scales Seafood and Ice Cream, Calabria Ristorante, and Christopher's Homemade Ice Cream, all in Millbury, Sutton Wine and Liquors in Sutton, and Lakeview Marina in Webster. Thanks to Ken Rapp for providing the Bose speakers for our evening's entertainment.

HELPFUL HINTS

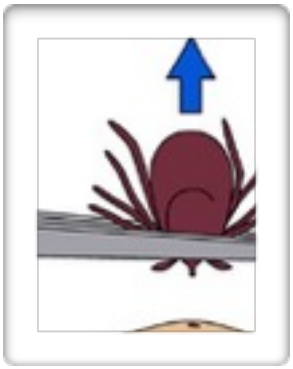
Harsh Winter No Hindrance To Hungry Ticks!

Think you're safe from ticks because the harsh winter froze them? Think again. The heavy snow that blanketed the Northeast this winter was like a cozy quilt for baby ticks that are now questing for blood as the weather warms up. Ticks are susceptible to cold and February was the coldest month on record for Massachusetts. But it was also an unusually snowy winter and that snow may have protected ticks from freezing to death.

Experts recommend daily tick checks after being outdoors, even in your own yard; using repellents; showering soon after being outdoors. Ticks can carry Lyme disease, which causes flu-like symptoms that can progress to joint pain, fatigue and many other debilitating symptoms. Ticks can also transmit other diseases like babesiosis, a bacterial infection similar to Lyme, and rare Powassan virus, which attacks the brain.

If you find a tick attached to your skin, there's no need to panic. There are several tick removal devices on the market, but a plain set of fine-tipped tweezers will remove a tick quite effectively.

How to remove a tick



1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water.
4. Dispose of a live tick by submersing it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet. Never crush a tick with your fingers.
5. See your doctor if you get a rash or fever after being bitten.

For more information visit:http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/id/epidemiology/ticks/

'ASK ALICE'

Q: Is it true that a boat operator is legally responsible for any damage caused by the wake of his or her boat? ?

A: Yes, this is true! Most boats produce their maximum wake off plane at mid-range speeds when the bow tends to ride high. A smaller wake is generated at a higher speed when the boat comes on plane. The minimum wake is produced at slowest or headway speed. Let's all boat responsibly and courteously and keep an eye on our wake as we all do our best to make boating safe on Lake Singletary.

Always operate at slow, no-wake speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of the following:

⚓Swimmers

⚓Water-skiers

⚓Raft or floats

⚓Shoreline

⚓Boat launch

⚓Moored and docked boats; this includes boats rafted together, when they are most vulnerable to wake damage

Lake Singletary Word Search "Underwater World"

Alewife
Blue Gill
Brown Trout
Calico Bass
Chain Pickerel
Crayfish
Large Mouth Bass
Mussels
Rainbow Trout
Salamander
Small Mouth Bass
Snails
Sun Fish
White Perch
Yellow Perch

B	C	H	C	H	A	I	N	P	I	C	K	E	R	E	L
L	P	M	E	R	T	Y	U	O	K	N	I	S	S	B	U
W	A	L	E	W	I	F	E	H	V	Y	G	U	S	T	R
H	B	R	F	M	U	S	S	E	L	S	X	N	A	S	A
I	L	D	g	E	A	Q	P	L	S	M	O	F	B	A	I
T	U	N	I	E	J	T	B	A	U	H	V	I	H	L	N
E	E	C	T	F	M	U	B	X	D	Z	E	S	T	A	B
P	G	Y	E	L	L	O	W	P	E	R	C	H	U	M	O
E	I	S	A	Q	C	R	U	L	M	O	K	N	O	A	W
R	L	L	J	I	B	T	H	T	V	T	F	X	M	N	T
C	L	I	L	R	D	N	Z	E	H	S	A	W	L	D	R
H	Q	A	P	M	O	W	K	N	I	B	J	B	L	E	O
U	C	N	H	V	Y	O	G	C	T	F	A	X	A	R	U
R	D	S	Z	E	S	R	A	W	Q	P	L	S	M	O	T
K	N	I	J	U	H	B	C	R	A	Y	F	I	S	H	V

Can you find all of Lake Singletary's underwater species? Look for them on our website at http://www.lakesingletary.org/Underwater-Species.php

2015 Calendar of Events

	Boat Parade Saturday, July 4th	Decorate your boat and meet at the Southwest end of lake at 8:00 PM
	Rafting Party Saturday, August 1st August 8th (Rain Date) Gull Island	3:00 PM until ???? Calling all boats to tie up at the mooring ball. BYOB (Bring your own bumper) and an appetizer or dessert to share
MRA MULTISPORT	Friday, June 19th Thursday, July 2nd Sunday, August 2nd	6:30 PM Summer Solstice Sprint 6:30 PM Long Distance Swim Training Race 7:30 AM Blackstone Valley Triathlon
	Wednesday, August 26th	Annual Meeting Open to all Members 7:00 PM St. Mark's Church
Lake Singletary Golf Tournament	Saturday, October 3rd Blackstone National Golf Course	2:00 PM Helicopter Ball Drop Raffle 2:00 - 3:00 PM Registration 3:00 PM Tee Off 6:30 PM Dinner If you are interested in golfing or dinner, contact Rose Direnzo or watch the website for new information
 Fishing Derbies	April 25th April 26th May 31st June 2md June 6th June 14th July 12th September 13th September 19th October 3rd	Worcester Bassmasters Central Mass Team Trail RI State Bassmasters Lunker Landers Worcester County Bassers Last Cast Anglers NCBA Taunton Hydro Bass All State Bass Anglers Tri County Bassmasters All events from 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PUBLIC EVENTS UPDATE

MRA Multisport would like to thank the residents of the lake and members of the LSWA for another successful season in 2014 for training and events. They started the morning swim routine before Memorial Day, swimming M/W/F and Sat mornings, along with Tu/Th evenings along the swim buoys. They continue to encourage other swimmers to join them for a safer swim, and think they started to make strides in that direction last year.

The two triathlons produced last year were both successes with around 300 total participants. Everyone loved the small-town feel and beautiful course layouts. MRA made a donation to the Sutton Food Pantry last fall for about $1500, and almost the same amount to the town for to put towards improvements at Marion's Camp. The organization was also able to make a donation to the Sutton Football Boosters; parents and players provided significant volunteer support for one of the races and intend to continue their support this year.

It may be exciting and inspiring to be a spectator at these events, so bring your boats over or fold out your lawn chairs along the roads on the race course and cheer the participants on. More details on these two triathlons and swim training race can be found online at www.MRAMultisport.com/Events if you have any questions, please contact Alex at alex@mramultisport.com.

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	Open Position		

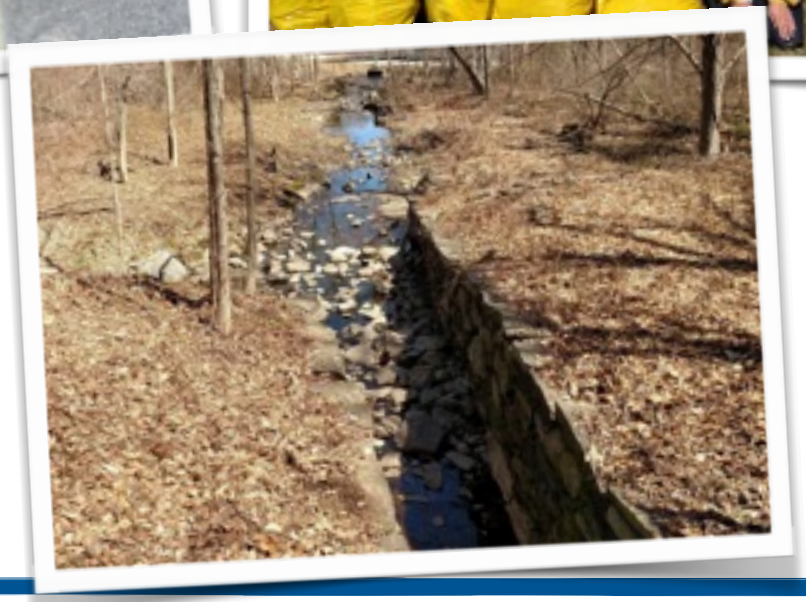
1940... Bud Marcell (Paul's father) was 24 years old in this photo of him in a birch bark canoe on the shores of Lake Singletary.

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP APRIL 25TH

Volunteers gathered at the boat ramp to clean up our watershed. The LSWA BOD made sure everyone had plenty of energy by providing coffee and donuts first!

The Earth Day cleanup event this year also included a much needed clearing encroaching brush from the downstream outflow of the dam. In addition we also identified and marked storm drain locations in Millbury to assist the town in future clean outs.

Thanks to all who participated with a special thank you to the Millbury High School National Honor Society



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