



November 2018

Members and friends of the Winnisquam Watershed Network,

Greetings from the Winnisquam Watershed Network! As colder weather approaches and the lakes begin to freeze it seems a good time to look back and reflect on the past year's accomplishments and to give thanks for all those who helped make them possible.

We wrapped up our 2018 milfoil management program in September with herbicide treatment applied to 19.5 acres of variable milfoil growth in Lake Winnisquam. This is in addition to the 843 gallons of variable milfoil that were removed from the lake by divers over the course of the summer. We were unable to treat the milfoil in Jay's marina this year due to the recent reactivation of a public water supply well in close proximity to the treatment area there but are looking at treating this area next spring with an alternative herbicide that has recently become available and does not have the same use restrictions. Our milfoil management program was funded through a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), local matches from the Towns of Meredith, Belmont, Tilton and Sanbornton and the City of Laconia and contributions from several neighborhood associations, and we extend our deep appreciation to all. This is the first time that management of variable milfoil has been undertaken on a comprehensive, lake-wide basis on Winnisquam and it is our intent to continue this collaborative effort for as long as is necessary to control the growth of the milfoil and prevent further spread. We are currently working with the NHDES to finalize next year's comprehensive milfoil management plan and have begun soliciting bids for the work.

We want to issue a sincere thank you to the 33 volunteer "weed watchers" who helped us out this summer by inspecting their shoreline areas of the lake and reporting any suspected invasive species, and to Bill Esrich for coordinating the weed watcher program for us. Through this program we were able to identify and remove several new growths of variable milfoil. Our weed watchers also keep an eye out for other invasive plants and animals such as hydrilla, fanwort and zebra mussels that have been reported in other lakes in the northeast so that we can prevent them from infesting Lake Winnisquam. We are looking for additional weed watchers to help us out next summer and will be offering training to new volunteers in the spring so please [contact Bill Esrich](#) if you are interested in joining the program.

We completed this year's comprehensive water quality monitoring program with a final round of testing and sample collection at three locations in Lake Winnisquam in September. Many thanks to the ten volunteers who conducted the monthly monitoring, to

David Unger who fabricated some new viewscopes for the lake monitoring team, and to Dave McLaughlin who donated additional sampling equipment. Thanks as well to the three additional volunteers who us helped implement our new tributary monitoring program, conducting water quality testing and sampling at nine stream locations around Lake Winnisquam, and to the Pardoe Foundation, who provided the funding to purchase monitoring equipment and get the tributary monitoring program off the ground. The data generated by these monitoring programs helps us to assess long-term water quality trends and identify pollutant sources to the lake. We are always looking for additional volunteers to help with the water quality monitoring so please [let us know](#) if you are interested in participating.

The WWN is fortunate to have several partners in our efforts to protect Lake Winnisquam and its watershed. We are coordinating with the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) and area planners to support the development of a Watershed Management Plan for the Winnisquam watershed. We are also working with the Belknap County Conservation District (BCCD), which has an on-going initiative on stream restoration in Belknap and Carroll counties. According to Lisa Morin, BCCD Program Manager and WWN Board Member, “streams in the Lakes Region carry considerable sediment which can be reduced with conservation measures. We’re reaching out to landowners, town public works staff and conservation commissions, land trusts, property owners and lake associations with information on restoring streams and flood resiliency. Reducing sediment in our lakes helps maintain clean water. Measures like forest and farmland conservation plans, placing wood in streams and improving stream crossings also reduce damage from storm events and improve fish habitat.”

The BCCD has demonstration funds available to complete a stream assessment of one area stream in each county, and Black Brook in Sanbornton and several other streams flowing into Lake Winnisquam are among their potential high priority candidates. They will be conducting two Community Workshops in Belknap County in January in conjunction with Trout Unlimited, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and New Hampshire Fish and Game. The first workshop will serve as an overview on stream restoration and flood resiliency. This will be followed by a second workshop a week later where landowners, town representatives will discuss area streams and priorities for stream restoration and crossing improvements. Outreach for the workshop will include contacting landowners with ten acres or more that border area streams. NRCS staff will also be available to discuss their Environmental Quality Incentives Program, a voluntary conservation program to support agriculture, forestry and environmental quality with financial and technical assistance for private landowners. These workshops are free and offered with assistance from the NH Charitable Foundation and NRCS grants. The WWN anticipates being a part of these discussions, and will keep you apprised as to the details.

We also want to extend our gratitude to our partners at [NH Lakes](#) who have been so helpful to us as an organization, and who do so much to advocate for and protect all of New Hampshire’s lakes, including Winnisquam. If you are not already a member of this important organization please consider joining.

The [Meredith Whole Living Center](#) and [Meredith Village Savings Bank](#) have recently demonstrated their support for a healthy Lake Winnisquam by joining our new business

sponsorship program. We hope you will join us in thanking them and encourage other area businesses that you frequent to [sponsor us](#) as well. And please encourage your friends and neighbors to [join the WWN](#) so that they too can help support our programs, give us a louder collective voice on issues pertaining to Lake Winnisquam, and stay informed about what's going on around the lake. Our members are our greatest strength and resource. We thank all of you for supporting our mission to keep Lake Winnisquam clean and healthy now and for generations to come, and wish you a joyful holiday season.

On behalf of the WWN Board of Directors,  
Lisa Eggleston, President