



August 2019

Members and friends of the Winnisquam Watershed Network:

I hope you are all enjoying these final weeks of summer on our beautiful lake!

Thanks to all who attended our Annual Meeting on July 27th to hear about our programs and this year's activities, elect our 2019-20 Board of Directors, and help us prioritize our work. We were pleased to see so much enthusiasm for our efforts to protect the lake and to hear your concerns and suggestions. We are also excited to welcome five new members to our Board of Directors this year, bringing the total on the board to 15. Volunteer effort and your support are what make this organization tick!

For anybody who did not make it to the meeting but would like to purchase one of our limited edition Winnisquam Watershed Network tee shirts, you may be in luck. We do have some shirts left so [email us](#) with your size and color (white or light grey) requests. These handsome shirts (see photo below) are a great deal for \$15, and a terrific way to show off your love for Lake Winnisquam and your support of the WWN. Many thanks to Gold Solution Designs in Belmont for producing the shirts for us.

Summer may be waning but the WWN's programs remain in full swing. Our volunteer water quality monitoring teams are out on the lake once a month from June through September, conducting testing and collecting samples at three deep-water stations and two near-shore stations each time. Samples are transported to the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) laboratory in Concord where they're tested for color, chloride, chlorophyll-a, alkalinity, pH, total phosphorus and conductivity. This comprehensive lake monitoring program builds on the database previously established by several neighborhood groups on the lake through two volunteer monitoring programs, the UNH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program (LLMP) and the NHDES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) and allows us to coordinate volunteers, share resources & equipment, and synchronize the sampling to allow for better comparability of the data generated. We've also been conducting monthly tributary monitoring again this summer, where we sample water quality in eight streams that drain into Lake Winnisquam as well as the flow out of the lake. This program follows the NHDES Volunteer Rivers Assessment Program (VRAP) protocols and includes testing for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, specific conductance, chlorides and total phosphorus. All of this data gives us a good sense of what's happening in terms of water quality in the lake and helps us to identify pollutant sources and changes over time.

Last year the WWN began a comprehensive variable milfoil management program for the entire lake and we were happy to see a visible reduction in the milfoil growth in those areas that were treated. Our 2019 milfoil management program gets underway this week, with herbicide treatment in the areas with the densest milfoil growth - at the north end of the lake and in Jay's Marina as well as Ephraim's Cove (28 acres total), followed by 10-12 days of diver-assisted harvesting elsewhere on the lake. This \$45,000 program is funded by: a grant to the WWN from the NHDES, local matches from the Towns of Meredith, Belmont, Tilton and Sanbornton and the City of Laconia, and contributions from several neighborhood associations and our members. Our goal is to continue to

perform milfoil management consistently year after year so that we can really make some progress and reduce its spread in Lake Winnisquam, so thank you all for supporting our efforts!

In addition to managing the milfoil, the WWN is actively working to keep other invasive plants and animals out of the lake. Our volunteer Weed Watchers periodically patrol the shoreline/near-shore areas of the lake looking for any new species and letting us know of any suspicious sightings. We've had more than 30 volunteers participating in the program this year, which means we've been able to cover the entire Winnisquam shoreline. We can always use more eyes on the lake though; so don't hesitate to [let us know](#) if you see any new plants or animals that look out of place or sign up to be a volunteer Weed Watcher. We hold a Weed Watcher training session every year and can provide training materials to anybody who wants to join this program.

The WWN also assumed coordination of the Lake Host program at the Water Street public launching ramp in Laconia this year and we were able to hire two paid Lake Hosts to staff the ramp on weekends throughout the summer. Lake Hosts provide courtesy inspections of boats coming into and out of the lake to make sure that they are not carrying any invasive plants or animals, and educate people about the dangers of invasive species. Funding for this program comes from a grant from NH LAKES, a \$1,000 contribution from the Laconia Conservation Commission, and donations from our members, so thanks again for helping to support this important program. Our goal is to expand the Lake Host program in the future to have the ramp staffed by either paid or volunteer throughout the week so please [let us know](#) if you are interested in getting trained as a volunteer. And for anybody who wants to know more about the impact that invasive species can have on a lake and why we work so diligently to prevent them from getting established I highly recommend reading Dan Egan's new book *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*.

I hope by now you've had a chance to pick up and peruse a copy of our "Lake Winnisquam, Love it & Protect It" brochure outlining measures we can all take to protect our lake. Copies of the brochure are available at Winnisquam Marine, Winnisquam Market, Lobster Connection, Osborne's Agway and other area businesses and libraries or you can [email us](#) if you'd like multiple copies to share with your neighbors.

And by all means be sure to visit www.winnisquamwatershed.org and check out our new website design! It's intended to be an informative, useful tool for sharing news and information with all of you, so feel free to [email us](#) with your comments and/or any high quality lake-related photos you want to share.

I want to extend a special thank you to the many volunteers who are helping the WWN with our water quality monitoring, Weed Watchers and Lake Host programs, to our Board members, and to all of you who support our efforts through your membership participation and contributions. Working together we can ensure that all we cherish about Lake Winnisquam is protected for future generations to enjoy.

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