



December 2021

As we start to wind down 2021, the WWN Board wants to express our deep gratitude for your support this year. You are what it means to be a lake community and we could not do what we do without you. We have big plans and aspirations for 2022 and we hope we can count on your continued support as we strive to protect our beautiful lake.

Winnisquam Lake is Milfoil Free!

Divers from Aqualogic Inc. were out on the lake eight days this past summer and removed all the variable milfoil known to be growing in locations throughout the lake. We are fortunate that after four years of comprehensive and consistent management we were able to manage this year's milfoil growth with just diver-assisted harvesting and no herbicide treatment was required.



We want to extend our thanks to the Towns of Meredith, Belmont, Sanbornton and Tilton and the City of Laconia and the NH Department of Environmental Services for supporting our milfoil management program. Thanks also to our volunteer weed watching crew for keeping an eye out and letting us know whenever they spotted a suspicious plant. Being that variable milfoil is an invasive and tenacious plant we fully expect that it will continue to crop up again in some locations in the lake and are already making plans for next year's management program.

[Learn more about our milfoil program...](#)

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

That's why the WWN prioritized the need for Lake Host inspectors to be present at the public ramp in Laconia seven days a week during the summer to minimize the chances of any new invasive species getting into the lake. Our Lake Hosts inspected a total of 4,330 boats this season and approximately 21 percent of them were arriving from water bodies other than Winnisquam that are known to have invasive species. So it's good to know the boats were checked before they launched.

The Lake Hosts also scored an important save this past summer when they removed an invasive water chestnut seed caught hitchhiking on somebody's trailer and prevented it from getting into the lake. Water chestnut plants can form dense floating mats, severely limiting light. Once established, they can reduce oxygen levels, increasing the potential for fish kills.

[Learn more about invasive water chestnuts](#)

We extend our sincere gratitude to NH LAKES for their assistance with this important program and to our generous donors for stepping up to fund the program. And of course, we want to thank our awesome Lake Hosts, Deb Williams, Barb Chapman and our Water Resource Intern Melissa Macheras for their hard work and dedication to the job.



We need your support to help us staff the public ramp with Lake Hosts 7 days a week again next summer. Our grant from NH LAKES only covers a portion of the cost.

Our Watershed Based Plan (WBP) is Progressing



This spring and summer our technical consultants conducted a survey and assessment of the watershed to identify nonpoint sources of pollution to the lakes in the Winnisquam watershed and locations where improvements might be needed. They also developed a buildout analysis of the watershed to determine the potential for future development to impact water quality. The WWN has been working closely with the consulting team throughout the process to facilitate data collection and communications and ensure that the plan is reflective of local needs.

The consultants are currently working on modeling the phosphorus loading to the lake and the lake's water quality response. The water quality model will be used as a tool to assess the impact of various management measures in meeting our water quality goals. Over the next several months the team will be developing a strategy for managing nonpoint sources of pollution in the watershed, preparing conceptual plans for stormwater best management practices in several high-priority locations, and putting together a draft Watershed Based Management Plan for the Winnisquam watershed. We expect the draft plan to be available sometime next spring.

The WWN is hoping to get a jump start on implementation of the WBP and is currently putting together a grant application for federal funding to begin addressing some of those high priority sources of pollution. Stay tuned for updates!

Welcome our New Program Manager, Cindy O'Connell!

We are excited that Cindy is joining us on a part-time basis to help with the rollout and implementation of the Watershed Based Plan for the Winnisquam watershed. She will help us develop proposals for critical watershed projects, assist us in securing grant funding and manage plan implementation. Cindy has been a Lakes Region supporter from the time her parents moved to Wolfeboro in the early 1970s and currently resides in Moultonborough full-time.



Cindy O'Connell

Cindy is trained as a landscape architect and worked for many years in the private sector. Over time she became a wetland and stormwater professional and worked as the Conservation Agent (town staff) for two Massachusetts towns, Dedham and Canton. Her most recent position was as the Stormwater Manager for the Town of Braintree, MA, responsible for improving the quality of the local surface waters.

Cindy is an avid outdoors person, enjoying hiking, kayaking, and skiing in season and is happy to be back in the Lakes Region. She's already hard at work helping us with the grant application for federal funding and looks forward to further assisting the WWN with our efforts to protect Winnisquam. If you have any questions for Cindy or just want to welcome her to the Winnisquam community you can contact her at cindy@winnisquamwatershed.org

This holiday season give the gift of a clean and healthy Lake Winnisquam!
We offer individual (\$25) and family (\$50) gift memberships, or you can simply make a gift donation in your loved one's honor. [Email us](#) for a gift certificate.

Don't forget your Year-End Tax Deductible Contribution
There's only a few weeks left in 2021, so don't forget to make your tax deductible year-end contribution to the Winnisquam Watershed Network. Help us ensure a safe, clean and beautiful lake by your generous gifts.

[Click to Make Your Year-End Contribution Now!](#)



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