



Spring 2022

Spring has arrived! The ice has melted, the loons have arrived, and we know some of you already have your boats and docks in the water. We at the WWN have been very busy in the "off" season and have lots to share with you as we gear up for another exciting summer on the lake!



Draft Watershed Plan Due Out Shortly

We expect to issue a draft of the Watershed Based Management Plan for the Winnisquam watershed sometime in the next month and we will be holding a public workshop to talk about the plan and its implementation in June. We'll be sure to let you know the details as they emerge. We at the WWN are very excited to have a strategy mapped out for protecting the lakes in our watershed into the future and we look forward to working with our watershed partners on its implementation!

Lake Host Challenge Grant

Our Lake Hosts play a critical role in keeping Winnisquam free from aquatic invasive species, conducting courtesy boat and trailer inspections at the public ramp in Laconia and educating boaters on "Clean, Drain, and Dry" practices. Lucky for us the two experienced Lake Hosts we've had for the past several summers, Deb Williams and Barb Chapman, have agreed to come back again this year. Together with our partners at NH LAKES it's our aim to provide Lake Host staffing at the ramp seven days a week through the busy summer season, but to do so we need your help. One of our members has generously offered to match all donations up to \$2,000 made between now and May 31st. Won't you please help us meet that goal?

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

Since our regular Lake Hosts are teachers we are also looking for volunteers to help cover the ramp for a few weekdays in June until school lets out. Please [let us know](#) if you can help. Training will be provided.

Where Do You Launch?

According to the boater survey we conducted last summer more than half of the boats on Lake Winnisquam are launched at private and or association launch sites. If you own one of those launch locations or know someone who does, we ask that you please [contact us](#) to let us know. The WWN would be happy to provide signs and information about protecting the lake from aquatic invasive species. Of particular concern are locations where visitors with boats that have recently been used on other lakes are launching. Prevention is key - if not caught in time, invasive species infestations can cost millions of dollars a year to manage, impact water quality and lower property values.

Learn About Winnisquam's Loon Population

The WWN is offering two great opportunities for you to learn more about one of our most iconic birds this summer.

Join us on **June 21st at 5:00 PM** for a guided paddle to visit with some of Lake Winnisquam's resident breeding loons. In a small group setting with a biologist from the Loon Preservation Committee, we will observe and interpret loon behaviors and vocalizations, learn the fascinating history of the loons that breed on Winnisquam, discuss the conservation concerns that have affected loons on the lake and the management work being done to help them, and learn about the complexities of loon nesting. The tour will begin at the Deer Park Association beach in Meredith and we will paddle north to the loon sanctuary at the north end of the lake. Round trip distance is approximately 2.75 miles, and we estimate that we will spend approximately 2.5 hours on the water. Participants will need to provide their own canoe or kayak and transport to the launch location. (Note: the Deer Park Association beach is privately owned but the Association is generously allowing us to launch there for this event). Attendance for this event is limited to 12 participants. To reserve a spot, please [email Caroline Hughes](#).



On **July 6th at 7 pm** the WWN and the Laconia Conservation Commission will be hosting an evening presentation by a biologist from the Loon Preservation Committee at the [Belknap Mill](#) in Laconia. Come learn more about the loons on Winnisquam and nearby lakes and all the great work being done to protect them. Admission to this event is free and no reservation is required.



LakeSmart Award



Are You Lake Smart?

Here's how to find out! LakeSmart is a free, non-regulatory, and entirely voluntary program the WWN is conducting in concert with our partners at NH LAKES. It is aimed at encouraging lake-friendly living. The self-paced program looks at the actions people take in their home, on their property, and even out on the water itself, in terms of how it affects the lake.

You begin your LakeSmart journey by taking the online self-assessment. Your answers are confidential, and after completing the self-assessment you will receive a follow-up report of personalized recommendations to help you be more lake-friendly.

The LakeSmart Award is the final step and it is given to property owners who are dedicated to achieving the highest standard of lake-friendly living. Once you think your property is ready to be considered for the LakeSmart Award can you choose to request a site visit from our LakeSmart evaluators. You may receive some additional tips, or you could earn your LakeSmart Award on the spot.

Who wants to be the first on Lake Winnisquam to earn the LakeSmart Award? You can learn more about the LakeSmart program [on our website](#) or by giving the self-assessment a try.

CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE ONLINE SELF-ASSESSMENT

Update on the New Development at the Anchorage Property

Recently we let you know about a proposed new development, "The Preserve on Winnisquam", to be built on the 34-acre former Anchorage property on Route 3 in Tilton. Approximately 45 people showed up at the April 19th public hearing with the Zoning Board of Adjustment which exceeded the capacity of the space. The hearing has therefore been continued to May 3rd at the Tilton Police Station. The ZBA did vote to declare the project a Development of Regional Impact, which means that the Planning Boards of the abutting towns must be notified and given the opportunity to comment on the project.

The proposed project is a "by right" development, meaning that the use is allowable under current zoning. The applicants have requested a variance to allow for a taller building height (59') than is allowed under current zoning, stating that this is necessary to keep the overall footprint of the building from getting larger. The ZBA hearing on May 3rd is specifically to address the variance request. Interested parties can submit written questions ahead of time to Lee Ann Moynihan, Land Use Coordinator at Imoynihan@tiltonnh.org. She can also be reached by phone at 603-286-4521. Ext 105

The proposed project will also need to go through the Site Plan Approval process with the Tilton Planning Board and will require a Shoreland Permit from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. WWN representatives will be attending the hearings and we will be advocating for appropriate mitigation to protect the lake.



WWN Awarded Operating Grant by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

We are thrilled to announce that the WWN has been selected for a Community Grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The grant will help with the implementation of the WWN's strategic planning goals by providing \$10,000 per year in unrestricted support over the next three years. We are dedicating these funds to staff support in order to help us with Watershed Based Plan implementation and building a more sustainable organization.

Put on Your Dancing Shoes!

Mark your calendars for an evening of live music and dancing at the first annual WWN benefit on **August 6th**. Music will be provided by Off The Record, a fun band based in Winchester MA. Location and details to follow soon - stay tuned!



Get Involved to Help Us Protect the Lake You Love

The WWN relies on volunteer effort to help with weed watching and water quality monitoring as well as most of our day-to-day operations, and we'd love to have your help. We are particularly in need of someone with marketing or fundraising skills. Or perhaps you have photos of the lake or its wildlife that we can share? And we ask everyone to please help us spread the word about the [Winnisquam Watershed Network](#) and encourage others to [join](#). Together we can do more to protect the lake we love!

YES, I WANT TO HELP



DONATE

Copyright © 2022 Winnisquam Watershed Network. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



Share Forward