

The Complete WLA History

(From 7-4-02 to 12-30-09)

2002

1. Formed a Massachusetts Corporation, with 200 members, to address the dock registration issues, identify problems facing the lake, publish a newsletter, set up a Website, and develop a funding plan to run the newly formed WLA. Various committees were then formed to meet these objectives and the association joined the Massachusetts Confederation of Lakes and Ponds (MACOLAP).
2. The WLA began working with our State Representatives and the various State agencies to address sediment control issues that contributed to the invasive weed problem and threatened our Lake and the Town's water supply. This effort included obtaining the \$4.5 million grant promised to the town 5 years before for a comprehensive sediment control program for the Lake. At the end of the summer, Governor Swift's office promised to fund the project. By the end of the year, the incoming Governor (Romney) cut the appropriation. The WLA continues to fight for this money.

2003

1. The IRS issued the organization a provisional 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit status.
2. The WLA hosted the first "Meet the Selectman Candidates" meeting. At this meeting the WLA membership was offered the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates to determine their stand on issues facing the Lake and Town.
3. At Town Meeting the WLA was able to get enough votes to modify the existing Dock Registration Bylaw to mandate all collections go into a weed treatment fund. The program has not been acted on by the town. See Appendix A for a cost analysis of this program.
4. Commissioned and paid for a Lake Survey by GeoSyntec to determine the overall health of the Lake. This study quantified and benchmarked the weed population, identifying 8 "Hot Spots" of invasive species that was an immediate threat of spreading throughout the Lake. The same survey also quantified and benchmarked the water quality of each pond. As a result of the survey, the WLA setup the basis of Lake Management Program to address the problems facing the Lake. This included an Invasive Weed Treatment Program and a Water Quality Monitoring Program.
5. The WLA, along with Representative Kujawski and through his efforts, hosted Secretary of Finance and Administration Kris to a tour of the Lake and made a presentation outlining the efforts of the WLA to solve the problems of Webster Lake. Included in the presentation was the 2003 GeoSyntec Survey. The results of this meeting were promising.
6. President of the WLA along with the Webster Town Administrator, Robin Leal, through the efforts of Representative Kujawski, made a presentation to the MA EPA

representatives on the efforts of the WLA to solve the problems of Webster Lake. Included in the presentation was the 2003 GeoSyntec Survey.

2004

1. The WLA again hosted a “Meet the Selectman Candidates” meeting for the WLA membership.
2. The WLA obtained the proper State and Local Permits and began the Invasive Weed Treatment & Control Program which included the following:
 - a) Chemical Treatment of invasive species, treating 37 acres of milfoil with the Reward herbicide.
 - b) Weed raking in areas not infested with invasive species. These were private sites which was done under the WLA permit, but paid for by the private waterfront ownership.
 - c) Other chemical treatment of private sites was also done under the WLA permit and was paid for by the private waterfront ownership. This treatment was done on sites that could not be raked due to populations of invasive species.
3. The MA Legislature, through the efforts of the WLA and our State Representatives, Kujawski and Moore, voted to allocate \$168,000 to the first Sediment Control Project around Webster Lake. The Town received the money a few months later.
4. The Vice President of the WLA, Jane Hill, was named Environmental Woman of the Year by the Patriot Newspaper. Jane was one of the original founders of the WLA, was the original Secretary, and is also a member of the Fundraising and Membership Committees.

2005

1. The WLA Water Quality Monitoring Program was officially recognized by the State and Federal Governments. See Appendix for the “Webster Lake Quality Assurance Project Plan”. This program now supplies and supports the water quality monitoring efforts of the French River Connection (FRC) and the Town of Thompson, CT. In turn, the FRC helps us test the water quality of the Lake Watershed. The Water Quality Monitoring Program has become a first line of defense for the protection of Webster’s water supplies.
2. The WLA again hosted a “Meet the Selectman Candidates” meeting for the WLA membership.
3. The WLA continued the Invasive Weed Treatment & Control program and treated 27 acres of milfoil with the Reward herbicide and 25 acres of fanwort. The program also continued raking in areas not infested with invasive species.

4. The WLA received a Non-Profit Postal Mailing Permit (Appendix) and instituted a computer based mailing system to decrease cost and time.
5. The MA Legislature again, through the efforts of the WLA and our State Representatives, Kujawski and Moore, voted to allocate another \$168,000 to the Sediment Control Project around Webster Lake. The Town received the money a few months later.
6. The Secretary of the WLA, Linda Littleton, was named Environmental Woman of the Year by the Patriot Newspaper. Linda was one of the original founders of the WLA, and is also a member of the Fundraising and Membership Committees.

2006

1. The WLA again hosted a “Meet the Selectman Candidates” meeting for the WLA membership.
2. The WLA continued the Invasive Weed Treatment & Control program and treated 50 acres of milfoil with the Reward herbicide and 11 acres of fanwort. Again, the program also continued raking in areas not infested with invasive species. A pilot program was implemented to treat 5-6 acres with the Reward/Aquathol K combination for the control of milfoil and the nuisance pondweed. The results were promising and a fall follow up survey by both ACT and GeoSyntec (Appendix) came back with very positive results on the milfoil and pondweed programs. The fanwort treatment was not as positive. It was thought that the wet spring contributed to a dilution of the treatments for fanwort.
3. Help pass Article 26 (Appendix) to further protect the watershed supplying the Lake by creating a Watershed District as outlined by the 2003 GeoSyntec Survey. This will require stricter regulations when developing this area in the future.
4. WLA formed a committee to set up an Endowment Program so that residents can leave money to the WLA for continued Lake Management Programs in their memory. The program will be instituted in 2007.
5. The WLA Water Quality Monitoring Program was awarded a Federal EPA grant worth \$2,700. The grant lends the WLA the tools to continue the program.
6. The MA Legislature again, through the efforts of the WLA and our State Representatives, Kujawski and Moore, voted to allocate another \$168,000 to the continuing Sediment Control Project around Webster Lake. The Town received the money a few months later.
7. The Middle Pond Director of the WLA, Paula Chauvin, was named Environmental Woman of the Year by the Patriot Newspaper. Paula was one of the original founders of the WLA, and is also a member of the Environmental, Fundraising, and Membership Committees.

8. In October the first WLA Golf Tournament was held. Although it rained throughout the event, it was immensely successful.

2007

1. The WLA joins the Webster-Dudley Business Alliance in an effort to create more relationships with local business.
2. The WLA Water Quality Monitoring Program was awarded a MA State grant worth over \$10,000. The grant allows the WLA to purchase a digital water quality monitor, rather than rent the tool on a yearly basis.
3. The WLA continued the Invasive Weed Treatment & Control program treating approximately 50 acres. The pilot program to contain pondweed was continued in two more sections of the lake. A proposal is being worked on to repeat the 2003 GeoSyntec Survey to compare the progress against the original benchmarks.
4. In August the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament is held and a few days later the Town of Webster passes a Phosphate Fertilizer Bylaw. This will reduce the amount of phosphates entering the watershed. The WLA worked closely with the town to make this law possible.
5. Again, the MA Legislature, through the efforts of the WLA and our State Representatives, Kujawski and Moore, voted to allocate another \$168,000 to the continuing Sediment Control Project around Webster Lake.
6. In September the IRS issued the organization a permanent 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit status, stating that the WLA is now classified as a “public charity” WLA.
7. In November, a booklet entitled “A Simple Guide to Lake Management” was released by the WLA to the Quassett Lake Association to help them state a program.
8. In December the WLA kicked off the first Webster Lake Ice-Out Contest Fundraiser. The proceeds will be shared with the Webster Emergency Medical Services group.

2008

1. The WLA (R. Cazeault & J. Hill) gave a presentation at the Annual MACOLAP Meeting at Assumption College in January. By popular demand, the presentation will be repeated to other associations in the future.
2. On February 12th Governor Deval Patrick, Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray, General Counsel for Environmental Affairs, Ken Kimmel (also served as attorney for the Town of Webster during the Douglas Landfill fight), Representative Paul Kujawski, attended and spoke at the February WLA General Meeting. Other local town and state officials were also in attendance. The Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor presented the

WLA an award for its Water Quality Testing Program and its help two the French River Monitoring Program.

3. In March, at the request of Senator Kerry, the WLA presented him with a WLA Webster Lake poster to decorate his “Massachusetts Room” in Washington DC.
4. In April, at the request of Representative Kujawski, a meeting is held with Chief Bent and the Harbor Patrol to address Lake Safety issues. Following the meeting the WLA BODs votes to appropriate a budget to institute a “Lake Watch Program” in conjunction with the WPD and to see if sponsors can be enlisted to upgrade the Patrol Boat equipment. The Patrol will provide a list of needed equipment to the WLA. No follow up meetings are called, nor is equipment list provided in spite of 3 reminders. The WLA begins surveys and observations to pinpoint lake safety issues.
5. In May, the WLA gave a presentation to the Town of Stoughton on how to setup a Lake Management Program on their Ames Pond.
6. In June the WLA assisted the Town of Webster in applying for a State 319 Grant to expand the sediment control funding and institute an educational program. The grant was denied.
7. The WLA becomes a member of the Dudley Conservation Land Trust in an effort to preserve local watershed and land conservation efforts.
8. Again, in July the MA Legislature, through the efforts of the WLA and our State Representatives, Kujawski and Moore, voted to allocate another \$168,000 to the continuing Sediment Control Project around Webster Lake.
9. In July the WLA continued the Invasive Weed Treatment & Control program treating approximately 100 acres for Variable Milfoil. These 100 acres represents every concentration of the Variable Milfoil that could be surveyed. There is too little Eurasian Milfoil and Fanwort to effectively treat in 2008; a major accomplishment. A further survey shows approximately an 80% reduction of all invasive species since the program began in 2004.
10. At the end August, Dick Cazeault gave a short presentation to the Staff of Senator Kerry in Washington DC outlining the efforts of the WLA and inviting him to be a guest speaker at a WLA Meeting in 2009.
11. In the fall, three sediment control projects are started in South Pond and are completed by December. These projects exhaust the available funds in the Town’s Sediment Control Account. During his same period, the State cuts the 2009 Sediment Control appropriation to Webster from \$168,000 to \$84,000. The WLA will work with Representative Kujawski to release up to \$2 million dollars from the State Environmental Bond.
12. In September the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament is held and raised a record amount of money.

13. In December the WLA kicked off the second Webster Lake Ice-Out Contest Fundraiser. The proceeds will be shared with the newly formed Webster Educational Foundation. This money will be used to institute Environmental Projects with the local school system. The WLA wants to begin raising the awareness of Lake & Watershed Management with new generations to further long term goals.

2009

1. The WLA requested that the Town of Webster deposit \$50,000 of the \$445,000, derived from the recent class action suit, into the Sediment Control Account for future use. No action occurred.
2. In January, Cranston Print Works, who controls the Lake Dams, announces the closing of its manufacturing facility in Webster.
3. The 2nd Annual Ice-Out has doubles the take of the preceding year.
4. In March Treasure Islands Condos proposes to have each member join the WLA. The membership will be included in their fees. Will take effect in 2010. The proposal is approved by Treasure Island in April.
5. In March the WLA launched a series of Blogs to get information to the membership in a more timely fashion.
6. In the spring the WLA purchases a TROLL digital water quality test apparatus for the Water Quality Monitoring Team so that more wide spread monitoring of the watershed can occur.
7. At a June 1st Webster Selectman's Meeting, the WLA President asks for a detail accounting of the Sediment Control Funds and the Waterway's Fund.
8. In June the Weed Raking and Weed Treatment Programs begin. Follow up treatments will occur during the summer.
9. On June 24th, our sitting Vice President, Jane Hill, passes away at the age of 48. She was a founder of the organization and a key contributor to the success of the association.
10. During the summer Massachusetts eliminates the remaining Sediment Control Funding due to state budget problems.
11. At the August General Meeting, the bylaws are amended to give Jane Hill the Vice President Emeritus title.
12. Fundraising for this year included a flower sale, yard sale, our yearly raffle, Celebrity Breakfast and Bartenders and in September the 3rd Annual Golf Tournament was held and was dedicated to the memory of Jane Hill. All our fundraisers were extremely successful.

13. On November 3rd, www.websterlakeassociation.org is launched to reflect the organization's non-profit status.

14. In December WLA launches online memberships & donations using PayPal and credit cards. A similar method is set up to allow online entries of Ice-Out Einstein in an attempt broaden the fundraising effort. The Webster Education Foundation will be the partner in the Ice-Out Event.

To date, the WLA has spent over \$150,000 in Lake Management to stem the tide of invasive weed expansion. Another \$50,000 has been spent from funds from the Sediment Control money on invasive weed management to treat both public boat launching sites on the Lake. Our latest survey states that we are winning that battle. We will continue to expand this program to all portions of the lake that face this threat.

To date, the WLA, along with help from our local and state officials have obtained over \$840,000 in State funds for Sediment Control Programs and will continue to pursue more funding each year. The WLA will continue to work with the Town of Webster and CME to obtain 319 grants, which will allow more State funds to supplement the existing funds. This will accelerate the Town's Sediment Control Program with little cost to the Town.

Today we have almost 600 members and the support of the entire community. Our most important contribution is to have raised environmental awareness in Webster and help other watershed organizations, including the French River Connection. We are continuing our community efforts with the partnership with the Webster Educational Foundation. This partnership should help solidify our focus on Environmental and Watershed awareness. Our efforts have been rewarded by Local, State and Federal recognition.

Richard Cazeault, President

December 30th, 2009