

# Lake Waramaug Association

August 2014



## End-of-Summer Gathering and Meeting Sunday, September 7, 2014 2:00 PM Lake Waramaug Country Club

Please plan to attend our end-of-summer gathering and meeting. This is our eighth annual meeting held jointly with the Lake Waramaug Task Force, to enable the Task Force to discuss its programs and achievements directly with the members of the Association.

As has become the norm, we will follow the same schedule as at our last few meetings in offering a gathering at 2:00 PM. Please join us to enjoy a drink and conversation with other members of the lake community in our common interests, the preservation and protection of our beloved lake. Bring your friends and neighbors and strengthen our dedicated group by contributing to the conversation.

At the meeting (2:30 PM), Tom McGowan, Executive Director of the Lake Waramaug Task Force, will lead an expanded "State of the Lake" discussion concerning current lake conditions and the results of lake testing for the summer, the status of the Sucker Brook Erosion Control Project, continuing experimentation to improve the effectiveness of the in-lake LayerAir Restoration Systems, an update on the status of efforts to remove and control the wider Curlyleaf Pondweed outbreak, and other important Waramaug related topics.

We welcome Peter Haddad to our Board of Directors, as well as our new officers: Peter Bonachea, President, Maria Mostajo, Acting Vice President and Scott Weaver, Recording Secretary. Of course, we would be remiss by not recognizing the dedicated service of Paul Frank who served as our President since 2001, as well as Heather Allen, who had served as Recording Secretary for several years.

Please join us and take advantage of this opportunity to learn about important matters affecting the protection and preservation of Lake Waramaug.

## *Fireworks Display rescheduled for Saturday, August 30th - see page 2 for details*

### Dues Reminder

If you received a dues payment envelope with this mailing, our records indicate that your 2014 dues remain unpaid. Please send your payment today. Your contribution supports our efforts to protect and preserve Lake Waramaug.

INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO THAT WE MAY CONTACT YOU  
PROMPTLY WITH LAKE NEWS AS THE NEED ARISES.



[www.waramaugassoc.org](http://www.waramaugassoc.org)

P.O. Box 2272  
New Preston, CT 06777



**Board of Directors**

- Peter Bonachea  
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- Maria Mostajo  
*Acting Vice President*
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*Recording Secretary*
- Betty Sutter  
*Corresponding Secretary*
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*Treasurer*
  
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- Christine Beckett
- Gail Berner
- Paul Frank
- Peter Haddad
- Richard Kleinberg
- Rudolph Montgelas
- Susan Payne
- Elaine Peer
- Cynthia Vance

**Consultant**  
Thomas McGowan

**Independence Day Fireworks Display Rescheduled**

As previously reported, the fireworks contractor and the fire marshal directed the postponement of our July 4th fireworks display due to adverse weather conditions.

The spectacle has been rescheduled for Saturday, August 30th (rain date, Sunday, August 31) at 9:00, immediately preceded by the 8:30 flare display around the lake. Please note the earlier time, taking into account the earlier sunset of late August. Let's maintain and expand the longtime tradition of rimming the lake with the brilliance of flares, which are again available for purchase at 9 Main, The Hopkins Inn and County Wine and Spirits. The fireworks display is sponsored by the Association as a reminder to the lake community of the efforts of the Association and the Task Force to preserve and protect Lake Waramaug. Please join us in bidding adieu to the summer of 2014 with a bang!...and in thanking Dorothy Hamilton, who has once again hospitably made her property available as the firing site, and Rudy Montgelas for managing the July 4 weather problems for the Association.



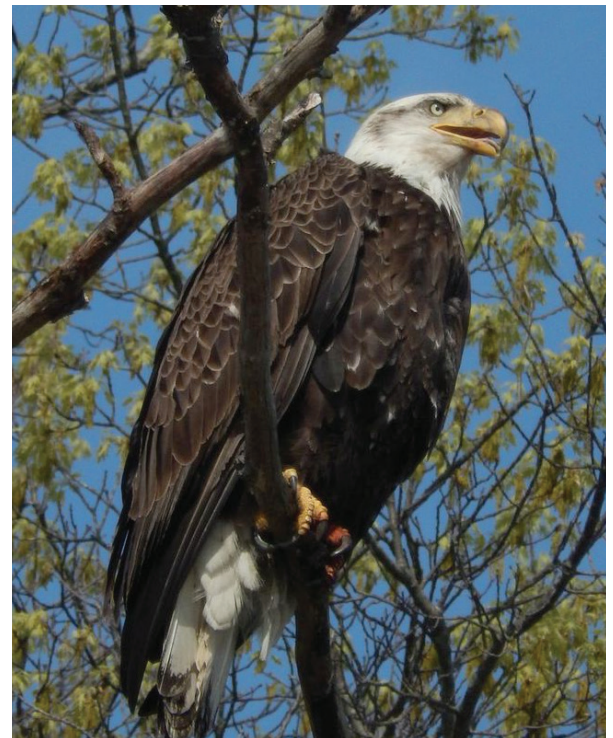
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**Bald Eagles Rebound**

Rachel Carson's groundbreaking 1962 environmental book *Silent Spring* is widely credited as bringing attention to the dangers of DDT, an insecticide that is considered to be the main culprit in the endangerment of bald eagles all over the country. The harmful chemical would make its way through the fatty tissues of fish and eventually to the shells belonging to unborn eagle embryos, with catastrophic results. Experts estimate that the population of the symbol of our nation plummeted, yet a nationwide ban of the use of DDT followed a decade after Carson published her work, and soon thereafter the patriotic birds of prey made a miraculous comeback.

During the past year, many have been spotted soaring above Waramaug's waters, delighting lakeside residents and offering us all a reminder that we as humans have a responsibility to all those that live amongst us. Most have been seen in the late spring and early summer soaring and fishing along the West Shore and at Arrow Point. Another pair was spotted near the old Casino property on Christmas Eve, presumably fishing along a thawed section of the ice.

For aspiring birders in our community, the electric utility company which owns and operates several area hydroelectric facilities opens a Bald Eagle Observation Area at the Shepaug Hydroelectric Dam during the first quarter of the year. Viewings can be prolific; some reports mention ten eagle sightings in one day, as well as other birds of prey including red-tail hawks, sharp shinned hawks and goshawks, not to mention the great blue herons as well as other waterfowl. For more information and reservations, please see [www.shepaug eagles.info](http://www.shepaug eagles.info)



*A bald eagle perches in the budding branches of Arrow Point, May 2014. Photo Credit: Paul Santoleri*





Photo Courtesy of J.C. Cherubini, [www.CherubiniStudios.com](http://www.CherubiniStudios.com)

## Safety on the Water

In 2013, the Lake Waramaug Authority (the three-town agency responsible for enforcement of state boating laws on Lake Waramaug) proposed that a “Slow-No-Wake” zone be established in the northernmost portion of the narrow State Park arm of the lake. The Authority stated that such action was necessary as a safety measure in order to minimize user conflicts by controlling boat wakes from motorboats in a limited area (adjacent to the State Park Beach and boat rental facility) heavily used by bathers, occupants of manually-propelled vessels (such as kayaks and canoes), and motorboats often towing water-skiers and tubers. In a Slow-No-Wake zone, a motorboat may not produce more than a minimum wake or generally attain speeds greater than 6 miles per hour. Various procedural steps were completed in late 2013, including a public hearing at which supporters and opponents of the proposed regulation were heard. Written public comments were received through early January, 2014. In May, 2014, the Hearing Officer issued a report recommending that the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) proceed with the proposed regulation in amended form reflecting public comments, reducing the size of the zone from the proposed 1750 feet to 1300 feet from the northern tip of the lake and specifying that the speed restriction be effective between May 15 and September 15. Early in July, 2014, the DEEP determined to proceed with the adoption of the regulation as amended. Subject to completion of the statutory review process, it is anticipated that the regulation will be in effect in 2015.



Photo courtesy of [www.flickr.com/photos/criana](http://www.flickr.com/photos/criana)

## Hopkins Vineyard Triathlon

The Hopkins Family celebrates 225 years of farming this year on Lake Waramaug with another running of its annual triathlon on its rugged, hilly terrain. The running and biking courses wind their way from Golf Links to Hopkins Road, boasting picturesque views of the lake to reward the heartbreak of Strawberry Ridge Road. Gratefully for participants, a chilled glass of the fermented fruits of their labor awaits them upon completion. The race kicks off with a half mile swim just off the Hopkins Inn beach area, marked by bright round orange buoys that run parallel to shore.

This year's Tri, fully subscribed prior to race day, was held on Saturday July 19th and won by Zachary Yannes of Oxford, Connecticut with a time of 1:01:11.0. The women were lead by New Hartford's Cara Bufkin, breaking the tapes after 1:12:20.65 of competition. A portion of the proceeds from the race will benefit The Lake Waramaug Task Force, Washington Volunteer Ambulance, Warren Volunteer Ambulance and the Connecticut State Police Explorers. For more information, please see [www.hopkinsvineyardtri.com](http://www.hopkinsvineyardtri.com)

## A Few Notes from the CCA...

In connection with an ongoing project, the Communications Committee of the Association is seeking input from those of you who row and scull on our Lake. We are also hoping that those of you who are life-long residents (either seasonal or year-round) who are currently entertaining their own children or grandchildren on Waramaug, and those of you with lake-appropriate vintage photos or memorabilia, whether a reproduction or an original might be willing to share them with the LWA. Please contact Christine Beckett at [cadamsbeckett@me.com](mailto:cadamsbeckett@me.com) if you are willing to be interviewed in connection with any of the above (or if you would prefer to write something yourself!)

### Safety Reminder

As we approach the final holiday weekend of the summer, we remind boaters of the importance of obeying all state-mandated safety regulations, outlined at [www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/boating/boating\\_guide/part5.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/boating/boating_guide/part5.pdf). Of particular importance: it is illegal to operate a vessel while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. First offenses for those Boating Under the Influence (BUI), which is defined by the State as any individual with a blood alcohol ratio of eight hundredths of one percent, can be punishable by as much as a six month jail sentence, \$1,000 fine, one year suspension of boating privileges and 100 hours of community service.

Most importantly, be mindful of the safety of your passengers and those around you as we all enjoy the waning days of a delightfully mild summer on our beautiful lake.





Site of McDevitt Gazebo, West Shore Road, July 2014



Published by J. I. West

Aug 17, 1908

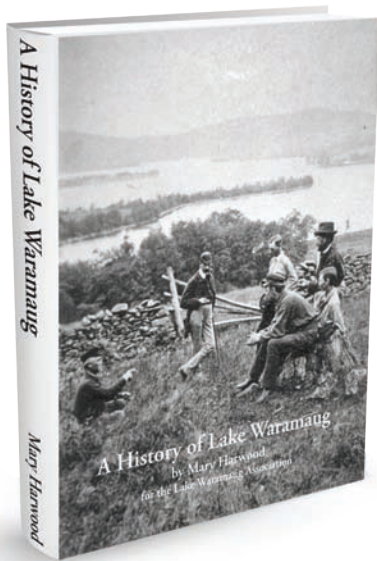
Same site, August 1908. Photo Restoration by Richard Kleinberg

### Safety on the Roads

In 1908, the buggy ruts of a dirt paved West Shore Road undoubtedly caused headaches for summer revelers, particularly in rainy weather.

In 2014, the concerns are more focused on the stability of the asphalt-paved surface, its supporting infrastructure at significant heights above the lake, and environmental ramifications of runoff. Deterioration of sections of the roadway is becoming a matter of increasing concern. The lake roads are State Route 478, maintained by the State Department of Transportation. The Association is exploring possible solutions. Our thanks to Betty Sutter for initiating discussions with the State.

Since vehicles traveling above the posted limits on the lake roads continue to present a danger, the Association has again sponsored special police patrols to monitor vehicle speeds at peak hours. The police will report on these patrols at the September 7 meeting.



### History Book

“A History of Lake Waramaug”, Mary Harwood’s 1996 book of historical background and pictures, is in its second reprinting to meet continuing interest. It is available for purchase (\$25.00) at our membership meetings, the Hickory Stick Bookshop in Washington Depot, the Gunn Historical Museum at Washington Green, and the Institute for American Indian Studies on Curtis Road in Washington. We are grateful to the Hickory Stick and the museums for handling sales for the Association without charge as a community service. Please show your appreciation by supporting your local bookstore and the activities of these cultural institutions.

### Celebrate Fall at Lake Town Events

#### WARREN:

Welcome the Autumnal Equinox and support the Warren Volunteer Fire Company at the Warren Fall Festival, Warren Woods Town Park, 255 Brick School Road, on October 11 & 12, 2014. Enjoy fresh baked goods while enjoying a classic antique tractor pull competition, and learn more about WAMOGO’s agricultural education programs and timber team. Petting zoos, fire truck rides, pumpkin cannons, magic shows, live music and more will be offered as diversions for you and your family. For more information, please see [www.warrenfirecompany.org](http://www.warrenfirecompany.org)

#### WASHINGTON:

Enjoy the 2014 Washington Connecticut Antiques and Design Show on October 10, 11 & 12, 2014. This event is one of the primary annual fundraisers for Washington’s Gunn Memorial Library and Historical Museum. For details, please visit [www.gunnlibrary.org/antiques](http://www.gunnlibrary.org/antiques)

#### KENT:

Register now for the 2014 Kent Pumpkin Run, to be held on October 26, 2014. The festivities begin at 11:15 AM with a one mile fun run for the children (costumes welcomed!) followed by a 5 mile course at noon. Proceeds will benefit the Kent Food Bank. To register, please visit [www.kentpumpkinrun.com](http://www.kentpumpkinrun.com)