



CHEBACCO LAKE & WATERSHED ASSOCIATION *Newsletter*

A Quarterly Publication of the Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association

www.chebaccolake.org

May 2012

Notes from Around the Lake

Another summer season on the lake is about to begin. Due to the lack of ice this winter, activity on the water started much sooner than usual. The rowing crews got an early start and several swans stayed for quite a while. We will be watching this summer to see if the early ice melt will raise the temperature of the lake and possibly increase invasive weed growth.

The Town of Essex is planning to start clearing Alewife brook in June. It was last done about 20 years ago except for removal of some debris a few years back when there was a low water level in the fall. This project is being done by both Town workers and volunteers. It will make it easier for the alewife to migrate to and from the lake and will keep the water at a more normal level than it has been for quite a few years. Many residents around the lake are hoping to see less shoreline erosion and a return of more alewives to their spawning areas.

The CLWA is funding the portable toilet again this year at the boat ramp. Everyone feels that this is important for the water quality and the ability for people to enjoy the lake. The State provides trash and recycling barrels at the ramp but does not have money for anything else. The CLWA will also be conducting water testing again several times throughout the season at three locations around the lake to ensure that the lake is safe for swimming. The samples are taken to Bio-Marine in Gloucester. The Town of Essex tests the water at the Centennial Grove beach and the beach at Camp Menorah but that is only a small part of the lake.

Thank you to everyone who has joined the CLWA this year or renewed their membership, your support is really appreciated!!!

New Fishing Regulations for 2012

As of January 1, the State has banned lead sinkers and jigs, weighing less than one ounce, from all freshwater fishing areas. The sinkers have caused the death of many loons and other waterfowl by lead poisoning. It only takes one sinker to cause the death of a bird in a few weeks. Safe alternative sinkers are now readily available.

Freshwater fishing licenses can now be purchased on line as well as at local town offices. The web site is www.mass.gov/masswildlife.

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July Fourth Boat Parade

Start planning for our annual July 4th boat parade on Wednesday, July 4! Show your creativity and be part of the fun. Gather your family and friends and join the parade.

The parade will start at 1 pm, at Centennial Grove Beach and will proceed counter-clockwise around the entire lake. Awards will be given for the Most Patriotic boat and the Judge's Choice. All decorated boats will get a prize.

If you're planning a July 4th cook-out, make the boat parade part of your fun!

E-mail Addresses

If you haven't already sent us your e-mail address please consider doing this. It is a quick way to get important information out to the lake community when necessary. We do not give out the names to anyone. We are experiencing some difficulty with our web site at the present time so please send your e-mail to CLWA Secretary, Chris Grammas at northshoreconst@comcast.net.

Thank you.

CLWA Officers & Board of Directors for 2012

President

Sue McLaughlin (978) 468-7715

Vice President

Robyn Kanter

Past President

David Lash

Secretary

Christine Grammas

Treasurer

Betty Ozolins

Hamilton Representatives

Chuck Bencal

Nancy Doyle

Essex Representatives

Judy Brain

Kirk Fackre

Kerry Kaplon

David Lenzi

Keith Symmes

Newsletter Layout

Kimie Kester

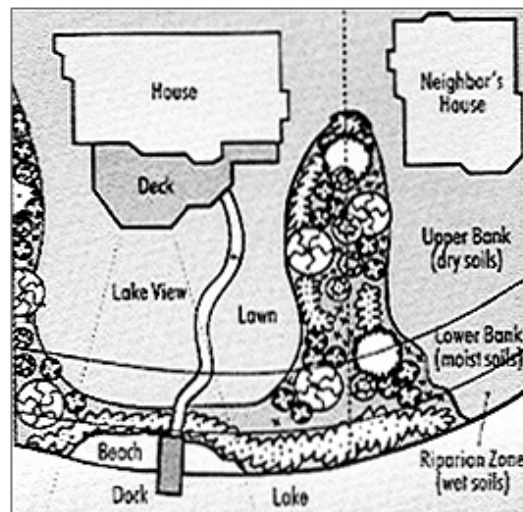
Web Site E-mail Address

chebaccoassociation@gmail.com

Ecological Landscaping

If you reside on lakefront property, use environmentally friendly landscaping techniques to prevent sedimentation and pollution.

- If possible, build homes where the land has the gentlest slope.
- Leave as much vegetation on slopes as possible to reduce the velocity of storm water runoff and to filter out sediments.
- Create the largest possible buffer along the shoreline (a minimum of 30' is recommended) by leaving existing vegetation and rocks and planting small shrubs. This buffer will reduce the effects of storm water runoff and erosion from waves and deter geese from the lawn while still providing a view of the lake.
- Develop a winding dirt path to your shore or dock. The reduced slope of a winding dirt path generates less erosion and runoff than a steep paved path.
- Do not add sand to your beach area; introduced sand is a major source of sediments and phosphorus.
- If you plan to do construction in an area where the soil will be left unprotected, use hay bales and fabric fences to hold the soil in place, and mulch disturbed areas just prior to the final grading.
- Improve your driveway so that storm water is diverted through u-shaped gravel or vegetated ditches that are designed to filter sediments and nutrients.
- Work with your town to improve drainage from town roads and parking lots.
- Direct runoff towards wooded areas so sediments, toxins and nutrients can be filtered out.
- Work towards a goal of zero runoff from your property.



Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association

Membership Application/Renewal Form

For many years the Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association has been working hard to protect our most valuable asset – Chebacco Lake. The CLWA continues to educate the community about our lake’s history and ways in which we can preserve and continue to enjoy Chebacco Lake. The CLWA conducts water quality testing, works to maintain water flow at Alewife Brook, and supports conservation efforts to protect Chebacco Lake and its watershed. Please join the CLWA. It’s an investment in the future good health and beauty of Chebacco Lake.

New **Renewal** **Member \$25** **Patron \$50** **Sponsor \$75**

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Lake Address (if different) : _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address(s): _____

Please circle all that apply to your household:

Lakeside resident / Property within 500’ of lake / Seasonal resident /

Non-resident property owner / Sport or recreational user of lake area /

Recreational user of Chebacco Woods

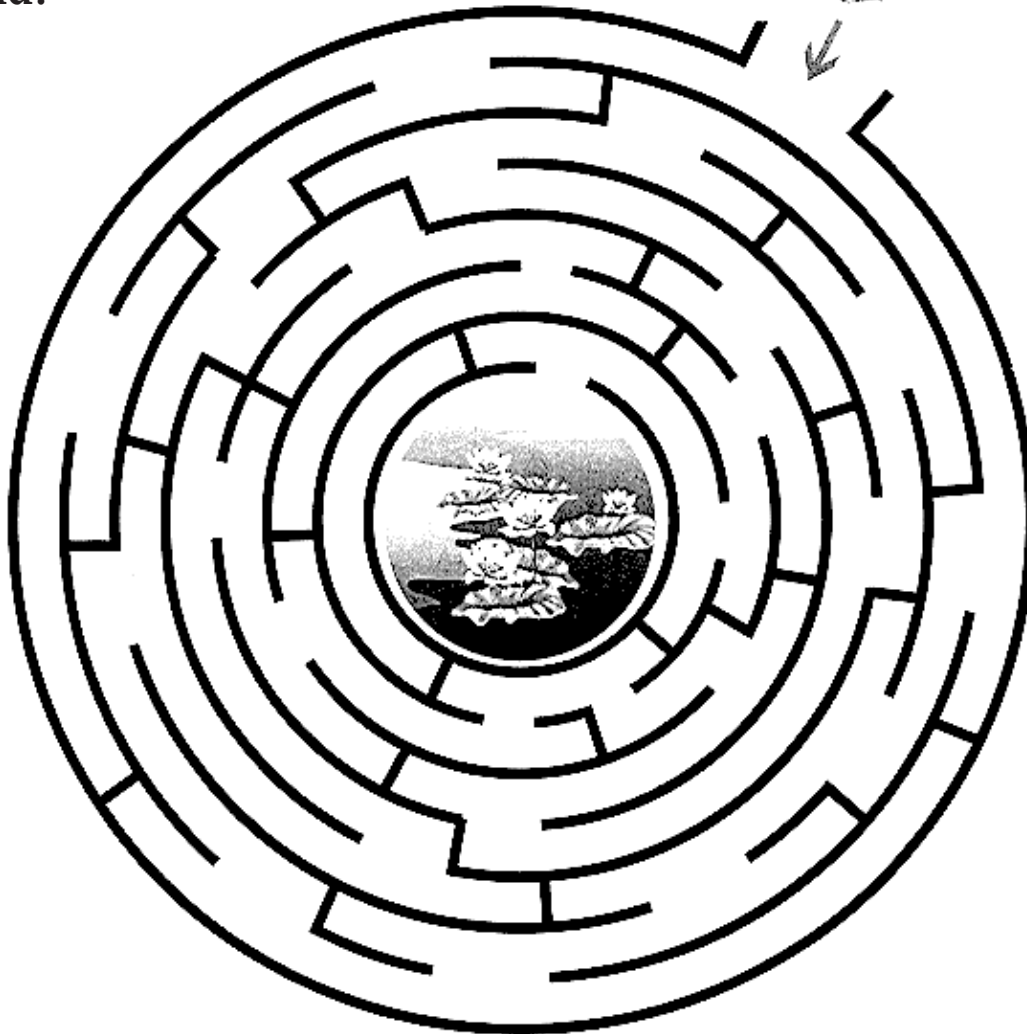
**All memberships expire January 31.
Dues paid after September 1 will apply to the following year’s membership.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Please send completed form and dues to:
Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association
P O Box 2344
So. Hamilton, MA 01982

Just for Fun - MAZES!

The whirligig beetle swims in circles on the water's surface. Can you lead him to the center of the pond?



Opening for a Hamilton Representative

The CLWA board is looking for another Hamilton representative.

The board meets one evening a month. This is a great opportunity to meet others on the lake and contribute to a good cause. If you're interested please contact either:

Sue McLaughlin
(978) 468-7715 sjmclaughlin@verizon.net

Robyn Kanter
(978) 468-7466 tripler3@comcast.net

New Fishing Regulations for 2012

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Kids between the ages of 15 and 17 must obtain a license but there is no charge. Adults age 70 or over and disabled persons may also fish for free but they need a license.

Saltwater fishermen are required to purchase a state fishing permit for \$10. These can be obtained on line at www.mass.gov/marine fisheries or at the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries in Gloucester. Persons under 16, disabled or who only fish from charter boats are exempt. Persons 60 and over must get a permit but it is free.

Please dispose of all old fishing line properly so that it does not entangle wildlife.

“Silent Spring” - 50 Years Later

It has been 50 years since Rachel Carson published her great environmental work, Silent Spring. This book raised awareness of the damage caused by the broad application of pesticides and herbicides. The banning of many chemicals, such as DDT, has resulted in the return of many species of water fowl to our waters in the last few decades.

A bald eagle was spotted next to the lake a few weeks ago. Even with everything we have learned about pesticides, the Mass. Audubon Society has found that 1.2 billion pounds are still used in the U.S. a year. Runoff from these products into the wetlands continues to be a big problem.

Our Conservation Commissions do not allow the use of yard chemicals and fertilizer within 100 feet of a wetland or body of water. The herbicide, Preen, is especially deadly to fish, frogs, etc.

Please be a responsible gardener and use safe methods to protect local wildlife, the lake and help slow down invasive weed growth.

L. Dexter Woodman Scholarship

Lifelong lakeside resident, Shauna Rice, has been chosen as the Essex graduate to receive this year’s Woodman Scholarship. Volunteering at the lake shore clean-ups is just one of the many activities that she has done during her years at Manchester-Essex High School. Congratulations Shauna!!!

Spring Clean-Up

On Saturday May 19, the CLWA and the Chebacco Woods Land Management Committee held the semi-annual clean up along Chebacco Road, the Town of Hamilton property, the boat ramp and part of the Manchester water supply.

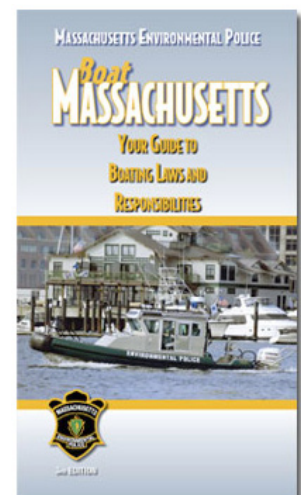
Seven volunteers spent a couple of hours getting the area clean for the summer season. The amount of trash was less than usual so we hope that by keeping the area free of old debris it will discourage more dumping.

Another clean up will be held in October.

Massachusetts Boating Handbook

A copy of the Massachusetts Boating Handbook is available at

www.boat-ed.com/ma/handbook/





Start planning for our annual
July 4th boat parade
on Wednesday, July 4!

Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association
P.O. Box 2344
South Hamilton, MA 01982

Designing With Nature Landscaping For a Healthy Lake

Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

The last few weeks, you may have noticed a tall, white flowering plant blooming in the woods and fields around the lake area. It is the biennial flowering Garlic Mustard, which has been spreading quite prolifically. This plant, that grows from a deep, thin white taproot matures and flowers in mid spring. A single plant can produce hundreds of seeds, which scatter several feet away from the parent plant.



Garlic Mustard was introduced in North America as a culinary herb in the 1860's and is now considered a restricted plant in Massachusetts. Like most invasive species, once it has been introduced, it persists and spreads into undisturbed plant communities. In many areas it has become the dominant understory plant species in woodland and flood plain environments. I have noticed it taking over our woods the last few years, out-competing our native plants.

It is best to try and pull it out before it flowers in the spring. The seeds can live up to five years so, once you have the plant in your yard you have to monitor it very closely. Do not put this plant into your compost pile. It is best to either burn it or bag it and dispose of it that way. - Robyn Kanter - Judy Brain (photo)