



CHEBACCO LAKE & WATERSHED ASSOCIATION *Newsletter*

A Quarterly Publication of the Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association

www.chebaccolake.org

June 2015

Notes from Around the Lake

After a long, cold winter it is great to have some warm weather. The ice was great for skating for a short while but then the snow got so deep that many fishermen weren't able to get out on the lake. The ice melted about three weeks later than it usually does.

The CLWA is conducting water testing again this year at several locations around the lake to ensure that it is safe for swimming. We will post the results on our Facebook page and our web site. Essex tests the Centennial Grove beach and those results can be found on their Town website (essex.ma.org) under the Board of Health. The Essex web site also mentions this year that only residents with stickers will be allowed in both Grove parking lots during June, July and August. The portable toilet, funded by the CLWA, has been in place at the boat ramp since the beginning of May.

The Town of Essex has a plan in place from the State to clear Alewife Brook. Unfortunately it does not come with any funding to do the work. Volunteers from around the lake and a few others have spent a lot of time during the last several years working in the brook. The Division of Marine Fisheries has helped too. A lot more needs to be done. We are hoping to build up the treasury so that extra help can be hired to finish the job and get the lake flowing freely again. The amount given to the CLWA by the movie production company a few years ago will help but your support by renewing your membership or becoming a new member is needed to make this happen. It is in the best interest of everyone around the lake to keep the only outlet open to prevent flooding and shoreline erosion, improve water quality and make it easier for the alewives and eels to migrate between the lake and the ocean.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer on the lake!

Phone Numbers for the Harbormasters

To report reckless boating, problems at the boat ramp or hazards on the lake.

Essex

978-768-6628

Hamilton

978-468-1212

In case of an emergency - always call 911

July 4th Boat Parade

The boat parade has been a tradition on the lake since at least the 1950's. Back then, the boats would go around the lake carrying a few flags in the morning. Later in the day, people would dress in costumes and water ski. One man used to wear a top hat and tails while sitting on a tall stool atop a disc being pulled by a boat. The late Ray Kershaw would ski around the lake wearing a hula skirt with a couple of coconut shells tied to his chest. After dark, a man who lived on Echo Cove Road would pass out road flares to everyone in the cove who had a dock. They were lit at the same time and boats would go around carrying sparklers.

In later years, the parade changed to include participants wearing costumes and decorating their boats. Different themes and prizes were added a while back. Participation in the parade has dwindled in recent years except for the year when "Grown-Ups" was being filmed. We would like to keep this tradition going but there needs to be more entries. Join the fun and come up with an original idea to decorate your boat. It can have a patriotic theme, something related to a television or movie character, an event or anything else. There will be awards for the winners and prizes for all participants. All boats will meet

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Newsletter Layout

Kimie Kester

July 4th Boat Parade

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on front of the beach at Centennial Grove at 1:00 PM and proceed counter-clockwise around the entire lake at a slow speed. At the finish, please wait until the awards can be handed out. We hope that it will be a good day and there will be plenty of spectators to cheer on the boats from shore. In case of bad weather, call 978-468-7715 before noon that day.

Spring Alewife Count

Ben Gahagan at the Division of Marine Fisheries has finished the alewife count for this year. For the second time, a solar counting device consisting of several 4 inch tubes was set in the brook with side pieces to direct the fish into them. It was placed at the Pond St. bridge. Last year it was further upstream but the new location had easier access. The fish started running on April 6 and lasted until May 14. During this time, 15,107 alewives passed through. This was about 600 more than last year but still well below the counts of many years ago. Continued clearing of the brook should make the passage easier for the fish which are an important part of the food chain.

A Few Reminders...

Have your septic system pumped every 2 to 3 years. This will prolong the useful life of the system and also help protect the water quality of the lake.

Mosquitoes are here! Everyone can do their part to eliminate some of these annoying insects. Along with spreading EEE and West Nile virus, they also transmit heartworm to dogs and cats. Remove all standing water on your property every few days - bird baths, saucers under plants, buckets, boats, etc. It takes less than a week for mosquitoes to hatch.

Check out our Facebook page - Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association, add your pictures of scenes or activities around the lake, post a lost and found or add your thoughts.

“Advice From a Lake”

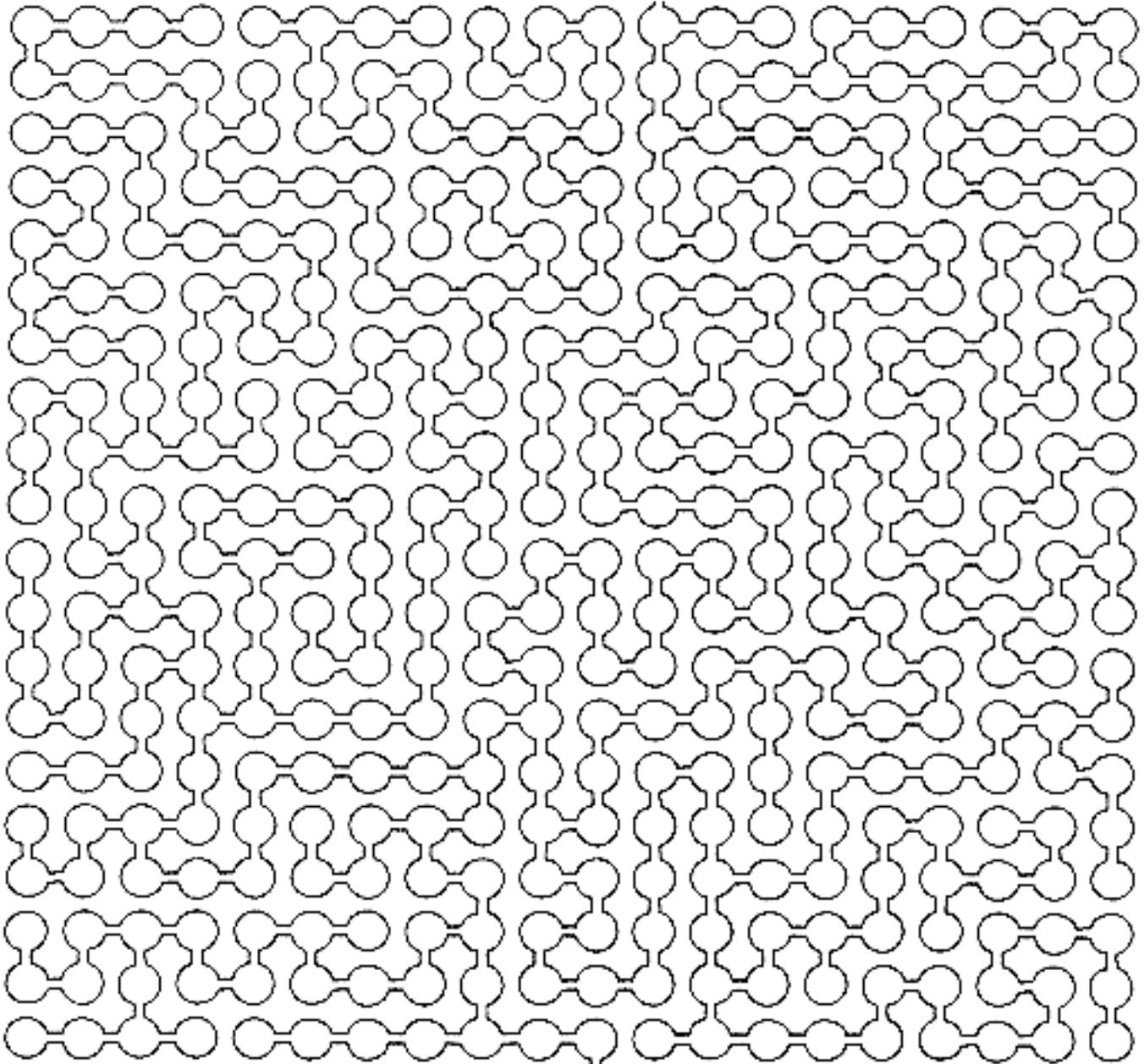
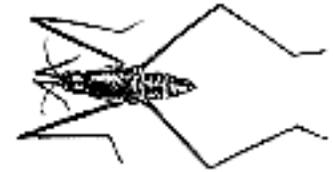
Make positive ripples
Shore up friendships
Stay calm

Take time to reflect
Look beneath the surface
Be full of life

Kids Corner

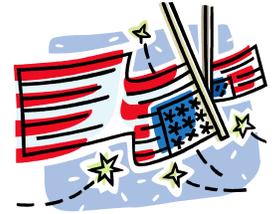
Just for Fun: Mazes!

Water striders skim across the water's surface hunting for small insects. Help the water strider find the mosquito larvae.



Parade begins at 1 p.m.

Don't miss the
Annual July 4th
Boat Parade



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

Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association Membership Application

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

New Renewal **Choose one:** Member \$25 Patron \$50 Sponsor \$75

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Lake Address (if different) _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Please send completed form and dues to: CLWA P.O. Box 2344 So. Hamilton, MA 01982