

SPRING/
SUMMER
2025



WEQUAQUET LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

People that care about Lake Wequaquet



Words from the President *David Bowie sang, "Cha..cha..cha..Changes."*

So, turn and face the season as Spring speeds into Summer and we try to keep up with all that's going on. Street closings, sewer upgrades, boater safety training laws, fertilizer free responsible landscaping, prep for our annual WLPA membership meeting; heck... getting out this newsletter on time. It all makes resuscitating outdoor furniture from hibernation simple. The WLPA will do its best to keep you informed. We've also included some town resources in this newsletter. Meanwhile, don't hesitate to join the International Napping Association, which has no newsletter, dues or meetings, but does offer marvelous health benefits whenever you choose to close your eyes.

Best regards, Ahvi Spindell

Press Release Massachusetts Environmental Police:

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR NEW BOATER EDUCATION LAW

Starting April 1, 2026, all motorized vessel operators must complete a state-approved education course to enhance safety across Massachusetts' waterways

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR BOATERS?

Starting April 1, 2026, anyone wishing to operate a motorized vessel in Massachusetts will be required to complete an approved boating safety education course. The goal is to ensure that every boater has the skills and knowledge needed to operate their vessel safely, reducing accidents and ensuring a more enjoyable experience for all. The education program will cover important topics such as:

- **Navigation Rules:** Understand how to safely maneuver on the water and avoid collisions.
- **Emergency Procedures:** Learn what to do in case of an emergency to protect yourself and your passengers.
- **Environmental Protections:** Gain awareness of practices that protect Massachusetts' treasured natural resources.

WHO NEEDS TO ENROLL?

- **If you were born after January 1, 1989**, you must complete the course by April 1, 2026, with no penalties assessed until September 1, 2026.
- **If you were born on or before January 1, 1989**, you'll have until April 1, 2028, to complete the course.

The program will be available through a variety of convenient platforms, including online courses, in-person classes, and partnerships with local organizations. To view the entire new law, visit **SESSION LAW – ACTS OF 2024 CHAPTER 350**

WLPA ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 1st

At the

**WEQUAQUET LAKE
YACHT CLUB**

9:00 - 11:00 AM

Several Town Officers will be in attendance to say some words about their expertise and to answer questions.

*Key note speaker
is yet to be announced*



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Boating Safety Certificate

John B. Boater

Eye Color: Brown Course Provider: MEP
Hair Color: Brown Valid From: 4/13/2013
DOB: 7/28/2000 Card Number: 14234567
Gender: M

NASBLA USCG Recognized

WEQUAQUET LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION TERMS OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS 2025

OFFICERS: Term 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2025

President, Ahvi Spindell
Vice President, Alan Horvitz
Secretary, Mary Ann Anthony
Treasurer, Frank Ward

2025 DIRECTORS: Expire 12/31/2025

Paul Canniff
Gale Klun
Gail Maguire

2026 DIRECTORS: Expire 12/31/2026

Richard Kramer
Jesse Lyons
Helen Nablo

2027 DIRECTORS: Expire 12/31/2027

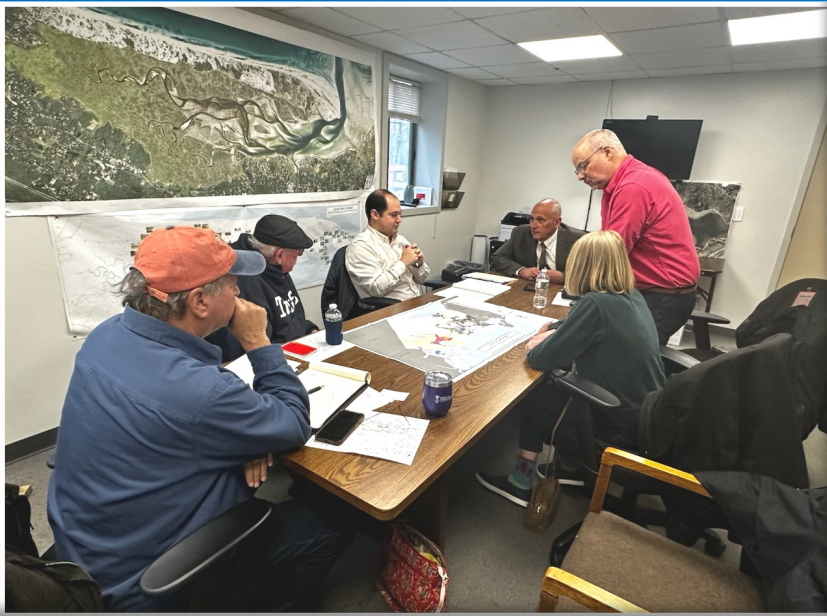
Alan Horvitz
Mary Ann Anthony
Frank Ward
Karin Menegay

Note: Officers are elected annually for a one year term. Directors are elected to serve a three year term. Officers are nominated and elected from active Directors.

BARNSTABLE POND COALITION

There are currently six pond associations in the Town of Barnstable: WLPAs, Indian Ponds, Red Lily Ponds, Friends of Marstons Mills Long Pond, Friends of Centerville Long Pond, and Friends of Shubael Pond. A coalition of these pond associations is in the early stages of formation, with the stated mission to “protect and promote the health of all Barnstable ponds”. Your WLPAs board has had representatives attend formational meetings of the coalition, and will keep our members informed of its activities. We will continue to attend the coalition’s meetings, and will support their efforts that are in accord with our organization’s values, and that benefit our membership. We may join the coalition as an association member, but will not be sharing your personal contact information, which we regard as privileged. The BPC is planning to hold a kick-off meeting in late June, sometime after the WLPAs annual meeting. When final details are known we will inform our membership.

Mary Ann Anthony



WLPAs Board members met with Town Manager Mark Ellis and Town Engineer Griffin Beaudoin PE to discuss issues including the sewer system as it relates to Wequaquet. Work being done on Shootflying Hill that requires detouring will suspend for the summer between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Beaudoin reported that Phase I is on schedule.

For a full report and information concerning the sewer project, see [Town of Barnstable Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan](#) online.

HARBORMASTER BULLET POINTS

- On April 3, several WLPAs Board members met with Brian Taylor, Town of Barnstable Harbormaster. Some important information gathered at the meeting included:
- Homeowners with floating docks are requested to **put names on their docks**. This makes it easier to locate the owner of a drift away dock. It also discourages dock dumping. Docks have been dumped at spots such as the Town Beach.
- Dock licenses are issued through State and Town Chapter 91.
- There are waiting lists for mooring permits on Old Farm Road, Yacht Club Road and Lake Drive. Having deeded beach rights does not guarantee a mooring permit.
- The WLPAs agreed to donate \$2600 toward the purchase of 7 buoys. The price includes shackles and delivery. Once in place, **private individuals are not permitted to move the buoys**. If there is an error, problem, etc, the Harbor Master should be contacted

A CAPE COD LAWN

If you have lived on the Cape long enough, you know what a Cape Cod lawn is. Some older properties still retain these mosaics of moss and a variety of native species that may include sedges, violets, wintergreen, low bush blueberry, bearberry, and native little bluestem grass. This is what a Cape Cod lawn is composed of, basically whatever will grow in the poor sandy soils of our region. Often there are mosses of different kinds, and sometimes what grows has flowers, like blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*). A Cape Cod lawn is an open area that is not irrigated, fertilized, or otherwise treated with chemicals. It is diverse with species, undulating with height of plants, a natural area, except for maybe an occasional mowing as necessary to maintain walkways during the growing season. It goes dormant in the heat of the summer and many a true Cape Coddler brags about the last mow for the summer at the end of June and not having to touch the mower until September for the last time in the calendar year! The traditional turf lawn of suburbia demands water and lawn chemicals. Our Cape summers are dry, and even hotter and drier in recent years with watering bans in almost all Cape communities. Our waterways are overburdened with nutrients, some of which come from fertilizers and storm water. The fact is that the traditional lawn just doesn’t work on Cape Cod.

You have permission to have a Cape Cod lawn because, after all, you live on Cape Cod and aren’t there better ways to spend your time and money?

Reprinted from “Guidelines for Cape-Friendly Landscapes”
published by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod and sold locally. It is also available online at APCC.org

BEST 2 WAYS TO PROTECT OUR LAKE
DO CONTINUE TO HAVE THE SEPTIC SYSTEM PUMPED
AND
DO NOT FERTILIZE YOUR LAWN

OLAUG

Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage

We are a group of old ladies, aged 64-85 and counting, who swim in the freshwater ponds of Cape Cod collecting trash. We are serious about our mission, but as you can maybe tell by our name, we don't take ourselves too seriously. In 2017, Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage, OLAUG, was formed. We have been cleaning up ponds on Cape Cod from Falmouth to Chatham ever since. Gathering small teams of swimmers, ages 64 to 85, we sweep along the shallows, diving down to pick up beer cans, golf balls, fishing lures, waterlogged dog toys, hats, jackets, shoes, and occasionally a tire, cell phone or box of spent fireworks.

Whatever we heave up from the bottom, we hand to the Garbage Collector who paddles a canoe or kayak. One swimmer goes ahead looking for snapping turtles and guides the swimmers around them. Our affection and respect for the fish, turtles, and plants that live in the ponds are what motivates us. Well, that and cookies.

REQUIREMENTS FOR OLAUGERS

What it takes to be an OLAUGer:

OLAUGers need to be excellent swimmers and kayakers.

Our tryouts are rigorous because what we do is rigorous.

SWIMMERS – without fins – need to be:

- ◆ able to swim ½ mile freestyle in 30 minutes or less
- ◆ able to swim a mile
- ◆ comfortable spending 1.5 hours in the water, with a lot of treading water
- ◆ comfortable and proficient swimming with mask and snorkel
- ◆ comfortable diving down 6-9 feet to retrieve trash

KAYAKERS need to be able to:

- ◆ maneuver easily without knocking into swimmers
- ◆ keep your kayak steady while receiving sometimes heavy trash on one side from a swimmer
- ◆ keep your kayak steady in windy conditions
- ◆ keep track of swimmers and tell them if they are getting too far away
- ◆ paddle while a tired or injured swimmer hangs onto the bow.

SCHEDULED TO CLEAN SOME OF WEQUAQUET LAKE

By Gale Klun

A few “Old Ladies Against Underwater Garbage” visited Wequaquet shorelines along the Town Beach last fall. They came on a “Scouting Mission” to explore the bottom of areas along the boat ramp, along the Town Beach, and onwards. Some from the group plan to do a return clean up around Sept. 11, 2025. OLAUG member Marci Johnson said the Wequaquet Yacht Club will be contacted to see if a scouting group would be welcomed after the summer season with a clean up, if necessary, in 2026. Coffee and cookies is the only “charge” for the underwater clean ups.



Some of the members of OLAUG after a lake clean-up. Photo from Cape Cod Museum of Natural History website.

ABOUT CYANOBACTERIA FROM TOWN OF BARNSTABLE WATER RESOURCES AND MONITORING WEBSITE

Typically, cyanobacteria's potential for overgrowth is kept in check by a balance of several different factors, one of which is nutrient availability. All animals and plants require nutrients to grow and thrive, but if an external force makes nutrients either scarce or overabundant, the balance is disrupted. Here on Cape Cod, human activities – from fertilization to faulty septic systems – have introduced an overabundance of nutrients into the environment, which leads to an ecologically unhealthy condition called eutrophication (the process by which a water body becomes enriched in dissolved nutrients such as phosphates and nitrogen). The greater the nutrient availability, the more fuel for cyanobacteria (and other undesirable plant life) to grow and thrive. Global warming also plays a key role with warmer pond temperatures favoring cyanobacteria.

ABOUT MONITORING

Should a town waterbody fail to achieve an acceptable result, advisories will be posted via a Town of Barnstable Water Quality Report as well as shared on a MyBarnstable mobile app, via social media and posted at the water body site.

Excerpts from
TownofBarnstable WaterResources website



WHEN IN DOUBT, KEEP PETS OUT!

Don't let your pets swim in, play in, or drink discolored or scummy water.

Find out why at
www.cdc.gov/habs

Some like it COLD!

By Ahvi Spindell

Over the winter months, I yearn for the warm days of summer. And like many folks of the north, I try to fly south, if possible, for a visit to a sunny beach to hold me over until the grass is green once more.

However, after a four-year hiatus, the lake froze over this past winter and a select breed of sports enthusiasts arrived to encamp on the ice. Equipped with state-of-the-art gear that had been patiently stashed until the air was frigid and the ice thick, they magically simultaneously migrated en-masse to frozen Lake Wequaquet.

Their pleasure was to embrace the cold north wind, drill multiple holes into the ice, lower line with baited hooks attached to wooden cross sticks and wait to spring into action when a flag popped up signaling, "fish on".

This is not a sport for the impatient. Most of the time is spent standing or sitting, drinking beer or slip sliding from ice hole to ice hole checking rigging. Some seasoned fishermen and fisherwomen set up tents with indoor furniture and outdoor grills for complete "home away from home" comfort. These folk were passionate about ice fishing. One outdoor sportsman who hunted deer, ducks, turkey with bow or rifle, and fished the ocean for tuna, told me this frozen tundra was the ultimate high. He loved the cold. For him, time spent on the ice was not chillin', it was heaven. And from the crowds who left no cove unexplored, he was not alone in his conviction.

I felt grateful for these pioneers of the ice. Able to cheer them on or celebrate a catch for a few minutes during my morning walk, saved me hours of set up, stand up and pack up. Back inside I could go, where cozy by a fireplace with a book was my winter sport of the season.



It's been a few years since the lake froze up enough for ice fishing.

Ice fishing hole photo by Heather Swanson

WATER LILIES



Excerpt from Better Homes and Gardens on line.
Author Claire Harmeyer

Water lilies have a number of adaptations that help them survive in water, including **big leaves that float on the water's surface to attract ample sunlight for photosynthesis**. The top side of the leaf is covered in cuticle to keep it as dry as possible and the underside has thorns to protect against predators.

Water lilies are important players in the aquatic ecosystem. Because they rest on the water's surface, the flowers and pads provide shade, keeping the water cooler and preventing algae, that thrives in heat, from growing in excess. Water lilies also shelter fish from predatory birds.

Water lilies can bloom from May through September but July seems their prime season. Each individual flower lasts only about four days before they sink under the water and decompose.

Sources to Know



Non Emergency Police

To report unsafe boating, excessive noise or other non emergency lake issues. **508-775-0812**

Boat Certification Questions

Contact Boat and Recreation Vehicle Safety Bureau.
508-564-4961

Cyanobacteria Status

APCC.org publishes an interactive map showing test results around the Cape. The Association to Preserve Cape Cod will email potential toxic bloom notification to persons providing their email.

Mosquito EEE Info

Reports of current Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus activity in Massachusetts will be found on the MDPH website at: **www.mass.gov/dph/mosquito**

Sewer Expansion updates

Direct questions to Kelly Collopy, Communications Manager DPW at **508-790-6400** or at **Kelly.collopy@town.barnstable.ma.us**

Also much information can be found on the Barnstable Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan site.

WLPA Website: **Wequaquetlake.com**