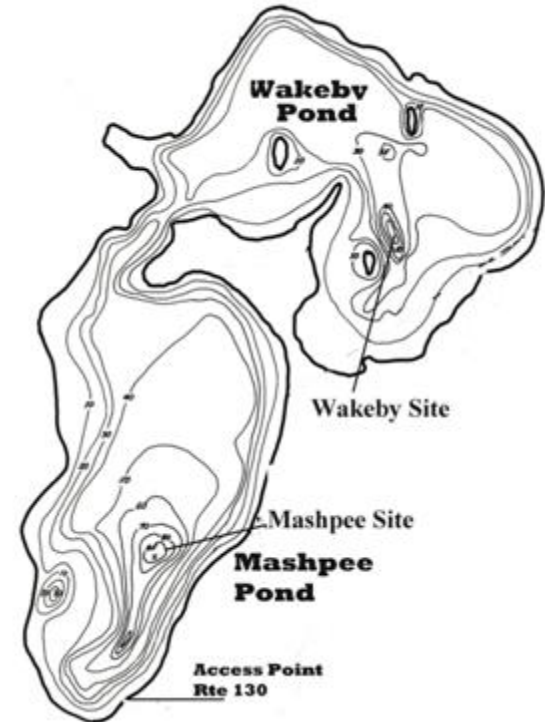


**Mashpee Wakeby Lakes  
Management Committee  
Mashpee Town Hall  
16 Great Neck Road  
Mashpee, MA 02649**

**MASHPEE & WAKEBY LAKES  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
NEWSLETTER**



**VOLUME 22, NUMBER 2, Fall 2022**

This newsletter appears in the spring and fall and can be found on the Town web site [www.mashpee.ma.gov](http://www.mashpee.ma.gov) under Boards and Committees: Mashpee & Wakeby Lakes Management.

"We forget that the water cycle and life cycle are one".

Jacques Cousteau

## Lake levels

With the lack of precipitation this summer the lake has dropped to 55.0 feet above sea level, its lowest level since the Summer of 2016. In March, the level was at 55.6, borderline for causing erosion damage around the shore. Since then, it has dropped consistently. We are waiting for DPW to install a new gauge in the cage to make reading the levels easier. This committee checks the level every two weeks and is in contact with Drew McManus of Conservation who along with Mass. Dept. of Marine Fisheries adjusts boards if necessary to make it easier for the herring to get into the lake in the spring and leave in the fall. Usually very little change in the boards is necessary. We hope the fall rains will increase the level soon.

## Beach Sampling Program

The Barnstable County Beach sampling program has concluded for 2022. Testing for coliform and ecoli bacteria is done for the 13 week swim season ,and both Attaquin and Camp Farley were acceptable for swimming in each test.

## Cyanobacteria

First detected in Wakeby Lake in September 2020, cyanobacteria was seen in both lakes June 2021, An advisory was again posted against pets and swimming on June 26, 2022 through July 2nd. when levels dropped enough to make it safe to use the lake, Have your septic systems pumped frequently, and keep buffer systems between rain run -off and the lake. Be vigilant to protect the lake or we will be unable to use it!

## **MASHPEE & WAKEBY LAKES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Mashpee & Wakeby Lake Management Committee is comprised of five members from the Mashpee community. They are representative of groups within the Town of Mashpee who have a vested interest in maintaining the beauty, safety and health of the Lake for the residents' use and enjoyment. The Committee acts as a conduit for the public's interests and concerns about the Lake. It serves as liaison to the Town's governing agencies, recommending necessary actions to be taken. The Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 PM at Mashpee Town Hall. The presence of Mashpee residents at these meetings is encouraged. We urge your participation in the activities of this Committee, to assist in our ongoing efforts to preserve the beauty and safety of the Lake. For more information, contact any of the Committee members listed below.

Debi McManus, Chairman - Lake Shore property owner  
94 Lakewood Ave. Mashpee, MA 508-868-1866

Email: [Damdesign@aol.com](mailto:Damdesign@aol.com)

Paul Bibo, Vice Chairman, Lakewood Association  
35 Juniper St. Mashpee, MA 508-477-3092

Email: [kpbibo@comcast.net](mailto:kpbibo@comcast.net)

Donald MacDonald, Waterways Commission, Lakewood Assoc.  
13 Maple St. Mashpee, MA 02649 508-477-1795

Email: [dmacd49@gmail.com](mailto:dmacd49@gmail.com)

Barbara Nichols, Secretary - Lake Shore property owner  
23 Melissa Ave. Mashpee, MA 508-539-1848

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Mike Rapacz

123 Quinquisset Ave. Mashpee, MA 02649

Email: [mikerapacz@gmail.com](mailto:mikerapacz@gmail.com) 802-316-2362

## Why Sewering Around Mashpee's Lakes and Ponds Helps Improve Estuary Water Quality

Nitrogen is a very conservative contaminant. It is a dissolved pollutant. That means that it moves with groundwater and surface water with few interruptions. Nitrogen introduced by the thousands of septic systems, ranging up to the watershed terminus will flow all the way down to the estuaries causing the severe eutrophication problems we are faced with today. So removing nitrogen from just about anywhere in the watersheds to Popponesset or Waquoit will reduce loading to the estuaries.

Sewering appears to be the only means of removing phosphorus from around the ponds. Phosphorus is generally considered to be the pollutant which stimulates unwanted growth in freshwater systems. No Alternative systems marketed today remove phosphorus as part of a treatment technology. Sewering around the ponds will dramatically reduce inputs of both nitrogen and phosphorus not only to the ponds but also to the estuaries. This will significantly reduce the formation of cyanobacteria that has closed our ponds for short durations during the last three years,

It is important to note that the health of Mashpee-Wakeby Lake is dependent on the cooperative efforts of both Mashpee and Sandwich. Septic systems to the north of Wakeby are in Sandwich. The Mashpee-Wakeby Lake Management group encourages both municipalities to work together to address poor lake water quality.

## Lowell Holly Reservation

Winslow Dresser, Stewardship Manager reported a busy season at Lowell Holly Reservation. The beach access road was again open Wednesday through Sunday from Memorial Day until Labor Day. Plans are to open it again on Memorial weekend in 2023. Until then, the public is welcome to park at the lot on South Sandwich Road and access the property through the trail network.

. Any inquiries may be directed to [wdresser@thetrustees.org](mailto:wdresser@thetrustees.org) 508-636-4693x5011

Lowell Holly is a 135 acre reservation named for its donor, Abbott Lawrence Lowell, a former Harvard University President. Along with its 250 native holly trees, Lowell added rosebay and rhododendrons to the grounds, The reservation is on the peninsular between Mashpee and Wakeby lakes.



## Robert Tomaino Harbormaster

I have been with the Mashpee Department of Natural Resources for 3 summers. I started out as an Assistant Harbormaster and was sworn in as the Harbormaster on August 3, 2022. I live here in Mashpee and enjoy spending time on both the fresh and salt bodies of water within Town. Prior to becoming full-time I was employed by the Falmouth Police Department as a 911 Dispatcher and prior to that I worked as a Special Police Officer in New Jersey. Safety is my #1 priority when it comes to being on the water. My goal at the end of the day is to ensure that the residents and visitors to the Town of Mashpee enjoy themselves on the water but, at the same time, do so safely and responsibly.



## Boat Ramp Plans for 2023

The State-owned ramp off Route 130 has been identified as a priority by the State for repairs. The repairs have been approved along with the APCC grant to include up to 7 -8 designs. The planned repairs will include replacing the ramp itself with a scour pad to protect the lower underwater section from power loading, which will still not be allowed and can include a fine. Along with the ramp replacement the plans include floating docks on either side of the ramp to allow controlling the boats in and out and for loading. This will mean that the beach on the side of the ramp will no longer be necessary and will be closed to beaching boats. This area will become a collection area for runoff to be captured with plantings to help keep the area safe from washout.

The addition of the floats will be a tremendous safety benefit. Many people have been in deep water trying to hang on to launched boats and dragging them over to the beach for loading. It will also be a great aid in loading boats so no one will need to climb over the bow onto a partly submerged trailer to crank in the final few feet. This will make for a much safer facility and should also help to reduce the time needed to launch and retrieve boats. It is hoped that this improvement will be ready for the 2023 season, but schedules can change.