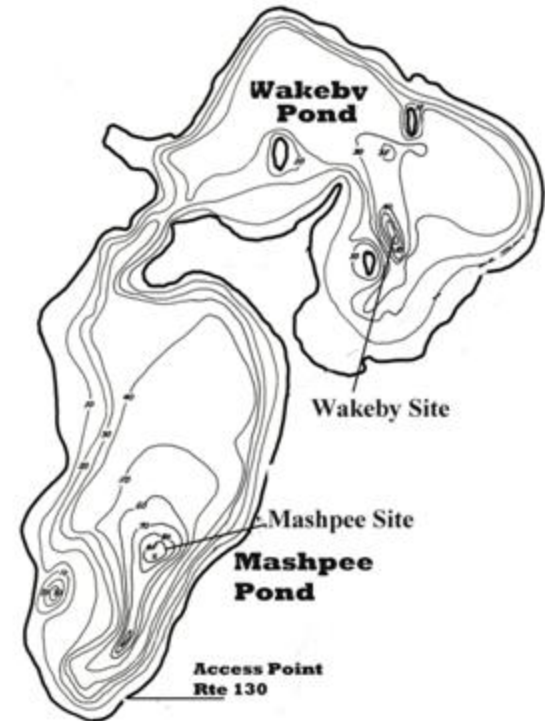


**MASHPEE & WAKEBY LAKES
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER**



VOL. 12, NUMBER 2, FALL 2012

This newsletter appears in the spring and fall and can be found on the Town web site www.mashpeema.gov under Boards and Committees: Mashpee Wakeby Lake Management.

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors: we borrow it
From our children.

Barnstable County tests Mashpee Pond weekly during swim season: two failures noted in 2012

The sampling program serves fourteen towns on the Cape and tests both salt and fresh water beaches.

Barnstable County tests area beaches for bacterial indicators weekly to assure swimmers safety. Both Attaquin Beach and Camp Farley sites are tested in Mashpee Pond, and results are posted on the web at

www.barnstablecountyhealth.org/bsmashpee.

Two samples this summer failed to pass. Attaquin Beach

did not pass on July 2nd but was OK on a re- test on July 3rd.

The site at Camp Farley failed on August 15, and that site was deemed safe for swimming the next day, when retested.

The Mass. State Code for Bathing Beaches, amended in 2010, requires permanent beach signs showing permit number and sampling dates for bacteria. Closed beaches will have warning signs posted in a conspicuous place to prevent public contact with potentially contaminated waters.



MASHPEE & WAKEBY
LAKE 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 and safety 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 7:30 PM at the 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.

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Committee Monitors Lake Levels

Old geological surveys from the US Dept. of The Interior show Mashpee and Wakeby water levels at 55 feet above sea level in the 1940's. At that time, there was no concrete fishway where the Mashpee River leaves the lake. This committee has been monitoring the lake levels twice a month since November, 2004. These levels are now reported to Andrew McManus in Conservation. In December 2006, engineers at Horsley and Witten installed a gauge to more easily read the measurements at the spillway. The 1.0 mark on the gauge is set at 55.5 feet above sea level. December 2010 was the last time a board was removed from the fishway, and the lake has maintained its level between 55.9 and 55.2 feet above sea level. Damage from erosion is much less than when the lake level was above 56 feet in 2005.



Important Mooring Information

The Mashpee Harbormaster has informed the Committee that mooring holders on the pond should expect increased enforcement of the mooring requirements in 2013. New standards for moorings were established in 2012, but enforcement focused on marine moorings. The Harbormaster will enforce the new rules in the 2013 boating season and mooring holders should take steps to comply over the winter. The requirements will be included in your 2013 mooring bill that you will receive this winter.

Moorings that are not up to standards will be tagged. Owners of tagged moorings will have about a week to remedy the defects prior to the mooring being subject to removal.

Owners of floats and water trampolines that are anchored off shore should be aware that they require permits from the Harbormaster. Steps should be taken to secure the proper permits to avoid the hassle and expense of removal and replacement.

Proper mooring maintenance and marking protects us all from the hazards of loose vessels, especially during the types of storms we have seen lately. Your cooperation makes the lake safer and allows the Harbormaster to spend his time policing boat activity on the pond.

Boat Wash Station

After the introduction of the idea by a lakeside property owner, the members of the Mashpee & Wakeby Lakes Mgmt. Committee have discussed the need for a boat washing station to help prevent the invasion of foreign mussels and exotic weeds. Either will cause problems within our pond and lake system. These mussels and weeds are typically introduced into lakes by infected boats. However, who would sponsor such a station here in the Town of Mashpee and who would pay for such a project?

In Idaho, the town residents and guests buy a special environmental sticker, costing \$10 a year. Boats coming into town, but registered out of state would pay \$20. The cost for the non-motorized boats is \$5 annually. Boats caught on the waterway without the sticker would be subject to a \$100 fine. The stickers would fund informational programs and specifically the wash station and certified attendants. We need to do something soon, because this problem will not go away, I know that there are owners on the lake that pull weeds. There is nothing wrong with that. However, these types of species pose a major threat to the healthy ecosystem currently enjoyed at Mashpee Pond and Wakeby. We must do something to prevent contaminated boats from bringing unwanted foreign species into our beautiful waterways. At a community level, a basic, well managed wash station can provide an educational opportunity to help boaters learn to remove invasive plants and animals from their watercraft. We would like this to be a successful project and hope that there is interest. What do you think?

New Fertilizer Law

A new fertilizer law, which will go into effect in 2014, was signed by Governor Patrick on August 29, 2012.

The nutrient content of fertilizers is noted in the sequence of 3 numbers on the bag. The first number is nitrogen, the second is phosphorus and the third is potassium. The law limits phosphorus use, a nutrient that encourages the growth of algae in fresh water. No fertilizer should be applied between December 1 and April 1 and it should only be used when conditions warrant it.

Fertilizer should not be applied within 15 feet of the lake and Mr. McManus, Mashpee's conservation agent feels it should be at least 20 feet.

Phosphorus free fertilizers are available in Mashpee and similar in cost to the ones containing P. The law, which will be enforced by the state allows for fines up to \$500 for the first violation and \$1000 for the second violation.



Water Quality of Mashpee and Wakeby Ponds

The School of Marine Science and Technology at UMass, Dartmouth continues to provide lab data without cost and in support of the Cape Cod Pond and Lake Stewards (PALS) Program. Ed Eichner and Brian Howes at SMAST interpret data after collection of samples by local volunteers. In 2012, Rick York, Mashpee's Shellfish Warden, has been involved in collecting samples.

The water samples from Mashpee and Wakeby fall in the mid-range (Mesotrophic) for transparency as measured with the secchi disc, while the phosphorus readings, especially in the deeper holes fall in the very high or Eutrophic range. Any debris brought up by an anchor from the 29 meter mark in Mashpee or the 19 meter level in Wakeby is black and has the strong odor of sulfur. The water from these depths also has a strong sulfur odor.

We all must do our best to limit the amount of phosphorus entering the lake. Limit fertilizer use and create buffer zones, repair septic systems and prevent road run-off into the lakes. Don't encourage waterfowl by feeding them. We must all join in to help preserve our ponds.

Total Phosphorus in (uM) in the deeper holes

3 meters 9 meters 1 mt. above bottom

Mashpee	25.71	20.55	127.09	29 meters
Wakeby	31.14	45.89	136.69	19 meters

Mashpee Wakeby Lake Committee has set the following priorities for the fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013). We will use these priorities to guide the work of the committee this year and welcome comments and ideas. Email us at mwpondcommittee@gmail.com

Determine need to clean sediment from Mashpee River channel between outlet and Mill Pond

Enhance enforcement of rules and regulations on the pond, including discussion of ticketing policy

Ensure uniform enforcement of parking limits at the landing

Development and distribution of guidance to homeowners on control and management of invasive species

Exploration with DFW of increasing trout stocking

Work with Conservation Commission on siting and design of kayak launch in Pickerel Cove

Establish a briefing schedule with Selectmen to raise profile of issues of concern on the lake.

Develop strategy to eliminate presence of boats without underwater mufflers

Evaluation of creation of a wash station at the landing



Weed Update

The last few summers, marked by warm temperatures and lots of sun, have brought with them the growth of a weed that is causing problems in some areas. The weed, Richardson's Pondweed (*Potamogeton Richardsonii*), is native to the region but has probably existed in MW Pond in low numbers for years. This type of plant has thrived in the warming climate we have experienced and it now appears in dense stands sporadically throughout the pond.

While the pondweed is not considered an exotic or non-native invasive species, it is clearly becoming a nuisance and is negatively impacting certain areas. There is guidance available on pondweed control at www.mass.gov/lakesandponds. The Richardson Pondweed spreads through distribution of its seeds. The spread of the weed can be controlled by hand pulling the weed, especially prior to the formation of seeds in mid to late August.

The seed heads are white and are at the tip of the plant in late summer. The weed pulls out by the roots with some care and regular maintenance can control the weed to some extent. Pulled weeds should be removed from the water and left to dry on land. The use of herbicides is not encouraged and should not be used in the pond by anyone except a licensed applicator.

