

MELODY LAKE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE MELODY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

JANUARY 2019

Throughout 2018, association members were reminded that the elections of officers for 2020 & 2021 would be held sometime in the second half of 2019. It was also announced that many of the current board members might not be running for reelection. During the fall and winter, we have received concerns from many members about this decision. While many acknowledge that some new (and younger) blood is important, they questioned if many realize just what it takes to keep this association in compliance and running as effectively as it has for the past several years. While the descriptions of each office is covered in the by-laws, they are vague and nowhere near describe what has to be done to remain in compliance with the new DEC Dam Regulations, the updated NYS Not For Profit Corporation Laws, the DEC Water Laws, etc.. For the past dozen or more years we have had 100% paid membership. We have also had 25 years of lake quality monitoring. We have built relationships with local, county, state and federal agencies and also partnerships with several other lake associations throughout NYS. We have attended training sessions sponsored by NYSFOLA and DEC. We have worked with the Cortland County Health Department and Cortland County Soil and Water to conduct a septic maintenance workshop where all attendees walk away with \$100 to be used for pumping or maintaining their septic system. We work with association members to make sure that their property upgrades comply with all current NYS law. We try to insure that nothing is done around the lake and it's watershed that may harm the quality of Melody Lake. While we do agree that new blood is good, we have no intention of just turning over the leadership to anyone that will not make a commitment of continuing or improving programs that need to be done to protect our beautiful lake. Inside this newsletter we will look at an average year of what is required of each Board of Directors. Read it and then you decide.

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OUR SPONSOR'S ADS ARE THROUGHOUT THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE SUPPORT THEM WHENEVER POSSIBLE!

Remember that the 2019 dues are due no later than February 15th. If yours are not yet paid please send a check for \$100 made payable to "Melody Lake Association" to Steve Smith, 824 Tyler St, Johnson City NY 13790. You will be sent your guest passes when your dues are paid in full.

THANKS!!!

Melody Lake Association was formed on June 22nd, 1964 to: 1) Aid and promote the preservation and protection of Melody Lake and the land around it. 2) To aid in the protection of fish and game in such lake and area. 3) To promote and cultivate social relationships among its members; and 4) To undertake programs and activities calculated to advance the above purposes

IMPORTANT PHONE #'S, EMAILS, DATES AND INFORMATION

Melody Lake Association

PO Box 95

Willet, NY 13863

www.stny.info/melodylake

or visit us on Facebook

HOW TO CONTACT:

Association Officers:

President – Bob Rosati (607)863-4425 rcrosati@frontiernet.net

Vice President – John Opp (607)821-2697 j.opp47@yahoo.com

Secretary – Tami Zebrowski-Darrow (607)722-5994 (home),
(607)863-4319 (lake) tzebrowski@stny.rr.com

Treasurer – Steve Smith (607)729-8823, sjstev@gmail.com

Member at Large – Theresa Tyner (352-597-1211

exitviprealty@gmail.com

Webmaster – Jim Pratt – (607)775-4925 jpratt@stny.rr.com

Emergency Response

NY State Police – (607)756-5604 or 911

Cortland County Sheriff – (607)753-3311 or 911

Fire & Ambulance – 911

NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation:

Conservation Officer – (315)741-2205, or
1-844-332-3267 (24 hr)

Permits – 1-800-388-8244 or (607)753-3095 ext. 235

Dam Safety – (518)402-8150

Town Government Officials:

Willet Town Hall – 863-4877 (for building permits)

Town Supervisor – Alvin (Sandy) Doty – 863-3252

Town Clerk – Annie Wilcox – 863-4329

Highway Superintendent – Geno Turshman 863-3265

Code Enforcement – 749-8299 or 345-0759

Tax Assessor – Frances J Butler 849-6966

Other:

Cortland County Health – 753-5035 (permits for wells & septic)

Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation – 756-5991

DOGS AROUND THE LAKE:

Remember that your dog must be under your control at all times. If the dog is loose, they must remain on your property. Every year we receive complaints from people walking around the lake that they are confronted by loose dogs. Excessive barking is also a nuisance and is in violation of the Town ordinance. All complaints should be referred to the Town of Willet Dog Warden. (Country Acres Animal Shelter – 749-2734)

There are new operating hours for the Willet Post Office:

Mon – Fri : 10 AM – 12 noon & 1 PM – 3 PM

Sat – 9 AM – 11:45 AM

THE MEETINGS FOR MELODY LAKE ASSOCIATION FOR 2019 WILL BE HELD AT 12:00 NOON ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST. ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE WILLET TOWN HALL (unless decided otherwise). MEETING DATES FOR 2019 ARE:

JUNE 9th

JULY 14th

AUGUST 11th

ASSOCIATION PICNIC – JULY 27th

YOUR IDEAS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE ASSOCIATION. PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND WHENEVER POSSIBLE. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO LIMIT THE MEETING TO ABOUT 1 HOUR HOWEVER WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ALL IMPORTANT TOPICS ARE DISCUSSED.

The Town Of Willet Town Board Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM. The meetings for 2019 are:

January 21st	February 18th
March 18th	April 15th
May 20th	June 17th
July 15th	August 19th
September 16th	October 21st
November 18th	December 16th

WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND ALL PROPERTY OWNERS AND THEIR GUESTS THAT EVEN THOUGH MELODY LAKE IS A PRIVATE LAKE, ALL NYS LAWS APPLY. THIS INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO FISHING, HUNTING, BOATING AND MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS. ALSO REMEMBER THAT ALL BOATS THAT ARE POWERED BY AN ELECTRIC MOTOR (INCLUDING PONTOON BOATS) MUST BE REGISTERED. ALL NON-NYS RESIDENTS MUST HAVE A NONRESIDENT FISHING/HUNTING LICENSE.

CORTLAND/CHENANGO RURAL SERVICES

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Mon & Fri - 9:30 am – 11 am

Tues & Thurs – 9:30 am – 11:00 am & 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Wed – 9:30 am – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Sat–9 am –12 noon (also Local Farmers Market in season)

Remember that the speed limit on Melody Lake Rd. is 30 mph and on Melody Lane is 10 mph. Also parking on Melody Lake Road is prohibited unless you are completely off the road. Please remind your visitors and everyone that you may be doing business with such as contractors, fuel delivery companies, etc.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter by Melody Lake Association's diverse group of volunteers may not necessarily reflect the views held by the Association, its members, or its sponsors.



ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT BOB ROSATI:

Usually I use this space to ramble on about things that may, or may not interest you. This time, I just want to thank many of you for the support and understanding you have offered to me and the board. I also want to continue to thank my wife Carol for allowing me to pursue something that remains extremely important to me. There are things that the board can try to fix and even more things we wish we could fix but can't. That's why we ask that if you have a problem with the neighbor's dog, call the neighbor and if that doesn't work call the dog warden. If you have concern about the condition of Melody Lake Rd., call the town. If you have a concern about the speeding on Melody Lake Rd., call the sheriff or state police. You get the picture....if we can't fix it, call someone who can. Their contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter.

Over this past year we have had several new property owners. We would like to welcome:

Walt & Vicki Coleman – 6089 Melody Lake Rd
 Greg & Brenda Cliff – 1359 Melody Lane
 Dave & Mary Strollo – 6082 Melody Lake Rd
 Jim & Lori Giglio – 1309 Melody Lane
 Brett Hammond and Karie Tennant – 1369 Melody Lane

We have also had to say a final "good bye" to a few long time members. In January 2018, we said good bye to Yvonne Titus. My records show that Yvonne and her husband Ken (deceased) have owned property at 1361 Melody Lane since 1956 which made them one of the first property owners, way before the association was ever formed. Her son, Ken Jr. (Skip) now owns the property. In August 2018, we received the news that AnnaMae Matola passed away. AnnaMae purchased the property at 6065 Melody Lake Rd. back in the early 1960's. I remember that she was one of the first to welcome my parents to Melody Lake and quite

often would stop and sit around the campfire well into the evening. Even though she lived in Florida, she would spend each summer here at the lake. Her nephew Bill and his wife Linda now own the property. In early November we received the news that Eddie Zwierzynski passed. Eddie was a great friend who was always ready and willing to help anyone that needed it. Back in the early days, Eddie was a sworn constable for the Town of Willet and would work with the Cortland County Sheriff Dept. whenever needed at the Melody Lake area. Eddie also owned several pieces of construction equipment and would take his vacation from his full time job to grade the road, clean the ditches and do whatever else was asked of him at no charge to the association. I remember several times while out ice fishing at the lake, Ed would deliver a hot meal out to us. I also remember once that Bob Rucky and I bought a live chicken at a local livestock auction and put it in a box on Eddie's kitchen table. The look on his face when he discovered it is something I will never forget. Eddie and his wife Sherry have been here since 1973. Sherry now continues to own the property.

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 PLACE FOR THEM TO STAY?**

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Full bath. New Septic System.

Recently remodeled with all new appliances

Available by the day, weekend or full week

A short walk for full lake access.

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**For more information contact Bob & Carol Rosati
 (607)863-4425 or rrosati@frontiernet.net**



YOU WON'T BE BORED IF YOU'RE ON THE BOARD:

By Bob Rosati

President - *The Association shall elect one of its members as President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and shall preside at all meetings of the Corporation and the Board of Directors. At each meeting he/she shall give additional information as shall be necessary to constitute a brief resume of the Corporation's activities during the previous year or month. The President shall be elected for the term of two (2) years or until a successor shall be duly elected and qualify. The President shall execute, in the name and on behalf of the Corporation, all documents required to be executed by the Corporation, and shall perform such other duties as are requested by the Association or are reasonably incidental to his/her office.*

Sounds easy enough doesn't it? In fact it was back in 1964 when it became part of our original by-laws. Back then there were no strict Not-For-Profit Laws, no enforced Dam Safety Regulations, no association insurance, no strict DEC Water Regulations, no more than a couple hundred bucks in our bank account and dues were only about \$10. We only had about 40 members. People were satisfied with a Melody Lane being "good enough" to drive at 10 mph. People actually knew their neighbors and felt comfortable enjoying what they had in common while resolving their differences without the involvement of the association. Now being a board member could be a full time job. There is no beginning or end to the year. Just to put things in some type of order let's start where most member's year ends. It's the first of October and I receive a call from DEC. It's time to meet them at the dam to discuss what was done this past summer and complete a visual inspection. We agree to meet on October 16th. There we discuss the concerns from the past years inspection and tell what has been done to remedy them. They conduct a new inspection and point out any new concerns. Within a couple weeks, we receive the results in writing. It is possible that some of the work might be considered more than "ordinary maintenance" and if so may require a permit from DEC before any of the work can proceed. The board then meets so we can include what needs to be put into the 2019 tentative budget. In November it's time to start thinking about the newsletter. Past sponsors are contacted to place ads to help cover the costs. Notes from the previous year's season are looked over to give some thought as to what should be included in the newsletter. In December our Dam Inspection and Maintenance Plan (I&M) and the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) must be reviewed and updated to be correct to January 1st. In order to do that all contact information for 19 downstream residents living in the area that would be affected in the event of a dam emergency must be verified. Contact must be made to several local, county and state agencies verifying their contact information and duty in the event of an emergency. A copy of all changes must be copied and distributed to all parties involved to keep their copies of the EAP current. Before January 31st, an Annual Dam Certification must be prepared and sent to DEC stating that the update has been completed and distributed and that we are in compliance with all current dam regulation and if not, why not. This year this process took well over 30 hours to complete. Also before January 1st a "Conflict of Interest" Policy must be developed, accepted and signed by all board members. In January we receive the dues notice for our NYSFOLA Membership and CSLAP Fees. Contact is made with Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCS&W) to see if they will once again be paying these for us as they have done in the past. If they agree, it will be saving us close to \$500 again this year. Now it's back to the newsletter while we also send out reminders to everyone that dues are due by February 15th knowing quite well it will take several additional notices, emails and phone calls before we again reach 100% paid membership. As dues are paid, members will get their 2019 Guest Passes sent to them electronically. Hopefully by mid-February we receive the results from the previous year's lake testing program (CSLAP) to be included in the newsletter. When the newsletter is complete it is either distributed electronically or copied and mailed to the others. In April we receive the agenda for the NYSFOLA Annual Conference in Lake George, NY. Participation in the conference gives us a chance to share ideas with about 200 other lake associations and several government agencies. Carol and I have attended this 3 day conference for more than 20 years but did not attend last year because the association will only reimburse us \$200 of the \$450 - \$500 fee. By now, summer has begun and the members are returning. By the first of June, if there are any unpaid property owners we meet with the town judge to start the process of taking the unpaid to small claims court. NYS law allows us to ask the courts for the amount of the unpaid dues, reimbursement of expenses (time, postage, etc.) and up to 10% interest . (cont.)

Now comes the phone calls or visits about dogs barking, speeding on Melody Lane, fireworks, etc. There are monthly meetings, board meetings, the association picnic, and lake testing twice a month from May thru September. Monthly town board meetings and occasional meetings with the Cortland County Health Department to check on septic or well permits can happen at any time. A couple times a year we are notified about a potential harmful algal bloom (HAB) and if so, photos and a samples are taken and sent to a lab in Syracuse. If results are positive all members with email are notified. Finally summer is over and people are closing up for the winter. Summer is finally over and it's time to go back to the top of the page and start all over.

Vice President - The Association shall elect one of its members as Vice President of the Corporation for a term of two (2) years or until a successor shall be duly elected and qualify. As designated by the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in case of death, absence or inability of the President to act. The Vice President shall also have the authority to sign and execute, in the name and on behalf of the Corporation, all documents required to be executed by the Corporation, and shall also perform such other duties as are requested by the President of the Board of Directors.

As previously stated, the duties of the Vice-President are much greater than those listed in the by-laws. In the case of the current board, because of John's knowledge of contracts, he quite often reviews the written requests for bids before the actual request is sent out. In addition he:

- Coordinates and communicates with the President on a continuous basis
- Handles assignments from the President
- Oversees maintenance of Melody Lane and assigned road committee tasks
- Orders materials as needed, seeks out new and regular sources
- Dam maintenance and inspection reporting, keep and understand the procedures
- Emergency Action Plan involvement, be prepared in the event of an emergency, know what is expected
- Handles member questions and requests as necessary and appropriate
- Communicates with public town and county representatives as needed or requested on Association matters
- Understands and follows NYS not for profit laws and regulations as applicable to MLA
- Chairs association meetings with or in the absence of the President
- Coordinates annual picnic activities
- Attends regular meetings and Board meetings as scheduled or called on an emergency basis
- Acts to promote the best interests of MLA and its members
- Participates in maintenance actions such as slope clearing and valve operations at the dam
- Completed a detailed building material list for the proposed pavilion so a realistic budget may be prepared

Treasurer - The Association shall elect one of its members as Treasurer of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two (2) years or until a successor shall be elected and qualify. The Treasurer shall be the business and fiscal officer of the Corporation. The Association may require the Treasurer to furnish such bond or security as it directs for the faithful performance of his/her duties. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as are requested by the President or Association.

The Treasurer is another position that was simple when first placed in the original by-laws in 1964. As stated previously, back then with about 40 members and \$10 dues, it was easy to manage our \$400 budget. Now with more than \$8000 raised from dues, along with additional income from the picnic revenue, additional member donations, budget items being reimbursed from outside sources, revenue from newsletter ads, raffles and the picnic, the position takes a lot more time and knowledge that it did in the past. In the past, there was one general account to take care of. Now there is more than \$57,000 total from a checking account, a savings account, a dam fund and 2 cd's to manage. He must also keep the property owners contact list and the dues paid list up to date. Quite often the treasurer contacts the association's liability insurance agent to see how some suggested activities might affect our policy and rates. The treasurer also prepares a tentative budget for the following year to propose to the rest of the board and eventually the members. A detailed finance report is presented at each association meeting (cont.)

Secretary - The Association shall elect one of its members as Secretary of the Corporation. The Secretary shall be elected for a period of two (2) years or until a successor shall be duly elected and qualify. The Secretary shall take and record minutes of all meetings of the Corporation and the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as are requested by the President or the Board of Directors.

The duties of the secretary continue to change from year to year. Now with the ability to communicate electronically the secretary distributes the minutes of the monthly summer membership meetings to all members that have shared their email information with us. Many times this results in many more questions than we would have received in the past. It is the responsibility of the secretary to provide minutes of meetings from the past several years when requested. The secretary is responsible for sharing these questions and comments with the rest of the board so the concerns may be addressed. If the association is made aware of a death or other serious event of a member, the secretary quite often sends a card or may even attend the calling hours to represent the association.

Member at Large – even though the by-laws require a Member at Large, there is nowhere in the by-laws that describe the duty's of the position. However the by-laws do require that the board must be made up of at least one property owner from Melody Lane and one member from Melody Lake Rd.

Historically the member at large has been a property owner from Melody Lake Rd. While we are not sure of the reason, it is assumed that over the years the association meetings are more frequently attended by members from Melody Lane. Keep in mind that Melody Lake Rd. is a public road so the association has very little say over maintenance or regulation enforcement. However it is important that the association has at least one board member to represent those property owners. The member at large must attend the membership and board meetings when possible. If that board member cannot physically attend a board meeting, they must be able to comment electronically and voice their opinion before any board decision is made. In the absence of any other board member, the member at large should be able to fill in when necessary. This fifth member also creates an odd number of board members which eliminates the chance of any decision by the board ending up in a tie vote. In order to be a potential tie breaker the member at large must be familiar with all the laws, rules and regulations that may affect the outcome of any decision made.

Over the next few pages we will take a look at the board members that are serving now. You will find they come from different backgrounds but enjoy working together mainly due to their passion for Melody Lake. Sometimes the job gets frustrating but it sure does help when we have a great bunch of association members (or at least most of them) that shares this passion. While it's true that there are a few that believes that the actions of just one won't negatively affect the condition of the lake, most realize that everyone has an obligation to do what is best for the lake.

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A LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CURRENT BOARD:

A little bit about President Bob Rosati:

Bob was originally from the Binghamton area. While growing up his family used to go camping in the Adirondacks and St. Lawrence area throughout the summer until the price of gas went up to close to 50¢ a gallon and Dad decided that they needed to find somewhere closer to home. In 1963 they purchased property at Melody Lake and every summer since then would be spent here at the lake either in a tent for the first 4 years and then finally a cottage was built. After graduating high school Bob went into the Army serving as a Sgt. in the Military Police for 1 year in Vietnam and 18 months in Germany. Shortly after arriving back home, Bob got a job with the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) where he spent 34 years in the Division of Operations ending up as an Operations Supervisor 3 where he supervised the operation, construction and maintenance of DEC Lands (facilities, flood control projects, fishing accesses, state forests, wildlife management areas, dams etc.) for Broome, Tioga, and parts of Chenango and Cortland Counties. Bob retired from DEC in 2005. Several times since his retirement, Bob was called back to work to supervise private contractors doing work for DEC including dam rehabilitation at Calico Pond and a dam removal in West Eaton. Bob became president of Melody Lake Association in the mid 1980's and with the exception of a couple years has been president since then. Bob also served on the board of Directors for New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) representing close to 200 lake associations throughout NYS. He also served as statewide president from 2003 - 2005. For several years Bob also served as the chair for the NYSFOLA Dam Committee. He moved to Melody Lake full time in 1984 and now lives here with Carol, his wife of 22 years. Except for a winter cruise, Bob and Carol can be found here at the lake. Last year, instead of their annual cruise to the Caribbean, they went to Uganda on a missionary trip and continues to help raise funds to build an active pig farm to support an orphanage/school of more than 400 students.

A little bit about Vice President John Opp

Born and raised in Greene, NY, I grew up with 3 brothers and we all scattered after high school. I attended SUNY Canton for two years and the long colder winters drove me south. I finished my college education at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. I was then employed with the Tennessee Valley Authority in Chattanooga for 32 years. My responsibilities there covered procurement related jobs from purchasing agent early on to department management of several personnel, regional management of six western valley power plants, and finally special projects including implementation of computer-based procurement processes.

I purchased the cottage at Melody Lake in 2004. My wife JoAnn was raised in Greene also. Actually on a farm outside Greene a few miles. We dated in high school but went our separate ways for several years. It's a long story so the short version is we were married on the front lawn of 1354 Melody Lane in 2006. We have family in the Rochester area and in Chattanooga, and we now winter in Florida at a home there so we are traveling quite a bit. We recently purchased a house in Caledonia, NY to be closer to the grandchildren there. While our presence at the lake is becoming less, we enjoy it more and more when we get the time to be here.

My hobby of tinkering with specialty cars started in high school and continues to today. Especially Austin Healeys. I bought my first one when I was 19 and drove it south to college. I am a member of the Austin Healey Club of America and currently serve as Vice President of the Tampa Bay Austin Healey Club. Something to do while in Florida for the winter. We have about 110 members in the Tampa chapter, making it one of the largest in the country.

Melody Lake is a unique place, as I know those reading this are aware. Lots of good people generating lots of memories for their families and friends. Most take pride in maintaining the level of investment they are making and that helps all members of the association. It is all volunteer work that enables compliance with ever changing and challenging government regulations being placed on private dams and bodies of water in New York. Those requirements seem to get more stringent and complicated with each passing year. I have enjoyed working closely with all members around the lake to address concerns, and with other members of the Board to keep the business aspects on track for the benefit of everyone.

Hopefully, with responsible care and attention to these challenging stewardship requirements, the lake will have a positive influence on the lives of owners and their families for years to come.

A little bit about Treasurer Steve Smith:

Steve served in the US Army from 1966 – 1969. What started out as a job in the Army Band ended up as some time in the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam. While in the Army Steve also served in Little Creek, VA and Savannah, GA. In September, 2003, Steve and his wife Jeanne purchased their property at 1279 Melody Lane. It seems that Steve has a talent for being good at handling money since he is also the treasurer for the Johnson City American Legion, treasurer for Broome County American Legion and treasurer for Johnson City Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A little bit about Secretary Tami Zebrowski-Darrow:


Tami's parents Walt and Jeanette Zebrowski first purchased the property at 1273 Melody Lane way back in 1958. This was 5 or 6 years before the association was formed. Knowing that as the property around the lake was being sold and developed; her Dad was one of the charter members of Melody Lake Association. He also was one of the first to insist that the requirement to abide by all present and future rules and regulations was included in each deed as the property was sold. This covenant has allowed us to maintain 100% membership for the past several years. Since the passing of her parents, Tami is now co-owner of the property along with several of her siblings. She is also active in the American Legion and the Vets Home in Oxford, NY. For the past several years, Tami and her family have saved up all their deposit cans and bottles throughout the summer to turn in and donate more than \$100 annually to the association.

A little bit about Member at Large Theresa Tyner:

My Family has been enjoying Melody Lake since 1990 and our old Cottage was in Jim's family for many years before that. After working for 20 years as a Nurse in New York, I quit my job, packed the truck, moved to Florida in 2002 to pursue a new career in Real Estate. What a successful move that was. I now own White Diamond Rentals, a property management company that manages over 200 residences and also Broker/Owner of EXIT V.I.P. REALTY, one of the Counties TOP producing Real Estate Companies. I live in a community called Woodland Waters, in Hernando County, Florida. I was elected as a Board Member within weeks of moving there and am currently the Vice President of our Association. Recently I was appointed to be the "Member at Large" on our Melody Lake Association. My most favorite time of the year is spending time at our Cottage, Boating on Melody Lake, campfires and enjoying time with family and friends.



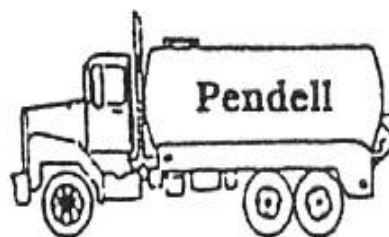
Throughout this newsletter you will find some of our long time sponsors that help make this newsletter possible. We would like to welcome a brand-new Sponsor, The Point Wine and Spirits located in beautiful downtown Whitney Point. Whenever you are looking for that special something to enjoy while sitting around the campfire at the lake, stop by and say hello. Don't forget to say THANKS to all our sponsors for their support.

The Point

Wine and Spirits

2601 Main St, Whitney Point NY
Grand Opening January 25th

2018 Meetings

We do wish that we could find a way to increase attendance at the meetings of the association. Last year, the bylaws were changed to do away with the September meeting since many members were already closing up for the winter. It was decided that if something important came up, the NYS Not for Profit Law allows us to call a meeting at any time. We do realize that your time at the lake is precious so we attempt to try to keep the meetings to 1 hour. Your ideas are important and welcome at the meetings. It is a good place to get to know your neighbor and get your ideas known to others. Remember that all property owners are welcome to attend, however you must be paid in full to vote on any topic presented. Let's take a look at what was discussed at the 2018 meetings. Attendance for the 3 meetings ranged from 10 to 23 members. (keep in mind that we have 84 members). Each month a detailed financial report is given by our treasurer Steve Smith. We then have a paid member status report and the names of any unpaid property owners are announced. New members are introduced and a current report is presented by each committee (Dam, Lake Testing, Road, etc.). This past year a motion was made and approved to look into purchasing a box blade to help with the maintenance of Melody Lane. For now the meetings are held at the Willet Town Hall but it was also decided that we pursue the construction of a pavilion here at the lake so we don't have to have meetings and the picnic away from the lake property. Upcoming events such as the association picnic, town board meetings, septic seminars, etc. are discussed. If there are any concerns from any property owner, they are given the information as to where they should turn for the solution. Association rules are reviewed if necessary to address these concerns. Any new business is then presented and all attendees are given the chance to offer suggestions or voice concerns about any "reasonable" issue and others are offered a chance to comment on these concerns. The meeting usually ends with a drawing for a door prize, usually a bottle of homemade wine donated by Rudy and Diane Bernard and/or an item donated by Cincinnatus Home Center. The lake and the association have come a long way since 1964 but there is always room for changes and improvements. If you have any ideas or concerns, don't sit around the campfire during the month and talk to one other member. Join us on the 2nd Sunday of June, July and August and share those ideas with everyone.



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SMILE.....YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA:

By Bob Rosati

Isn't technology exciting? I was just reading an article that in many towns and counties they are using drones or Google Earth to check on property improvements made without a permit to be used at tax assessment time. Recently it was announced that many major cities, including Binghamton, have installed "license plate readers" at every major entrance to the city which will scan your license plate and check for stolen vehicles, missing persons and outstanding warrants and if found will alert the police as to your location. It is also legal for potential employers to check your Facebook page to see just what kind of person you are before they hire you. As far as I know, these practices have not yet reached rural Willet, but it's only a matter of time. This technology is making it easier for the authorities to keep us in line. If it has not yet reached Willet, why do we mention it here? We now know that there are many property owners that now use this type of technology to keep an eye on their property while they are hundreds or thousands of miles away. In fact, this past year we have received complaints from many of the property owners that have some type of surveillance camera on their property at Melody Lake. They have even provided videos of some of you walking around on private property, peeking in the windows, and even letting your dog relieve themselves in their yard and not cleaning it up. It seems that property owners aren't the only ones using technology to keep an eye on most everything we do.

CATCHING "OUT OF SEASON" FISH:

Anyone that has been fishing Melody Lake over the years knows that there are some monster bass, both Largemouth and Smallmouth. The thrill of catching one is quite an experience. We had people commenting about how easy it is to catch them during spawning season and think that it does no harm as long as they just snap a quick photo to post on Facebook and then just let them go. We have tried to explain that while spawning, a fish protects the nest from predator fish, usually bluegills, and if taken off the nest for even a short period on time, the predator will move in and completely wipe out the young. Last year we even heard the comment "they don't sit on the nest". While we agree that they don't actually sit on the nest, they remain close by to protect the nest. Each nest contains hundreds of young and natural predation makes the chance of survival slim even without us contributing by just taking a photo. In fact go into YouTube and do a search and you will find some actual footage of only one bluegill destroying an entire nest once the adult is removed for less than one minute. Recently DEC passed the following regulation:

Taking photos of fish caught out of season could cost you \$250

Due to the increasing trend of fishermen catching "out-of-season" fish and posting pictures of their catches on Facebook and other social media, the state Department of Environmental Conservation has put a new fishing regulation in effect that makes the practice a "ticketable offense." The new regulation, which took effect April 1, is listed in the DEC fishing guide that one gets when he or she buys a fishing license. It's listed under the "General Take and Possession" heading. According to the fishing guide: "A person may not fish for a species (even if immediately released) during the closed season for that species on a given water. Fish caught during the closed season must be unhooked and released immediately. They may not be handled for any other purpose, including taking a picture." Taking a picture of an out-of-season fish can result in a ticket from an environmental conservation officer. The resulting penalty can be a fine of up to \$250 fine, and/or 15 days in jail. "It's a ticketable offense. It's all because of the social media thing and people posing with the fish for pictures. They often spend too much time dilly-dallying and don't return the fish immediately to the water," according to Lori Severino, a DEC spokeswoman. "This was designed to protect the fish species."

DEC continues to say that with the popularity of social media, this regulation is becoming easier to both enforce and prosecute. Let's move to the next page to continue this discussion.

PLACING ANY FILL IN THE WATERS OF NYS:

Every year we have lake front property owners asking about placing sand or small stone in the lake to “improve” their swimming area. Remember that the lake is private property, owned by Melody Lake Association. If you really wanted a sandy or weed free beach there is a good chance that Melody Lake was not the place for you to buy property. Your property ends at the “high water mark” of the lake (Elevation 1402’) and any modification of the lake or it’s shoreline without the approval of both the association and DEC is strictly prohibited. **Part 608.5 of DEC Regulations: Excavation or placement of fill in navigable waters** states that: ***“No person, local public corporation or interstate authority may excavate from or place fill, either directly or indirectly, in any of the navigable waters of the State or in marshes, estuaries, tidal marshes and wetlands that are adjacent to and contiguous at any point to any of the navigable waters of the State, and that are inundated at mean high water level or tide, without a permit issued pursuant to this Part.” The fine could be as much as \$2,500 per day per violation.*** Remember that these regulations are not meant to restrict your use of the lake but to prevent your misuse of the lake. So what can you do if you observe anyone violating any regulation meant to protect our lake?

Most of the time we ask that you report the violator to an association board member. Many times the person is violating the law because they are unaware of the violation. A board member will try to resolve the concern without involving any law enforcement, however the association will do whatever is available and necessary to stop the violation to continue.

How to Report a Violation

If you observe someone violating the Environmental Conservation Law, or see the result of a violation, report it! Poachers are not sportsmen - they are thieves. Those who pollute our air and water, and destroy our environment, are criminals.

Support the efforts of the Environmental Conservation Police by reporting all poachers and polluters. There are 300 Environmental Conservation Police Officers and Investigators in New York State. They each must patrol an average of 400 square miles. That's a lot of ground and water to cover! Clearly, assistance from all of New York State's responsible sportsmen and women, along with other concerned citizens, is vital.

You can help by reporting every Environmental Conservation Law violation seen or suspected:

- **When a violation is observed, keep a distance from the violator.** Do not approach or attempt to confront the suspects. They may be dangerous, could destroy evidence, or simply evade the officers if forewarned.
- **Write everything down.** Make notes on what the poachers or polluters are doing. How many people are involved?
- **What did they look like?** Determine and record identifying features such as age, sex, height, weight, hair color, and any other marks, scars, or characteristics that would aid in identifying the person(s).
- **How were they dressed?** Note the type and color of the suspect's hat, coat, trousers, and shoes or boots.
- **What kind of vehicle was involved?** Jot down license numbers, color, make, model, year, and anything else to help authorities track down the violator.

How to Contact the Environmental Conservation Police

Call 1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-322-3267) to contact Environmental Conservation Police Officers through DEC's dispatch system. Officers work out of their homes and patrol an area in most cases about the size of the county in which they are located.

We are in the process of inviting the local NYS Conservation Officer to attend one of our association meetings. We are also inviting him to the association picnic to be held on July 27th at the Willet Town Hall. This will give us a chance to get to know him and him to know us.

Did you know that the World's Most Widely Used Herbicide May Be Cancerous? In fact exposure to this herbicide has been linked to more than 8 types of Lymphoma. We were going to name the product but didn't want you to think that the use of other similar products were safe to use around the lake. The truth is that the use of any herbicide or pesticide may be harmful to the lake and the people around it. Below is some information that was submitted by association member Bob Eastman. Even though his ideas are extremely safe most of the time, avoid allowing the product from entering the lake. Try to monitor the weather and apply when there is no rain expected to allow the product to be absorbed by the target plant and not enter the lake with runoff.

The Use of Herbicides – submitted by Bob Eastman:

Weeds aren't just a nuisance if you're trying to keep your yard tidy and attractive. They can reduce the yield of your crops and even encourage the spread of disease and parasites. The trouble is, unless you're talking a very small yard pulling up weeds by hand is just too labor intensive. To control them you need herbicides. Unfortunately many herbicides can be bad for the environment, including other plants and livestock. This is where a versatile household substance comes in. Vinegar is a great product to use to get rid of your weeds, and it's as effective as any store-bought product. A herbicide with vinegar kills weeds, and although there are a few exceptions and limitations, vinegar usually does the trick. Vinegar is a natural product, and the typical acidity is 5%. That is the acidity you want. Do not go over or below this. The number indicates the amount of acetic acid in the vinegar. Acetic acid, from any source, will kill all weeds by extracting the moisture from the plant. Besides 5% vinegar you can also find it at strengths of 10% or 20% but these may be too aggressive. Due to the high concentration they are considered strong acids, and they're only recommended for mature and firm weeds. If using these products you need to be very careful and treat them the same as you would other caustic substance. Besides vinegar, you can also use salt. It is one of the safest and most natural herbicides you can use. Salt is great because it is super cheap, works quickly, and suppresses regrowth, and overuse will not harm the environment. But it has some flaws: you cannot use it on lawns or for large weeds. It is best to spray the solution of vinegar and salt over the weed on a hot day. The effect of the sun and heat will increase the effect of the vinegar solution and kill your weeds within 24 hours. Although this is a powerful combination, some plants are not as susceptible to vinegar. A waxy coating or fuzzy surface may interfere with the vinegar solution's effect. This is the part where dish soap comes in. Just one tablespoon of dish soap per gallon will make the solution 'stick' to the plant and allow the vinegar to do its magic. Although the dish soap will not have a major impact on the weed itself, it helps the other ingredients to dehydrate the weed. Once you have your solution ready, you can use it with a spray bottle for small areas or a pressure sprayer for wide areas.

NOTE: When it comes to safety you can wear gloves and glasses, but this is a natural product (except for the dish soap), and there is no need to use safety gear. Of course, if your skin is sensitive you should protect yourself. Preparation time: 10 minutes Makes: 1 gallon ingredients: 1 gallon distilled white vinegar (5% acidity is enough) 1 cup table salt 1 tablespoon liquid dishwashing soap Standard garden sprayer (available in any garden store) How to Make the Herbicide: **Step 1** - Pour the vinegar into the container. **Step 2** - Add salt and stir until the salt is dissolved. **Step 3** - Once the salt dissolves, add the liquid dishwashing soap. The dishwashing soap allows the other two ingredients to stick to the weed and kill it. **Step 4** - Spray the mixture over the weed just like any store-bought product. Allow it to stand for a few days. The weed will start to dry out within 24 hours. After a few days, it will be completely dead. How Does This Work? The vinegar and salt both work against the weed by dehydrating it. The dish soap will help these two stick to the plant, making them more effective. The solution also prevents any future growth from occurring. NOTE: This solution may destroy other delicate plants, so you cannot spray all over the lawn as your grass will be destroyed as well. You can try using a smaller spray bottle to get more specific spraying, but still, caution is necessary if the application is for sidewalks, driveways, and other areas without any flowers or lawn.

“AS PROPERTY OWNERS ON MELODY LAKE WE HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO ALTER OUR WAY OF LIFE TO PROTECT MELODY LAKE RATHER THAN TO ALTER MELODY LAKE TO PROTECT OUR WAY OF LIFE”



Melody Lake Association Reference Library:

By President Bob Rosati:

So, we now are the proud owners of property on Melody Lake. We bought it to enjoy, but must also realize that we must adjust our lifestyle in order to protect our investment and also protect the lake. Since many of us have grown up in a city type environment, complete with municipal sewers and water and paved roads, how do we know what we have to do to protect

Melody Lake? To help you with this, I have collected several reference publications that are available for you to borrow for those rainy days or even those snowy nights. Turn off the TV and spend a few minutes seeing what you can do to protect our beautiful lake. Below is a look at some of what is available:

- Past Association Newsletters from 1991 - 2018
- Melody Lake Water Testing (CSLAP) Reports from 1987 – 2018
- Melody Lake *"State of the Lake Report"* - January 2002
- Melody Lake *"Lake Management Plan"* – August 2002
- *"Life on the Edge – Owning Waterfront Property"*
- *"Diet for a Small Lake" The expanded guide for lake and watershed management.*
- *"Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality"*
- *"Through the Looking Glass" – A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants*
- *"The Lake Pocketbook"*
- *"Freshwater Life"*

I also have a few kids' books to help keep them busy while also teaching them respect for the lake such as:

- *"Around the Pond: Who's Been Here?"*
- *"One Small Square"- What could be living in one square foot of a lake*
- *"The Kid's Summer Activity Handbook"*

The Health of the Lake:

As usual we did not yet get the results from the 2018 lake testing (CSLAP) in time to include them in this newsletter. We do know that the water was warmer and clearer than most of the past years. Also again we did not have any confirmed harmful algal blooms (HAB). In 2018, there were more than 170 lakes in NY with confirmed HAB's some lasting the entire summer. Even though Melody Lake has a higher than desired phosphorous level, which is one of the suspected causes of HAB's we haven't experienced a confirmed bloom since 2013. For a list of the lakes in NY with confirmed blooms from 2012 – 2018 go to:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/habsextentsummary.pdf

As always, if you see a suspected bloom please contact a board member. A sample will be taken and sent to a lab in Syracuse and if confirmed a notice will be sent to all members that have shared their email with us. In the meantime, the area of the suspected bloom should be avoided by both people and pets.

The results of the 2018 CSLAP season will be presented at the June meeting and will also be placed on the association web page. If you would like more information or have any questions about the CSLAP program or past Melody Lake results, please join us at one of the 2019 meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

JUNE 9th - Melody Lake Association Meeting 12:00 – 1:00

JULY 14th - Melody Lake Association Meeting 12:00 – 1:00

ASSOCIATION PICNIC – JULY 27th - Melody Lake Assoc. Picnic 12:00 – 4:00

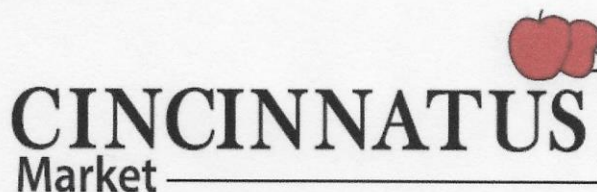
AUGUST 11th - Melody Lake Association Meeting 12:00 – 1:00

Association Picnic:

Mark your calendar and plan to join us at the Town of Willet Town Hall on Saturday, July 27th at 12 noon for the annual association picnic. Please bring a dish to pass and your table settings. The association will provide meat, soda, water etc. If you would like to enjoy some adult type beverages please bring your own. Last year's picnic was another huge success with a record number of attendees. Don't forget to bring some \$\$\$ to participate in the raffles, cake wheel, wine tasting, 50/50 and other activities. Thanks to all the members that donated items for the raffles and the cake wheel. Special thanks to Bob Eastman for the cooking of the hotdogs and hamburgers and to Jeff and Renee Turner for once again donating a couple racks of ribs, sausages and a smoked brisket that was shipped up from Texas. More information will be available at the June meeting. We are still pursuing to build our own pavilion here at the lake so we don't have to go to "downtown" Willet for our meetings and picnic. Some funds have been donated for this purpose but the one concern is where to build it. The association owns several parcels and there are pros and cons to each. Please plan to join us at a 2019 meeting to offer your suggestions.

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WHAT THE HECK ARE THOSE THINGS IN THE LAKE?

By Bob Rosati

Even though we have answered this question in person or via the newsletter, we continue to be asked it again and again. While I would like to think that this is because we continue to have new members that are concerned about what is happening in the lake, HOWEVER it continues to be obvious that many times the question is from a long time member that really doesn't care what is happening in the lake UNTIL that concern starts to be something that interferes with their use of the lake. Once again for both of these groups I offer the following info:

The Magnificent Bryozoan

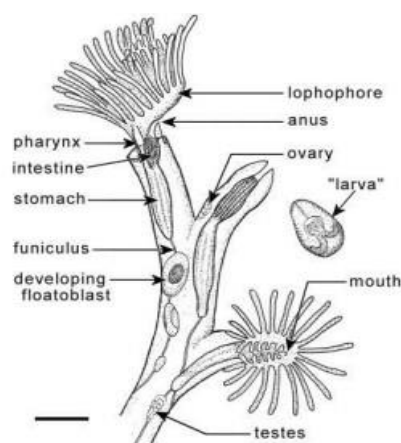


Bryozoans are microscopic colonial invertebrates that live in aquatic habitats. A majority of Bryozoans live in marine habitats; bryozoans in the class Phylactoaemata are exclusively found in freshwater environments, magnificent bryozoan being one of the few found in freshwater. Bryozoan colonies have been found throughout Melody Lake for the past several years.

Reproduction:

Bryozoa reproduce both sexually and asexually. A colony begins with the introduction of a single individual called a zooid that hatches from a hard seed-like structure called a "statoblast," from this structure the zooid reproduces asexually creating a small colony of identical individuals. The small colony then secretes a watery fluid that hardens forming their unique gelatinous structure.

As the population of zooids within a colony grows, reproduction occurs asexually forming visible rosettes of 10-18 individuals. Young bryozoan colonies are capable of fusing together before their gelatinous skeleton hardens forming large masses of multiple genotypes. Colonies of magnificent bryozoan can grow more than two feet across and form slimy translucent brown masses that are often found attached to floating sticks or an underwater substrate; in rare occasions bryozoan can be found free floating. Each zooid found within a colony has separate body parts, but share certain tissues and fluids with unify them. It is impossible to see individual zooids within a colony with the naked eye.



Food:

Bryozoa are filter feeders that feed on phytoplankton using a specialized organ called a lophophore which is shown in the diagram above. Individual zooids may filter an average of 8.8 ml of water/ day.

Fun Facts:

Bryozoan colonies contain a variety of chemical compounds that may have medicinal uses. A compound called drug bryostatin 1 is produced by a common marine bryozoan and is currently being tested for its ability to treat cancer.

Once again we would like to point out that these are beneficial to the lake. If they are in your way, move them but do not remove them. Just relocate them to somewhere else where they are not in your way and you are not in their way.

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