

# MELODY LAKE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE MELODY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

FEBRUARY 2020

## LOOKING AHEAD WITH 20/20 VISION

*This year is 2020 which makes me think of a visit to the eye doctors. Remember that 2020 is considered “perfect vision”. Let’s make this year that we forget our personal wants and start making the changes necessary to reach our Perfect Vision for Melody Lake.*

It seems that each year we are addressed with different concerns, different complaints, different issues and 2019 was no different. This newsletter will take a serious look at the concerns (past, present and future). We have heard about harmful algal blooms, poor fishing, lack of aquatic vegetation, shoreline development, problems at right of ways, guest passes etc.. Some of these concerns can be address in this newsletter while some will require input from those members that attend the meetings. To address these concerns we will look at the Symptoms, the Possible Causes, and the Actions we have tried or might try to alleviate the concerns. We will look at problems from the past along with what was done, and what worked and didn’t work. We will look at the lake testing and the local weather over the past 10 years and see how the results may be affecting what is and isn’t working. Please take a look at the association’s Mission Statement at the bottom of this page. You will notice that #1 is to “Aid and promote the preservation and protection of Melody Lake and the land around it”. This should have been your main goal when you decided to buy property here. It’s easy to think that your individual actions won’t make a difference but just think what our lake would be if everyone did what you did or did not do. It’s easy to point a finger at your neighbor or someone miles away within our watershed but after reading this newsletter we ask that you take a long and honest look at what is going on within the boundaries of your property first and work out from there.

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OUR SPONSOR’S ADS ARE THROUGHOUT THIS NEWSLETTER. THEY HAVE SUPPORTED US FOR SEVERAL YEARS SO PLEASE SUPPORT THEM WHEN POSSIBLE! TELL THEM THANKS AND LET THEM KNOW YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE MELODY LAKE NEWS

Remember that the 2020 dues were due no later than February 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 2020 guest passes when your dues are paid in full.

*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](http://www.stny.info/melodylake)

or visit us on Facebook

#### HOW TO CONTACT:

##### Association Officers:

**President** – Bob Rosati (607)863-4425 [rcrosati@frontiernet.net](mailto:rcrosati@frontiernet.net)

**Vice President** – Theresa Tyner (352)597-1211

[exitviprealty@gmail.com](mailto:exitviprealty@gmail.com)

**Secretary** – Kelly Cerroni (607)760-2311 [kellycccc7@gmail.com](mailto:kellycccc7@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** – Steve Smith (607)729-8823, [sjstev@gmail.com](mailto:sjstev@gmail.com)

**Member at Large** – Bob Eastman (607)722-3294,

[bob@ceserve.com](mailto:bob@ceserve.com)

**Webmaster** – Jim Pratt – (607)775-4925 [jpratt@stny.rr.com](mailto:jpratt@stny.rr.com)

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#### 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

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#### 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)*

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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 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.*

THE MEETINGS FOR MELODY LAKE ASSOCIATION FOR 2020 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 2020 ARE:

JUNE 14th

JULY 12th

AUGUST 9th

ASSOCIATION PICNIC – JULY 25th

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.

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The Town Of Willet Town Board Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 7:00 PM. The meetings for 2020 are:

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

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#### CORTLAND/CHENANGO RURAL SERVICES

NEARLY NEW SHOP (gently used clothing)

2704 Lower Cincinnatus Rd, Cincinnatus, NY

Located at the Catholic Church (607)863-3828

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)

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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.

## **A Few Words From The Presidents's Desk:**

### **By Bob Rosati**

Much of what you read in this newsletter will be old news for many of you. Recently I looked over some old association membership lists from years ago and over the past 15 – 20 years over 80% of the property has changed hands, either to other family members or brand new owners.

As I look back to 1963, when my parents first decided to buy property at Melody Lake, even at my young age of 13, I knew how lucky I was to have such a beautiful place to spend summer vacation. The only problem I remember hearing about was that even though there was close to 90 property owners and dues were only \$10, for some reason there were only 35 paid members. I do believe that sometimes when things are going good, it's hard to get people involved. Melody Lake property owners were from different backgrounds, different nationalities, different lifestyles, different incomes, different education and membership would stay the same for the next 18 years or so. After returning from the service in 1972 I decided to buy my own property at Melody Lake. Things remained quiet and membership remained at about 35% until January 1981 we were forced to realize that we finally had something in common. At the same time we all learned that belonging to the association was necessary. A "Phase 2" inspection by the US Army Corps of Engineers and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation found that our dam had several deficiencies and was ordered to be repaired or removed. Over the next several years, membership rose, a \$600 dam maintenance fee was assessed to all property owners, and the membership pulled together and repaired the dam at a fraction of the cost that we would have had to pay contractors to do the work. During this time, membership continued to rise up near the 90% level even though the cost of membership also rose.

Shortly after, in the mid 1980's we were made aware of New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA), an organization with a membership of more than 200 lake association from all around NYS. By then, we had a new problem. It seemed that aquatic vegetation was taking over a good share of our lake. In some areas the weeds were so thick that swimming, fishing and

boating was near impossible. Thanks to NYSFOLA Scientific Advisory Board member Dr. John Peverly (Cornell Univ) accepted an invitation to speak at a Melody Lake Association meeting. While here, Dr. Peverly conducted a field trip to various locations around the lake and identified the weed as Eurasian Milfoil, a highly invasive plant. Research showed that Milfoil thrives in a highly nutrient lake and preferred the rich sediment that was prevalent in Melody Lake. In 1987, we were accepted into a lake testing program, Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). This program allowed us to send in water sample several times throughout the summer in an attempt to identify our nutrient problems and hopefully reduce the levels. After about 5 years, the association was given an \$8000 grant sponsored by NYSDEC and NYSFOLA which allowed us to produce a "State of The Lake Report" to look at the current condition of the lake and develop a "Lake Management Plan" to plan for the future of the lake.



*An aerial view showing Eurasian Milfoil taking over the main inlet of the lake*

A good place to start this newsletter is to look at the results from the State of the Lake Report and the Lake Management Plan and see how we used the results to help us manage the present and to look towards the future. We will attempt to educate some of the new owners and remind the old owners what has been done, or what should be done, to protect or possibly improve the quality of our beautiful lake. We will also look at what has worked and what has not worked. We will look at both association property and individual property as an example.

## **1987 - CSLAP TESTING OF THE LAKE:**

In 1987 we were accepted into a lake testing program known as the NYS Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). This program allowed us to collect water samples 15 times throughout the summer and send them to a lab in Syracuse for the analysis of various parameters such as phosphorous, nitrogen, chlorophyll a, clarity, pH and more. Over the years the number of samples was reduced to 8 ( 2/month in June, July, Aug. & September). It became obvious from the beginning that our main concern at Melody Lake was Phosphorous. Phosphorous is basically a fertilizer or nutrient that is necessary for plant growth. Although plants are important, an overabundance of phosphorous usually means an overabundance of plants and algae. Testing results also showed us a higher level of Chlorophyll a than desired. Chlorophyll a is a measurement of photosynthetic pigment found in green plants and provided an estimate of algae productivity. These results would help us understand some of the problems that were coming in the future.

## **1990's - A NEW PROBLEM AT THE LAKE:**

It's easy to guess at what the cause of a particular problem is and easy to believe that the problem is being caused by the actions of someone else. We can then try to live our normal life while we try to convince others on what they need to do to address our concern. All we knew was that the aquatic vegetation was interrupting our use of the lake. We didn't know what the vegetation was, where it came from, why it was getting worse and what did we have to do to get rid of it. The association purchased a cutter that could be mounted to a boat which cut off the top 3 feet of the weed. Individual property owners purchased hand held cutters that could be thrown out into the lake which would cut the weed near the base of the plant. The lake started looking better and for a short time we could use the lake again. The problem was, the weed was "Eurasian Milfoil" which relied on nutrients and fragmentation to survive and multiply. Since we were not doing anything to identify or address the nutrient level, and not harvesting the cuttings of the weed, we were actually making the problem worse. As usual, instead of looking for the cause of the problem, we were just looking for a way to get rid of it ..... quick. We looked into chemicals, mechanical methods, winter drawdown and finally decided to try Grass Carp. In 1997, we applied to DEC for a permit to purchase 150 10" carp at about \$9.00/fish. Carol Rosati suggested an "Adopt A Carp" program allowing any member to adopt one or more carp for \$10.00 each. Each proud new parent would receive an adoption certificate that could be proudly displayed to show their support. This program allowed us to completely finance the stocking without spending 1¢ of association funds. Within the next few years, the amount of milfoil was greatly reduced and we were once again able to use the entire lake.

## **2001 - THE STATE OF THE LAKE**

Lakes are not just bodies of water. Every lake is different and is constantly changing. Lakes contain an assemblage of bacteria, plants and animals that interact with one another to create a complex, interdependent system where each component is linked with and dependent on every other component. Even a small change to one component can inevitably affect all other components within the system. All bodies go through a natural aging process called eutrophication which over many years, decades or even centuries causes a cycle from water, to a marsh and eventually a meadow. Human activity, when not monitored and controlled can greatly accelerate this process. This accelerated process is known as cultural eutrophication. When we purchased our property at Melody Lake it should have been with the understanding that we had the right to use....but not abuse....our property and our lake. When things went wrong, we were sure that it was because something our neighbor or even someone we couldn't see was doing. Maybe it was the weather. But it certainly wasn't something we were doing. After all, we were just trying to make the use of our lake better.

Many times, in order to understand what is happening here at the lake, we must try to find out what is happening somewhere else in our watershed. A watershed is a drainage area in which all land and water drains or flows



towards a central collector, such as a lake at a lower elevation. The problem was that we had never tried to identify just what our watershed was and what the activities were going on in it. Our grant for the state of the lake project allowed doing just that. With the help of Cortland County Soil and Water and the use of topographical maps, we were able to see all the land that drained into Melody Lake. We then looked into tax maps, soil maps, land use records and even contacted NYSDEC and Cortland County Emergency Services to see if there had been any reported oil or chemical spills within the area. The only one we could find was a Melody Lake Association member that was caught using motor oil for dust control on Melody Lane. We also developed a survey to send to all 91 property owners within the lake subdivision asking questions as to how long they had owned their property, average number days used annually, questions about their septic, their well, lake use, etc. Postpaid self-addressed envelopes were furnished. Of the 91 surveys sent, 47 were returned. A shorter but similar survey was sent to the 42 property owners elsewhere in the watershed but outside of the lake subdivision. Of those 42, 12 were completed and returned. By looking at the maps and records we found out that our watershed was less than 2 square miles in size including some of the Towns of Willet and Cincinnatus (Cortland County) and the Town of German (Chenango County). There were 2 main streams and several intermittent streams that run through wetlands before entering the lake which probably acted as a filter or sediment basin before entering the lake. Lake surface elevation is 1402' and the highest point within the watershed is 1630'. Public roads within the watershed are County Rt. 6 (.6 mi.), County Rt. 5 (1.3 mi.), County Rt. 2 (1.4 mi.), Forshee Rd. (.2 mi.) and Melody Lake Rd. (1 mile). Land use in the lake subdivision was 80% occasional use, 12% fulltime residents and 8% half time residents. Land use by the rest of the watershed was 37% seasonal, 14% forest, 23% residential, 13% farm and 12% inactive (farm or field). While developing this State of the Lake Report we reviewed the results of the past 9 years of lake testing in CSLAP. We would then use this information to develop a Lake Management Plan outlining what both the association and individuals around the lake and its watershed could do to improve the quality of our beautiful lake.

## **2002 – LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

By now it was obvious that our excessive aquatic plant population was being caused by

- (1) – high level of Phosphorous
- (2) – high level of Chlorophyll a
- (3) – the nutrient rich sediment covering the bottom of the lake

After talking to many sources we found that many times, if we could just address the sediment problem we might even lower the phosphorous and the Chlorophyll a levels. It has been reported that uncontrolled runoff is responsible for more than 85% of water quality concerns. This runoff not only carries sedimentation, but can also be responsible for carrying household chemicals, road salt, nutrients from a failing septic system and more. If the runoff is allowed to slow down, the solids will be allowed to drop out of the moving water and settle on land rather than enter the lake. The amount of runoff is increased by larger roofs, hardened paths, sidewalks and driveways, road runoff, excessive lawn mowing, over clearing and development of shorelines, etc. The results of the Lake Management Plan were distributed to all property owners who were encouraged to review their land management practices which may help to improve the quality of the lake. Buffer zones were also encouraged, along with the installation of sediment controls during construction activities. All property owners were encouraged to inspect their septic system to assure compliance with all local, county and state regulations. Unfortunately most of these recommendations continue to be ignored.

## **2005 – A NEW OLD PROBLEM RETURNS:**

Since the useful life of grass carp is about 8 years, the milfoil population was returning. Even though it was not yet at the nuisance level, the complaints started coming in. It was suggested that a lesser number of carp should be stocked, the association board at the time suggested we stock more than double the amount and the majority of the members agreed and 350 fish were stocked. Now, 15 years later, we still have almost no aquatic vegetation. We will look at this concern later in this newsletter. It does seem that most of the carp have now died and under the new regulations we will probably never be allowed to stock them again. Vegetation is slowly returning so now is the time to try to establish a good population of beneficial and manageable native plants. This will not be possible without the help of ALL property owners to do what they can to control nutrients and sediment.

## **A LOOK AT THE PRESENT AND FUTURE:**

**FISHING** - We have had concerns from many of our members regarding the fishing here at the lake. At one time perch were plentiful and large bass, 20"+ were frequent. Over the past several years, we have only heard of one large perch has been caught. Bass still seem to be common; however they all seem to be in the 11" – 14" range. Some members have suggested that the lake is being overfished. Some have also suggested that only "catch and release" fishing be allowed. It has also been suggested that guest passes be eliminated to stop fishing from being allowed without the property owner being present. We have looked into the concern with people much more knowledgeable than most of us. The one concern is the lack of dissolved oxygen (DO). DO is essential to maintain a healthy lake and fishery. DO levels are an indication of how well the body of water can support aquatic plant and animal life. Generally a higher DO level indicates better water quality. If DO levels are too low, fish and other organisms may not be able to survive. Much of the DO in the water is the result of photosynthesis of aquatic plants which release oxygen allowing for the fish to breathe, similar to the relationship between the trees and us humans. Water temperature also affects DO levels. Colder water can hold more oxygen than warmer water. Since we no longer have a good and healthy plant population, and the water temperature does seem to be rising, the 2 main sources of DO are no longer present at Melody Lake, these both could be a concern. DO is measured in milligrams/liter (mg/l). A study by US Fish and Wildlife show that fish such as Yellow Perch, Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass and other warm water fish require 3 -5 mg/l to tolerate the stressful conditions for a 24 hour period, 6 mg/l to support spawning, 7 mg/l to support growth and normal activity and 9 mg/l to support an abundant fish population. It even goes on to suggest that less than 3 mg/l is too low to even support any fish population. A few years back we were able to check the DO level thanks to Cortland County Soil and Water. The testing was done at one of the deepest parts of the lake which is also the CSLAP testing site. At the surface level of about 4" the level was 9.6 mg/l. By the time we reached 5' we had dropped to 4.4 mg/l, 10' to .62 mg/l, bottom of the lake was .6 mg/l. We will keep monitoring whenever the meter is available. There may be little that we can do to lower the water temperature but later in this newsletter we will look at what is being done around the lake that may be contributing to the concern and what should be done to alleviate the problem.

**HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HAB)** – HAB's are not a new thing but are becoming more and more frequent throughout NYS. It is thought that they have been around for a long time but since more is known about them and more waters are being tested and surveyed for them so the reports of them are becoming more common. In 2019 there were 437 confirmed cases on 137 bodies of water in NYS. The actual number is probably much higher than that since less than 10% of the waterbodies in NY are actually monitored. The last time Melody Lake had a reported and confirmed HAB was from 9/20 – 10/1/2013. Fortunately this was well after swimming season so living with it was fairly easy. In on 9/8/2019, a scheduled CSLAP session showed a high level of toxin at the sample site by the dam. With our high levels of nutrients, it is expected that the frequency of blooms will increase. Remember, HABs are extremely toxic to humans and pets (especially dogs) so if you see something that you suspect something to be a bloom please avoid it and report it to one of the association officers.

**SNAILS** - I'm sure everyone has seen and been concerned with the thousands, if not millions, of snails throughout the entire lake. What started out as a normal population of what we thought were native type snails, we now know different. Several years ago they were identified as "Chinese Mystery Snails" by the Nature Conservancy which was later confirmed by DEC. While there are several species of native snails, which could actually be beneficial we have found that like all non-native species can be extremely hazardous to the lake. Not only do they compete with our native snails, they may even carry parasites which may be harmful to both humans and our native aquatic species. We have also found that they are now being found in several other bodies of water throughout NYS. So what can we do about them? Last year we had several conversations with various people throughout the state and decided that maybe it was possible to attempt a winter water drawdown to see if we might be able to expose them to NY winter weather and freeze them. In November we put out a notice to all association members informing them of our plan. Unfortunately we did not let mother nature know and she sent some torrential rains that brought the water level up quicker than we could lower it. Association member Jack Ginn warned us from the start that we were probably wasting our time because as the water level receded, the snails would most probably just migrate out into deeper water. What little we were able to lower the level proved Jack right. So what do we do? Jack sent the following advice:

***food for thought, if we wait until 1st lake meeting in June, we very possibly will miss the time frame for starting to eradicate our snail population, by June the females will born their young, real birth, not by egg laying. I believe each person possible should don a pair of boots, man a rake, and fill bucket with the little devils, then all that is collected should be burned in a 50 gallon drum (they can survive out of water for 3-4 days), I believe that if we want to get a handle on the situation, it is never to soon to start.***

Sound far-fetched??? Maybe, maybe not. In fact earlier this year, two of our newest association members (Sara Warner & Mary Jo Watts) made us aware of a First Annual Chinese Mystery Snail Round-Up held at Clearwater Lake in Industry, Maine. It seems that their lake was being taken over by these snails and the association members wanted a safe and fun way to show them they weren't appreciated so they turned this into a community competition complete with a celebration to follow. It turned out to be so successful that it was decide to become an annual event. In the first year a total of 504 pounds were removed from the lake. Prizes were awarded in various categories.

If you would like to read more about this event, go to: <http://www.dailybulldog.com/db/features/thats-a-lot-of-snails-504-pounds-pulled-from-clearwater-lake/>

Here is a sample of the amount of snails that were removed from the lake In just a few minutes by association Secretary Kelly Cerroni. Since the female Can live up to 5 years and can produce several hundred young in her lifetime Manual removal can be difficult. Chemical treatment with currently available Snailacides have proven to affect the native, more desirable species. There Is a lot of information on the web regarding the concern however it seems that most control methods studied have proven ineffective. The association will continue to research but in the meantime whatever we can physically remove from the lake may be the only control at this time.



Water Year	Total Precipitation	Days w/ Precipitation	Total Snow	Days w/ snow	First Snow	Last Snow	Avg. Water Temp.	Avg. Air Temp.	Avg. Phosphorus	Avg. Chlorophyll a
2010	40.05"	168	86.6"	50	10/16 2.2"	3/24 .2"	72.1°	69.9°	.026 mg/l	13.09 µg/l
2011	65.21"	197	115.4"	59	11/19 .4"	4/2 .3"	73°	71°	.023 mg/l	12.26 µg/l
2012	42.85"	174	44.0"	40	10/28 1.1"	3/10 .9"	74.6°	65.8°	.024 mg/l	13.40 µg/l
2013	51.22"	176	71.7"	59	11/14 1.1"	3/28 .3"	73.9°	72.1°	.022 mg/l	21.79 µg/l
2014	49.3"	181	97.9"	61	11/12 .9"	4/16 3.4"	74.3°	71.2°	.023 mg/l	9.24 µg/l
2015	45.9"	186	112.2"	73	11/8 .3"	4/24 .8"	75.3°	73.4°	.023 mg/l	6.28 µg/l
2016	37.34"	158	34.5"	30	10/18 1.6"	4/5 1.8"	77.1°	73.5°	.017 mg/l	4.60 µg/l
2017	54.33"	195	124.2"	58	10/27 1.4"	4/8 .2"	74.8°	70.7°	.022 mg/l	6.33 µg/l
2018	51.40"	190	96.5"	63	11/10 1.1"	4/30 2.6"	77.4°	75.2°	.022 mg/l	10.62 µg/l
2019	50.63"	208	99.0	62	11/10 1.3"	4/6 .2"	76.6°	75.6°	n/a	n/a

**All information above is the results of the last 10 years taken right here at Melody Lake.** Notice that the first column is listed as "water year". What is the "water year" you ask? A water year covers the span of October 1 of the previous year to Sept. 30 of the current year. (for example, Water year 2010 is actually the period from Oct 1, 2009 thru Sept 30, 2010) The water year is the best consecutive twelve months that span the "water storage/water usage" hydrologic cycle. important annual cycle takes different forms across the entire country. Another way to think of the Water Year is the resting/replenishing season followed by the water consuming season where vegetation grows; crops are cultivated and then harvested. For much of the country, the months of October through March are months where precipitation from the sky exceeds evaporation from the ground. This means that soil moisture and ground water can recharge. When the next spring arrives, temperatures will warm again, plants will come back from dormancy and once again evapotranspiration will surge.

The last four columns show the averages from our lake testing program (CSLAP) . We would like to see the phosphorous levels remain below .018 mg/l and our chlorophyll a remain at a level of less than 7 µg/l throughout the entire summer. Historically, nutrient levels start out early in the year at a desired level. As the summer progresses and people return to the lake these levels end up exceeding the desired range.

NOTE: The results from our 2019 testing period are not yet available.

**So where do we go from here:** After looking at most of our past, present and future concerns, all property owners need to take a serious look at how their activities here influence the condition of Melody Lake. Earlier last year a property owner at the lake decided to build a “sandy beach” along his lakefront property. Although he was advised that it was not good for the lake, we were told that since it was private property he could basically do whatever he pleased which is true. We were assured that every precaution would be taken to prevent the sand from migrating into the lake. After just a few rain

storms it was obvious that the “precautions” didn’t work. While this may not seem to be a big deal, just think how it would be if every property owner did the same thing. It’s true that what was done was not against the law, however once the sand entered the water it then became a violation of the NYSDEC Environmental Conservation Law. Remember that the mean high elevation of the surface of the lake is 1402’ and your lakeshore property ends at that elevation. You are allowed to “improve or modify” property, within reason, but anything below that elevation might be regulated. The association board has had several conversations with NYSDEC and they agree that the entire lake is owned by Melody Lake Association and



that NO permits will be issued without the approval of the association. For years, the association did nothing when lakeside property owners added gravel into the lake, built seawalls, permanent docks and other “improvements”. It is now time to change our habits rather than change our lake. A good share of our concerns are being caused by sedimentation. We have a high amount of phosphorous with no aquatic vegetation available to use it. Instead it is being used by algae which in turn may result in more frequent HAB’s. Sand and other fill in the lake usually prevents the growth of vegetation which is necessary to use the phosphorous. The plant growth is also necessary to produce dissolved oxygen needed to support a healthy fishery. Does this mean that only lakeside property owners need to monitor their habits? Absolutely not. Ditches that empty directly into the lake should be treated the same as shoreline. In fact in some instances ditches and minor tributaries may be considered “navigable waters” and are to be protected the same as the lake.

Also last year, Association President Rosati received an email from a long time member stating *“MLA wants to control the property owners with “Lake Police”. I use my cottage to get away from everyday living and I don’t go there to be “Supervised or someone looking over my shoulder 24/7” by the MLA.”* Rosati replied to the email stating *“Not sure what you mean by “Lake Police”. All we are trying to do is keep out the people that don't belong here and also keep the people that do belong here from doing something that is harmful to the lake. Believe me, there are many lakes around that have no one in charge and no rules and the water isn't fit to swim in. If you can give me some examples of your concerns perhaps I can address them.”* Since then, nothing more has been received.

Here are some tips for lakefront homeowners from an EPA publication *“Learning About Lakefront Property”*: Clean lakes need healthy lakeshores and healthy lakeshores need you!!!

- Grow native plants and trees along the lakeshore
- Mow tall and fertilize less to keep pollutants from going into the lake
- Keep fallen trees and logs in shallow water when possible – fish need them
- Keep driveways and paths “soft” to allow runoff to slow down and soak in
- Plant a rain garden to absorb rain water

Planting native plants, trees and flowers along the water’s edge which:

- Protects lakes from pollution
- Provides habitat for fish and other aquatic animals
- Protects property values
- Prevents erosion

## SOME NEW ADDITIONS TO CSLAP:

2019 brought some new projects to be added to the CSLAP sampling. First was the addition of the use of the Sentinel 2 Satellite System. Did you know that about every 4 – 5 days a satellite flies over Melody Lake collecting data pairing our chlorophyll sampling with satellite imagery. Whenever possible, our sample was taken on the exact day the satellite would be flying over which would allow us to compare the data from both programs.

Second was Citizen Science-Based monitoring for Chemicals of Emerging Concerns (CEC's). I'm sure that most of you have heard about various things showing up in our lakes and rivers that not only have created some concerns in both the health and safety of aquatic animals as well as humans. Some examples of CEC's are prescription and over the counter drugs, sunscreen and antimicrobial agents, household chemicals, raw sewage, algal toxins, pesticides and more. Twice during the sampling season a 1 liter sample of surface water was collected and sent to a lab in Syracuse and then analyzed by Syracuse University, SUNY-ESF and Upstate Freshwater Institute. More information regarding these 2 programs along with the 2019 CSLAP results will be shared at the first meeting of 2020 (see page 2 for dates).

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**NEW BOATING LAW IN NYS** - As of January 1, 2020 a new boating law known as Brianna's Law went into effect. By 2025, the new law requires **all operators of all power boats, including electric motors**, to take an approved safety course. A five-year phase-in applies to all motorized watercraft, **including electric motors**. Under this new law, all motor boat operators:

- Born on or after Jan. 1, 1993 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2020.
- Born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2022.
- Born on or after Jan. 1, 1983 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2023.
- Born on or after Jan. 1, 1978 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2024.
- All motor boat operators regardless of age will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2025.

Failure to comply could result in a fine of between \$100 and \$250 under the new law that took effect Jan. 1, 2020. The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which administers the law, estimates that there are nearly one million boaters who will have to take the safety courses before the end of the phase-in on Jan. 1, 2025. More information on this law can be found at - <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx> Also remember that Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's) are required for any youth under the age of 12 on boats 65 feet or less in length and must be worn and securely fastened. (NYS Nav. Law Section 40.1(d))

PFD's are also required on every pleasure vessel including canoes, kayaks and rowboats operated upon the waters of NYS must have on board one U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person on the vessel. In addition, vessels 16 feet and greater in length must also carry a type IV throwable PFD.

More information on the use of PFD's can be found at - <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/documents/PFDLawsOfNewYork.pdf>



## **Memorial Bench - By Bill Matola**

Our Melody Lake memorial site project came to life after the passing of my Aunt Anna-Mae when Jack stopped on one of his regular walks to chat for a few minutes. His vision for a site, on the Lake, intended to provide for a place to relax, reflect and remember our family and friends is now well on its way to becoming a reality. The memorial site project evolved and took shape after numerous informal discussions with lake residents and family members to include; a serene, shaded location with the sound of running water from the nearby brook, a terrific view of the lake with unobstructed access; a bench to rest and reflect on, and engraved pavers with the names of those we wish to remember.

The project was discussed and approved at the June 2019 lake association Members and a site location ultimately agreed upon by the members. Site clearing commenced during June and July, and a bench with a plaque was purchased using a donation and placed on the site. During our lake association picnic, a list of names for inclusion on the pavers was compiled and shortly there-after an experienced vendor and paver style was selected based on vendor recommendations. Twenty-four engraved pavers and sixty-pavers were ordered in August intended to establish a 20 square foot base. The paver company has been communicating progress and intend to have the pavers available for pick-up in early June of 2020. After the pavers have been installed, we'd like to have an informal dedication ceremony, ideally during the week of 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Anyone wishing to assist with the paver transport, or placement can contact Jack Ginn or Bill Matola.



## **Some New Ideas From Some New Neighbors:**

By Sara Warner and Mary Jo Watts (the new owners of the Moxley property – 1345 Melody Lane).

Our first idea is for a book club that would meet once per month at different houses. Jim and Laurie have offered to host the first session. We want everyone to feel welcome to join and want to avoid politics or hot-button issues. We were thinking about starting with a novel or memoir about the nature and/or history of the area.

The second item is Mary Jo's nature walks, which could be weekly or monthly. She wants to use the iNaturalist app on the cell phone to map out all of the plants in the area.

The third, and the one that involves the most planning, is our idea for a one day festival of short plays. My fantasy is that we would stage these in the middle of the lake, one a floating dock and people would swim or boat up to watch the performances. If you think this is an okay idea that doesn't need voting on at a meeting, I'd like to commission some artist friends of mine to write short 10 minute plays with a small cast (to fit on the dock). I think late July or early August would be the best time to do this. We would welcome everyone back to our house for a little party after the plays are over.

## **Ramblin Round the Lake: By Jack Ginn**

How time flies. This past summer was Patsy and my 16th season on the water. I'm still doing my hikes as much as possible, minus the wife. Her knee hindered her from joining in or biking, the new knee should change all that.

So many changes have transpired over the years, mostly for the better. So many camps have shown great improvements. You can tell when Tommy and Deb Troscher are here, the sound of the saw singing and the hammer ringing is kind of soothing to the soul. Same for the Texas stone house, the smell of Mexican cooking quaffs over the lake as the workers continue their progress. Jeff and Anne Coreys camp is almost unrecognizable from what used to be their abode, absolutely beautiful job.

But not all changes are for the better. Dan and Deb Walker, John and Joann Opp have moved from the lake, they will be greatly missed for many reasons. John himself put in many many man hours maintaining the lake. Another was Rob at the end of the lake. He was always ready with his backhoe whenever needed, RIP my friend.

As most of you know by now, a remembrance bench and tranquil area is being readied by Bill Matola in honor of those who have passed before us, Bill is always available with updates and information on how members can participate in this venture.

As of the last election, we have new members to the HOA. Let's show them our support. If going to a monthly meeting is not your cup of tea, volunteer for one of the various committees, of which there are many. Remember, we all have a little piece of heaven and it's our responsibility to maintain and keep it that way.

If you need ice, or a "I'm sorry" bouquet of flowers, visit Rita Mae's, just up the road. Need to add a little color around camp, see Stacy at Melody Lake Greenery. She has a wide variety of posies'. Need a laugh while your septic tank is being cleaned, call Bobby Pendall. The conversation alone is worth the price.

We have some pretty interesting people around the lake. Doris, an artist and author, her husband Jerry who can turn a tree knot (burl) into a work of art. My neighbor Laurie, a hop's grower extraordinaire, (a beer drinkers god send). We have professors, doctors, a scientist, V.P. of a large corporation and a car dealership. We have residents from Florida, Arizona, Texas, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New Jersey, Washington and Massachusetts.

Greatly missed and thought of often are Norm and Evie LaMontagne, both have been fixtures on the lake for many years.

If Chinese Snails were worth money, we would all be rich. I'll be damned if some slimy slug is going to ruin my happiness around the lake. Like the seagull who makes his summer residence on Bob's float, I will be back for and looking forward to season 17.

Until then.....Respect your neighbors and enjoy the lake.



Did you know that most cleaning products contain harsh chemicals which can be harmful to our family, our pets and our lake. The following information was furnished by the New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services:

## Making Household Cleaners So Good You Could Almost Eat Them

Cleaning is a chore we all have to deal with sooner or later. There are several ways to get your kitchen, bathroom or bedroom squeaky clean without the harmful chemicals that are in many commercial products. Switching to nontoxic cleaners is better for the health of your family and the environment. The chemicals in commercial products can soak into certain counters and furniture can be inhaled if used in sprays and can enter the groundwater if flushed down the toilet or washed down a sink drain. Many common household products, such as baking powder, vinegar and lemon juice, can be used to make nontoxic cleaners at home. For the following recipes, feel free to add a few drops of your favorite essential oils; tea tree is an excellent disinfectant and works well in cleaning products.

**KITCHEN:** Using dangerous chemicals in the kitchen could lead to these environmentally unfriendly products contaminating your food. For nongranite countertops, mix equal parts water and vinegar to make a versatile, all-purpose cleaner. If you have a granite or stone countertop, some water and soap should do the trick. Keep in mind that soapstone countertops will absorb whatever cleaning solutions you use. To clean your refrigerator, add a half cup of baking soda to a bucket of hot water, and then use a rag to wipe down the inside. And if you don't already have castile soap, now is the time to get some. If you don't like the smell of vinegar, you can make an alternative all-purpose cleaner by combining two teaspoons of baking soda, one teaspoon of castile soap and one and a half cups of water in a spray bottle. To make effective chemical-free dish soap, mix one cup of castile soap with three tablespoons of water. To sanitize wood and plastic cutting boards, simply run half of a lemon across the surface, allow it to soak the lemon up for 10 minutes and then rinse. And when you're done with the lemon, toss it in your garbage disposal to keep it smelling fresh.

**BATHROOM:** For your daily toilet or shower scrub, mix equal parts water and vinegar in a spray bottle. Spray, let it sit and rinse after a few minutes.

**FLOORS:** For a tile or wood floor, mix one part vinegar with two parts water in a bucket and clean normally. Rugs can be easily cleaned by sprinkling some baking soda or corn starch on the spot, waiting five minutes and then vacuuming the area. Water and vinegar is also a good way to get stains out of carpets. Make sure to let the vinegar sit on the stain before cleaning. This recipe also works for upholstery stains. Blot dry with paper towels after applying a small amount of water and vinegar. You can also clean stains immediately with club soda.

**WINDOW CLEANER:** For windows and mirrors, combine one part white vinegar with four parts water, and then use a sponge or rag to scrub away. If you don't like the smell of the vinegar, place a bay leaf in the bottle and let it sit in your refrigerator for 48 hours; the smell will be greatly reduced.

Air fresheners are super easy to make, too! Baking soda or vinegar with lemon juice in bowls around your house will work well. For a more springtime smell, poke cloves into an orange and let it sit on your window sill. For furniture polish,

**AIR FRESHENER:** Simmer cloves and cinnamon in boiling water and/or leave an opened box of baking soda in the room.

**ANT CONTROL:** Mix 2 tablespoons of boric acid, 2 tablespoons of sugar and 1 cup of water. Soak paper towels with mixture, place flat on a dish, and set out for ants. Pour a line of cream of tartar where ants enter. Put a light coating of petroleum jelly around the base of your pet's feeding dish to keep ants out.

**DRAIN OPENER:** Use a plunger or mechanical snake. If that does not work pour 2 cups of baking soda and hot water into drain, then pour 1 cup of vinegar. This mixture will expand fast. Immediately plug the drain with rubber plug and allow the clog to be pushed downward. Flush drain weekly with boiling water to prevent future clogs.

**FLEA & TICK REPELLENT:** Scatter pine needles, fennel, rue or rosemary on pet's bed. Feed pet brewer's yeast, vitamin B or garlic tablets.

**FURNITURE POLISH:** Combine ½ cup olive oil with 1 teaspoon of lemon oil in a bottle. Shake well and pour into a microfiber towel. Rub onto finished wood furniture. –OR– mix vegetable oil, lemon oil (or juice) and vinegar in a small bottle; it also works well on wooden salad bowls!

**METAL POLISHES:** **Steel/Chrome:** Mix baking soda and water to the consistency of toothpaste. Rub paste into the grimy area with a sponge, adding more as needed. Rinse area with warm water. **Silver:** Line the bottom of a large glass bowl or plastic bin with aluminum foil. Do not use a metal container. Place a generous amount of baking soda into container and then place the silver item to be leaned on top of the baking soda. Pour hot (not warm) water into container until the silver item is completely submerged. Soak silver for ten minutes to a half hour depending on the degree of tarnish. Tarnish will move to aluminum foil. Polish silver with clean dry cloth. **Copper:** Mix 1 part of salt with 10 parts white vinegar. Submerge copper in solution and stir for 20 seconds (or more if needed.) Rub remaining tarnish off with a damp cloth. Rinse copper thoroughly with clean water when done. **Brass:** Cover brass surface with regular ketchup; the salt and vinegar will remove the tarnish. Leave on surface for 10 minutes and then rinse clean. Repeat the process for heavily tarnished brass.

**MILDEW REMOVER:** Dissolve ½ cup Borax and ½ cup vinegar in warm water.

**INSECT SPRAY FOR PLANTS:** Blend 6 cloves crushed garlic, 1 minced onion, 1 tablespoon dried hot pepper and 1 tablespoon pure soap in 1 gallon of hot water. Let sit 1 to 2 days; strain and use.

**MOTHBALL SUBSTITUTE:** Wrap dried lavender or cedar chips into small towels or cloth bags and place with clothes.

**MULTI-PURPOSE CLEANER:** Mix ½ cup ammonia, 1/3 cup vinegar and 1/4 cup baking soda in 1 gallon of warm water.

**SHOWER HEAD CLEANER:** Pour ½ cup vinegar into 1 quart water. Put shower head in mixture and boil for five minutes.

**TAPE ADDHESIVE REMOVER:** Cover the tape residue with generous amounts of peanut butter. Let sit for five minutes and wipe clean with warm water.

**WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS:**

2019 was a year to say goodbye to several old neighbors and hello to many new neighbors. Please welcome:

Tom & Lori Accardi , 1269 Melody Lane (formerly Sosenko)

Matt & Bonnie Silvanic, 1354 Melody Lane (formerly Opp)

Marcy Sudbrink, 6091 Melody Lake Rd (formerly Walker)

Sara Warner & Mary Jo Watts, 1345 Melody Lane (formerly Moxely)

Eric and Barbara Wortman, 6045 Melody Lake Rd (formerly See)

Also member Scott Harris & Deborah Gates have purchased the Titus property at 1361 Melody Lane and is in the process of selling it to a new owner.

**GUEST PASSES:**

By now, everyone that has paid their dues for 2020 and has shared their email address with us has received the new guest passes. Now is a good time to address some of the concerns over the years.

- Guest passes are issued for 1 year only. This year's pass will expire on 2/15/2021. A new pass will be sent when the 2021 dues are paid in full
- Guest passes are intended to be **TEMPORARY** permission to use your access to any lake rights that are given to you thru property ownership. It does not allow them to assume the right to trespass on the property of others or to use association property to access any other properties not owned or controlled by Melody Lake Association. Guest passes are not required for anyone using your private property.
- The association member giving out the pass is assuming **ALL** responsibility of the actions of the pass holder.
- The association member shall provide the pass holder with a list of all the rules and regulations of the association which are available on the association website@ <http://www.stny.info/melodylake/>
- All local authorities (NYSDEC Conservation and Local, County and State Police) have been provided with a copy of this newsletter, a list of association rules and a property owner lists.
- Every member of a group shall possess a guest pass.
- Guest passes are required anytime your guest is using any lake association property (lake, Melody Lane, association owned right of way, etc.) unless the association member is present.
- All guests that cannot provide a current guest pass will be asked to vacate the property immediately or the authorities will be notified.

**If you have any questions or suggestions as to how this policy should be enforced or modified please plan to attend a meeting in 2020.** Dates of the meetings can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

**NEWSLETTER SPONSORS:**

On the next several pages you will find some information about the local businesses that make this newsletter possible. While we do have a few new sponsors, the majority of them have sponsored us for years. The main one is Cincinnati Home Center that not only helps to provide this newsletter but also provides items that we raffle off at meetings and the association picnic that brings several hundreds of dollars into our bank account. There are also several sponsors that are also association members that pay to let you know what they have to offer. Keep in mind that all of these sponsors are independently and locally owned small businesses. It is estimated that by purchasing thru a locally owned small business will:

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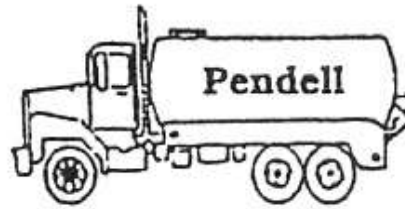


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