



Lake Shirley Association
“The Eagle” Newsletter
Spring 2025



Visit us at www.lakeshirley.com

Dear Lake Shirley Members,

Welcome to a new summer season filled with sunsets, laughter, and lasting memories! I'm filled with excitement and anticipation for all the fun activities planned for our membership this year—and even more, for the opportunity to continue fostering the many wonderful friendships we share within our lake community.

Our community at Lake Shirley is strong, and we are incredibly lucky to be part of a place filled with so much beauty, heart, and energy. The strength of our community begins with you- our volunteers and members who give their time and spirit to make this lake such a special place to enjoy summer.

From cornhole tournaments to fireworks, boat parades, golf tournaments, social gatherings, and Light Up Lake Shirley, there is something for everyone to enjoy. It's thanks to our passionate volunteers that these events are possible, and your energy truly fuels our community's magic. We invite you to volunteer and share in the creativity, connection, and community that make Lake Shirley so extraordinary.

I am proud and grateful to serve alongside an amazing Board of Directors. Every member of our Board plays a vital role, contributing incredible knowledge and dedication—all as volunteers. Their commitment is reflected in the ongoing care and management of our beautiful lake.

☀️ **The Most Important Work of the LSIC Continues:**

- Working with top consultants to learn the latest techniques for lake management.
- Monitoring water quality through continual testing and research.
- Managing the dam and lake levels under the Order of Conditions.
- Installing, monitoring, and replacing navigation buoys.
- Partnering with the Towns of Lunenburg and Shirley to promote lake health.
- Educating the public through newsletters, our website www.lakeshirley.com, and shared resources.
- Hosting the Annual Meeting and monthly Director Meetings (every second Wednesday).
- Raising and managing funds for the Lake Management Plan—thank you to all who contribute!
- Researching and applying for new State Grant opportunities.

Your annual dues are vital. They directly support projects that protect the lake's health and beauty. Being a member means making a meaningful impact on the future of Lake Shirley!

We have much planned for 2025, and we warmly encourage you to participate. Whether attending an event, volunteering, or simply cheering from the shoreline, your involvement makes a difference.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I wish you a safe, joyful, and memorable Summer 2025 at Lake Shirley. Be safe—and as always, be kind to one another.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." — Dr. Seuss

The full yearly newsletter will be posted at www.lakeshirley.com. If you do not have internet access, please call me and I will gladly send you a paper copy.

I look forward to seeing you at the **Annual Meeting, May 7, 2025, at 6:00 PM** at St. Anthony of Padua Church Parish Hall!

Warmest regards,
Joanna Bilotta, President, Lake Shirley Improvement Corporation

Lake Shirley Improvement Corporation
P.O. Box 567
Shirley, MA 01464

Annual Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: St Anthony of Padua Church Parish Hall, 33 Chapel Street, Shirley MA.

1. Roll of Officers and Directors (Ashley Coffin)
2. Determination of a quorum of 21 paid members (Susan Jewell, Membership)
3. Proof of meeting notice ~ spring 2025 Newsletter (Joanna Bilotta, President)
4. Reading of minutes of the Wednesday, May 15, 2024, Annual Meeting (Sara Storm)
5. Presentations:
 - a. Dominic Meringolo, Solitude Lake Management
6. Reports of Officers and Committees
 - I. Treasurer/Secretary
 - II. Vegetation and Algae Management (Joanna Bilotta)
 - III. Water Quality (Steve Vitone)
 - IV. Dam & Safety (Richie Patry & Ron Wilson)
 - V. Website/Facebook (Jay Ellowitz, Deb Yawor, Caitlin Katsch, & Jay Simeone)
 - VI. Membership (Susan Jewell)
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. Report of nominating committee and nominations from the floor for the election of Directors and other officers
10. Vote for Secretary and Treasurer
11. Nomination and Vote for Board of Directors
12. Adjournment

*Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the 2024 newly elected Board of Directors will meet:

1. To elect the President & Vice President

Great News!!! Lake Shirley is completing a water treatment for Fanwort!!! Thanks to all of our members that continue to provide donations year over year so we are able to provide this exciting and expensive lake treatment to benefit Lake Shirley!

LAKE SHIRLEY – LUNENBURG & SHIRLEY, MA NOTIFICATION OF AQUATIC TREATMENT

As part of a comprehensive Lake Management Program being implemented by the Lake Shirley Improvement Corporation, Lake Shirley will be treated with USEPA/MA registered aquatic herbicides Sonar ONE & Sonar GENESIS (fluridone) to control non-native and invasive fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*). The initial treatment will be conducted on **Tuesday, April 29th**. The lake will be closed to all water uses (including boating, fishing, and swimming) on the day of treatment only. Additionally, water from the lake cannot be used for irrigation for a period of 90 days commencing on this day. Applicable water use restrictions will be posted with signs around the shoreline prior to application. Following the initial treatment, it is anticipated that 2-3 additional, follow-up “booster” treatments will be required over a period of approximately 60 days. The tentative dates for these additional treatments are **May 22nd & June 12th**. Notice of these follow-up treatments and any additional water-use restrictions will be made via subsequent posting of the shoreline prior to each treatment.

The project is being performed for the Lake Shirley Improvement Corporation. under an approved Order of Conditions issued by the Lunenburg & Shirley Conservation Commissions (DEP File #208-1168 & DEP File#284-0474) and a license (permit) issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Treatments are being performed by the State licensed firm SOLitude Lake Management of Shrewsbury, MA. SOLitude Lake Management.

This treatment plan was presented at the 1/29/25 Conservation Commission meeting which may be viewed on Lunenburg Access TV and Youtube. Additionally, you may email treatment@lakeshirley.com or visit the “Resources” page at Lakeshirley.com.

Submitted by Dominic Meringolo

Lake Shirley – Survey and Treatment Plan

Pre-Treatment Survey

The pre-treatment survey, conducted on June 24th, incorporated a combination of SLM's historical qualitative assessment and Geosyntec's quantitative procedures, similar to surveys of prior years. Data on species composition, plant growth density, and plant biomass was collected at 66 different points throughout the lake. These points are identical to the point #'s associated with Geosyntec data in the past. A pre-treatment survey is conducted to determine the growth of all target species, such as fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and variable milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*). The survey also identifies any potential nuisance species based on native plant density.

Non-native fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*) and native leafy pondweed (*Potamogeton foliosus*) were the most common plants observed in this year's survey at 56% and 35% occurrence, respectively. Other target non-native species included curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), variable milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) and spiny naiad (*Najas minor*).

This was the first time that variable watermilfoil has been observed at Lake Shirley in many years.

Aside from leafy pondweed, the only other common (>10% occurrence) native species observed this year was bladderwort (*Utricularia sp.*). A number of other native species were observed at less than 10% occurrence including tapegrass (*Vallisneria americana*), naiad (*Najas flexilis* & *Najas gracillima*), variable leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton gramineus*), largeleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton amplifolius*), clasping leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton perfoliatus*) and water lilies.

Per the Lake Management Plan, areas of the lake that exhibit either density or biomass factors of 3 or greater (>50%) are candidates for management. Additionally, any growth of non-native species, in this case curlyleaf pondweed, fanwort, variable milfoil and spiny naiad, can also be treated. Some candidate areas were not designated for treatment due to their proximity to undeveloped shorelines and/or the presence of non-nuisance species (ex. Stonewort/Chara, waterlilies). Additionally, this year, we've also designated areas for treatment based on last year's fall survey where points exhibited density/biomass indices of 3 or greater. This was done to capture areas that did not meet management thresholds in June, but did later in the summer.

Approximately 58.7 acres were designated for treatment. The pre-treatment report, which includes plant survey data and the proposed treatment map, is **attached**. The Lunenburg Conservation Commission approved this treatment plan at their July 10th meeting and the Shirley Conservation Commission approved the plan at their July 9th meeting. Areas designated for diquat herbicide were treated with Tribune at a rate of 1.0-1.5 gallons per acre, areas designated as diquat/flumi were treated with Tribune at a rate of 1.0 gallon per acre and Flumigard SC at a rate of 0.25 gallons/acre, and those designated as diquat/copper were treated with Tribune at a rate of 1.0 gallons per acre and Nautique at a rate of 3 gallons per acre.

Herbicide Treatment

The herbicide treatment was conducted on July 17th, for target species as specified in the pre-treatment report. Treatment was conducted with Tribune (diquat), Flumigard SC (flumioxazin) and Nautique (copper). As with all treatments, the lake community and the two towns were notified prior to treatment by LSIC. Several means of notification were utilized: placement of a written notice in the newspaper(s); placement of large, printed signs at major

Continuing reading at: <https://www.lakeshirley.com/resources>



Aquatic Restoration Consultants, LLC.
Submitted by Wendy Gendron

INTRODUCTION

The Lake Shirley Improvement Corporation (LSIC) contracted Aquatic Restoration Consulting, LLC (ARC) to perform the fall aquatic plant survey and summarize the lake management activities that occurred during the prior year (October 15, 2023 through October 14, 2024) in accordance with the Order of Conditions (MassDEP File No. 208-1168 for the Town of Lunenburg and 284-0474 for the Town of Shirley). This report summarizes the LSIC management activities, data evaluation and recommendations. The report is organized in a semi-chronological order of activities for the 2023-2024 year:

- winter water level drawdown,
- water quality monitoring,
- herbicide/algaecide treatment,
- fall aquatic plant survey and prior year data comparison,
- education and outreach activities; and
- recommended changes (if appropriate) from the management program.

WINTER WATER LEVEL DRAWDOWN

Winter water level drawdowns in combination with targeted herbicide treatments have shown combined success as a nuisance weed management strategy in Lake Shirley. The primary mechanism through which water level drawdown controls aquatic plants is exposure to dry and freezing conditions for an extended period. Ice movement and scour also have an effect. Not every year is a “good” drawdown year as frequent rainfall, fluctuating water levels, early insulating snowfall, groundwater seepage and other factors can limit freezing and drying. Bottom substrates can also affect how well the drawdown works, as mucky and peaty soils (as are often seen in cove areas) are more resistant to drying.

Winter water level drawdown of Lake Shirley has been used for many years mainly to manage the growth of nuisance aquatic plant growth. The Metcalf & Eddy Diagnostic Feasibility study prescribed an optimal drawdown of up to nine feet, but due to impacts on shallow private wells, the drawdown is limited to six feet. The drawdown has worked well to control nuisance growth of milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum* and *M. spicatum*) and fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*) in the shallow margins of the lake, but the effectiveness is variable year-to-year as the technique requires sustained lowered water level and freezing temperatures absent of insulating snowfall. Some plant species, particularly those that produce seed or winter turions, are often less impacted (e.g., tapegrass/wild celery, pondweeds and naiads) and can show increased growth following a drawdown. Plants in areas deeper than the drawdown zone (>6 feet) are generally not impacted by this technique. The current drawdown practice in Lake Shirley reduces nuisance plant growth within the drawdown zone lessening the need for additional herbicide use.

The goal of LSIC is to achieve a seasonal drawdown, up to six feet, on an annual basis. The drawdown is accomplished by opening the two gates at the Lake Shirley dam in the fall (on or after October 15). The drawdown rate is monitored and maintained at approximately two to three inches per day. The desired depth is typically achieved by December 1, but weather conditions (precipitation) can prohibit achievement of the target level. Additionally, ice and debris can clog the gates limiting the depth of the drawdown. The gates are adjusted to balance desired water level and downstream river flow once the target depth is achieved.

Continuing reading at: <https://www.lakeshirley.com/resources>

P. PERFOLIATUS



P. GRAMINEUS



EUROPEAN NAIAD



EURASION MILFOIL



VARIABLE MILFOIL



FANWORT



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE



CURLY-LEAVE PONDWEED



Lake Shirley Dam and Water Level Information

As we generally open both dam valves on the morning of October 15, 2024. We did reach our goal of 4'-6' December 1st. 2024-2025 was a great drawdown season! On March 25, 2025 both Lunenburg and Shirley Conservation were notified that Lake Shirley was completely full. Special thanks to my partner Richie Patry for all his help at the dam.

As a reminder we start the drawdown on October 15th 2025, gates close on December 1st.

The water level, per the LSIC Notice of Intent, with Lunenburg and Shirley Conservation Commission, see below.

Drawdown

- 1. The target drawdowns are to be up to 6 feet and the achieved depth will naturally vary based on variations in precipitation during the drawdown period.**
- 2. The data collection on lake levels and stream flows are to be gathered no less than weekly between October 1 and April 15 and submitted with the Annual Report**
- 3. Commence drawdown on or after October 15th.**
- 4. Achieve the target drawdown depth by or before December 1st**
- 5. Achieve full lake level by April 1st.**
- 6. Keep outflow during drawdown below a discharge equivalent to 57.2 cs unless the water is flowing over the spillway. Once the target water level is achieved, match outflow to inflow to the greatest extent possible, maintaining a stable water level.**
- 7. Keep outflow during refill above a discharge equivalent to 7.15 cfs.**
- 8. Any resident concerns with wells should be reported to the LCC who will take appropriate action. The LSIC shall refer all residents to the LCC for issues concerning wells.**
- 9. The Tests shall take place between January 15 and March 1 as allowed by ice safety. A dissolved oxygen profile should be performed at the one of the deepest locations on the lake and graphed from surface to the bottom showing dissolved O2 level and temperature.**

Ron Wilson & Riche Patry
Lake Shirley Dam Keepers

The Lake Shirley Website: www.Lakeshirley.com

The Lake Shirley Improvement Corp website:

<https://www.lakeshirley.com/>

Members of the LSIC website committee have been working on revising the website to make it more user friendly, interactive and informative. We have slowly been incorporating changes to the website. We ran into an issue back in January with the software program for the website became obsolete and was no longer supported. So we had to make a change to the “Wix” platform. The new platform will make it easier to maintain the website. It will also make it more streamline to make changes and updates to the website.

The top priority of the committee is to keep our website informative and active with our up-to-date news, events, contact info, bylaws, minutes, and photos.

Email: Click on the “Contact” page to register your email to receive informational LSIC emails. Emailing our members is the most convenient communication tool that allows us to distribute the most up-to-date information on what’s happening on Lake Shirley. Such as weed and algae treatments, draw down, lake events, and general news. You can also update and confirm your email with LSIC to receive newsletters by email instead of postal mail. This helps reduce our operating costs and saves on paper and postage, not to mention saving time as all paper mailings are done by volunteers.

PayPal: A convenient time saving way to submit your donations online, anytime, day or night. Using PayPal also helps reduce costs by reducing the number of donation requests that need to be mailed out. Please consider using PayPal, located on the membership page.

Jay Simeone,
Website Manager

<https://www.lakeshirley.com>

THANK YOU, FROM THE LSIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

2024 PAID MEMBERS

Eric Alsfeld	J & F Fournier	Roland Leger	Scott Rossley
Ben & Sara Apollonio	John & Annette Gallagher	Tammy & Mike Lovewell	Jason Roux
Theresa Arpano	Cindylee & Mike Gee	Robert Marchetti	Brian & Kelly Ryder
Susan & Peter Balducci	Walter & Lorie Godfrey	Michael & Kelly Mayotte	Debbie Salamone & Scott Connolly
Steve Bean	Paul Goguen	Robert & Diane McAllister	Shady Point Beach
Marcia Beers	Denise Gonthier	Kelly McCaffrey	Gary & Maureen Spindt
Nanci & Wendi Bell	Patrick & Beth Grace	Melissa McCarthy	Marc & Christine Sprague
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Cheryl & Vincent Cila	Douglas Jacoby	Richard Pearson	Sheila Vaillancourt
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Chris Coffin	Victoria Jeffrey	Dave Pelletier	Paula Valente
Todd Cole & Ashley Brawn	Perry & Sue Jewell	Mary Perkins	Mark & Diane Vella
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Thomas Crocker	Jennifer & Derek Jordan	Nicholas Pirro	Robert & Judith Viviano
Ralph & Matthew Dailey	Nathan & Caitin Katisch	Kerry Planitzer	Jeffrey & Renee Viviano
Michael DeFazio	The PJ Keating Companies	Anthony & Janice Polcari	David & Ludmila Watt
Joshua & Sydney DeFazio	Ryan Kirkpatrick	Nancy Rahaim	Steve White
Richard DeFazio	Scott Kirouac	Rene Rainville	Mark Whitten
Christopher & Suzann DeGeorge	Raymond & Sally Kodzis	Jacalyn Ramondelli	Janice & Martin Widdowson
Deborah DeLaite	Kenneth Kohlstrom	Scott Reinhart	Fred Williams
Carl & Joy Derner	Peter & Lillian Koronis	Kathleen & Glen Reinhart	Gary Williams
Jim Dorsey & Susan Gagne	Gary & Tina Kroll	Donna Reyno	Ron & Robin Wilson
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Shawn & Danielle Farrow	Dennis & Carol LaBranche	Brian & Cynthia Ritchie	Joe & Danuta Wysk
Thomas & Cece Fassbender	Kathleen Langenbacher	Steven Rivard	G & S Wilcox Yapp
Anne Marie Fortin	James & Joanne Lavoie	Chris Robison	A&D Yawor
Joe Fortin & Diane DeLollis	Bart & Gale Lawless	Gary & Susan Ropiak	

LSIC DUES INVOICE

- The LSIC offers an online payment through PayPal. All you need to do is go to the membership page at www.lakeshirley.com and click on PayPal to make your payment.
- The LSIC is willing to work with people for partial payments or monthly payments, as long as you are paid in full by the annual meeting where you will be a member with voting rights.
- You may also continue to pay by check. Make sure to enclose the tear-off slip below with your payment.
- The LSIC needs to receive your payment by the time of the annual meeting to enable you to vote at the annual meeting. Please try to pay as soon as possible as we are putting together the budget for this year's work and we need to know what we can afford to take on to continue to manage the quality of our Lake for the summer season.
- LSIC is a non-profitable organization (501(c)(3), all contributions are tax deductible. A year-end statement will be mailed to you.

LSIC 2025 ANNUAL DUES

Please check the appropriate category and payment amount:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single-family home | \$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple homes | \$450 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$600 |

Name: _____

Lake Address

Street: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mailing Address (If different than Lake Address)

Street: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

EMAIL: _____

Harmful Algal Blooms in Freshwater Bodies



ARE ALGAL BLOOMS HARMFUL?

Algal blooms can be harmful to people and animals. Cyanobacteria (sometimes called blue-green algae) occur naturally in freshwater. Under certain conditions, they can multiply quickly, creating a highly concentrated area known as a cyanobacterial harmful algal bloom, or cyanohAB. Some HABs produce toxins (known as cyanotoxins). In 2021, HABs in the U.S. were reported to have caused:

- 117 cases of human illness
- 2,715 cases of animal illness
- 2,489* animal fatalities - *large mortality event affecting 2,000 bats

HABs in Massachusetts are most common in summer and early fall. They can last from several days to several months.

HOW DO I KNOW IF THERE IS A HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM IN THE WATER?

Cyanobacteria can cause the water to appear slightly discolored, cloudy, or resemble pea soup or paint. Typically blue or green, HABs can also be brown or red and can give water a bad odor. In some blooms cyanobacteria are dispersed throughout the water, while in other blooms they are concentrated in a scum or mat, either on the surface of the water or in sediment along the shoreline.

WHAT CAUSES CYANOBACTERIA TO GROW?

Certain environmental conditions, such as warm weather, sunlight, excess nutrients, and stagnant/slow-moving waters help cyanobacteria grow faster. Specific factors behind each bloom vary because every waterbody is different. However, two of the most common factors are phosphorus and nitrogen, found in fertilizers and human/animal waste.

HOW ARE HUMANS AND ANIMALS EXPOSED TO CYANOBACTERIA?

People and animals can be exposed to cyanobacteria through direct skin contact, ingestion, or inhalation. Those using the water for active recreation (like swimmers or jet-skiers) or for drinking are most likely to be exposed. Children and pets, who are more likely to get these bacteria in their mouths, are of special concern. Dogs can become very ill and even die from licking cyanobacteria off their fur.

Cyanotoxins (if present) are usually contained within the cyanobacteria cell. When the cells die, the toxins are released into the water where they can be ingested. Cyanotoxins are not absorbed through the skin.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SUSPECT A HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM?

If you see a possible HAB, avoid contact with the water.

Contact your local health department if the bloom is at a recreational waterbody. If the suspected bloom is at a drinking water reservoir, contact the local water department and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

**WHEN IN
DOUBT,
STAY OUT!**

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE HEALTH EFFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH CYANOBACTERIA?

Health effects associated with blooms vary depending on the type of cyanobacteria, the route of exposure, and the amount of toxins present.

- Ingestion is the primary concern. Ingesting small amounts of cyanobacteria or toxin can cause gastrointestinal symptoms. Ingesting large amounts of toxins may cause liver or neurological damage.
- Contact with cyanobacteria can cause skin or eye irritation.
- Inhaling water spray containing cyanobacteria can cause asthma-like symptoms.
- Small children and pets are more susceptible to the effects of toxins than adults.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM EXPOSED TO CYANOBACTERIA?

During a bloom, DPH recommends avoiding contact with the water.

If contact occurs, wash yourself and your pet with tap or bottled water. If you or your pet swallows water, call your doctor or veterinarian. If you believe you or your pet is experiencing adverse health effects, contact your doctor or veterinarian immediately.

WHAT ASSISTANCE CAN DPH PROVIDE?

DPH can provide guidance and technical assistance regarding reported blooms and health effects. DPH recommends that the managing entity (typically local health, or a local or state parks department) issue an advisory if any of the following criteria is met:

- A visible scum is present.
- The algal cell count exceeds 70,000 cells/milliliter of water.
- The level of the toxin microcystin is 8 parts per billion (ppb) or higher.
- The level of the toxin cylindrospermopsin is 15 parts per billion (ppb) or higher.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ELIMINATE AN ALGAL BLOOM?

Unfortunately, once a bloom appears there are few options besides letting it run its natural course. Blooms depend on available nutrients and optimal weather conditions. Chemical treatment methods (such as algaecides) are not recommended during a bloom.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS?

There are a number of best management practices that can reduce bloom-promoting nutrients:

- Maintain septic systems and storm drains
- Reduce application of fertilizer
- Pick up pet waste
- Do not feed ducks or geese
- Plant or maintain native vegetation around the water's edge

For more information contact:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Climate & Environmental Health | Environmental Toxicology Program
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108
Phone: 617-624-5757 | Fax: 617-624-5183 | TTY: 617-624-5286
www.mass.gov/dph/algae

Additional Resources:

MA Dept. of Env. Protection: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/cyanobacterial-harmful-algal-blooms-cyanohabs-water>

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/habs/index.html>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/cyanohabs

Revised December 2023



As of April 1, 2026, Massachusetts will implement new boating safety requirements under the Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act. This law mandates that all operators of motorboats and personal watercraft (PWCs) complete a state-approved boating safety education course and carry proof of certification while operating on Massachusetts waters.

Who Needs a Boater Safety Certificate?

- **Individuals Born After January 1, 1989:** Must obtain a boater safety certificate by **April 1, 2026**. Penalties for non-compliance will begin on **September 1, 2026**.
 - **Individuals Born on or Before January 1, 1989:** Must obtain a boater safety certificate by **April 1, 2028**.
 - **Youth Operators:**
 - **Ages 12–15:** May operate a motorboat without adult supervision only after completing an approved boating safety course and obtaining a safety certificate.
 - **Under 16:** Prohibited from operating personal watercraft (PWCs).
 - **Exemptions:** Certain individuals, such as merchant mariners, active-duty military personnel qualified to operate motorboats, and students in maritime programs operating vessels as part of instruction, may be exempt from these requirements.
-

What the Boating Safety Course Covers

The state-approved boating safety education course includes instruction on:

- Navigation rules and safe maneuvering
 - Emergency procedures
 - Environmental protection practices
 - Massachusetts-specific boating laws and regulations [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov)
 - Courses are available both online and in-person through various providers. Upon successful completion, operators will receive a boater safety certificate, which must be carried while operating a vessel.
-

How to Get Certified

To enroll in a state-approved boating safety course and obtain your boater safety certificate, visit the Massachusetts Environmental Police's official website:

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/boat-safety-certificate-course>

Massachusetts Boating Law Summary

A summary of Massachusetts boating law including: Minimum age; safety education; required safety equipment and a listing of types of operation that are prohibited or considered unsafe.

Minimum Age Restrictions

No person under 12 years of age may operate a motorboat, unless accompanied on-board and directly supervised by a competent person 18 years of age or older. Personal watercraft (PWC) users must still be at least 16 years of age in order to operate, with no exceptions.

Safety Education Certification

Youth who are between 12 and 15 years of age must complete an approved basic boating course in order to operate a motorboat without adult supervision. Upon successful completion of such a course, students are issued a state "boating safety certificate" which must be in the possession of the certified operator when underway. Personal watercraft users who are 16 or 17 years of age must also complete such a boating course. Youth less than 16 years of age are not allowed to operate personal watercraft.

Accident Reporting:

The operator of any motorboat involved in an accident which results in personal injury, death, or property damage (over \$500) shall immediately notify the MA Environmental Police and file the appropriate accident report within the required time frame. (2 days-fatality; 5 days - all other accidents)

Safety Equipment

Most of the state equipment carriage requirements are similar to federal laws. This primary list includes life preservers, fire extinguishers, signaling devices, visual distress signals, and navigation lights. In Massachusetts, life preservers are required to be worn by: (1) youth less than 12 years of age (2) personal watercraft users (3) waterskiers (4) canoeists/kayakers from September 15 - May 15. A boat owner or a boat's operator is responsible to ensure that passengers on-board wear life preservers as required. Additionally, the state requires that all motorboats (with the exception of personal watercraft) be equipped with an anchor, manual bailer, and line. A paddle or an oar is required on boats less than 16 feet in length. Motorboats towing skiers must also be equipped with a boarding ladder. Registration and numbering of all boats powered by machinery is required.

Prohibited Operation

The following types of operation are extremely unsafe and are prohibited:

- Operating any vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs. A blood alcohol concentration of .08 BAC is the current standard of intoxication in Massachusetts. Penalties have increased substantially and may include the loss of a motor vehicle driver's license.
- Operating a motorboat within 150 feet of a swimming area, whether public or private.
- Operating at an excessive speed considering weather conditions, boat traffic, and other hazards. For inland waters, operating at a speed greater than 45 mph is considered negligent operation.
- Operating a motorboat without properly working lights.
- Operating a motorboat during the nighttime while towing waterskiers, tubers, etc.
- Operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of a swimmer, waterskier, mooring area, marina, boat launch, or when the operator's vision is obscured in any way.
- Operating in an overloaded condition (carrying total weight that exceeds capacity plate recommendations or is excessive considering water conditions)
- Operating with passengers on the bow, gunwales, or any other place where there may be a chance of falling overboard.

Personal Watercraft Operation

Personal watercraft (PWC) are considered motorboats by law and must comply with all boating laws and navigation rules, including the speed and operation provisions above. Additionally, PWC users must adhere to state regulations specific to personal watercraft operation:

- Wear an approved life jacket (PFD) at all times (operator and passengers).
- Attach the safety lanyard to the operator and the cutoff/kill switch.
- Always operate at slow, no-wake speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of a swimmer, the shoreline, a water-skier, a boat launch, a raft or float or a moored or docked boat

You must not operate a PWC:

- If less than 16 years old
- Under the influence of alcohol
- Between sunset and sunrise
- At high speed in congested areas
- On waters under 75 acres
- While towing persons on skis, tubes, etc.

Please note

This is only a summary of boating laws. All boaters must know and observe all local, state, and federal laws. For further information on boating laws, boating education, or to obtain accident report forms contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police at (508) 564-4961

Bottom of Form

DATES AND HAPPENINGS IN LUNENBURG

- **Lake Shirley Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 6:00 pm, at St Anthony of Padua Church Parish Hall, 33 Chapel Street, Shirley MA.**
- **Lunenburg Annual Town Meeting May 3, 2025, 9:00 am, at Lunenburg Middle/High School**
- **Lunenburg Town Election May 17, 2025, 7:00 am – 5:00 pm, at TC Passios School**
- **Devens Regional Household Hazardous Products Collection Center: Open to Lunenburg 9:00 am to 1:00 pm <https://devenshhw.com>**

2025	
March 5 & 8	Aug. 6 & 9
April 2 & 5	Sept. 3 & 6
May 7 & 10	Oct. 1 & 4
June 4 & 7	Nov. 5 & 8
July 2 & 5	Dec. 3 & 6

- The Lunenburg Landfill, off of Young's Road will be open **Saturdays from 8 am to 4 pm**
Spring 2025 ~ April 19th and 26th, 2025, May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 31st, 2025.
- ☒ Acceptable material: grass clippings, bark mulch, wood chips, leaves, brush, (with a diameter not to exceed 3 inches ... unlimited length). Shrubbery and plantings; with the same restrictions. Any container; bags, boxes, barrels, trashcans, tarps, flower pots, etc., must be removed and taken by the resident. ***No household garbage, trash, building materials/waste or rubbish of any kind will be accepted. No materials within the Landfill area; sand, stone, gravel, etc. are to be given away or sold. Access will be restricted to the disposal area. Commercial landscapers will not be allowed to dump. NO STUMPS!
- ☒ Open to Lunenburg residents only. Travel permitted only on town easement. No trespassing on tri-town landing development.
<https://www.lunenburgma.gov/659/Yard-Waste-Days>

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY Lunenburg Town government needs citizens who are willing to give time to the service of their community. Fill out a Talent Bank form on the Town of Lunenburg homepage.



LAKE SHIRLEY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION P.O BOX 567 SHIRLEY, MA 01464**June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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