Lake Shirley Association
"The Eagle Newsletter"
Spring 2024

Visit us at www.lakeshirley.com

Welcome to a new summer season filled with sunsets and memories! I am excited with the anticipation of the fun activities we have planned for the membership but also to foster the many friendships I have made with our community of lake owners. Our lake community is strong, and we are so very lucky to be a part of this lake and all it has to offer!

The strength of our community begins with you and all the volunteers who make our lake a great place to summer! From cornhole torments to fireworks, social events with neighbors, the boat parade, golf tournament, and Light Up Lake Shirley, we are truly blessed with a fantastic association of lake owners who love the lake and give their time to make each of our many events happen throughout the summer. There truly is something for everyone to enjoy.

I am so thankful to be a part of the amazing board that serves our membership. The knowledge base of our board is immense, and every single member of the board plays an important role. As you know this is an all volunteer staff, it is you, our volunteers, bringing purpose, meaning and mindfulness to this special place we call home. Our volunteers bring heart and energy. Please join us as a volunteer and share in our creativity, community and connection.

Our lake ranks as one of the best in Massachusetts for water quality and it is because of the continued efforts of our Association.

The most significant benefit of membership in the LSIC is knowing that you are making a positive impact on the health of the Lake. Your annual dues support new and existing projects necessary to protect the Lake. Meanwhile, the most important work of the LSIC continues:

- Continue to work with and recruit the top consultants to teach the Association proper and latest trending techniques. Continue to test lake water quality and closely monitor environment trends and ongoing research.
- Continue the yearly Lake Management Planned approved through the Order of Conditions
- Maintain the water level of Lake Shirley by managing the Dam approved by the Order of Conditions
- Install, Monitor & Replace navigation buoys on the Lake
- Work with the Town of Lunenburg and Shirley Conservation Commissions to promote and preserve the health and beauty of Lake Shirley
- Educate the public by disseminating educational, resources and historical information provided on the Lake Shirley Website: www.lakeshirley.com/
- Publish the newsletters and maintain the Lake Shirley website www.lakeshirley.com/ to keep Lake Owners apprised of issues of importance on the Lake
- Host the Annual Meeting and monthly Director Meetings (2nd Wednesday of every month)
- Manage and raise funds for the Lake Management Plan, thank you to all who have contributed.
- Continue to research and apply for State Grant Applications.

There is much planned for this year, and I welcome and encourage you to be involved. This community is welcoming of new members to the association and all members who are looking to join in events. I hope you find your friends and neighbors and the events that will help bring you memories to last a lifetime.

On behalf of the Lake Shirley Board of Directors, have a safe and pleasurable 2024 Summer Season. Be Safe!!

As always, be kind to each other, my favorite quote, “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not. The yearly newsletter will be added to the website www.lakeshirley.com/ for all to review. If you do not have access to a computer, please call me and I will provide you a paper copy.

I look forward to seeing you at this year’s annual meeting, May 15, 2024, 6:00PM, at St. Anthony of Padua Church Parish Hall!

Joanna Bilotta-Simeone,
Lake Shirley Improvement Corporation, President

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

Annual Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: St Anthony of Padua Church Parish Hall, 33 Chapel Street, Shirley MA.

1. Roll of Officers and Directors. (Tammy Lovewell)
2. Determination of a quorum of 21 paid members. (Susan Jewell, Membership)
3. Proof of meeting notice ~ spring 2024 Newsletter. (Joanna Bilotta-Simeone, President)
4. Reading of minutes of the May 17, 2023, Annual Meeting. (Tammy Lovewell 2023 Secretary)
5. Presentations:
    a. Wendy Gendron, ARC, and 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 Katisch, & 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
2. To discuss/vote on the Lunenburg Lakes Action Committee and closing the account.

SOLitude Lake Management
Submitted by Dominic Meringolo

Lake Shirley – Survey and Treatment Plan

Pre-Treatment Survey

The pre-treatment survey, conducted on June 13th, 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.

Thinleaf pondweed (Potamogeton spp.) was the most common plant observed in this year's survey and was found at two-thirds of the survey points and was dominant at nearly half. Other target species include non-native curlyleaf pondweed. Other common native species observed this year include bladderwort (Utricularia sp.), macroalgae (Nitella sp. & Chara sp.) and clasping leaf pondweed (Potamogeton perfoliatus). Tapegrass (Vallisneria americana), which has been a common target in past treatments, was not very prominent this year, present at only 17% of the points and dominant at only 2%. Fanwort, which is non-native plant but not currently a target for management, was quite widespread this year, being present at 44% of the survey points, but dominant at only 15% of the points.

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 and fanwort can also be treated. Some candidate areas were not designated for treatment due to their proximity to undeveloped shorelines and/or the dominance of non-nuisance species (ex. Stonewort/Chara, Coontail, Robbins pondweed) or the dominance was mostly of fanwort (Cabomba caroliniana) for which management action is limited due to budget constraints and practicality of effective herbicide options.

No areas were designated for treatment with flumioxazin in 2023 to manage fanwort Several key areas of the lake were treated in 2020 & 2021, but due to DEP restrictions on the use of flumioxazin, these areas cannot be treated again for a three year period (use of flumioxazin is restricted to once every four years) . Diquat, a contact herbicide, was proposed for use at a rate (1.0-1.5 gallons per acre) to control pondweeds and any areas that exhibited a dense population of tape grass would be treated with Nautique or copper sulfate.

Approximately 34.5 acres were originally 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 June 20th meeting and the Shirley Conservation Commission approved the plan at their June 26th meeting. As allowed in the approval, some areas were expanded/added on the day of treatment due to observations of nuisance growth that have developed since the June 13th survey, increasing the total treatment area to 56.5 acres.

***Continue Reading at*:** https://www.lakeshirley.com/resources

Aquatic Restoration Consultants, LLC.
Submitted by Wendy Gendron

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, 2022 through October 14, 2023) in accordance with the Order of Conditions (Mass DEP 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 2022- 2023 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. LSIC provides notification to the Conservation Commissions and lake residents prior to initiating the drawdown. The lake is generally refilled by April 1 of the following year.

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 usually we open both dam valves on the morning of October15, 2023. We did reach our goal of 4'-6' December 1st. Once again with all the rainfall in December and January the water level continued to rise which was beyond our control. On March 7, 2024 both Lunenburg and Shirley Conservation were notify 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 2024, 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

FACEBOOK
Managed by Caitlin Katisch:
Be sure to follow us on Facebook for the latest Lake Shirley news and events! We post regularly about events, updates on weed and algae treatments, local news, photos, and much more! Do you have an idea for a community event or fundraiser for Lake Shirley? Please contact us! Our Facebook page can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/LakeShirleyMA/

4th of July Parade

The Lake Shirley boat parade is back for another year! The annual 4th of July Boat Parade will be held Thursday July 4th at 2pm, with a rain date of Saturday July 6th at 2pm. More details including registration information will be distributed by email and the LSIC Facebook page in early June. Make sure you're receiving LSIC emails by visiting the LSIC website and signing up. https://www.lakeshirley.com/

More information to follow!!!

Light up Lake Shirley Boat Parade & Fifth-Annual Lake Shirley Benefit Golf Tournament

The Light Up Lake Shirley & Golf Tournament Fundraising Committee managed and hosted these two spectacular events, last year raising $11,062. A phenomenal show of support by our Lake community! We are grateful to this committee and the community for supporting these successful events. Please join us in 2024 and continue your support to our fundraising efforts and fun events on Lake Shirley!

"Light Up Lake Shirley" Boat Parade and Shoreline Light Spectacular!

Saturday, August 17th! The Boat Parade will start at 8:00 p.m. Please participate and help us by getting your boats, shoreline and docks glowing!! This is a great family and community event.

Lake Shirley Golf Tournament!

Will be held at the Westminster Country Club on Saturday, September 21. If you don't play golf, no worries, please join us for the community dinner following the tournament.

We look forward to seeing you all on August 17th and September 21st, as always thank you for your support in these community events!

THANK YOU, FROM THE LSIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

2023 PAID MEMBERS

Alsfeld	Eric	Howard	John	Pirro	Nicholas
Apollonio	Ben & Sara	Huse	Storm	Planitzer	Kerry & Sheila
Arpano	Theresa	Jacoby	Douglas	Polcari	Anthony & Janice
Baker	Paul & Janet	Jalbert	John	Rahaim	Nancy
Balducci	Susan & Peter	Jewell	Perry & Sue	Ramondelli	Jackie
Bell	Nanci	Johns	Debbie	Reinhart	Glen & Kathleen
Bergeron	Francis	Jordan	Derek	Rhee	Yun J.
Bilotta	Jane	Keating	J. Olson	Richard	Jeffrey & Lisa
Bilotta, Joanna	Simeone, Jay	Kincaid	Patrick	Ritchie	Brian & Cynthia
Bolio	Judith & Bob	Kirouac	Scott	Rivard	Steven & Debbie
Brisson	Brian & Liz	Kodzis	Ray & Sally	Roux	Jason
Cadaret	Paul	Kohlstrom	Cassavechi	Ryder	Brian & Kelly
Chadwick, David	Malady, Nancy	Koronis	Peter & Lilian	Salamone	Connoly
Chenis	Kenneth	Kroll	Gary & Tina	Spindt	Gary & Maureen
Cila	Cheryl	Kuehl	Troy	Sprague	Marc & Christine
Clouthier	Gloria	Kullberg	Alan & Christine	Sullivan	Paul & Brenda
Cole, Todd	Braun, Ashley	LaBranche	Dennis & Carol	Tata	John & Louise
Coolen	Plankey	Langenbacher	Kathleen	Tessier	Comsana
Couture	George & Linda	Lastella	Cote	Tocci	George
Crocker	Thomas	Lavoie	James	Tousignant	Justin
DeLaite	Deborah	Lawless	Bart	Tower	Brian & Karen
Derner	Carl & Joy	Leger	Roland	Tremblay	Teresa & Richard
Dorsey	Jim & Susan	LeVeille	Dan & Julie	Tucker	John
Ellowitz	Jay	Lovewell	Mike & Tammy	Vaillancourt	Sheila
Evans	R & J	Marchetti	Robert	Valente	Paula
Farley	Monica & Adam	McAllister	Robert & Diane	Vella	Mark & Diane
Farrow	Shawn & Danielle	McCaffrey	Kelly	Vitone	Tom & Joan
Fassbender	Tom & Cece	McCarthy	Melissa	Watt	David
Fortin	Anne Marie	Magurn, Butch	Hamburg, Joanne	White	Steve
Fortin	Delollis	McNiff	Virginia	Whitten	Mark
Fournier	J & F	Melanson	Gerry & Kim	Widdowson	Janice & Martin
Gallagher	John & Annette	Morgan	Justine	Williams	Fred
Godfrey	Walter	Naparstek	Walter	Willliams	Gary
Gonthier	Denise	Noke	Bill & Rebecca	Wilson	Ron & Robin
Griffin	Shannon & Jamie	Normandin	Elaine	Wolframm	Virginia
Griffis	Caroline	Nuthman	Conrad	Wu	Thomas
Harbor Classic	Home	Patry	Richie & Kathy	Wysk	Joe & Diane
Hart	David & Maureen	Payne	Tom	Yapp	Wilcox
Helstowski	Constance	Pearson	Richard	Yawor	A&D
Hitzenbuhler	Sean	Perkins	Mary		
Holman	Irene	Perko	Sandra		

LSIC DUES PAYMENT

- 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 2024 ANNUAL DUES

Please check the appropriate category and payment amount:

- Single-family home $300
- Multiple homes $450
- Business $600

Name: _____

Lake Address

Street: _____

Town: _____ State:_____ Zip: _____

Mailing Address (If different than Lake Address)

Street: _____

Town: _____ State:_____ Zip: _____

EMAIL: _____

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH | BUREAU OF CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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.

WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!

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.

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 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

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

DATES AND HAPPENINGS IN LUNENBURG

- **Lake Shirley Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 6:00 pm, at St Anthony of Padua Church Parish Hall, 33 Chapel Street, Shirley MA.**
- **Lunenburg Annual Town Meeting May 4, 2024, 9:00 am, at Lunenburg Middle/High School**
- **Lunenburg Town Election May 18, 2024, 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 pmhttps://devenshhw.com**

2024	
March 6 & 9	Aug. 7 & 10
April 3 & 6	Sept. 4 & 7
May 1 & 4	Oct. 2 & 5
June 5 & 8	Nov. 6 & 9
July 3 & 6	Dec. 4 & 7

- The Lunenburg Landfill, off of Young's Road will be open **Saturday's from 8 am to 4 pm**
  Spring 2024 ~ April 13, 2024, through May 18, 2024

- 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.

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