

Indian Lake Smoke Signals

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Spring 2013

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Spring Cleanup May 11th

The Indian Lake spring cleanup was a great success on **Saturday, May 11th**. We had a huge turn out of St. John's students helping out as part of their annual service day as well as many other great volunteers. The fall cleanup date will be set in September.

Herb Adams Honored

In March, our longtime board member Herb Adams received a very special award from the Government of the Netherlands. Mr. Hans Gieskes, the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, came to personally bestow the prestigious Military decoration called "Militaire Willems Orde" to Herb in recognition for his participation in the "Market Garden" operation on September 17, 1944 over Nijmegen.

A ceremony in Herb's honor was sponsored by the Worcester Senior Center and Chapter XXII of the Central Massachusetts Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

WPI Students Complete Project

Also in March, a team of undergraduates from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) completed a plant survey of Indian Lake as part of their Interactive Qualifying Project. The Interactive Qualifying Project, or IQP, one of WPI's primary degree requirements, is unique in higher education. The IQP challenges students to address a problem that lies at the intersec-

tion of science, technology and society and is typically completed by interdisciplinary teams of two to four students working under the direct guidance of one or more faculty advisors. The ILWA approached WPI for help with undertaking an in-depth plant survey of the lake and developing an online tracking system which would help us to compare data year to year. This project was chosen as an IQP by WPI juniors Eric Plante, Chase Cheston and Alan Gribble. The students identified weeds, determined what stage of development the growth had reached and made comparisons with past surveys. Survey protocols were documented for future collections and an easy-to-use online weed-tracking system was developed. Visit our website at www.ilwa.org to examine the work of these wonderful students.

Weed Roulette

Indian Lake, as with many lakes throughout New England, has had ongoing problems with nonnative invasive species of weeds. Our annual drawdown has proved to be a great asset to management.

Last year, however, was a very challenging year for weed growth. Several factors including changes to our drawdown level in the last few years and a warm winter last year appeared to be likely influencing factors.

The extent of the weeds can be quite deceiving from the surface. The WPI survey found that the weeds had not spread as much as it appeared. We are hopeful the hardy winter this year will reduce the amount of weeds we see heading into the upcoming season.

Helpful Numbers

If you see illegal or unsafe activity on or around Indian Lake, please don't hesitate to notify authorities.

WORCESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Main number: 508-799-8606 (any time)

Operations: 508-799-8669 (someone is usually only at this phone during the day)

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE

Dispatch: 800-632-8075

Office: 978-630-3748

WORCESTER DEPT OF DPW & PARKS

508-929-1300

Law Enforcement

Enforcement of safe boating laws on Indian Lake as well as safe behavior by visitors at the parks and beaches surrounding the lake is an ongoing challenge. The organizations that police these areas: the Worcester Police Department (WPD) and Mass. Environmental Police, have struggled to support our requests for greater presence while reductions in staffing have made this very difficult.

Please make every effort to report unsafe behavior on and around the lake. This helps them know where they need to assign resources. Also consider writing letters to WPD Chief Gary Gemme and the Environmental Police citing the need for consistent enforcement on Indian Lake.

The WPD also holds monthly Crime Watch meetings at Ford's Hometown Services, 549 Grove Street on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. For more information, visit: <http://www.worcesterma.gov/police/>.

Member Drive

Membership monies help us replace and repair equipment as well as to keep area residents informed of important information regarding the lake and surrounding neighborhood. Please pass your newsletter on to someone new in the neighborhood after you read it :)

Thank you to Kiwanis!

Thank you to the Kiwanis of Worcester members who volunteered their time to begin spring cleaning at Morgan Park in April!



Newsletter Changes

As you receive your membership renewals, we kindly ask you return it with your email address, if you have one. We are working towards circulating our newsletters via email. Please be assured that every effort will be made to mail the newsletter to those that do not have email.

Rain Garden Workshops

The Worcester Stormwater Coalition has been active in teaching Worcester homeowners how they can improve their local waterways with the help of rain gardens. Various workshops are being held throughout the city. For more information, contact Donna Williams at 508-335-8393 or dwilliamsbrc@aol.com.

Fish Stocking Fund

It has been 13 years since Indian Lake was last stocked with Northern Pike and Tiger Muskies. These fish are the most beneficial for the lake as they will help reduce the number of carp and other fish that have been increasing in numbers. We have been raising monies to re-stock the lake and appreciate the support we have received.

Due to changes in state licensing, the only company that has these fish available has been unable to sell them to us. We continue to work with the Department of Conservation & Recreation to come up with alternatives and will continue to keep you updated.



For more information, visit our website at www.ilwa.org!!