



Reflections



FALL 2022

Westmore Association, Inc. Newsletter

Number 52

Letter from the President

By Deborah Richards

When I was in college in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the president of my college had a cottage here at Willoughby which the family still owns (that may have been how I was accepted at this fairly prestigious female school). He used to begin his summer letter in a similar manner indicating that he was writing from Lake Willoughby. I always felt kind of superior because I too was sitting at Lake Willoughby!!

I am pleased to be working as President of the Westmore Association. We have an incredible team involved in helping preserve Willoughby Lake and its environments, some individuals who have lived here for years and some who have more recently become part of the community. We all have one goal and that is to retain and build on the integrity of our beautiful natural wonder.

Beautification

One of the main goals of the Westmore Association is beautification of our lovely town and lake. A new project this year was the purchase of 50 metal sap buckets to be used for filling with flowers and hanging on trees. Hoping you were able to see some around town! Additionally, we have a continued interest in the upkeep of the town flower triangles (Peene and Hinton Hill) and working with the Westmore Cemetery Commissioner to beautify the cemetery planters.

Westmore Association Calendars

We wanted to extend a thanks to Callie-Rae Cashin, Westmore Association Scholarship recipient, for creating the 2023 Westmore Calendar. The calendar was such a big hit that we sold out before the Fall. We appreciate our community who supported the Westmore Association through purchase of these calendars. Please stay tuned for next year's calendar.



Westmore Association Board Members

The Westmore Association Board includes Deborah Richards as President, Deb Smith as Vice President, Irene Salerno as Treasurer and Jennifer Woolard as Clerk. Board Directors include Abbie Gowdy-Chase, Karen Richardson, Peter Miller, Bruce Tanner, and Deborah Baskin.

A fond farewell to Ellie Majchrzak for all her contributions during the terms she served and for the additional support she provides beyond her term!

We always invite others interested to join the board, reach out today.



Membership Report

By Karen Richardson

Many thanks to each of you for supporting the Westmore Association during this past year. Our membership currently includes approximately 143 households. Contributions support scholarships for area students, milfoil control, water quality monitoring, community and family-oriented activities, and trail maintenance. We are committed as an association to preserve the beauty of Lake Willoughby and the surrounding area.

If you would like to renew your membership, please send your check to the Westmore Association at P.O. Box 143, Orleans, VT 05860 or visit us online: <https://www.westmoreassociation.org/>.

Thank you for your support.

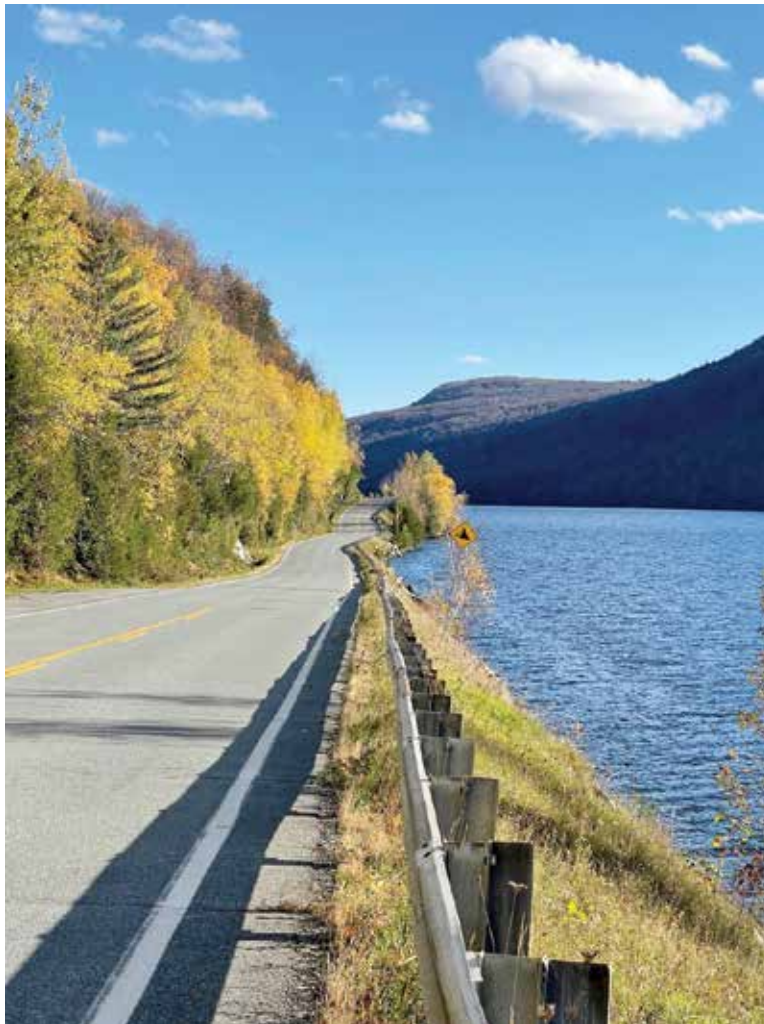
Lake Willoughby Water Programs

Greeter & Milfoil Program: *By Katherine Busby, Greeter Program Coordinator*

Our Greeter season ran from Memorial Day to Labor Day. We had 8 Greeters in the program, and we were able to inspect approximately 4,000 watercrafts this summer. Most boats our Greeters inspected and found plant material on were upon retrieval from Lake Willoughby and had invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil removed. Our Greeter Program helped to keep Lake Willoughby free of invasive species and protected other bodies of water.

Swampguana Diving Services suction harvested aquatic invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil starting in July and will continue their efforts through October. They removed Milfoil from the Boat Launch, Crescent Beach, Gallagher's Cabins, NE Shoreline/ WilloughVale, NW Shoreline/North Beach and Gray Rock to the Boat Launch. No other invasive species were reported so far. They will submit a final report when harvesting is completed. The Milfoil Management Program results from previous years show a significant yearly reduction in the spread of invasive Milfoil and the importance it has for aquatic nuisance control in Lake Willoughby.

Thanks to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and with the help of the Memphremagog Watershed Association, the Town of Westmore received 40% of the grant award amount so far, including \$2294 for the Greeter Program and \$2,714 for the Milfoil Management Program. The Westmore Association provides a 50% match for the Greeter Program.



Scholarship Committee Report

By Deborah Richards

This year the Westmore Association was pleased to be able to increase the amount of the stipend to \$1,500 per student. In addition, we offered this scholarship to students enrolled in post graduate work.

Our scholarship recipients this year are:

- Callie Rae Cashin
- Ben Gowdy-Chase
- Emma Harter
- Bria Lacoss
- Brooke Perkins

Please note that if you are a Westmore resident with a child entering college or an accredited vocational program, currently in college or in a post graduate program encourage them to apply for this stipend by mid-May. Please send inquiries to Deborah Richards, 114 Edgewood Park Lane, Orleans, VT 05860.

We extend best wishes to all our scholarship recipients!



Events

This summer we not only had the opportunity to bring back some of our favorite in person events, but we were able to add a few more! Additionally, we hosted a twice weekly yoga classes for locals, tabled at the Westmore Church Harvest Festival, and provided sponsorships to local events such as the Kingdom Swim at Willoughby. We're always looking for new opportunities to bring to our community or participate in. Please reach out if you have an idea for a summer event!

Check out some of 2022 event highlights:

Annual Meeting

We want to thank everyone who came out for our 2022 Annual Meeting. It was nice to gather with folks in person after the last few years we've had. And as always, we have some wonderful cooks in town! Already looking forward to our next meeting. And a big thank you to some of our presenters including Maria Young at NorthWoods Stewardship Center, Oliver Pearson with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and folks from the Glover Ambulance Squad, Inc! Please consider joining us next year on July 20th, 2023.

Plein Air

Our annual Plein Air event this year was a great success. This event happens on the first weekend of August every year. This was our largest paint out ever. Weather was perfect. We thank everyone for joining us and hope to see many new painters next year.



Bench Building

Last June we hosted a Leopold Bench workshop in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and the Old Stone House Museum. It was a wonderful community event where folks had an opportunity to learn about Aldo Leopold and his Land Ethic and learned how to build a bench with lumber from Willoughby State Forest! We were all excited to take home a little piece of Willoughby.



22nd Annual Boat Parade

In collaboration with the Westmore Fire Department, the Westmore Association was excited to host the annual July 4th Boat Parade once again. We had some great decorated boats, but there could only be 2 winners! A big thanks to the Westmore Fire and Rescue folks for leading and sweeping the parade and the Glover Ambulance for your presence at the North Beach! We look forward to next year and hope to draw in some more boats so spread the word! Please reach out if you are interested in helping plan the event.

Modern Times

This year we brought back Modern Times Theatre again, but they presented us with a new and exciting puppet show! As usual, both kids and adults enjoyed the evening of comedy. Laughter (and leftover popcorn) filled the hall. After the show, we held our annual Pie Auction hosted by Justin. Our community members donated pies of all kinds, which helps to offset the expense of the show, plus it is very fun, and you get to go home with a pie! We again thank Justin and Rose for making this all possible for our residents and visitors.



Trails and Recreation

By Jennifer Woolard

Trail Projects

This summer we were once again able to collaborate with the NorthWoods Stewardship Center and the Vermont Forest, Parks, and Recreation to continue addressing priority trail and recreation needs. This summer we focused primarily on supporting two key activities: Restoration to the Bald Mountain Camp (including interior painting, clean up, roof patching, some interior remodel, privy restoration, etc.) and maintenance to the Westmore Town Forest. Each activity was completed by a youth crew. Think of all those young local stewards who we hope will pass on a respect for these special, shared, public places! This work could not have been done without the pledge from our membership. We're excited to continue this partnership in years to come.



Westmore Challenge

We wanted to extend a congratulations to the finishers of the 2022 Westmore Mountain Challenge! The Westmore Association was proud to participate in this year's event again. It was a beautiful fall day, and the participants were beyond gracious for our table of snacks! Proceeds from the event help to raise money for ongoing trail work, forestry, and outdoor education programming by the NorthWoods Stewardship Center throughout the region.

Visit the NorthWoods webpage for more information:

<https://www.northwoodscenter.org>



Point of Interest

by Luke O'Brien, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Lake Willoughby and Willoughby State Forest is one of the crown jewels of Vermont's state lands. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is tasked with managing these public lands and carefully balancing the sometimes-conflicting needs of public resources and public use. This work is not without its challenges and, due to the strong uptick in use during the covid pandemic, it has been more difficult than ever.

To help address visitor safety and get vehicles off Route 5A, crews have been working to complete the overflow 'ballfield' parking lot and the new lots near the South End of Lake Willoughby. Work should be substantially completed this fall.

In partnership with NorthWoods Stewardship Center, FPR has also been working to address impacts to shoreline areas near the West Cove Beach. Over two seasons, NorthWoods watershed and trail crews have focused on shoreline restoration practices- planting trees, delineating buffers, and mitigating trailside impacts, which are primarily the result of high use and unauthorized camping and fires.

With the aid of District staff and a 'Roving Ranger', we continue to provide outreach to visitors and to monitor the area on a regular basis. Heading into winter, we will continue strategize ways to better protect this very special part of the Vermont landscape.

More broadly, FPR is working with contractors, partners, and volunteers to maintain the many access points, roads, and trails in and around Willoughby State Forest. Of particular note, and with support from the Westmore Association, a team of NorthWoods youth completed some much-needed maintenance of the Bald Mountain cabin, and a private contractor was hired to replace the damaged roof on the summit fire tower.

We appreciate the support and collaboration of the Westmore Association and local volunteers to help steward the natural resources of the Willoughby region.





Looking for opportunities to stay up to date with some of the Association activities?

Sign up for our summer newsletter delivered to your email inbox:
<http://eepurl.com/g5RTs5>



OR
Scan the
QR Code

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

www.westmoreassociation.org

Volunteers:

The Westmore Association is always seeking volunteers to assist with website upkeep, communication, events, and more. If you're interested, please contact us:
info@westmoreassociation.org

Westmore Association
Officers & Board of Directors
2022-2023
Deborah Richards, *President*
Deb Smith, *Vice-President*
Jennifer Woolard, *Clerk*
Irene Salerno, *Treasurer*
Directors:
Deborah Baskin
Abbie Gowdy-Chase
Peter Miller
Karen Richardson
Bruce Tanner

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NEWSLETTER

