



Reflections

SPRING 2026

WestmoreAssociation.org

WESTMORE ASSOCIATION, INC. | NEWSLETTER NUMBER 57

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Westmore Association



We're getting ready for another beautiful Willoughby summer in Westmore this year! Thank you to all the Westmore Association's members and volunteers who contributed in 2025 to help conserve the spectacular natural resources and develop the community life we all enjoy. Annual membership funding is needed to monitor the lake's exceptional water quality, fight the spread of invasive species (the Greeter Program), and assist with improvement and maintenance of our hiking trails and shorelines.

The Association is hosting a series of community events for Summer 2026, kicking off with our annual July 4th Boat Parade. This year's theme is America's 250th Birthday, so it's time to get creative! The parade will be followed by the first annual Westmore Fire &

Rescue Chicken BBQ. Don't miss the full calendar of community events listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

In addition to conservation efforts and community events, the Westmore Association allocates funding to provide meaningful scholarship opportunities for Westmore residents, further investing in the community. Read on to learn more about our initiatives and community updates.

We encourage everyone who appreciates the natural beauty of Willoughby and the community of Westmore to support our mission. Please visit our website to become a member or renew your annual dues online, or mail in the membership form in this newsletter. We are counting the days until the black flies depart and the summer breezes arrive!

—*Westmore Association Board of Directors*



Wakesports Regulations

Vermonters overwhelmingly support the stronger rules

By Diane Lebder

In April 2024, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) adopted changes to its Use of Public Waters Rules, adding regulations for wakesports and limiting this activity to 30 of Vermont’s largest inland lakes, Willoughby among them. In June 2025, the DEC denied nine petitions seeking to prohibit wakesports on 10 of those lakes including Willoughby, and instead reopened rulemaking to address common concerns across the petitions, primarily the DEC’s inability to address safety issues during initial rulemaking.

Pre-rulemaking began last July, with formal rulemaking starting in November. Four hybrid public hearings were held during that time, as were multiple small group meetings with various stakeholder groups. Approximately 700 written comments were submitted during the pre-rulemaking public comment period and over 1500 written comments were submitted during formal rulemaking.

Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) conducted a thorough analysis of public comments submitted during the formal rulemaking phase. A simple pro/con count of 1,200+ web-form submissions shows strong support—approximately 80% — in favor of strengthening the 2024 rules. Further details as well as a discussion of RWVL’s analysis of the full 1500+ comments and rebuttal to rules opponents’ claims can be found at <http://responsiblewakes.org/?p=1780> (or scan QR to left).

The last step of the rulemaking process is a hearing before the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR). That hearing is tentatively scheduled for May 14. If all goes according to plan, the new rules will be in place for the 2026 boating season. Highlights of the revised rules include:

- Increasing minimum size of the wakesports zone from 50 acres to 100 acres and requiring a 3,000 foot run length
- Increasing the buffer from other users or vessels from 200 feet to 500 feet
- Eliminating the DEC managed Home Lake rule but requiring hot water decontamination of ballasted boats (including wake boats) when moving between lakes

If the proposed rules are adopted unchanged, 12 additional lakes will fall off Vermont’s wakesports eligible list, leaving 18 inland lakes where wakesports will still be permitted. While Willoughby will remain on the wakesports eligible list, we will benefit from increased safety buffers protecting others recreating on the lake and enhanced protection against the spread of aquatic invasive species.

The DEC’s rulemaking page links to additional discussion of the proposed rules, a list of wakesports eligible lakes, draft maps of the proposed new wakesports zones, all submitted written public comments, and more. Please visit: dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakes-and-ponds-rulemaking

Unsung Heroes at the Launch

The Greeter Program Protects Lake Willoughby One Boat at a Time

By Laurie Dietter

Each summer, visitors arriving at the public boat launch on Willoughby Lake are welcomed by one of our most important first lines of defense—the Greeter.

The Willoughby Lake Greeter Program is supported by the Westmore Association in partnership with the Town of Westmore, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Memphremagog Watershed Association, and Milfoil Management Program. It serves as one of the busiest greeter programs in the state and plays a vital role in protecting the lake from aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian water milfoil. It runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day checking for unwanted plants and organisms that can travel from lake to lake by hitching rides on boats, trailers, fishing gear, and paddles. Once established, these organisms are extremely difficult and costly to remove.

Prevention is our best—and most effective—strategy.

Last summer, our team of eight Willoughby Lake Greeters inspected 1,996 watercraft: most had outboard motors, and 39 were wake boats. 185 boats had plant material removed by our Greeters; 29 had invasive Eurasian water milfoil removed as well as a notable amount of native pondweed. According to Program Coordinator Katherine Busby, “Our Greeter Program is essential to keeping Willoughby Lake free of invasive species and protecting other bodies of water. Every inspection matters.”

Behind the numbers is an extraordinary amount of planning and dedication.

Each season, greeters undergo required training with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. They serve as both inspectors and educators and follow strict safety and inspection protocols. At the launch, greeters perform courtesy inspections of boats and equipment, checking for plant fragments, mud, or standing water that could carry invasive species. Just as important, they educate visitors about the simple but powerful “Clean, Drain, Dry” steps that help keep lakes healthy.

The Greeter Program works hand-in-hand with Willoughby’s Milfoil Management Program, which targets known areas of infestation. In 2025, Swampguana Diving Services suction-harvested aquatic invasive Eurasian water 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 have been reported so far).



PHOTOS: KATHERINE BUSBY

These efforts have led to measurable success, with significant reductions in milfoil growth from year to year— demonstrating how prevention and removal together protect the lake’s long-term health.

As Busby emphasizes, “The Milfoil Management Program results show the importance it has for aquatic nuisance control in Willoughby Lake.” Her leadership, along with the work of trained greeters and community partners, ensures that it remains one of Vermont’s most carefully protected lakes.

The Greeter Program is a true community success story—and one that depends on continued support. Grants from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, partnerships with watershed organizations, and funding from the Westmore Association all help sustain this vital work. Whether through membership, donations, or simply following Clean, Drain, Dry practices, each of us plays a role in safeguarding this remarkable lake we all cherish.

The Greeter Program on Willoughby Lake is expecting cutbacks from the state. Please visit WestmoreAssociation.org/donate to support this vital program. Above: The friendly greeter hut sits at the boat launch on Willoughby Lake. Left: A pile of milfoil pulled out of the lake by greeters.



WESTMORE SUMMER EVENTS

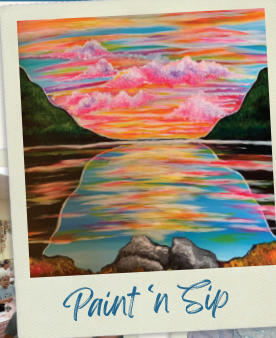
—Presented by the Westmore Association—



Boat Parade



Farmers' Market



Paint 'n Sip



Lake Geology



Wool Felting



Plein Air Painting

JUNE

Westmore Farmers Market June 29th - August 31st

Mondays from 3:00-6:00 pm, Church Parking Lot
Support your local farmers, florists, bakers, craftspeople, and musicians! Volunteers host the market at WCC parking lot and lawn (market moves to Fellowship Hall for inclement weather). Sponsored by WCC.

JULY

Celebrate Fourth of July at the lake with a full day of community fun! Saturday July, 4th

8:30-10:30 am Pancake Breakfast

1:00 pm Fire & Rescue Chicken BBQ

3:00 pm Westmore Association's Boat Parade

Start your morning at the Westmore Community Church (WCC) Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall from 8:00-10:30 am. Then, at 1pm, head to the Westmore Fire & Rescue Chicken BBQ at the Church Park. Find a spot to watch the Westmore Association's Annual Boat Parade at 3 pm. This year's theme—America's 250th Birthday—invites boaters of all kinds to join in the festive, family-friendly tradition. No registration is required. Boaters gather at Crescent Beach at 2:45 pm. Prizes for winning boaters will be awarded at 5 pm at the Church Park.

Willoughby Paint 'n Sip Saturday, July 11th

2:00-5:00 pm at Fellowship Hall, \$40 per person
Calling all artists! Join us for our 3rd annual Willoughby Paint 'n Sip. Our instructor and local artist, Jenny Hagen, will lead the group in a fun and creative painting experience. All materials included. No prior painting experience needed! Great fun for family and friends (ages 10+). Snacks and beverages provided. Space is limited. Registration is required. For info and to register, contact Jenny Hagen at 802-535-6827.

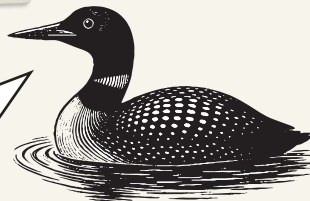
Westmore Association's Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Thursday, July 16th

5:00-7:30 pm at Fellowship Hall

For generations, the Westmore Association has served as the premier nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the health, beauty, and vitality of Willoughby Lake and the surrounding Westmore community. If you are a member or simply wish to know more about the work that we do, please bring your favorite dish and join us. Everyone is welcome!

Annual Meeting & Pot Luck

MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR



The Sibling Rivalry Show Saturday, July 18th

7:00 pm at Fellowship Hall
Presented by WCC to benefit the Fellowship Hall Renovation Fund
\$10/person or by donation

Nick and Ted Page will feature new tales and songs to tickle the funny bone and warm our hearts. Together, they will sing a tribute to Island Pond's own Rudy Vallee. Ted is the author of "Good Grandpa: Stories from the Heart of Grandfatherhood," and was recently featured on The Today Show.

Willoughby Wool Felting Workshop Tuesday, July 28th

5:00-7:00 pm at Westmore Town Cottage
Cost: \$30 per person

If you have never felted, you're missing out! Join Kristen from Laughing Crow Farm as she leads us in creating a unique holiday ornament. It's "Christmas in July." Experienced and new felters (age 10+) are welcome. Fee includes supplies, instruction, and light snacks. Family discounts available. Space is limited. Registration required. For information and to register, please contact Kristen Langlais 802-777-5197 or email laughingcrowfarmvt@gmail.com.

Luke O'Brien Talk & Slideshow: CCC Camp History Thursday, July 30

6:30 pm at Fellowship Hall
Free to all, donations accepted

Luke O'Brien, Outdoor Recreation specialist with Vermont Department of Forests & Recreation will present a slideshow highlighting the history and legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in northern Vermont. From fire towers to parks and trails, the CCC completed an unprecedented number of public works projects between 1933-1942—many of which are still here today. Luke has managed recreation trails in the Northeast Kingdom for over 25 years. Questions: Peggy_Zimmer@prodigy.net.

AUGUST

Willoughby Lake Plein Air Painting Saturday & Sunday, August 1st & 2nd

Fee \$15, Westmore Town Cottage

Registration: Saturday, August 1, 8:00-10:00 am

Reception: Sunday August 2, 1:00-3:00 pm

Come and portray the scenery in the medium of your choice at the 10th Annual Plein Air painting event. Artists will have their canvases stamped and can submit two for judging. A list of locations, including private residences, will be available. Reception, sale, and awards on Sunday, August 2. Artists may bring any previous paintings for sale. For info and to register, please contact Ellie at Elliemaj46@gmail.com or call 802-525-4905.

Westmore Community Squaredance Saturday, August 15th

7:00-9:00 pm at Fellowship Hall
Free to all, donations accepted

David Millstone will be the caller and he says: "If you can walk, you can dance." All ages and talents are welcome. So put on your dancing shoes and come have a night of fun! Questions: Elliemaj46@gmail.com or call 802-525-4905.

Bruce Tanner Talk: Lake Willoughby Geology Wednesday, August 26th

6 pm at Fellowship Hall
Free to all, donations accepted

Learn about the various geologic formations (i.e. rocks) surrounding Willoughby Lake and the continental glaciation that sculpted the landscape in this informative talk with Westmore Association board member Bruce Tanner.

Summer Yoga Series July 2nd - August 20th

Thursdays at 10 am at Fellowship Hall
\$15/class or series for \$100

We welcome basic yoga instructor Liz Teuber for Vinyasa flow series. All levels welcome. Classes are one-hour.

Bring a yoga mat, water bottle, and any props you enjoy. Email Liz.Teuber@gmail.com to register. Walk-ins welcome (Please arrive 15 min. early).

Harvest Festival Save the Date! October 3rd

10am to 3 pm at Fellowship Hall
Arts and crafts festival
Sponsored by Westmore



Yoga



Westmore Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 143
Orleans, Vermont 05860

Westmore Association Membership Form

To join or renew by mail, please tear off this form, complete the instructions below and mail in with your payment to:

Westmore Association,
PO Box 143, Orleans VT 05860
OR Join online at WestmoreAssociation.org.

Choose Your Annual Memberships

- Single Membership \$25
- Family Membership \$60 (up to 5 members)
- Westmore Guardian \$100+

Please Print

Member First and Last Name

Email Address Phone Number

Permanent Mailing Address:

Lake/Seasonal Address

Additional Family Member (Name and Email)

Additional Family Member (Name and Email)

Additional Family Member (Name and Email)

Additional Family Member (Name and Email)

Please indicate how you would like to receive *Reflections*, our bi-annual newsletter:

- By Email (digital)
- By Mail Newsletter (printed)

Thank you for supporting the Westmore Association

All donations are tax deductible. The Westmore Association is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization EIN # 030220884

Have you joined or renewed your membership?

Help us retain the beauty of the Willoughby Lake area year-round by renewing your annual membership to the Westmore Association.

What we do.

Our mission is to promote, develop and conserve the natural resources and community life of the Westmore area. Composed of summer people and permanent residents, the Association works with the Town of Westmore and other state and regional groups to accomplish benefits for the area, including:

- Maintaining and improving hiking trails and the shoreline
- Monitoring the lake's water quality through milfoil control and the Greeter Program
- Sponsoring family-friendly events
- Supporting beautification effort
- Providing scholarships for area students

Want to do more?

Please consider an additional end-of-year donation to further support our key initiatives above.

Visit WestmoreAssociation.org/donate

Reflections

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Join Us!

Become a member today!
Learn more about us at:
WestmoreAssociation.org

