



CHEBACCO LAKE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

News from around the lake for friends of Chebacco Lake

A Quarterly Publication of the Chebacco Lake Association

Spring, 2005

From the CLA President's Chair

It's that time of year again at last! There is a lot to report to all of you from this Spring's Chebacco Lake Association (CLA) Board meetings:

First, the Board has voted to change the name of the organization to better suit our mission and to reflect our long-term goal of protecting our lake and its watershed. The Board proposes we change our organization name to Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association. Our members will vote on this Bylaw amendment at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 26th.

Second, the Board has been working on a long-term plan for water level and management of the beaver problem. Sheri Lamkin, has spent many hours researching some solutions and has done site visits with Mike Armstrong of the Division of Marine Fisheries and Mike Callahan of Beaver Solutions in Hadley, MA. Along with the research and efforts of Dave Lash, Sheri's work has spurred Mike Callahan to develop a new type of culvert fence which allows the Alewife to pass upstream to spawn and also drains water from the outlet at Alewife Brook. Mike and Mike are finalizing the design and after the necessary permits are obtained, the culvert fence will be installed. The Board has voted to appropriate the cost for this project from the Water Level Relief Fund. Once it is in place, we expect to maintain the water level at reasonable heights and we will not have to clean the outlet on a daily basis. We will also be meeting with our State Reps and State Senator to discuss a cleanout project for the brook below Pond Street in Essex. We hope to have designs at the Picnic and Annual Meeting to show you.

Third, the Board has once again called the "Dawn Patrol" into action. Board members and Association members will be checking the flow of water at the outlet daily until we have our culvert in place. Dave Lash led a group of volunteers on Saturday, April 30th and burned all the debris collected from our winter and spring clean-ups of the outlet.

Last, our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, June 26th in Centennial Grove, at noon. The summer picnic will immediately follow the meeting and your attendance is important to us. We all want to get to know each other and there will be door prizes and contests for adults and kids. We want to see your lake photos, whether it's wildlife, your family, your boat, your home or your historical photos. Prizes will be awarded for the best photos from children, from adults and for the best photo overall. If we can all appreciate what a beautiful environment we live in and take care of the lake and its watershed, we will be able to enjoy it for many years.

David Kerr, CLA President

Calendar of Events

CLA Annual Yard Sale

Our annual yard sale to benefit the Chebacco Lake Association will be held on **Sunday, May 15th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the Junction. If you have any unwanted items that you'd like to donate, please call Betty Ozolins at 978-468-3088.

Want a bargain? Stop by at our yard sale on Sunday, May 15th!

CLA Annual Meeting & Picnic

Sunday, June 26th, Noon – 4 p.m., at Centennial Grove. *Details-page 2.*

July 4th Boat Parade

Our annual boat parade will start at **1 p.m. on Monday, July 4th**. We will award prizes for the:

- most patriotic
- most original
- most environmental
- Best In Show

If you're planning a July 4th cookout, make the parade a part of your fun!

Issue Highlights

From the CLA President's Chair.....	1
CLA Officers and Board of Directors for 2004 – 2005.....	2
Annual Meeting & Picnic Details.....	2
Boating Tips.....	2
Designing With Nature – Landscaping for a Healthy Lake.....	3
Yesteryear on the Lake – Centennial Grove.....	3
CLA Membership Application.....	8

CLA Officers and Board of Directors for 2004 – 2005

President

Dave Kerr (978) 468-4547
244 Echo Cove Road
South Hamilton, MA 01982
dcksjl@comcast.net

Past-President

David Lash (978) 468-3252
73 Lakeshore Avenue
South Hamilton, MA 01982
dave@davelash.com

Vice President

Sue McLaughlin (978) 468-7715
160 Gregory Island Road
South Hamilton MA 01982

Acting Secretary

Sheri Lamkin-Kerr (978) 468-4547
244 Echo Cove Road
South Hamilton, MA 01982

Treasurer

Betty Ozolins (978) 468-3088
1E Gregory Island Road
South Hamilton, MA 01982
bozolins@Comcast.net

Essex Representatives

Evelyn Hickey (978) 468-3558
P O Box 531
Essex, MA 01929

David Lenzi (978) 768-7034
P O Box 212
57 Wood Drive
Essex, MA 01929

Tim Colpoys (978) 768-6068
3 Moses Lane
Essex, MA 01929

Robyn Kanter (978) 468-7466
30 Hill Road
South Hamilton, MA 01982

Hamilton Representatives

Nancy Doyle (978) 468-4487
234 Echo Cove Road
South Hamilton, MA 01982

Joyce St. Hilaire (978) 626-6262
272 Echo Cove Road
South Hamilton, MA 01982

Annual Meeting & Summer Picnic

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 26th, from noon to 4 p.m. at Centennial Grove in Essex. Our summer picnic will immediately follow our meeting.

At the meeting, the membership will vote to amend our Bylaws to change our organization name to Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association. The membership will also vote to amend our Bylaws to change our Membership Articles. Previously, our membership was open only to lake and watershed residents within specific boundaries. The Board feels this is too restrictive, and our membership should be open to anyone who is concerned about the future health and wellbeing of Chebacco Lake and the watershed. The membership will also vote to amend our Bylaws to eliminate the former “associate/non-voting member” classification. Officers and Board Members will also be elected.

We encourage anyone to join our Board. If you are interested, please contact Dave Kerr, Sue McLaughlin, or Betty Ozolins.

We’ll be providing the burgers, franks, utensils, condiments and fun and games for all ages. Please join us – bring your good humor, your questions and your opinions. It’s a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, renew old friendships and make new friendships. We’re planning a photo contest – please bring photos of any Chebacco Lake related subject – wildlife, boating, your home, your family, your garden – anything! Prizes will be awarded for the best photos from children, from adults, and for the best overall photo.

So we can plan on how many burgers and franks we’ll need, please call Evelyn Hickey at 978-468-3558 to let her know you’ll be attending.

Boating Tips

We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable boating season. Please keep the following in mind:

- Both Essex and Hamilton have banned personal watercrafts on the lake. They are not allowed.
- Please follow the suggested traffic pattern (counter-clockwise for all power boats) to minimize the chance of collisions.
- You must have a spotter, over 12 years of age, when water skiing, tubing or wakeboarding.
- All boaters under age 13 must be wearing a personal flotation device.
- In Massachusetts, youths 12 through 15 years of age must complete an approved basic boating course in order to operate a motorboat without adult supervision.

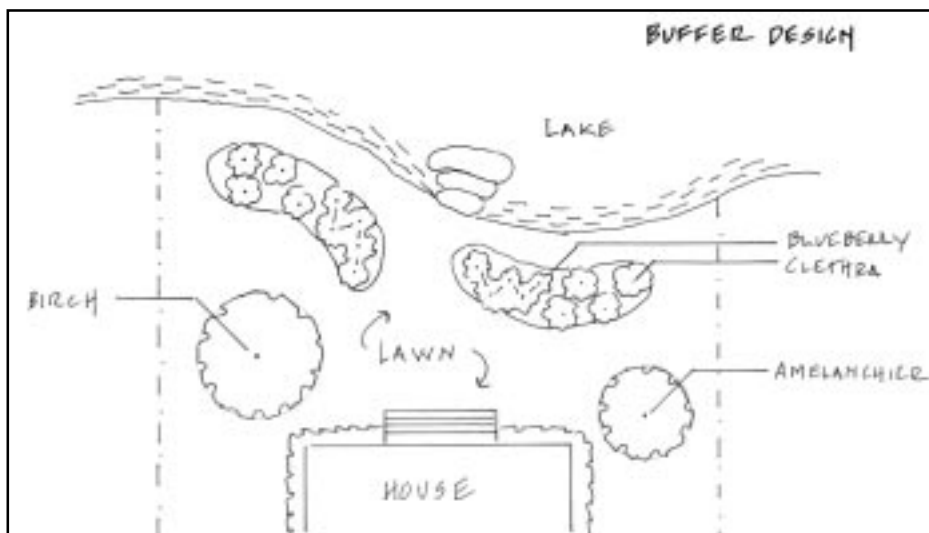
continued on page 5

Designing With Nature Landscaping for a Healthy Lake

What can I do if my yard is small? The lawn vs. the buffer zone.

As we all know, the shorelines of many lakes and ponds are heavily developed. Such is the case around Chebacco Lake, with some lot sizes being less than ½ acre and many houses located less than 100 feet from the water (in many waterfront locations a 100 foot buffer zone is mandatory). If your lot is small, you might think that you do not have enough room for a planted buffer zone. **However, a small buffer is better than no buffer!** You may also be asking yourself the question: “But, what about my lawn? Do I have enough room for both?” In most cases, the answer is “YES”.

When a continuous buffer zone along the shoreline is not possible, consider planting the beds for your buffer area in segments (see illustration). Use the plant



material I discussed in the last issue of the newsletter for your planted area and then maintain a turf lawn around the house area or wherever you want to have seating or gathering spaces. The grass lawn will encourage stormwater to flow in a sheet. If you have strategically placed your buffer zones in the path of the runoff, they will work to filter out pollutants that would normally run into the lake.

Maintaining a lawn area for picnicking, lounging or family activities does not mean using chemicals to keep a lawn green. As most of you are aware of by now, fertilizers and pesticides do not mix with maintaining a healthy lake. Here are a few common-sense tips to help keep your lawn in good shape without chemicals.

1. Mow at 3 inches – this promotes deeper and thicker roots that increase the capacity of the grass to filter sediment and promote sheet flow of water.
2. Return clippings, unless weeds are present (except if you live directly on the lake – grass is easily broken down and the nutrients will accelerate weed growth).

continued on page 4

Yesteryear on the Lake Centennial Grove

Centennial Grove, on the Essex side of Chebacco Lake, was once owned by a woman from Hamilton, Lucy Emerson. The property was called “Lucy’s Neck”, which was later referred to as simply “The Neck” because of its shape. David Low, Sr. purchased the property and ran a farm there, raising sheep and cows. In 1872, the Essex branch of the railroad was built for passenger service and to move ice from the ice houses that were being built on the shore of the lake. David Low’s son, David, envisioned the farm as a wonderful place for people from the cities to come for picnics. In 1876 he leased the property to the railroad for 10 years, and it was renamed “Centennial Grove” in honor of our 100th year as a nation.

The Grove became a more popular place than anyone had imagined. It quickly became a favorite destination of church groups, military organizations, benevolent associations, ethnic groups and firemen’s musters. Sunday schools were charged \$10 to rent the Grove for the day and most other groups were charged \$25. Hundreds of people from as far as Boston came by train to spend the day. Many groups filled 20 railroad cars and one picnic was so large that it needed two trains and 42 railroad cars. People also came on the electric cars which ran along Route 22 and by horse and buggy. A stable was built to accommodate the horses.

A dining room and general store were constructed along with a second store that opened on busy days. They were

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

Yesteryear on the Lake, Centennial Grove

first run by Mr. and Mrs. Tracy from Salem, and later by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Taylor and their daughter. Mr. Taylor was also the police chief in town. Candy was sold at the store and a small building was set up to sell cold soda. There was a shooting gallery and a small hand run carousel, which was later replaced with a full sized one. Ball fields, wooden swings and a place that took tin-type pictures were at the Grove. A large dance hall was a busy place many nights. Manuel's Black and White band played there, mostly on Wednesday and Saturday nights. They even had a theme song referring to which nights they would be there. In 1885 Howard Conklin of Hamilton ran a steamboat on the lake and gave boat rides. It was called the "Lizzie F." Another steamboat was the "Lucy A." and in about 1910, Len Callahan had a motor boat, which he named after his sister, Lizzie, but spelled it backwards – "Eizzil." Mr. Callahan also ran the rowboat rentals at that time.

From 1882 (or 3) to 1896, the Salem Cadets held an encampment at the Grove during the last two weeks in August. Their band was very popular. In 1897, a bicycle track was built on the area that the cadets had used for a parade ground so they started to go to Boxford. The farmers from Hamilton held an annual reunion and picnic for many years. On September 3, 1885, it was reported in a Boston paper that 200 people had attended. Some of the activities that day were trap shooting, sack and wheelbarrow races, a walking match, football, a half-mile horse race, a fat man's boat race and a lightweight boat race. The Myopia Hunt Club ended their afternoon hunt at the Grove. In the evening there were fireworks and dancing until 11. One year, when the Essex Club had their annual outing, President Coolidge and Governor Fuller were at the Grove.

After the 10 year lease ended with the railroad, the Low family and their descendants ran the Grove until 1922. Hanford Story purchased it and the property changed hands several times in the following years. The large house was built in 1928 on the part of the Grove that was called Crow Island. Activity at Centennial Grove slowed during the Depression and World War II. The trains stopped running to Essex in 1942 and the tracks were removed. The electric cars had ceased running and more people owned automobiles, which made traveling to many other destinations possible.

Helen Clay Frick, daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Prides Crossing, Henry Clay Frick, purchased the Grove as part of her Iron Rail Vacation Home. She had already owned property in Hamilton and Wenham for several decades that was used as a place for women who worked in the mills and from Boston to come to. In 1954 she made it the National Camp of the Girls Clubs of America. The Girls Club sold the property to the Town of Essex about 1970.

The Town of Essex had already put a well on the property in 1957 and later built the water filtration plant there. After many years as just being used as a swimming beach, the Grove is coming back to some of its old splendor. There is a new ball field, picnic tables and summer concerts are heard over the lake again. The Essex Music Festival has become an annual event at the end of each August.

Many generations have enjoyed Centennial Grove and thanks to the foresight of the Town of Essex, future generations will have that opportunity as well.

continued from page 3

Designing With Nature Landscaping for a Healthy Lake

3. Keep your blades sharp.
4. Water deep, infrequent and in the morning – slow watering techniques using drip irrigation are the most efficient.
5. Use organic fertilizers with no phosphorous (if any fertilizer at all).
6. Over-seed in spring and fall.
7. Aerate to relieve soil compaction.

Another option is to just let nature take its course. The soil pH in our area, especially where there is a lot of shade, promotes the growth of moss. In some European countries, a moss lawn is sought after. I have let my lawn revert to moss, I rarely have to mow, and it is always green! Also, if you can't plant a landscaped buffer zone and you have a lawn that goes right down to the lake, simply create a "no mow" zone along the water's edge. Resist keeping the "clean shaven" lawn. This will allow a more diverse mix of vegetation to grow there.

A final thought – our proposed new name of our organization is **Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association**. You do not have to live directly on the lake to have an effect on water quality. This is especially true when it comes to lawn care and gardening. So, if you live (and garden) in the watershed area, please help us "landscape for a healthy lake".

By Robyn Kanter

continued from page 2

Boating Tips

- While underway in a motorboat, do not ride on the bow, gunwale, transom, or in any position that is obviously dangerous.
- Keep a safe distance from swimmers, canoes, kayaks, sailboats & wildlife.
- Use lights at dusk. Do not water ski, tube or wakeboard as darkness approaches.
- Remove all plants and plant fragments from boats and trailers before leaving any lake.
- Please don't litter!

If you see a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation, call:

- Hamilton Harbormaster: 978-468-1212
- Essex Harbormaster: 978-768-6200
- Essex Regional Environmental Police: 978-283-7764
- Hamilton Regional Environmental Police: 978-887-5962
- Mass. Environmental Police Main Dispatch: 800-632-8075

Wildlife Sightings

Finally, the ice melts and it is spring at last on Chebacco Lake! Please send in your wildlife sightings to: dcksjl@comcast.net



Ice Retreats in Echo Cove - Sheri Lamkin photo (c) 2005

Please Don't Feed the Waterfowl!

The Town of Essex has banned feeding of waterfowl, and is posting signs to remind people not to feed waterfowl.

The Essex Board of Health passed the regulation prohibiting such feeding due to concern over high bacteria counts.

Please don't feed the ducks and geese.



Chebacco Lake Association Web Site

Visit our web site at

www.chebaccolake.org

and send us any news and views.

- Lake related photos
- Wildlife sightings
- Voice your opinion!



**Don't miss the
CLA Annual Yard Sale
Sunday, May 15th
Details inside...**

**Chebacco Lake Association
P.O. Box 2344
South Hamilton, MA 01982**

Chebacco Lake Association Membership Application

If you're not yet a CLA member, please join! We'd really appreciate your participation. If your membership has expired, please renew your membership now. Your membership expiration date is noted on your address label.

New **Renewal** **Choose one:** Member \$25 Patron \$50 Sponsor \$75

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Lake Address (if different) _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Please circle all that apply to your household: Lakeside resident / Property within 500' of lake /
Seasonal resident / Non-resident property owner / Sport or recreational user of lake area /
Recreational user of Chebacco Woods

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Please send completed form and dues to: CLA, P. O. Box 2344, So. Hamilton, MA 01982