



CHEBACCO LAKE & WATERSHED ASSOCIATION *Newsletter*

A Quarterly Publication of the Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association

March 2008

From the CLWA President's Chair

Thank goodness, it's almost spring! Although this has been a fairly calm winter, it has been a long run. As we look out on the lake, we can look back at the ice-skating, fishing, snowmobiling, skiing and long walks on the lake that we have enjoyed this year. We don't think about the lake very much in winter-we just enjoy it.

I am asking you for some thinking and some action this spring. The CLWA Board has been active in anticipation of the changes that warm weather will bring to our lake.

Beaver are always a problem, but this year the outlet is flowing due to the efforts of volunteers from Essex, involvement of Mass Dept of Marine Fisheries, and members of the CLWA. We will still have to be vigilant and help will be needed with cleanups and removal of debris from Alewife Brook. Sue McLaughlin attended the MA-COLAP meeting this year and will be sharing information with us. We will do water testing again this year and will take the initial steps on a lake management plan.

As we work on our own properties, we need to think about how our actions affect our lake. Does our landscaping increase run-off into the lake? When we remove a tree to improve our view does it speed up erosion of the slope it rests on? Why use fertilizers on our lawns when they will run into the lake and exacerbate the weed problem? When did we last have our septic system checked? All these things affect the most important part of our yards. We will not have the beautiful views, the swimming areas, the place we boat on, the place we enjoyed this winter, the valuable homes we live in, without a healthy lake.

Can you give a few hours for spring clean-up? Can you support the CLWA at Town Meetings and board meetings? Do you have ideas you can share with others that will help? Have you renewed your membership to the CLWA? Do you know the historical significance of our lake to this area of Essex County? You can answer all of these questions. Read our newsletters, e-mail us, or join us at clean-ups.

Everyone can help. Please think about what you can do to keep our lake healthy, safe and beautiful.

Dave Kerr
President, Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association

Mark Your Calendars

Spring Clean-Up

Spring shoreline clean-up
Sunday, May 18, at 9:00 AM
Meet at the Hamilton beach parking lot

Ice Safety

Late winter can be a dangerous time to be out on the ice. Check the thickness and watch for spots where there are springs. Stay away from areas where water is flowing in and out of the lake.



Please keep your pets safe too. Twenty to thirty years ago there were a lot of dog rescues along with some drownings (cats also).

In recent years people have gone through the ice while riding motor bikes and other vehicles. Usually the ice melts around the third week of March.

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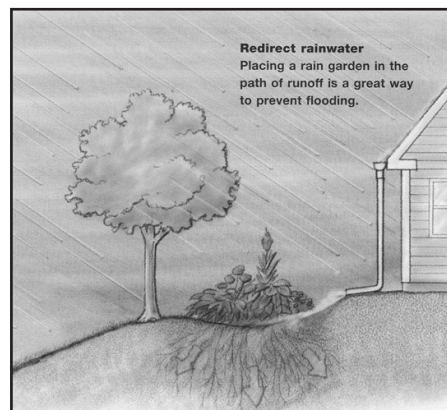
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Designing With Nature Landscaping for a Healthy Lake

The Rain Garden

Do you have an area of your yard that always seems flooded after a rainstorm? Or, do you have a river that seems to flow through your yard, no matter what you do? Then, how about creating a Rain Garden, a garden created by landscaping a section of your yard in the path of runoff with plants that do not mind sitting in water. The roots of these plants will help absorb and filter both running and standing water and prevent that water from carrying pollutants and debris from your yard into the lake. Rain Gardens absorb 30% more water than a lawn area of the same size!



Creating a Rain Garden is something that the average homeowner can do very easily. It usually involves creating some type of depression and filling it with drainage, soil and low-maintenance native plants. The Rain Garden's job is to intercept water. Therefore, you must pay careful attention to where you locate the garden in your yard. Those of you who came to the annual meeting of CLWA heard

Peter Phippen, from Eight Towns on the Bay, talk about the GREENSCAPES organization and all the work they do promoting responsible landscaping techniques. Their web page, www.greenscapes.org, has some great advice on how to get started on a Rain Garden and where to turn for advice.

We have had plenty of snow and rain this winter, so now is a great time to look at your yard and see if this type of garden will benefit your landscape.

Robyn Kanter

New Bylaw for Hamilton

The Town of Hamilton is instituting a new Stormwater Management Bylaw. This will help control some of the runoff associated with new housing, remodeling or altering the layout of a piece of property. This town wide regulation will address some of the things that have been discussed in past CLWA newsletters such as installing buffer zones and rain gardens. In the future, an application will have to be filed with the Town to show how water runoff into lakes, wetlands or a neighbors property will be taken into consideration when building a structure or doing work that involves the Conservation Commission.

Chebacco Lake History

The Early Days of Aviation

Most people think of water when Chebacco Lake is mentioned but on February 28, 1910, its ice covered surface was the site for what many consider the first manned airplane flight in New England. Augustus Moore Herring, a man who had experimented with gliders since 1899 and had also watched some of the Wright brothers early tests, teamed up with William Starling Burgess of Marblehead. Burgess, a Harvard student, witnessed the first public flight by the Wright brothers at Fort Meyers, VA, in 1908. His father had a successful yacht building business in Marblehead and had built several winners of the America's Cup. Burgess figured if wealthy people could

afford yachts, the next step would be private planes. Burgess contacted Herring in 1909 and they combined aviation expertise with quality shipbuilding. By December they had built the Herring-Burgess No. 1, a model A biplane called the "Flying Fish." The Boston Aeronautical Show took place in Mechanics Hall on Feb. 16, 1910. The partners displayed their plane and it was given a place on the stage since it was much better built than any other entry that day. A showman, C.W. Parker from Kansas, offered Herring and Burgess \$5000 for the plane if he could see it fly.

The decision to bring it to Chebacco Lake was suggested by Norman

Prince, a friend of Burgess who was also interested in aviation. The Prince family owned a home, now called Frost Hall and a part of the Gordon College campus, as well as hundreds of acres of land including some shoreline on the lake. The sections of the plane were brought to the lake on a sled pulled by four horses. The plane was reassembled and a mixture of castor oil and heated water added to the radiator. The Herring-Burgess No. 1 was powered by a Curtiss 25 horsepower engine and a four blade propeller. It had six triangular fins on top of the upper wing for stability and wooden sled-like skids to slide along on the ice. A small group along with a newspaper reporter gathered to watch. The plane was started and Herring sped along the ice. After traveling about 95 feet, he lifted off and reached an altitude of about 30 feet. The flight stayed under control and continued for about 120 yards. The Gloucester Times, on March 2, 1910, stated that the landing was smooth but that was not quite correct. The plane landed a little hard, breaking one of the skids and the pilots seat so they weren't able to attempt another flight that

Photo is only available in our printed newsletter.

Augustus Moore Herring prepares to take flight over the ice-covered Chebacco lake.

Photo courtesy of the Bart Gould Collection via Plum Island Community Airfield.

Continued on page 4

Chebacco Lake History

The Early Days of Aviation

Continued from page 3

day. C.W. Parker was impressed and pulled a certified check for \$5000 from his wallet and handed it to Herring.

C.W. Parker took the plane back to Kansas but within 3 or 4 months, the engine was started before the propeller and it overheated, rendering the plane useless. Herring and Burgess made other flights over the next two years on the beach at Plum Island and at the Candlewood Golf Course in Ipswich. They parted ways and Burgess went on to build over 300 planes at his two factories in Marblehead. The Wright brothers gave him the first license to build the patented Wright airplanes. Burgess sold his company in 1917 but continued to design yachts as his father had done.

Norman Prince continued his interest in aviation. His family owned another home in France where he spent a lot of time. When war broke out in Europe, he offered his help and organized the Lafayette Escadrille on April 20, 1916. They flew their first mission against Germany on May 13, eleven months before the United States entered World War I. Prince shot down 3 enemy planes but he also wrecked more planes than any man in the squadron. He suffered from poor depth perception and probably should never have flown. On Oct. 12, he came in too low for a landing, hit a high tension cable and crashed. He died a couple of days later. Locally, Norman Prince is remembered by his name engraved on the plaque outside the Community House in Hamilton and the American Legion Post in Wenham which is named after him. There is also a statue of him in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Annual MA-COLAP Lake & Pond Workshop

On January 26, Sue McLaughlin attended the Mass. Congress of Lakes and Ponds workshop in Worcester. Every year we are able to get new ideas and bring back lots of information some of which is put in the newsletters. State Senator Stephen Brewer spoke about various bills that are in the House and Senate pertaining to lake issues - removal of most phosphorous from automatic dish washing products, funding to remove invasive plants, safe alternatives to harmful cleaning products and protection of public water supplies. This event is a great resource of information for lakes and ponds statewide.

Some of the workshop topics included:

- New invasive plants and mussels
- Information on applying for grants
- Non-point source pollution
- Water testing and the Weed Watchers program
- Ways to improve a lake association

It's Membership Renewal Time!

2008 memberships to the CLWA are due now. If you haven't renewed yet, please consider doing so now or become a new member. Your renewal helps defray the expense of printing and mailing over 200 newsletters four times a year, our membership in COLAP, the annual meeting and occasional special meetings, etc. Volunteers put in many hours attending meetings, keeping the outlet clear of beaver dams, cleaning shoreline debris as well as collecting and distributing information that will help improve the lake and surroundings for all of us. As a member of the CLWA, you will be part of an organization that works to protect water quality and promote safe, responsible recreation on our beautiful lake. Your voice is important.

Fishing Licenses

Anyone 15 years or older must have a State license to fish in fresh water.

The license is good for the entire year and may be obtained at the Town Clerk's office in Hamilton or Essex and also on the web at www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw.

The cost ranges from \$11.50 to \$27.50, depending on age. Anyone who is disabled or over age 70 will be given a free license but the application must still be filled out.



Consider creating a
Rain Garden this spring.

Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association
P.O. Box 2344
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Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association Membership Application

Memberships expired on January 31, 2008. Please consider renewing your membership today.

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: CLWA P.O. Box 2344 So. Hamilton, MA 01982