



CHEBACCO LAKE & WATERSHED ASSOCIATION *Newsletter*

A Quarterly Publication of the Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association

Late Fall Issue, 2005

From the CLWA President's Chair

Winter is approaching fast. That's the bad news! The good news is that we finally have installed the culvert fence in the outlet at Alewife Brook. Conceived by Sheri Lamkin and developed by Mike Callahan of Beaver Solutions, the fence allows the outflow of water from the lake, the passage in and out of the lake by the Alewife fishery, and will keep the beaver colony busy damming but not blocking the outlet—we hope. It has been in place for a month now and seems to be doing the job. We will still monitor the situation regularly, but will not need to go over to the site every day to clean it out. CLWA board members Nancy Doyle, Robyn Kanter, Sheri Lamkin, Sue McLaughlin, and Betty Ozolins all took part in the cleanup of the outlet in to prepare the outlet. Dave Lash



Everyone pitches in to clear the way.

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Fall cleanup on Chebacco Lake!

What on this list do you think we did NOT find at and around the boat ramp?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> cans | <input type="checkbox"/> cement mixer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> computer monitor | <input type="checkbox"/> debris of old shed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> kitchen sink | <input type="checkbox"/> multiple tires & wheels | <input type="checkbox"/> rear seat from van |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rug | <input type="checkbox"/> shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> stacks of newspapers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> televisions | <input type="checkbox"/> well-head cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash, Trash, Trash!!! |

On November 6th we had our annual fall cleanup. Thanks to Sue McLaughlin, David Kerr, Sheri Lamkin, Leah Bishop, The Hannah family, and Doug Berrisford from West Marine. Thank you Sue for the cider and cookies.

As always there was no shortage of litter to be removed. We are always looking for volunteers to help us keep our lake clean and beautiful. We will list all upcoming events in our newsletter and also on our website www.chebaccolake.org.

Lastly, to answer the question above "what did we NOT find at and around the boat ramp?" the answer is "everything but the kitchen sink!"



Fall clean up crew, 2005

Stay in Touch

Communicate with CLWA via E-mail

The Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association realizes that one of the challenges we have is communicating with our lakeside residents. We encourage you to join us and support our efforts in keeping our lake beautiful and healthy.

We are asking all residents to please allow us to compile a list of your e-mail addresses, so we can update you about our activities, communicate when lakeside issues arise, and inform you about upcoming events.

Please e-mail Betty Ozolins at Bozolins@Comcast.net with your e-mail address.

Survey Results

We are compiling your survey results, and will include those in the next CLWA newsletter.

If you didn't send in your completed survey, please do so.

CLWA Website

Contact us and read updates on our website at www.chebaccolake.org.

Issue Highlights

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From the CLWA President's Chair

shepherded the permit process and led the cleanout. Dave Lenzi and Dave Kerr spent the day in the swamp with Mike Callahan on the day of the installation. Let's keep our fingers crossed that this works out.



*Dave Lash clearing the way.
More photos available on web site.*

The CLWA conducted our annual fall cleanup of the Boat Ramp and the old public beach on November 6th. As usual some interesting, but hazardous items were hauled away. These included debris from a shed or garage, tires and wheels, a television set, a well-head cover, shoes, clothing, cans and bottles. We will need your help again this Spring, as many items are reachable only by boat. Watch for the date in the newsletter and on our website at www.chebaccolake.org.

Thanks to the Hannah family, Leah Bishop, Sheri Lamkin, Sue McLaughlin, and Doug Berrisford and Dave Kerr from West Marine Store 120 in Woburn, Ma for their help at the cleanup.

Dave Kerr will be representing the CLWA on the Hamilton Landfill Steering Committee. This committee will be working to develop a proposal for use of the 50 acres that the landfill sat on for over 40 years, that will be environmentally, and economically feasible. It is a long-term project, and its impact and implications for the lake's environment will be lasting for residents of Essex and Hamilton. Please e-mail Dave at the CLWA website with your concerns and questions. It is really important to all of us for the long-term health of the lake and the economic health of the Town of Hamilton, to be interested and knowledgeable of this project. Please stay involved.

Thank you to all those who responded to our survey. We still want more feedback! We will answer as many of your questions in the next few months as we can. Water quality and boating safety were the biggest concerns for most people. The CLWA will be asking the Town of Hamilton for a harbormaster on patrol each weekend in the summer. We will also be expanding the water testing we do this summer.

Once again, we ask you all to renew membership if you have not already done so. We need your support to carry out our mission. We also need to know that we have your backing when we approach the towns for help and with concerns. Your involvement with the CLWA is what will keep the lake healthy and beautiful for all of us.

Thank You,

Dave Kerr, President, Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association

Designing With Nature Landscaping for a Healthy Lake

Hints on Landscaping for Beauty and Wildlife

Our past articles have focused on adding native plants to your landscaping plan, not only to help provide a buffer zone, but also to add interest and beauty to your yard. Plants such as Clethra, Black Alder, Linder and Bayberry are just a few of the plants that we have suggested. These same plants can also help you attract wildlife to your yard, especially birds, by providing some of their basic needs.

Birdwatching around the lake can be a very rewarding experience, as we tend to get many birds coming to the region. Attracting birds is a matter of how much thought you have given to providing **food** – using plants that provide fruit, berries or seeds. Some common birds that include fruit as well as insects in their diet are: American robin, Eastern bluebird, brown thrasher, northern mockingbird and purple finch, among others. Having a wide selection of trees and shrubs on your property also provides **shelter** – from weather and predators. These same trees and shrubs will help to provide **nest sites** – the greater variety of plant material you have, the more apt you are to maximize your chances to provide a variety of nesting sites. Old trees with hollows are a highly beneficial refuge for nesting and protection, so try to leave some of these on your site.

Here are just a few of the many native plants you should consider in your landscaping plan if you would like to landscape for birding:

Cornus alternifolia	Pagoda Dogwood	fruits for songbirds
Salix nigra	Black Willow	great for nesting
Prunus serotina	Black Cherry	fruits for songbirds
Acer rubrum	Red Maple	seeds, buds eaten by birds
Vaccinium	Lowbush Blueberry	fruits eaten by birds
Rubus	Blackberry	fruits eaten by birds

Any plant that is in the Cornus (dogwood), Viburnum, Ilex (holly), Vaccinium (blueberry) or Salix (willow) family should definitely be incorporated into your landscape plans as they are highly valued for their natural food sources.

With winter approaching, why not start attracting birds to your yard now! It is a great time to get started. Bird feeders filled with a variety of seeds and bagged suet help to sustain birds through the long winter season. Providing a source of ice-free water is also a great help to birds in the winter. Leave any evergreens you have on your site as they ensure that backyard birds have winter cover and an escape from predators. While you enjoy watching the birds you attract this winter, you can use your creative imagination planning your landscape additions for next Spring. You have a full palette of plants that will help you create an interesting and beautiful landscape, while attracting birds and wildlife as an integral part of your design.

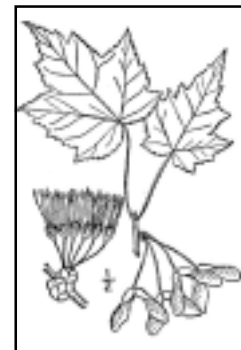
By Robyn Kanter



Cornus alternifolia
(Pagoda Dogwood)



Salix nigra
(Black Willow)



Acer rubrum
(Red Maple)



Vaccinium
(Lowbush Blueberry)

As the days get shorter, darker, and colder, ice will be forming on the lake. Please be watchful of children and pets who may be enticed to walk on unsafe ice.

Ice Safety



South Hamilton, MA 01982

P. O. Box 2344

Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association

Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association Membership Application

If you're not yet a CLWA member, please join today! 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: CLWA, P. O. Box 2344, So. Hamilton, MA 01982