

Lake Waramaug Association



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LWA 2020 Summer Newsletter

During this extraordinary time in our history, the Board of Directors of the Lake Waramaug Association is at once re-evaluating our systems, and strengthening our century-long practices of protection and preservation. We are wrapping up a revamp of our communications programs, and will be rolling out our newly-designed website shortly. We continue to plan community outreach and educational programs that will engage our adolescent community as well as our entire membership, and look forward to the days when it is safe to gather again. We are also researching our local history and how it pertains to today's events, and will publish timely articles in our newsletters. We are monitoring land use practices in our lake-bordering towns and ensure our roads and waterways are safe for all to enjoy.

We appreciate your support. Please re-new your membership today and consider making an additional gift so that the Association can continue to achieve our collective community goals.

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At 88, during Maria's last summer of daily morning rows

It is with profound sorrow we report that long-time Lake Waramaug Association member, Maria Randall Allen, died on March 27, 2020 at the age of 96. A life-long summer resident of Lake Waramaug, Maria loved our lake dearly and gave generously for its preservation and protection.

Maria spent her entire life enjoying summers in her historic family home, "Lotos Lodge", on the North quadrant of what locals still call Randalls' Point on the North Shore of Lake Waramaug. The house, built in 1925 on the cow pasture of the former estate, replaced the family's 1898 home, which was situated on the southern half of the point. Both were named for Odyssean Mediterranean fruit. Alluded to poetically by Alfred Lord Tennyson, the lotos was said to induce a state of "dreamy contentment" to the consumer, which rings true to any and all who visited Lake Waramaug. The long-time presence of the Randall/Allen families on the North Shore proves some truth to the magical qualities of Lotos Lodge and its affect on those who inhabit it.

Maria served on the Lake Waramaug Association's Board of Directors for 35 years, from 1969 until 2004, under presidents Edward Spetnagel, Howard Tallmadge, Peter Mullen, Robert Horton, Eugene Rosen and Paul Frank. She also served on the inaugural Board of the Task Force, giving another another six years of service to our community at a time when the Lake was in the most danger. The waters had turned pea-soup green with algae, and had entered a frightful stage of eutrophication; Maria quite literally aided in the emergency resuscitation of Lake Waramaug. She also served as our Treasurer, Recording and Corresponding Secretary and Membership Chair.

She was deeply involved in researching and recording the Lake's history. Along with George Bates, another member of the Board of Directors, Maria drafted the Association's Statement of Purpose, outlining the work of the Association in summary form from its 1918 incorporation to the present. Perhaps she was motivated by the log that exists at Lotos Lodge, recording the goings-on of their beautiful lakeside retreat offering a unique perspective of local and family history. Maria understood our precedents and roots are important when moving any organization forward. She also was a key researcher to Mary Harwood's work on the ever-popular book, The History of Lake Waramaug. These two volumes remain instrumental and integral to the work that we continue to do.

Described by Kate Tallmadge, another life-long lake resident, as having a personality that "sparkled like late afternoon sunshine on our beautiful lake," she was naturally drawn to the charge of promoting membership. She had an attractive and friendly demeanor, a beautiful telephone voice, and all were happy to be in her presence, according to Kate. Sally Paynter, another former member of the LWA's Board of Directors, recalled receiving a personal note

from Maria inviting her to join our ranks when she moved to the area in 1966. Paynter, being a practical person, questioned her as to why she should be enticed to join the Association.

The result was an eloquent and profoundly appealing testimonial to her personal dedication to the preservation of Lake Waramaug, and the need of other strong, bright neighbors to further the cause. Sally, as mentioned, joined the membership and went on to serve on their Board, motivated by Maria to give decades of her own service to our Community.

Maria was also a meticulous record keeper, and had a strict system of index cards by which to keep track of all our members' mailing addresses, family names and telephone numbers, a tall order prior to the digital age.

With Howard Tallmadge, Maria took to strengthening the Association, which during the 1960s, was waning. She moved our membership meetings from then rather dreary Pavilion Hall in New Preston, to Richard Combs' Inn on Lake Waramaug, inviting neighbors for a drink before the collective business-at-hand. Maria believed that connections amongst our neighbors was integral to our preservation and conservation work. She was also instrumental to having the meetings moved subsequently to the Country Club, where the tradition of coming together as a community, socially, continues.

Maria was also a key participant in the extensive preservation efforts led by Peter Mullen, which included the purchase and sale of the old Casino property, the purchase and sale of Woodruff Mill, which secured the dam and riparian rights to the Association, which was subsequently and rightly gifted to the Town of Washington.

After her 2004 retirement, Maria continued to attend every membership meeting, even in her twilight years on the arm of her devoted daughter Heather. Her voice was perhaps somewhat diminished, but her dignified and warm presence still strongly supported the organization she loved and nurtured for decades. Her presence will be greatly missed, but her gracious and dominating spirit will always be gratefully felt.

The Lotos blooms below the barren peak:

The Lotos blows by every winding creek:

All day the wind breathes low with mellower tone:

Thro' every hollow cave and alley lone

Round and round the spicy downs the yellow

Lotus-dust is blown....

Let us swear an oath, and keep it with an equal mind,

In the hollow Lotos-land to live and lie reclined

On the hills like Gods together, careless of mankind.

*From **The Lotos-eaters**, by Alfred Lord Tennyson*



1944 - Maria at Lotos Lodge



Pres. Paul Frank presents Maria a plant for her years of service to LWA, June 13, 2004

A WORD ABOUT TRAFFIC SAFETY

Due to the ongoing pandemic, our population has increased to the height of summer proportions by the middle of March. As we find ourselves happily together on the Lake, we can more easily reconnect with neighbors (from a safe distance of six feet)... It also means that we have increased foot and bike traffic on the Lake roads, particularly now that the weather has turned for the better.

Please keep in mind that if you are walking or jogging, State law requires pedestrians to be on the left side of the street (facing traffic).

If you are riding a bicycle, you are to follow the same rules of the road as you would in a car, which means riding with traffic and obeying all traffic signs. State Law also requires that cyclists ride no more than two abreast, and cars passing a bicycle shall give three feet of room upon passing. There are only a few places around the Lake where it is absolutely safe to pass a bicycle, so do be attentive to road width and passing zones.

Please try to keep earbud usage to a minimum so you can hear approaching cars, as you might not be visible to drivers. Wear reflective clothing, particularly during the early morning, dusk and evening hours. On particularly narrow stretches of our roads, you may want to temporarily switch sides while on foot, particularly around hairpin turns like Cheeree and Beemans' Points. After dark, carry a flashlight, too.

For those of you who are driving, do keep in mind our increase in foot and bike traffic, and give yourselves extra time to get to your destination. And keep it slow....

We're all here to enjoy the Lake together. Let's do what we can to keep our neighbors safe.

SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE ON THE WATER

During our Membership meeting in September, many of our constituents raised the question of wakeboard regulation and how to better control the massive wakes they churn. A number of people in attendance expressed concern in regards to safety and the environment, as their large waves, necessary to carry a surfer, pose an erosive threat to our sensitive shoreline.

The propulsion systems of these boats and deep wakes also disturb the lake bottoms, churning up sediments and potentially causing harm to native aquatic plants, fish and

potentially the newly-introduced zooplankton that have been farmed at the Task Force facility on Arrow Point. Most importantly, the waves produced by these boats are unusually large for a lake of our size, and at times can be upwards of three feet high, creating hazards to swimmers, people enjoying self-propelled and often much smaller vessels as well as those simply sitting on docks and floats.

State law does not prohibit the use of wake boats on our water, yet it does require that all motored vessels be at least 100 feet from shore.

In response to an influx of court cases in Michigan, Charles Fort of BoatUS Magazine suggests the following "Wakeboarding Etiquette Tips:

- Stay at least 150 feet away from structure or shore; ride the core, avoid the shore.
- Minimize repetitive passes.
- Drive a predicted path. In Arizona, boats must travel in a counterclockwise traffic flow.
- Avoid close passes to other boats, and don't follow another boat too closely.
- Don't impede traffic. Wakesurfers usually travel at 10 to 12 MPH. Avoid wakesurfing in fairways and busy areas.
- Look before you turn.
- Refrain from tricks when near other boats.
- Keep in mind that local boating laws and navigation rules still apply. Follow them and everyone will enjoy their time on the water we share.
- Keep music at a responsible level; sound travels much farther than you think on the water, and loud music can ruin other boaters' peace and quiet.

The State of Connecticut has issued the following Guidelines concerning our current State of Emergency. Please check the site frequently as rules are scheduled to change:

<https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>

Most importantly: When in public and six feet of distance between persons is not attainable, please wear a face covering.

As of the date of publication of this newsletter, social gatherings are limited to FIVE PERSONS until June 20th.

Please check with any local business before patronizing them, as all are adhering to State guidelines in slightly different ways.

FIREWORKS, PICNIC & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Finally, due to the current State Guidelines and permitting processes, we are forced to postpone our fireworks spectacular, which we have tentatively rescheduled for August 29, 2020. The picnic has also been put on hold. We will send out regular updates as we learn more.

And yet! The Association is planning alternative ways in which we can commemorate Independence Day, together / apart, which we will share with you in the next edition of our newsletter. Meanwhile, if you'd like to share them with our community, please send us photos of celebrations from years past! We've already got some oldies but goodies to share with you all, but would love more. This Great Pause, after all, has turned into an impromptu period of reflection for many.

The June 7th Membership Meeting has been postponed indefinitely. We will keep you informed of a new date once it has been scheduled.

MOST IMPORTANTLY: The Board of Directors of the Lake Waramaug Association wishes you and your families good health and and a safe, enjoyable summer on the Lake!

