

SPRING/  
SUMMER  
2020



# WEQUAQUET LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

*People that care about Lake Wequaquet*

## MAY ANNUAL MEETING CANCELLED

The Annual Meeting has been indefinitely postponed due to the coronavirus crisis. The earliest 2020 date being considered is in September. Once plans are confirmed, the time and place will be published on the WLPA Website as well as notification being sent via regular mail.



## A Word from the President

Hi All,

This will be the first time in 27 years that WLPA postponed our Annual Meeting. To say the least, 2020 has turned into an unusual year. We are lucky to have our beautiful lake to boat, fish, swim, and enjoy as we practice "social distancing." Again this summer, the Town will be testing the water for harmful bacteria caused by algae blooms. Please help yourselves, the Association, the Town, and the State by practicing good lake side land management. Beware of the effects fertilizer has in producing the cyanobacteria. The entire Board of Directors and I hope you and your families stay safe and healthy.

*All the best, Mike Falkson*

NEW SIGN



NEW RULES

## WLPA ACTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Michael Falkson  
**Vice President:** Alan Horvitz  
**Secretary:** Mary Ann Anthony  
**Treasurer:** Frank Ward

**Directors:**  
Paul Canniff  
Joe Falkson  
Gale Klun  
Richard Kramer  
Gail Maguire  
Armand Menegay  
Ahvi Spindell



## PRACTICE BOAT PROPELLER SAFETY

**Boat propellers can inflict major injury on anyone in the water.**

**To avoid propeller injuries:**

- **Before you start your engine, make sure all of your passengers are accounted for in the boat.** Also walk around the boat to make sure no one is in the water near the boat. People in the water may not always be visible from the boat's helm.
- **Watch children carefully** while onboard. Don't allow them to sit in an area of the boat from which they could fall near the propellers. If a child or adult falls overboard, stop the boat immediately. Then slowly turn the boat around, keeping the person in sight as you approach and assigning a passenger to continuously monitor the person in the water. Turn your engine off before bringing the person onboard to safety.
- **Let passengers know about the location and danger** of your propellers.
- **Don't allow anyone to board or exit your boat from the water when your engine is on or idling.**
- **Shut off your engine when approaching anyone in the water.** Never enter swimming zones and be cautious near boats that are towing water skiers.
- **Use a propeller guard** and other safety devices if appropriate for your type of boat.

(Excerpt from "7 Boating Safety tips" on the 2020 ARAG Website)

# WLPA Makes a Difference...

## WATER QUALITY

Efforts by WLPA directors and members helped move Sewer System plans forward by twenty years. Last spring and summer, Town water test results mandated the closing of most beaches around Wequaquet and Bearse. Septic overflow is the main cause of the cyanobacteria that sickened our lake water.

A Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (sewer system) was presented at last year's Annual Meeting. At that time members learned that most of Wequaquet Lake was scheduled for Phase 2, which would hold off anticipated construction for 20 to 40 years. Areas included in Phase 1, however, are expected to be completed in **3- 10 years**.

Directors and members of the WLPA lobbied extensively throughout the summer to alert town officers and the Town Council of the danger posed to our water if more of the lake perimeter was not included in Phase 1. As a result, the **Comprehensive Wastewater Plan was changed to include most of the perimeter around Wequaquet in Phase 1!**

**Although septic overflow is the major cause of harmful algae, other factors contribute to the cyanobacteria blooms.** WLPA members are striving to address those other factors by being diligent lakeside property managers. The abuse of fertilizer is becoming less frequent.

A meeting is planned for town officials to meet with landscape companies in hopes of reinforcing fertilizer laws. Members are becoming aware of the harm road runoff causes to lake water. Directors have a prepared list of runoff sites to present to town officers. WLPA members are keeping lawn waste out of the lake and conduct more regular septic system maintenance.

**WLPA members have lent thoughts and physical efforts to the formation of several useful water quality reports.** These reports are vital tools when determining a historical status of our lake water as well as making prudent choices for remediation. Members have provided their boats and guidance to the experts as well as conducted weed mapping and water testing. The bottom of the WLPA Website directs readers to several of these reports. Lycott's [Aquatic Vegetation Report](#) was written in 2010, SMAST wrote two extensive reports that pertain to Wequaquet: [Water Quality](#) in 2013 and [Aquatic Control Technology](#) in 2016.

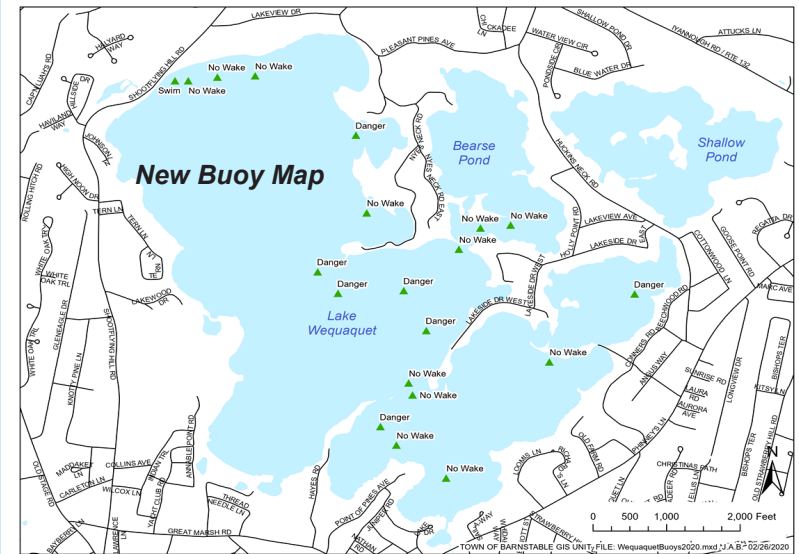
The town presently has placed a moratorium on chemical treatments in lake water. In the past, fluridone treatment was more effective in eliminating fanwort than DASH (hand pulling treatment). WLPA will work with town officials to finance and reschedule chemical treatment in Bearse Pond in the future.

**Educating the membership on good lake stewardship has long been a goal of the WLPA.** Newsletters and post card alerts provide updates concerning healthy water science and practice. Annual meeting speakers educate and inform WLPA members about water quality subjects.

### Annual meeting speakers have included:

- Daniel Santos, DPW spoke on status of Wastewater Treatment (2019)
- Zenas Crocker, Barnstable Clean Water Consortium (2018)
- Amy Croteau, Resource Officer (discussed Herring run (2017)
- Sharon Rooney, landscape architect discussed buffer zones (2016)
- Dr. Jerome Cura, lead scientist of "Wequaquet Lake Profiling." (2014)
- Ed Eichner, Senior Water Scientist (2013)
- Laurel Schaider, Silent Spring Scientist (2011)

**WLPA Directors engage & work with town officials.** Over the past years and especially since the recent poor water test results, WLPA Directors have had meetings with various town department members. In addition to speaking publicly at Town Council Meetings, WLPA Directors have discussed the wastewater plan individually with councilors. Meetings have taken place with the Town Manager and the Conservation Administrator (concerning weed control), as well as with the Health Department (to coordinate and assist with water testing activities and reporting). In addition to these topics, WLPA Directors have met with several town officials to address water safety.



## WATER SAFETY

Since the inception of WLPA, **a summer police boat presence on the lake has remained a high priority.** The Association maintains a good relationship with the Barnstable Police Department (BPD), which has resulted in safer boating on the lake. Through the years, the BPD has offered assistance and advice.

The WLPA has distributed a magnet that includes the non-emergency Police phone number. Barnstable Police have a heavy load in the summer but have maintained reassuring supervision.

This newsletter includes this years Buoy Placement Map. The Association has contributed to the cost and installation of our 20 (maximum allowed) buoys. WLPA members have also consulted as to the placement of the buoys by the Harbormaster. **The buoys provide important aids to navigation telling of 'no wake', 'swimming' and 'danger' zones.**

WLPA provides new Members with a map that shows the lake's shallow areas. The Association has also received Coast Guard "Lost Vessel" stickers.

**Educating our membership about safe boating is an ongoing WLPA Activity.**

The Newsletter usually has information concerning boating regulations and reminders of safe boating behavior. Various passages from the "Boat Massachusetts" guide are printed annually.

Keynote Speakers at our Annual meetings have specifically spoken on topics addressing water Safety. In 2012, (then) Assistant Harbormaster Joe Gibbs spoke about buoy deployment. In 2012 (then) Chief of Police, Paul MacDonald discussed the Police Activity on the Lake. Over the years, Town Officials have attended the Annual Meeting and made themselves available during the meeting and afterwards to speak and answer questions pertaining to their positions. The following Officials attended our 2019 meeting: BPD Chief, Chief Sonnabend, Natural Resource Officer Chris Nappi, Town councilor, Eric Steinhilber, Assistant Harbormaster Brian Taylor, and DPW Director, Dan Santos.

# Consider Clover to green up your lawn without harming the lake water.

## Clover: Friend or Foe?

From "Dengarden" website

Author: G Kerry Dated March 2, 2019



Microclover from seed  
photo courtesy of Hancock Seed Company



## Is Clover Bad for Lawns?

The short answer is no. In fact, clover might be good for your lawn, since it requires less water, fertilizer, compost, herbicide, and weeding.

Today, the current grassy monoculture is the ideal of most homeowners. But as water and energy costs rise, many are seeking alternatives to the traditional thirsty, labor-intensive American lawn.

One of the most popular lawn alternatives is white clover (*Trifolium repens*), also known as Dutch clover or Dutch white clover. Although many people consider it a weed, a healthy patch of it was considered a standard of excellence in lawn care until the 1950s, when people started using broadleaf herbicides to kill clover and other more harmful weeds.

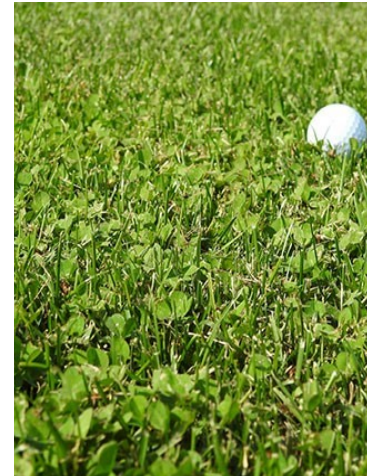
In recent years, however, clover lawns have been experiencing a revival due to their many benefits and charms. There are two types: pure clover lawns, which are best for areas with low or moderate traffic, and mixed grass-clover lawns, which are best for playing fields and other high traffic areas.

## Advantages of Clover

### Clover lawns have many advantages over traditional bluegrass or Bermuda grass lawns.

- It stays green all summer, with little or no watering, in most regions of the US. It is relatively drought-tolerant and it greens up early in spring and remains green until the first frost. In the South, it may remain green all winter.
- It requires little or no mowing. White clover grows just 2-8 inches tall and home owners might mow midsummer in order to deadhead old blooms, neaten the appearance of the lawn, or to prevent from blooming.
- It attracts beneficial insects (like bees) to your yard which, in turn, help pollinate your garden. It also attracts parasitoid wasps which feed on aphids, scales, and whiteflies. These wasps are tiny, harmless to humans, and will be your enthusiastic allies in controlling insect pests in your garden.
- It never needs fertilizer. Clover is a nitrogen-fixing legume, a plant that essentially creates its own fertilizer... and fertilizes nearby plants, as well! Grass that is intermixed with clover will be healthier and greener and require less care than grass planted alone.
- It never needs herbicides. In fact, most herbicides kill it.
- It out-competes other weeds. Anyone who has struggled to eradicate clover from a grass lawn can tell you how persistent it can be. It has a dense root structure that allows it to easily out-compete most other weeds and reduce the need for weeding and expensive herbicides.
- Clover grows well in poor soil. It tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions, including the poor-quality subsoil common around many new homes.
- It feels great on bare feet. Soft, lush, and cool, walking barefoot on a clover lawn is a luxurious treat. Those leaves and blossoms also have a mild, pleasant smell.
- It is immune to "dog patches." Dog urine discolors lawn grasses, but it stays as green and lush as ever.
- It's inexpensive. Clover seed is extremely inexpensive. The average cost is about \$4 per 4000 square feet. Homeowners who have been fighting it as a weed get it for free if they decide to stop fighting and let it grow.

Microclover and grass from sod  
Photo courtesy of SODCO



## Disadvantages of clover

*Clover lawns do have some disadvantages:*

- **It stains clothing more easily than grass.**
- **It is not durable enough for playing fields or high traffic areas**, unless mixed with grass.
- **It is a short-lived perennial** and may require reseeding every 2-3 years to maintain an even stand in pure clover lawns. In mixed grass-clover lawns, clover will reseed itself adequately to maintain a consistent presence.

## Clover vs. Grass: Which Is Better?

Why does it have to be either-or? A mixture of traditional grass and clover is a happy medium!

# Maintaining Waterfront Turf to Preserve Water Quality

## Fertilizer Tips

### *Never fertilize within 100 feet of the water.*

Note the classical nitrogen — phosphorus — potassium fertilizer mix and its potential impact on water quality.

Phosphorus has the greatest impact on aquatic weed growth and should never be used. Phosphorus is not very soluble and is bound tightly to the soil. It usually enters the water attached to soil as a result of erosion. Therefore, prevent soil on your property from eroding into surface water.

Nitrogen is the most soluble of these elements and therefore the most prone to leaching or runoff. It may enhance weed and algae growth that has detrimental effects on the quality of the water.

Potassium movement and impact are minimal and not considered a routine problem.

### *Outside the 100ft. buffer:*

- If you use a professional lawn care service, make certain its technicians are familiar with water protection laws and techniques.
- Use 1 to 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year, depending on the quality of lawn you desire.
- Use no more than 1 pound per 1,000 square feet of nitrogen per application.
- Use lower nitrogen amounts for shaded areas.
- At least 25 to 35 percent of the nitrogen should be a slow-release form. Organic-based nitrogen fertilizers will provide slow release. Other types of fertilizers can be formulated to provide slow release of nitrogen. Check the labels.
- Don't apply fertilizer in the spring until 3 weeks after lawn green-up.
- A general fertilizer application sequence for high quality lawns would be May, early July, September and late October/early November.
- Pay attention to the labels! This is no place for the "if 5 pounds is good, 10 pounds would be better" approach.

**Keep fertilizers off any concrete or asphalt surfaces. Rainwater could carry these materials into a drainage system that connects to surface water. Sweep or blow fertilizers off the hard surfaces back onto the lawn.**

## Mowing Tips

Proper mowing can produce healthier turf that can withstand more stress and pest pressure. Mow high and regularly. Raising the mowing height will enhance the quality and health of your lawn. A height of 2.5 to 3.5 inches is a general recommendation for most turf species. For best results, remove only one-third of the leaf blade at each mowing.

- Sharp mower blades provide a better cut and a healthier turf stand. Dull blades tear leaf blades and provide more sites for disease infection.
- Returning clippings to the turf can reduce the total need for fertilizer.
- Routine clipping removal from the lawn will reduce soil phosphorus levels over time. Take a soil test to monitor nutrient levels.
- **Do not allow clippings to reach the water!** This is like throwing fertilizer into the water and must be as diligently avoided.
- If clippings are composted on the property, make sure the enriched water that leaches from the pile cannot reach surface water.

**Do not refuel the mower near the water. An accidental spill could cause considerable impact.**

## Irrigation Tips

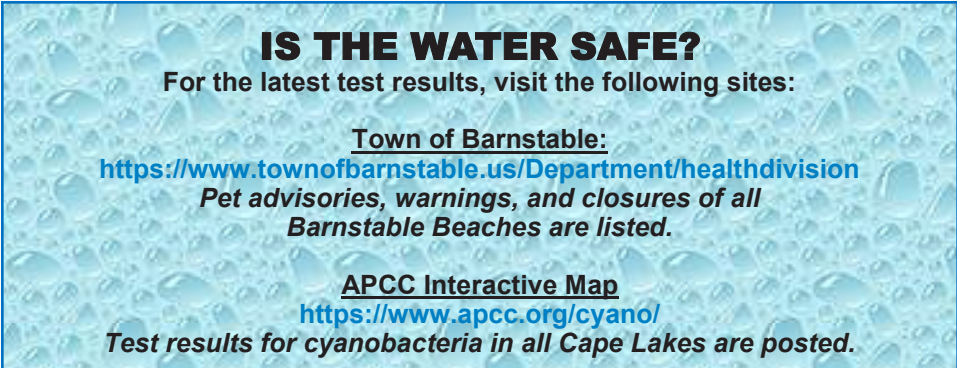
Many properties near lakes and ponds irrigate. Take control of the sprinkler! Excessive moisture increases the potential to move nutrients out of the thatch and root zone of the turf and into the water. **During periods of adequate rainfall, turn the irrigation system off!**

The first rain or irrigation after a fertilizer or pesticide application is the most critical. Excessive water immediately after a fertilizer application raises the potential for these products to move in runoff water. **The potential increases on properties with clay soils and steep slopes adjacent to the pond, lake or stream.** A light watering after a fertilizer or pesticide application will move these products into the thatch and root zone. There the potential for them to move out of the soil profile and into surface water is significantly reduced.

## Pesticide Use Tips

- Always follow label directions.
- Keep products off impervious surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks.
- Spot treat areas rather than use blanket treatments whenever possible.
- Establish a 100ft. buffer strip adjacent to the water where no pesticides are applied.

This contains excerpts by K.W. Frank, published by Michigan State University 5/28/15



**IS THE WATER SAFE?**  
For the latest test results, visit the following sites:

**Town of Barnstable:**  
<https://www.townofbarnstable.us/Department/healthdivision>  
*Pet advisories, warnings, and closures of all Barnstable Beaches are listed.*

**APCC Interactive Map**  
<https://www.apcc.org/cyano/>  
*Test results for cyanobacteria in all Cape Lakes are posted.*

Please remember to visit us at: **WWW.WEQUAQUETLAKE.COM**