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Committee

The Weld Observer

September 2025 - 7th Edition

Spotlight: Michael McShane

by Jean Biondo

Michael McShane is now the Mount Blue State Park Manager and Weld's newest neighbor.

Michael's extensive résumé outlines 30+ years of public service, starting in Maine with the Wells Emergency Medical Service and the York Beach Volunteer Fire Department. He worked as a firefighter and paramedic, eventually becoming Chief Director of Emergency Medical Services and Assistant Chief of Operations, overseeing the daily functions of the fire and rescue department. His years of experience culminated in his becoming Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director with the City of Dover Fire and Rescue in Dover, New Hampshire.

Michael's past community commitments have included 5K fundraisers, regional land trust fundraisers, and youth baseball and football coaching. He holds certificates and licenses with the State of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as a Registered Maine Guide for Hunting and Fishing, as well as a license with the State of Maine as a Commercial Boat Operator, to name a few.

Welcome to Weld Michael McShane. What are your first impressions as Manager of Mount Blue State Park?

MM: "It's impressive! The scenery, the staff and the community. All three paint a picture of a great park, and all three elements led me to apply for the permanent manager position.

Where are you from originally?

MM: "I grew up in York Beach, Maine. I lived in South Berwick, Maine where I raised a family and was a career firefighter. In June, I came to Mount Blue State Park to fill the Interim Manager position. I now call Weld my home."

You began as Manager at the start of peak season in June. Have you had any downtime?

MM: "Not even a little bit. I have been on autopilot with daily operations since the beginning of July. The park has been at or near capacity with 400-to-450 campers and another 100-to-150 day use visitors every weekend."

So, when a problem arises, you have been learning on the job?

MM: "Exactly. Credit belongs to the staff. They know their jobs, share their skills and information, and create a great team environment. This dynamic has helped me learn what is required in a short period of time and has set me up for success."

What improvements have you made so far?

MM: "I've identified some of the basic needs of the park and the employees. The guests have certain amenity expectations, and we have met these expectations with two new ice machines and a consistent supply of firewood. I have also outfitted each employee with their own personal protective equipment needed for maintenance and lawn care."

What kind of updates do you see for the future?

MM: "That's a good question. A lot of the projects and initiatives that I envision for the future are things that were done in the past.

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Nurse Log

by Carol Conant

The forest likes its floor layer messy. Fallen leaves, pine needles, branches, cones... the list of natural debris goes on and on. Season after season, layers of forest matter build up and then get pressed down with the weight of snow. This process takes time, but the result is a nutrient-rich environment for plants to grow.

One rather large piece of debris is a fallen tree. A falling tree can smack down on the forest floor, or it can take many seasons to slowly reach the floor. The trunk can be large and wide, covered in moss and rough bark, holding lots of natural debris before it even falls to the floor. The soon-to-be 'Nurse Log' is ready for the next step in the succession of life in a forest.

Several seasons after the trunk falls, you'll notice the breakdown of the log itself. Gradual decaying of structural tissue with bacteria and fungus within the log form a base of nutrients of living things within the forest.

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Apple Crisp that Kids Love

by Jaime Proctor Beauchamp

- 6 cups sliced peeled apples
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 cup rolled oats
- ¾ cup flour
- ¾ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ cup softened butter (8 tablespoons)

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Place apple slices in ungreased 2-quart casserole dish. Sprinkle apples with cinnamon, water and lemon juice. In a large bowl, combine remaining ingredients; mix with a pastry blender or fork until crumbly. Coat apples with this dry mixture. Bake for 25-35 minutes. The top should be golden brown, and the apples should be fork-tender. Jaime's apples of choice: Macintosh or Paula Reds.

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For example, the amphitheater at the Nature Center had many successful programs. As of right now, upkeep is needed to support future programs. Some of those projects include benches for the amphitheater, along with repairs to the stage and sound system."

"I am looking forward to this winter so I can begin some strategic planning for the park to address the needs of the amphitheater and other core services while bolstering what we have in place. The Park will then be able to add more programs that are requested by our guests, such as movies and live animal demonstrations."

"The Nature Center is one of the gems of the park. Ranger Jamie does a great job running those programs. The Nature Center building itself needs some maintenance. Along with the strategic planning, I will be doing some capital improvement planning to keep our infrastructure and buildings in shape."

What are your visions for the upcoming seasons?

MM: "I look forward to the fall and winter. I think it will be like starting a new job all over again because the services we deliver in the winter are so different from what we offer in the summer. I have already started conversations with the Weld Winter Wildcats about what is needed for this season's snowmobile grooming. This fall I will focus on relationship-building and assuring a plan for winter activities including the ski and snowshoe trails, the ice rink, the warming yurt, and the popular family event in February, 'Take it Outside'. We will also determine how as a park all our services can expand and grow in the future."

Do you foresee yourself as a Weld resident?

MM: "Yes! I am here for the marathon and not the sprint - as they say."

Thank you, Michael McShane, and welcome to the neighborhood!

The Sickels' Cell

by Liz Boyle

In the 1960s and 70s, about 10 million Americans were hooked on tennis. Arthur Ashe, Björn Borg, Chris Evert, and Rafael Nadal were popular heroes. We marveled at their endurance, strategic thinking, and good looks. in 1965, Pete Sickels was busy building a clay tennis court here in Weld and getting his family and friends to help. It was quite the D.I.Y. project. The court was dubbed *Sickels' Cell* by a baseball player, Dennis Jepson, of the Mt. Blue Varsity Baseball Team.

Before the court was built, Jean and Pete Sickels had a decision to make: Should they drill a well for drinking water or build a tennis court? The choice was easy. When you're a family of jocks, the tennis court comes first. Pete, Jean, Craig and Jill Sickels are known for their love of the game. (A well was dug later and the pipes run under the tennis net to the camp.)

First the ground needed to be leveled for the court. Ardene Proctor and his crew brought the dump truck, backhoe, front loader, and stone needed to prepare the surface. Clay was dug from a stream or brook along the Temple Road, possibly the Houghton Brook--the details are forgotten.

Next, Pete borrowed a handmade tractor with fat tires from Norman Blodgett and rigged a tow line to a bedspring to level and smooth the court's base in preparation for the clay. Craig Sickels and Tedd Gifford had to ride the bedsprings to add additional weight, which certainly must have been fun. Spreading the clay should have been easy, but it wasn't. The underlying gravel kept pulling up, so the clay had to be spread by hand. The original clay has lasted sixty years with only minor repairs and basic maintenance, mostly done by Craig and Jean Sickels, Nancy Stowell, and Dick Fairbanks (before his death). A brick dust topping gets applied annually. It's hardened with calcium chloride, and the surface is compacted with a roller donated by the Gifford family who have a history of playing on the court.

Once a year, the white tape lines get lifted and re-nailed to remove the pine needles that sneak underneath the tape. Nancy Stowell is a regular on the court and helps Jean with this process. "The Sickels' court has always been a special spot. When the ladies were on the court and there was a particularly competitive match in progress, Pete Sickels' face would appear looking out of the bathroom window of the camp to watch the action," Nancy recalled.

Pete passed away in 2008. According to those who knew him, he was a great husband and father and a remarkable athlete. In college, during summers, he played baseball in Georgia for the Saint Louis Cardinals as an affiliate in the Farm System. He later taught physics, math, and photography and coached skiing and baseball at Mt. Blue High School.

David Law didn't know Pete, but he is honored to call Jean Sickels his friend. "At 92, Jean is more active than most 70-year-olds. One reason, in my opinion, is the tennis court and the overwhelming amount of joy it brings her. She starts talking about it in January and rallies the troops all winter for the first match in June. Jean organizes games two days a week and carefully watches the weather in case of rain. Jean is always smiling, and the town of Weld is very fortunate to have such a wonderful family to be part of its history." Jean classifies David as the "Most Improved Player."

After each match, the players sweep the court with a broom to remove footprints. The dusty red clay is cleared from the white lines and the court gets returned to its original condition. This social hub functions beautifully and is valuable to many all-year-round and summer residents of Weld who've been drawn to the Sickels family.

Bernard's Broom

by Anne York Agan

Mother's Day, Sunday May 9, 2010, Weld, Maine

Today marks the first time in twenty-three years that I haven't delivered floral bouquets to mothers languishing in their bathrobes. On Friday morning, I hung a closed sign on my flower shop and drove two hundred miles, with one goal: to relax at the old family camp in Weld. Aside from my neighbor, Maddy Bujold, there's not a soul around; the steady chorus of peepers courting along Parlin Brook, the only sound.

After I'd settled in, started a low fire in the woodstove, and warmed up some supper, I poked around the back bedroom, opening trunks and drawers to see what was inside, and came across an old black and white photo which my grandfather Blanchard must have taken. Flipping over the picture, my grandmother's loopy handwriting testified the date: November 1956.

The snapshot depicts my brother Paul and me, age seven-and-a-half and six, respectively. Dressed in wool plaid jackets, heavy pants, hats, and gloves, we're standing by a pile of logs next to a slight, hard bodied, thirtyish appearing man who's holding a birch hook in his right hand and resting his left hand on his hip. His hair is closely cropped, he's neatly shaven, wearing a baseball cap, and dressed for outdoor work: canvas pants, a faded flannel shirt, and leather gloves. We're all smiling at the camera.

This must be Bernard Vining, I thought to myself, the logger who worked for my grandfather, John Blanchard. The picture evoked a wealth of childhood memories at my grandparents' farm on the intervale in Wilton; long ago days when Bernard and his wife Jane used to come by on Friday evenings to pick up the paycheck and visit on the veranda.

The last time I saw Bernard was seven years ago, following my mother's interment at the Lake View Cemetery. The crowd had dispersed, Paul and I were just about to head down into Wilton for a well-deserved drink at the Boiler Room (a restaurant/pub in the belly of the defunct Bass Shoe Factory), when he whispered, "Anne who's the straggler?"

It was Bernard, holding his hat in his hand, standing in front of the Blanchard family headstone, tears coursing down his cheeks, mourning the loss of an era—undoubtedly contemplating his own aging.

He didn't recognize me at first—almost thirty years had passed since we'd seen one another. When I introduced myself as John and Annie Blanchard's granddaughter, he paused and shook his head. "Oh, Anne deah, they ain't many of us left, is they?"

With that thought in mind, I made a plan to drive over to Bernard and Jane's house this forenoon and surprise them with the picture; maybe visit awhile, if they weren't too busy. Had I called ahead, I knew Jane would panic and "commence to needless fussin'" as Grammy would say. No one in the town of Weld keeps a house, lawn or garden more

meticulous than the Vining's. They're workers. Always have been; it was built into their nature.

Ascending the hill just shy of the Vining's tidy white cape, the smell of fresh cut grass wafted through the open car windows. No sound of a lawn mower, no sign of anyone. The garage door was open, no car. About to turn in, I slammed on the brakes. Near the end of their paved driveway, Bernard was sprawled out next to a shovel and yellow metal handled straw broom. Alarmed, I turned on the flashers, pulled to the side of the road, and ran towards him, hollering his name. He didn't respond. I drew closer and stopped in my tracks. He wasn't dead; he was deaf as a post, with no idea he had a just scared the living daylight out of an unheralded guest.

Bernard was on his stomach fastidiously patching the thin cracks in the blacktop—having swept away

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Bernard's Broom

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mini-anthills constructed from the sandy soil beneath the driveway—which currently appeared to be moving, as dozens of displaced ants sought refuge in his pant legs. Thinking he was alone, he reached for the shovel, hoisted himself up, shaking his legs and cussing, "Jesus, God, almighty…." And then he stopped.

"Oh! Anne deah, it's good to see you!"

"Bernard! I thought you'd had a heart attack."

"What?" he shouted, adjusting his hearing aids until they were ringing.

"Where's Jane?" I asked.

"Oh, she's upta Randy's (their son) visitin'. She should be back soon, it's almost dinnah time. You ova ta camp?"

I nodded. "I just stopped by to show you this," I said, handing him the picture. "I found it in a trunk at camp. I think the man is you, but I wanted to make sure. The date on the back says 1956."

Bernard removed his glasses and put his face up close to the picture, squinting. "My, but I was young then," he chuckled to himself.

"And handsome," I added.

"Well, I dunno bout that, but boy that was a long time ago. '56 you said? I woulda been 31 years old."

Just then Jane came down the Center Hill Road and turned slowly into the driveway—slow enough that I thought I had time to move the shovel and broom. No go. She drove over the metal handled broom, straddled the shovel, and continued on into the garage. Bernard, dear old Bernard, scratched and shook his head in disbelief. I don't know what his reaction would've been had I not been there, but he took me totally off guard when he snorted, proclaiming: "Why Anne! I believe my lovely wife run over my favorite broom!" as if Jane had just won the pie baking contest at the Franklin County Fair.

Walking towards us, half-smiling (not knowing who in heaven's name Bernard was visiting with) Jane noticed the mangled, twisted broom.

"Honey, did I just run over your broom?"

Without giving him a chance to respond, I laughed, "Boy, it's a good thing I dropped by when I did—it would've been Bernard instead of that poor broom."

Bernard picked up the thread. "Ayuh, and I don't bend quite like I used to."

Jane took the picture from Bernard's hands and looked at it a moment. "Bernard! Look at you! My, but you were young then!"

"And handsome," he added.

"Yes, yes, deah. But who are the children?"

I pointed to the boy, "That's Paul York. The little girl is his sister, in 1956."

Jane looked at me, then back at the picture. "Are you Anne?"

"You got it," I said, smiling.

She gave me a heartfelt hug, choking back the tears. "Oh, Anne, I am so glad to see you. Come in, come in. I haven't done a thing all morning, so you'll just have to put up with the mess." Country Living Magazine could have pulled in with a camera crew and all she'd need to have done was set the tea kettle to boiling. My shoes squeaked on the linoleum.

We sat in the dining room for a while, caught up on life in a condensed version. Subsequently she brought me into the living room to show me a painting over the fireplace which someone (a niece, I think) had created recently. It was a primitive, bucolic painting of her family farmhouse at the end of the Temple Road, a dirt road just beyond the driveway where the injured broom lay. The painting portrayed large boulders in the front fields, winding dirt road forking to what looked like a foot bridge. If only I'd had a tape recorder—she spewed out more history than I bargained on. All the while Bernard worked on the driveway.

As Jane and I walked back to my car, Bernard got up from his tarring, supported by the upper half of the compromised broom handle "Guess I know what to get Bernard for Faths Day," Jane chuckled. And off I went.

Nurse Log

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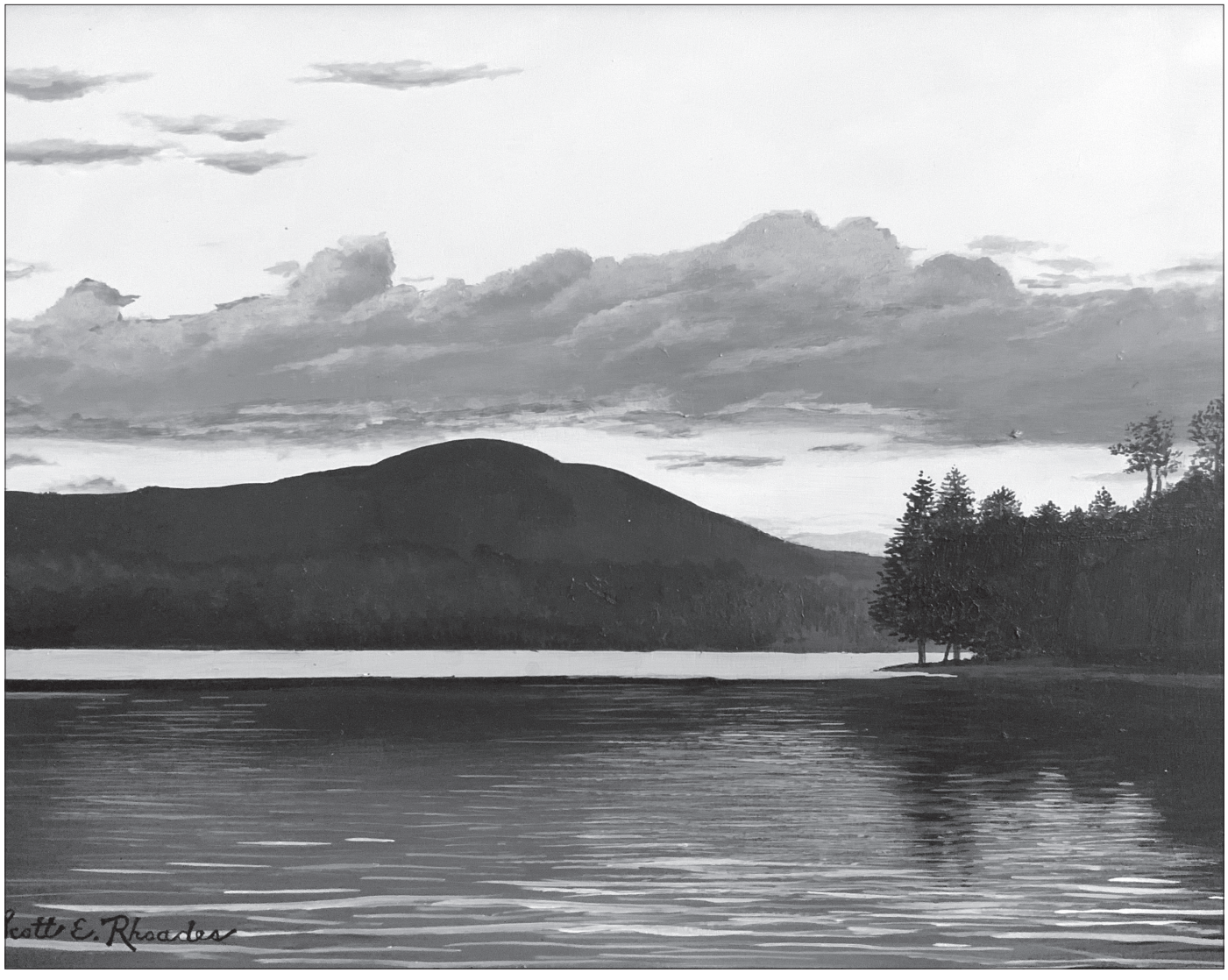
Moss, mushrooms, small plants, and small animals also assist with the growing environment. Squirrels, for example, eat apart pinecones on the ground and on logs and leave seeds and fecal nutrients behind.

Lots of organic matter and moisture within a decaying log can be and often is an environment for seeds to germinate. With light and nutrients, the seedlings will grow into trees. Over time, they'll stretch upward from the low-light forest floor layer, through herbaceous layers and understory, and reach for the canopy as nature's complex process dictates. The tree will remember who helped it along the way. The 'Nurse Log' will have provided a nurturing environment for it to grow big and strong.



Painting by Scott E. Rhoades

We Need to Protect Weld's Watershed

by Eli Shifrin

For the first time in over 15 years, Weld has an opportunity to create a comprehensive plan. This plan will not only guide future growth and development but also be our strongest tool to protect the watershed that sustains Weld's identity and people.

The beauty of our town is what makes Weld special, the sweeping view of Tumbledown, starry night skies, and the quiet calm of rural life. But what is beneath our feet is just as valuable. Weld's aquifers feed the lake we spend summer days on and fill our wells to make Weld livable. It is a treasure and needs protection. With the Weld Public Library now providing passes to year-round residents to access the lake, we all can access and benefit from keeping Webb Lake clean.

Weld members have demonstrated their value of the watershed. In The Valued Assets 2021 Survey in Weld, a majority of the 221 residents who completed the survey reported that the water quality of Webb Lake and its tributaries were very valuable priorities (187 and 176 respondents, respectively).

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We Need to Protect

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The Webb Lake Association understands the profound impact that Weld residents have on the health of Webb Lake. From the Webb Lake residents to those living on Center Hill, the actions of all who live within the watershed play a crucial role in determining the water quality and habitat for wildlife and fish.

Water quality monitoring by the Webb Lake Association of the tributaries and the lake includes upstream residents in protecting the conditions of Webb Lake. The current shoreline zoning impresses upon Webb Lake residents the importance of their actions, like fertilizer use; everyone in the watershed has a part to play. Critically, the association's success in granting year-round access to the lake will hopefully create a sense of buy-in from everyone in the watershed regarding the importance of their actions.

The health of our watershed, which supplies us with clean and reliable drinking water, isn't guaranteed. In the recent Weld Town Survey, 34% of our community members said they don't have an adequate and safe drinking water supply. Fourteen percent say they don't have enough water for their other needs. Half of all respondents believe the town should put aside money for a water treatment facility. Hauling water from the roadside springs in Weld may be a tradition of camp living, but for our aging residents, it is becoming unsustainable.

Improving access to drinking water for our community may be a solution. Some homes have dug wells that don't meet their needs. Still others can't afford the thousands of dollars needed to drill and filter a deep well.

A public water system holds the answers to some of these problems and increases public health and safety and increases property values. But, by looking at EPA well mapping, Weld is not a likely candidate for a public water system. Not only is water piping through our rocky, hilly landscape difficult, but the cost of installation, maintenance, and operation goes against Weld's values of independence and ruralness.

Already in Western Maine, watersheds have been polluted by the forever chemical PFAS and exploited. In Bethel, Kingfield, and Rangeley, Poland Springs bottled water trucks drive away full of our water. A strong comprehensive plan can protect our watershed's water quality and improve access to drinking water.

A comprehensive plan unlocks state funding and connects Weld with regional partners. Aside from shaping what can get built and where, it sets an example for our neighboring towns. These rules will affect generations of our town. By being a leader in our region, Weld can help show what's possible for towns in Franklin County.

That's why we must prioritize water quality by starting with conservation, land-use ordinance, and water-quality testing to protect the aquifer. By starting community conversations and building community support, we can help create a comprehensive plan that will protect Weld for what it is: a place of pristine and unique natural beauty. Inaction will only leave us watching trucks rumble by, changing our town into something that it isn't.

Eli Shifrin lives in Weld and studies environmental science at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

Webb Lake Association and Water Testing

by Lise Bofinger

In alignment with the Webb Lake Association's (WLA) mission to preserve and protect Webb Lake and its surrounding watershed, educating our members and all who visit or reside in this area about impactful changes—big and small—that can benefit the lake we cherish is a crucial aspect of our work. The Environmental Committee oversees the monitoring of both the lake and its inlet streams during the summer months. These streams are tested for *Escherichia coli*, known as *E. coli*, pH levels, and Phosphorus content. Meanwhile, the lake itself is assessed for clarity, dissolved oxygen, pH, Phosphorus, and Chlorophyll A. In the following sections, I will outline the sampling methods employed, explain what the various tests reveal about water quality, and discuss how you can get involved if you're interested.

Stream Testing

Each of the seven major streams that flow into Webb Lake is subjected to testing at least once a year. We typically conduct these tests at road crossings and again at locations near where they enter the lake. You may have seen our team out early in the morning and suspected they were fishing; however, they were not carrying fishing rods but rather small plastic sampling bags. We collect these samples and test the pH levels here in Weld, while sending other samples to Augusta for phosphorus analysis and to the sewage treatment plant in Wilton for E. coli testing.

Lake Testing

The lake testing is conducted from a pontoon boat at our designated marker, located at the lake's deepest point. This "deep hole" reaches a depth of 12 meters, or 42 feet, and serves as our anchor point for the "Donuts on the Lake" events. During our time on the lake, we engage in various sampling activities.

The initial test involves lowering a Secchi disk into the water and, using a view scope, recording the depth at which the disk remains visible. We typically have multiple team members perform this test to enhance accuracy, and it assesses the clarity of the water column. The next sampling procedure measures dissolved oxygen (DO) and temperature. We utilize an analytical probe connected to a meter, which is lowered into the water to record both DO and temperature at each meter increment from the surface down to 12 meters.

The remaining tests involve gathering various samples for analysis, which will either be sent to the state laboratories in Augusta or examined locally by WLA scientists in Weld. Initially, we collect water from the "core," a composite sample obtained using flexible plastic tubing, which is gradually lowered through the upper photic zone of the water column, where photosynthesis takes place. The depth of this layer is determined by the temperature profile results. The "core" sample is then placed in labeled containers for testing of Chlorophyll a, pH, and Phosphorus levels.

The final two samples are collected using a Van Doran Water Sampler, a device that can be lowered to a specific depth to obtain a water sample. We take samples from both the "mid-grab," which is located halfway between the lowest point of the core and the bottom, and just above the bottom itself. These two samples are analyzed for pH and phosphorus levels.

Water Clarity

You may have noticed the water's clarity and color changes over time in Webb Lake. There are many reasons for this, both biological/natural and more human-caused. The Secchi disk indicates water clarity—it provides a convenient method for measuring light penetration below the surface of a body of water. Water clarity is vital to the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation in aquatic habitats. In the past ten years, we have averaged around 5.5 meters.

Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature Profile

All animals, including aquatic animals, need Dissolved Oxygen (DO) to breathe. Low levels of oxygen are a concern. One of the primary reasons for low oxygen levels is the decomposition that occurs following algal blooms. An algal bloom is an

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excessive growth of algae; the decomposition process consumes large amounts of oxygen once the algae dies. The decomposition and resulting loss of oxygen become a problem, especially at greater depths. DO is an important measure of water quality; all living organisms use oxygen to perform cellular respiration; thus, all aquatic organisms require DO to live in a body of water. The amount of oxygen a body of water can hold depends on temperature. Therefore, scientists always collect both DO and temperature readings.

Lake Association members use a DO probe and conduct a DO profile each time they do water testing. The readings change throughout the season. In early June, the lake tends to be more consistent in temperature and oxygen levels. The temperatures are in the high teens (Celsius) at the surface and low teens toward the bottom (12 meters (m)). Oxygen levels also tend to be consistent, ranging from 8.9 mg/l to 7.0 mg/l. As summer progresses, a thermocline develops. The thermocline is a zone in the lake of changing temperature between the warm surface waters and the colder bottom waters. The image below shows how the layers in the lake change throughout the year, including how a thermocline sets up in both the winter and summer.

In July and August, as we sample, we find higher readings for temperature at the surface, generally in the mid-twenties, and a thermocline from five to seven meters where the temperature changes rapidly. The temperature is slightly cooler in the zone below the thermocline, but the most significant difference is a decrease in oxygen levels. Below the thermocline in August, the DO levels can drop to 2.0 - 0.1 mg/l. These readings get to the anoxic zone. Fish, especially cold-water species like salmon and trout, cannot survive at these low oxygen levels. These fish are forced up into the warmer waters of the lake, causing them to be more lethargic. This explains why folks do not catch trout and salmon in the summer months.

pH

pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the water, it is measured on a scale of 0 - 14, with 7 being neutral. Members use a meter to sample the pH, an essential parameter to measure because aquatic organisms are sensitive to pH changes. The optimal range for fish ranges from 6.5 to 9.0. If pH reaches levels outside this range, fish are much more susceptible to poisoning from other toxins. The pH levels in both the lake and tributary streams have consistently been 6.5 - 7.9. Fish and other aquatic life thrive at pHs of 6.5 - 9.0.

Phosphorus

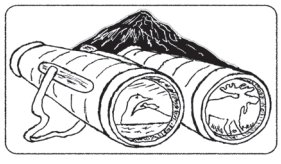
Phosphorus is a critical nutrient needed for all living organisms and is the limiting factor for most water bodies in the northeast. What this means is that its presence or absence is what is controlling the growth of plants and algae in the lake. The most common form of Phosphorus used by biological organisms is phosphate ($PO_{4)}$, which plays a significant role in forming DNA, cellular energy, and cell membranes (and plant cell walls). So, this is a case of sometimes too much of a good thing can be a big problem! It is excess phosphorus levels that cause algal blooms. Phosphorus is a common ingredient in commercial fertilizers. This is why we ask you to limit fertilizer use near the lake! There is also a large amount of phosphate in animal waste and all decomposing organic material. Members collect samples from the core, mid and bottom samples in the lake as well as the streams and then send them to the state tested for phosphate content.

Escherichia coli

E. coli is a common organism, encompassing many different strains, the majority of which are harmless, and some of which can even be beneficial. All warm-blooded organisms harbor E. coli in their intestines, which contributes to a mutualistic relationship; it aids in the digestion of our food, while we provide it with a suitable habitat and a consistent food supply. In freshwater ecosystems, E. coli serves as an indicator that fecal contamination from warm-blooded organisms may be present. The detection of E. coli, particularly in conjunction with human waste, raises the possibility that other pathogenic bacteria, viruses, or organisms could also be contaminating the water. Should we encounter elevated levels of E. coli that cannot be attributed to sources such as ducks or beavers, we would reach out to the state Department of Environmental Services for further investigation.

The Lake Association would love to have you join us. Please contact either Lise Bofinger or Carol Conant if you are interested in joining us on any of our water testing adventures!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN



The Weld Observer

We invite you to contribute content: articles, letters, drawings, cartoons, photographs, and other materials of interest. We publish in black and white. Captions and descriptive information are helpful. Please provide your contact information with your submission.

Via e-mail: **weldrecnews@weld-maine.org** or drop your submission in the Weld business box in front of the **Weld Town Office** located at **23 Mill Street in Weld**. Attention: **Weld Recreation Department**