



# Reflections



FALL 2024

Westmore Association, Inc. Newsletter

Number 54

## Letter from the President

*By Deb Smith*

While mulling over what I might say in our concluding Fall 2024 newsletter, I realized, more than any other thing, the WA President's Letter is a love letter. First, and foremost. As such, it is a love letter to us all, from us all, and in service of us all. Which means it is also a proper old-fashioned thank you note. Short, sweet, sincere, and posted in a timely fashion.

In that spirit, I am moved to share with you the sweetest, loveliest, most happiness-inducing sight I, and everyone who ambled by, was privileged to witness at the Westmore Annual Fall Harvest Festival in October. For one festival station stood out beyond all the others. A station both super fun and impressively industrious where smiling faces of all ages abounded.

At the helm were lovely Jan Hapke and wonderful Dave Hapke guiding eager, happy participants in the art and great fun of pumpkin carving. Is it possible Jan and Dave had the most fun of all?! I think so! A delight to behold.

Miraculously, sunshine prevailed all around despite the hovering threat of rain. The lawn and hall overflowed with visitors and bustling vendors. Delicious crepes, savory and sweet, were served. And thanks to lovely Abbie Gowdy-Chase I went home with a very special pecan pie for dinner.

*A mighty collaboration of all good things!  
Just like the Westmore Association!*



## Wakesport Petition & Public Hearing:

On August 31, Bruce Tanner was honored to submit the Westmore Association's petition to ban wake sports on Lake Willoughby to the Department of Environmental Conservation. We cannot thank our community and members enough for their support. We obtained more than 500 signatures and countless letters of support. The love for our lake and community runs deep. Special thanks to Diane Lehder and other members for their dedication to organizing the petition.

We now invite you to participate in the public hearing on the Association's petition to prohibit wake sports on Lake Willoughby, happening December 10th in Newport and virtually for those unable to be in person. Please consider joining us and the other local lake associations to ensure your voice is heard to ban wakesports before a decision is made. Go to [westmoreassociation.org](http://westmoreassociation.org) to view the Association's petition and find the hearing meeting details, including information on signing up to speak (in person or virtually) and submitting comments.

# Westmore Association Board Members

The 2024-2025 Westmore Association Board consists of Deb Smith as President, Ellie Majchrzak as Interim Treasurer, and Jennifer Woolard as Clerk. The Vice President position is currently vacant. The Board Directors include Peter Miller, Bruce Tanner, Deborah Baskin, Peggy Zimmer, Pastor Bob Leibold, Meggie Patton, and Heidi Rutz. We extend a special thanks and heartfelt farewell to Irene Salerno for her many years of service in supporting the Treasurer's duties and beyond.

Serving on the Board is an excellent opportunity to provide leadership and engage in advancing the mission of the Westmore Association: to promote, develop, and conserve the natural resources and community life of the Westmore area. We are actively seeking dedicated and committed volunteers to join our Board in both Officer and Director positions. The Board meets once a month from February to October, and members play a vital role in Association committees and community events. Board terms last three years, with the option for extension. Board members do not need to reside year-round in Westmore, as virtual meeting options are available.

*If you are interested in joining the Board or for more information,  
please contact: [president@westmoreassociation.org](mailto:president@westmoreassociation.org)*

## Membership & Treasurer's Report

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support, which enriches our stewardship of Willoughby Lake and the surrounding lands. Each of our individual efforts contributes to making a difference in how we leave this place for those who follow. Your continuous support—through dues, donations, and volunteering—helps us move forward and create a legacy that will sustain Willoughby Lake and the lands we all cherish. All these sources of support are vital to our sustainability.

We are pleased to report another good year for the Association's financial position, thanks to all the members of the Westmore Association. As of July 2024, we have 170 household members. We encourage everyone to speak with their neighbors and friends, inviting them to join the Westmore Association if they are not already members, or to renew their membership.

*Thank you again for your continued support.*

## Scholarship Committee Report

*By Deborah Richards*

The Westmore Association has a long-standing tradition of supporting the educational pursuits of its citizens by offering an annual scholarship for individuals pursuing education beyond high school.

This year, we aim to make educational programs more accessible and affordable for all individuals and families in Westmore, regardless of their stage in life. Scholarships will be available for a variety of programs, including preschool, private school, college, graduate/master's level, trade schools, continuing education, and certification programs. Award amounts will range from \$250 to \$1,500, depending on the number of applicants and demonstrated financial need. Please note that applicants must be residents of Westmore to qualify.

*To apply, please visit our updated scholarship application online  
or email [drichards065@gmail.com](mailto:drichards065@gmail.com) <https://www.westmoreassociation.org>*

---

# Events

By Peggy Zimmer & Jennifer Woolard

This year, we implemented a new process to streamline event planning within the board, as well as for reserving the hall and managing necessary publications and advertising. We are very grateful to our Board Director, Peggy, for taking on this important task! We also appreciate the support from the Westmore Community Church and Carol Davis, who helped coordinate the events.

Our summer of 2024 was particularly busy, featuring several events highlighted in the newsletter. Additionally, we supported community events, including the Westmore Path Forward, Church Harvest Fair, the Westmore Mountain Challenge, Barton Hub meals, and the revival of the Westmore Farmers Market. Summer 2024 was a great one! Next year we hope to have even more fun, and we welcome any and all new ideas. Members can reach out to Peggy if they are interested in submitting event ideas.

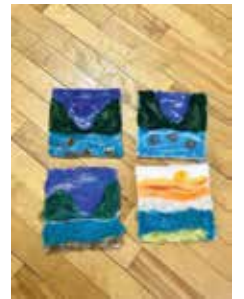
## 23rd Annual Boat Parade

This year's theme was Under the Sea! We had some creative boats ranging from Sponge Bob to Mermen! The winning boat stuck out with their yellow submarine design. Way to go to all the boating participants. We can't wait to see what you come up with next year. And on that note — **the 2025 theme is "Favorite Era!"**



## Willoughby Wool Felting Workshop

If you have never felted, you're missing out! The instructor, Kristen from Laughing Crow Farm in Newark, led us to create a unique 2D Willoughby felt art piece. Families and community members joined in the fun and it was a hit. We hope to bring it back.



## Willoughby Paint 'n Sip

Who knew how many incredible artists we had in our community! We had a packed house for our first Willoughby Paint n' Sip. Our instructor and local artist, Jenny Hagen, led the group in a fun and creative experience in painting 'Reflections on Willoughby.' Given the interest, we are already starting to plan for next year! Stay tuned on our Facebook page and through our spring mailing.



*continued ...*

## *Plein Air*

This year was our 8th annual Plein Air paint event. The day began with some summer haze, but the day improved and gave us a very warm sunny afternoon. Our wine and cheese reception and sale on Sunday were enjoyed by all who came. Remember this event is always on the first weekend in August, Saturday is the painting day, judging and Sunday is the reception and sale. Artists are allowed to bring any previous paintings to sell too! Hope to see you in 2025!



## *Modern Times Theatre:*

Our annual mid-August family event was again a huge success. Our local entertainers Justin and Rose, co-creators of Vermont Vaudeville in Hardwick, presented a great show for lots of children and adults. It was a full house with lots of laughter and fun. After the show Justin auctioned off 15 of our locally made pies, even the kids bid on their favorite ones. As we gear up for next year's show, we encourage you to find a new pie recipe to make it interesting!



## *Summer Yoga Series:*

This summer we welcomed back instructor, Liz Teuber, for a Thursday morning Vinyasa flow series. Interest grew throughout the summer with as many as 20 people in attendance at the fellowship hall one Thursday! Thank you to Liz for once again leading this dynamic and creative form of yoga. Stay tuned for next summer.

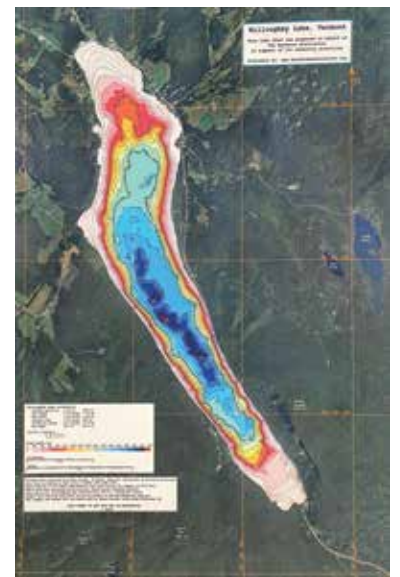
## *Castleton Quartet*

Rounding us off for the summer was the Castleton Quartet at the Westmore Community Church. The group of Vermont musician/educators played favorites from classical, jazz and blues, motion pictures, folk and tango origins—a beautiful evening of music that travelled throughout the lake.



## *Westmore Association Depth Chart for Sale:*

Interested in the Colored Lake Willoughby Depth Chart? Head on over to our website under merchandise and you can purchase your own poster for \$16!



# Trails and Recreation

*By Jennifer Woolard*

We feel grateful for the ability to once again pledge \$2,500 for the NorthWoods Conservation Corps to be used on trails and conservation projects in the Westmore Area. This summer, the crews, which consisted of high school backcountry, sustainable forestry, conservation services, and adult professional conservation corps, completed work on Bald Mtn, Mt Hor, Mt Pisgah, and Wheeler Mountain. This ongoing pledge allows us to continue our partnership to maintain and preserve our natural resources for generations ahead. We're also excited to once again participate in the annual Westmore Mountain Challenge. Our station at the CCC Overlook was welcomed by participants and a fun time was had by all!

*From Maria Young, NorthWoods Executive Director:* It is a lesson in sustainable trails to see the ongoing work on the Pisgah North Trail. Here, what was formerly a steep straight up the mountain trail has been rerouted in many sections to incorporate sustainable grades, more switchback and improved drainage. If you hike with this in mind, you can see where the former trail has been replaced with a more sustainable grade for pleasant hiking and most importantly erosion control.

We also wanted to acknowledge the work of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation for their ongoing efforts to make Willoughby South End site improvements. As visitors continue to grow, it's imperative that we improve safety and accessibility and maintain environmental quality.

Members from the Northeast Kingdom Section of the Green Mountain Club are also critical of the maintenance of our trail systems. Often gone unnoticed, the trail adopters are out there assisting with blow downs, assessing damage, and breaking trail. They also host a variety of hikes for community members to join. If you haven't joined, we encourage you to become a member now! <https://www.nekgmc.org/>

## Greeter & Milfoil Program

*By Katherine Busby, Greeter Program Coordinator*

Our Greeter season ran from Memorial Day to Labor Day, during which we had 10 Greeters participating in the program. All Greeters and staff completed online training with Olin Reed from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Thanks to an additional donation from the Westmore Association, we raised the Greeter hourly pay rate to \$20. The Westmore Association and The Town of Westmore each contributed to expanding the Greeter Program to a 7-day schedule for July and August.

During the season, we inspected 2,206 watercraft, the majority of which had outboard motors; 40 were wake boats. Our Greeters removed plant material from 143 boats, including 21 that had invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil eliminated. The Greeter Program plays a vital role in keeping Lake Willoughby free of invasive species and safeguarding other bodies of water.

In July, Swampguana Diving Services began suction harvesting aquatic invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil and will continue this effort through October. They have targeted areas such as the Boat Launch, Crescent Beach, Gallagher's Cabins, the NE Shoreline/Willoughvale, the NW Shoreline/North Beach, and Gray Rock to the Boat Launch. So far, no other invasive species have been reported. A final report will be submitted once the harvest is completed. Previous years' results from the Milfoil Management Program indicate a significant yearly reduction in the spread of invasive Milfoil, highlighting the importance of these efforts for aquatic nuisance control in Lake Willoughby.

*continued ...*

Furthermore, thanks to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and assistance from the Memphremagog Watershed Association, the Town of Westmore received a grant of \$15,978 for the Greeter Program and \$10,305 for the Milfoil Management Program. The Westmore Association also contributed \$10,111 to the Greeter Program.

## Water Quality Committee

By Bruce Tanner

The two “100-year” floods that occurred the past two summers here at Westmore were a stark reminder to us all that we should be anticipating (and preparing for!) more, and bigger storms in our future, as the climate continues to change. Those of us who own shoreline property on Willoughby Lake, or who own property through which runs a Willoughby tributary brook, should be particularly concerned. With likely increases in strength and duration of future storms, fragile stream banks and lake shorelines could be in jeopardy of increased erosion and possible failures. There is also the potential for more fertilizers, herbicides, and/or pesticides running off lakeside lawns into the lake with bigger storms.

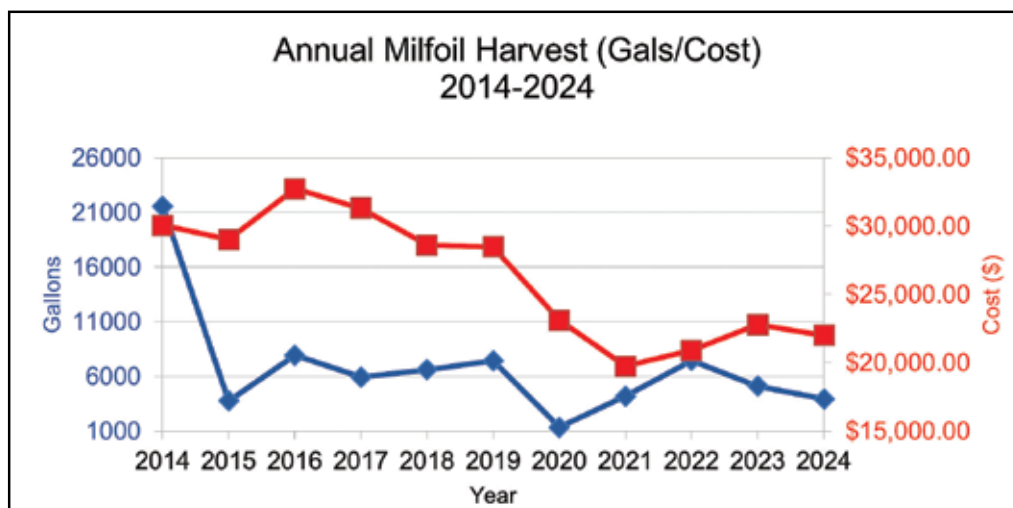
Fortunately, there is helping to be had. For those who own lake shoreland property, there is the Lake Wise Program, managed by the Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation. This is a free program promoting best management practices on lakeside landscapes. If you are curious about this program and want more details, please go online and visit the following website:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise>.

For those with tributary brooks running through, or adjacent, to their property, we now have a Lake Watershed Action Plan for Willoughby Lake’s watershed in hand. Over 70 locations within our watershed have been found in need of remediation. To find out if any of these locations is on your property A link to the Willoughby LWAP can be found at the following website: <https://www.vacd.org/lake-willoughby-action-plan/>. Please pay particular attention to the appendices, and especially to appendix D, where all the locations are tabled in a rather large spreadsheet. Folks at the Memphremagog Watershed Association and the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District are ready to help with identifying, and applying to, granting organizations to help with remediation costs.

The Eurasian Water Milfoil harvest for 2024 totaled 3,942 gallons at a cost of \$22,000. This compares well with previous years’ totals (see fig. 1). We hope that the downward trend continues in the harvest volume.

\*Volunteer Lake Monitoring and LaRosa Partnership Program data for 2024 will be publicly available early in 2025 and will be shared here in a later publication.



# News from Around Town

## **Westmore's Path Forward**

Through the Westmore's Path Forward process, Westmore community members came together this past summer to identify and prioritize goals, foster local leadership, connect to resources and develop and realize achievable action plans. Through 3 public meetings, community members chose two community priorities for action and signed up for task force groups to move them forward. The new task force groups will work to (1) Build Community Spaces & Activities for Youth, Families, and Community Members and (2) Develop a Local Recreation Access Management Plan. Each group has been actively meeting this past Fall. Members from the community are welcome to join.

*To learn more, visit: <https://www.vtrural.org/westmore-report-october-2024/>*

## **Farmers Market by Meggie Patton**

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2024 Westmore Farmers Market a success. The Westmore Association was invaluable to so many aspects of the market. Your donation paid for the weekly local musicians, and your presence at the market helped support vendors and greet community members. The WA table at the market was a place for guests to learn about Westmore, engage in important town initiatives, and always have a friendly chat.

*Stay up to date with information through the Facebook page and we'll see you in 2025!*

*<https://www.facebook.com/WestmoreMarket>*



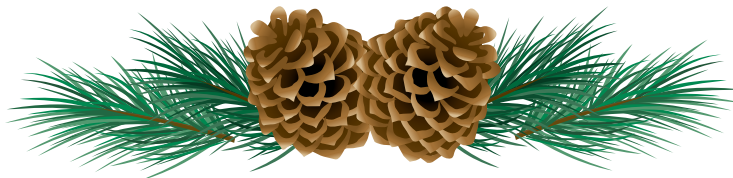
## **Community Meals**

The Barton Hub, one of NEKO's social connection projects, hosts volunteer-run community meals every week (Thursday) in Barton! Members of the Westmore community continue to assist with meal preparation and serving. Interesting in making a meal to share? Email [allyson@caevt.org](mailto:allyson@caevt.org).

## **Westmore Christmas Tree Lighting: Sunday December 1st, 2024, 5:00pm**

The community will be holding a tree lighting ceremony with the help of the Westmore Fire Department, Westmore Community Church, the Town of Westmore and residents of Westmore.

Please bring an ornament to tie on to the tree in memory of a loved one or friend. Sing your favorite Carols. Pastor Bob and Penny will be here with some thoughtful message. Afterwards we will have a potluck gathering at the church. Everyone is welcome!





Looking for opportunities to stay up to date with some of the Association activities?

Sign up for our summer newsletter delivered to your email inbox:  
<http://eepurl.com/g5RTs5>



OR  
Scan the  
QR Code

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.westmoreassociation.org](http://www.westmoreassociation.org)

Volunteers:

The Westmore Association is always seeking volunteers to assist with website upkeep, communication, events, and more. If you're interested, please contact us:  
[info@westmoreassociation.org](mailto:info@westmoreassociation.org)

Westmore Association  
Officers & Board of Directors  
2024-2025  
Deb Smith, *President*  
Ellie Majchrzak, *Vice-President*  
Jennifer Woolard, *Clerk*  
Ellie Majchrzak, *Interim Treasurer*  
*Directors:*  
Bruce Tanner  
Peter Miller  
Deborah Baskin  
Peggy Zimmer  
Rev. Dr. Robert Leibold  
Meggie Patton  
Heidi Rutz

Westmore Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 143  
Orleans, Vermont 05860  
Editor: Jennifer Woolard

NEWSLETTER

