



Wednesdays @ Westmore

By Pam Kennedy

The creative ideas of the Arts & Entertainment Committee produced a new series of exciting events for the Westmore community. The first event was a talk by Meghann Carter, Conservation Science Specialist from the Northwoods Stewardship Center who spoke on the importance of buffer zones and riparian borders for land bordering lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. She was followed by Kate Butler, owner of Labour of Love Garden Center and Landscaping in Glover, who discussed perennial plantings that do well in our region.

Professor Ben t Matchstick entertained children and adults alike with his demonstration of kamishibai, a form of Japanese narrative story telling. Also on display and available for hands-on demonstration were the products of the Cardboard Teck Instantute, the PinBox 3000, a cardboard pinball machine that can be customized by the players.

A great night of music and entertainment, including a pie auction, was provided by Modern Times Theater. Justin and Rose, co-founders of Vermont Vaudeville, provided a fresh take on entertainment styles of the past to the delight of all.

Wednesday @ Westmore continued in August with a session devoted to our beautiful surroundings. Jean Haigh of the Green Mountain Club discussed the trails in our area and the Willoughby State Forest. Bruce Tanner presented information about the unique geology of the Willoughby Lake area and Art Brooks, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, informed us about the latest information about the lake and its waters.

The final Wednesday @ Westmore was a night of eclectic music. Jon Brooks, accompanied by Mark Violette on piano, provided a beautiful rendition of "Silent Noon," a Ralph Vaughan Williams piece, in tribute to Steve Tanner for his many years organizing and supporting the arts in the Westmore community. This was followed by Little Debbie and the Big Wind, a local rock and country trio who got feet tapping, hands clapping and even a few folks dancing of the 75 or so attendees. During intermission, Gabe Harter, Westmore Association scholarship recipient, performed an original piano piece. Five brownie recipes competed in a bake-off, which sweetened up an already lively evening.

Susan, painting by Kevin Harkey

continued . . .



On the night of the Blue Moon, The Bel Aires belted out tunes of the 1950s and 60s and Westmoreans were seen tripping the light fantastic. Good music to listen to as the Blue Moon rose to shine on Waterfront Park. August 8 saw the Westmore Association's inaugural Westmore Plein Air Competition. About fifteen artists painted around Willoughby Lake at public and generously provided private residences. The following day there was an award of prizes at a reception at the WilloughVale Inn, which partnered with the Westmore Association and the Plein Air NEK for this event. The WilloughVale graciously supplied tasty treats for the artists and viewers and several of the paintings that were created the day before were purchased.

Our final event, the End of the Season (or Summerly) Concert brought world class jazz to the Westmore Community Church. Under the lead of Dan Ian Smith, Associate Professor of Berklee College of Music and acclaimed saxophonist, flutist, bandleader and composer – and part-time resident of Westmore – a group of talented musicians gave us an afternoon of music, including several original pieces.

The Arts and Entertainment Committee is already planning next summer's events. They welcome ideas and especially, helping hands! Please contact Pam Kennedy at pamkenn@gmail.com or 802-525-9725 if you have suggestions or would like to help put the next season's fun together!



Painting by Susan Kelley-Harkey

Westmore Association Scholarships

By Carroll Guitar

At the annual meeting, the Westmore Association was proud to present college scholarships of \$1,000 to eight local and deserving students. Brittany Chase, who just completed her first year at Johnson State College in early childhood education; Clark Hayden will be a sophomore at the University of Maine at Farmington studying business economics; Veronica Hayden who will enter her fourth year of a six year program at the Albany College of Pharmacy; Matt Morin will be a senior at Johnson & Wales in Miami, FL studying the business of sports management with a minor in golf management; Bryant Prue, a graduate of Lake Region High School in 2015 will attend Lyndon State College and pursue criminal justice; Ian Strange, also a 2015 Lake Region grad will also attend Lyndon State and study physical therapy; Morgan Valley another Lake Region 2015 grad will enroll at Castleton State College (now known as Castleton University) in the nursing program and Tyler Valley who will be a junior at Lyndon State majoring in Music Business & Industry. After the annual meeting, it came to the attention of the Association that Gabe Harter, son of Glenn Harter, Westmore's health officer, had an opportunity to spend his high school junior year abroad in Japan to pursue his love of music. The Association also awarded him \$1,000.



From left to right: Matt Morin, Ian Strange, Tyler Valley & Morgan Valley

2015 – 4th of July Boat Parade

By Doreen Allen

The Sixteen Annual Willoughby Lake Fourth of July Boat Parade casted off from the shores of Crescent Beach, led by the Tanner family pontoon boat representing The Westmore Association. Five boats and a canoe followed, decorated in this year's theme "Cartoons on Parade." With a theme of "Alvin and the Chipmunks," the first prize winners were Samantha, Emmaline, William, Eliza, Sam and Eloise Ekstrand, along with Stephen, Stefanie and Savannah Smith. From the Hundred Acre Wood, second place went to Hud and Brittney Allen, Hunter Gosselin, Katie and

Emma Dickson with a theme of "Winnie the Pooh." The third place trophy went to "The Peanuts Gang." Complete with a Snoopy dog house, participants on the boat included Sage and Annabelle Willy, along with Julia, Madeline, Logan, and Django Matchstick.

Thank you to all of the parade participants and to those who enthusiastically lined the lakeshore to cheer on the boats. Because we could not hold this event without you, a special thank you goes out to this year's judges, Gary Seslar, Howland Swift, Rose Marie Lanier, Blythe Kent, and Brandon Gosselin.

*The theme for the 2016 July 4th parade is
"Christmas in July"
Start planning now to join in on the fun!*



Willoughby Lake in Depth 2015

By Art Brooks, Limnologist/President, Westmore Association

The year began with the lake temperatures dropping to the freezing point by January 15 as ice began to form. Ice remained in place until about April 1 when the lake temperature began to rise above the freezing point and upward to a maximum of 74 F recorded on July 30.

It was a cool, wet start to summer with rainfall totaling 12 inches from mid-June to the end of July. The heavy rains raised the lake level, submerging beaches and lifting docks off their footings. Runoff from the streams flowing into the lake carried in suspended sediment that increased turbidity, while highly colored water from the forests made the lake water resemble weak tea. The high turbidity and the color reduced light penetration to the point that the Secchi disk we lower into the water to measure water clarity could only be seen to a depth of 4 meters. The last reading taken on the 10th of September was 8.5 m. which is more typical of clear Willoughby water.

The low clarity of the water early in summer may have contributed to the reduced presence of milfoil, which like other plants, requires light to survive. The divers harvesting milfoil reported the least amount taken in several years.

By September lake levels had fallen to near record lows as measured at the outlet at North Beach. Low water made it difficult for boaters to get their boats off and on their lifts. The Vermont Agency for Natural Resources (ANR) is responsible for controlling the release of water from Willoughby Lake into the Willoughby River. It is difficult to maintain a consistent water level and outflow to the river that will satisfy all uses of Willoughby water. Levels need to be kept within a reasonable range in the lake itself, while also allowing adequate flow in the Willoughby River to support the fishery.

The attached graph illustrates the average and range of water depth in feet at the outflow structure at North Beach for the period 1993 to 2015. Depth readings were taken intermittently by staff of the ANR, so the number of observations is not uniform for every month. The overall range in depth is well illustrated, however.

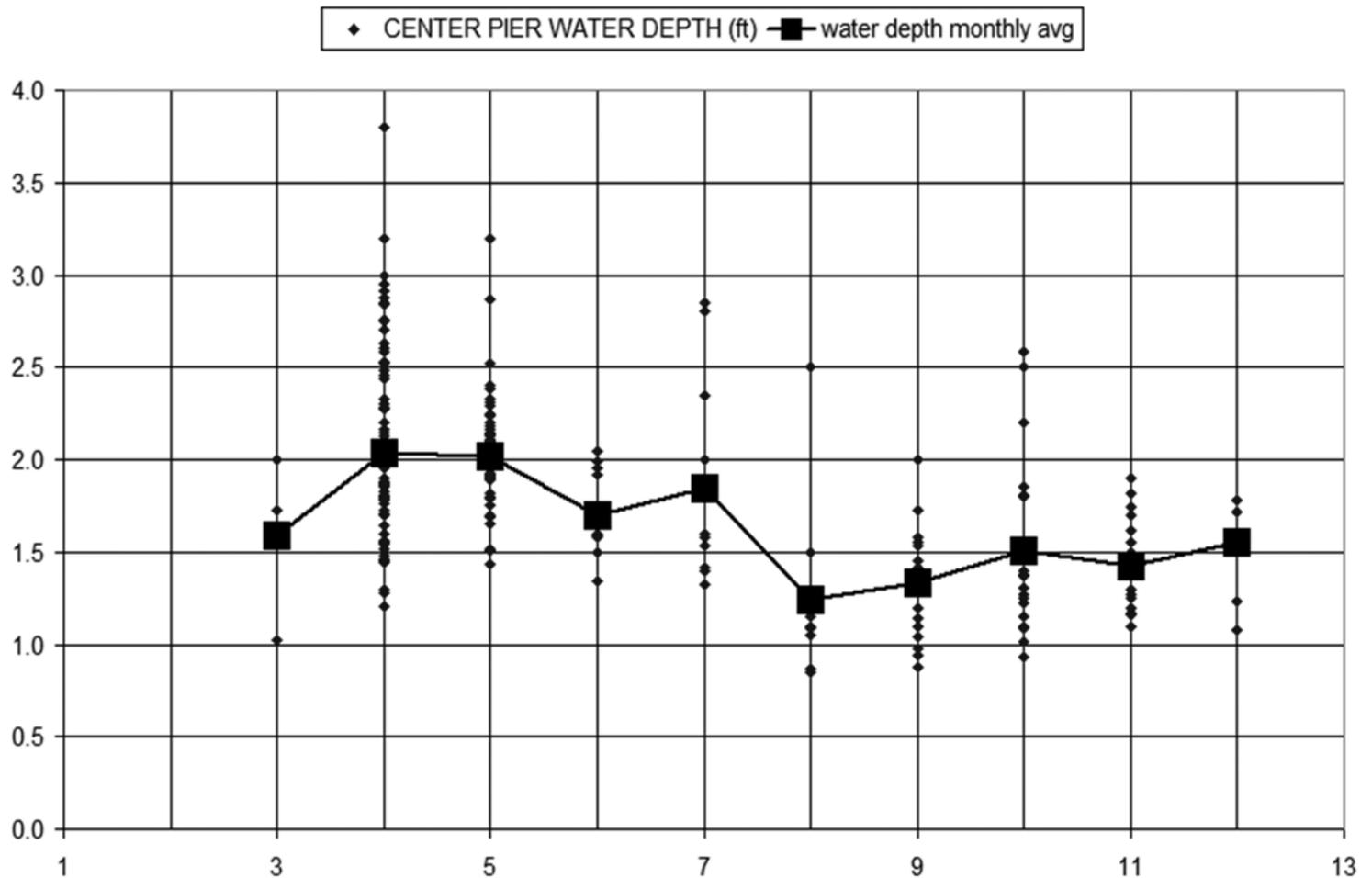
The Westmore Association has begun talks with ANR that will hopefully lead to a scheme that will satisfy all concerned. This may take some time to accomplish as structural changes may be needed at the outlet to better control the outflow. Stay tuned.

This year saw the publication of a new depth chart of Willoughby Lake. Over the past several summers I have been collecting depth measurements using a depth finder-GPS combination instrument that logs depth and location to a computer that in turn draws depth contours. Thirty three thousand depth readings later and with the help of my nephew, Dan Brooks, we applied my data to an aerial image of the Willoughby area. The finished product shows the depth contours over the whole lake, a new maximum depth of 337 ft. and an excellent picture of the surrounding landscape. Two sizes of the chart are available; 12x18" for \$15 and 24x36" for \$40. The small version is available for purchase at the Willoughby Lake Store and both sizes may be ordered from the Westmore Association web site: www.westmoreassociation.org There is a small shipping charge added for web orders.

All proceeds from the sales go to the Westmore Association in support of scholarships and the community activities of the Association.



Monthly Avg water depth, all data, 1993 - 2015



New Board Member

Sandra Towns is the newest Board member for the Westmore Association. As you probably know, Sandy and her husband, Jim, are the owners of the Willoughby Lake Store, which has become such a valued part of our community. Sandy was born in Brockton, MA and grew up in Avon, MA where she met her husband in 8th grade. They have shared many adventures since including living in places as diverse as North Dakota, Mildenhall, England and Bedford, MA during Jim's time in the service. After his discharge they lived on Cape Cod, purchasing their first house in Falmouth. They began their time in the tourist industry in Wells River, VT and eventually moved to Lyndonville. There they had a travel agency and enjoyed showing their clients the world. Looking for a new adventure, Jim and Sandy heard about a store for sale at Willoughby Lake. Within two weeks of visiting the store and the lake they became the owners of the soon to be lovingly renovated Willoughby Lake Store. Sandy says that although they have been many places this is the best move they have ever made. She loves the area, the people and the store. When she is not busy (never!) she enjoys playing golf and is a member of a bowling team. She feels Westmore is home and she enjoys giving back to the community. She feels that being on the Board of the Westmore Association is a great fit!

Our New State Park

By Carroll Guitar

On a beautiful July 11th, the State of Vermont and the Town of Westmore celebrated the dedication of Sentinel Rock State Park. This 356 acre parcel of land with its iconic glacial erratic was donated to the State of Vermont in 1997 by Windsor Wright who had owned and preserved the property for many years. There are tremendous views of Willoughby Lake and the surrounding areas from this height of land.

In 2008 the State of Vermont sold the Cheney House at the south end of Willoughby with the intention of using the profits from the sale to make improvements to Sentinel Rock. Sadly, the buildings could not be saved but the footprint from the house can clearly be seen and is a feature, along with signage, of the park.

The celebration included remarks by Craig Whipple, Director of Vermont State Parks and staff from the Agency of Natural Resources, an historic preservation specialist, Louisa Dotoli, Westmore Planning Commission, a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Wright and the playing of a song about the views from the site written and performed by the late Bob Decker. A delicious reception followed the dedication at the Westmore Fellowship Hall provided by the Ladies Aid Society of the Westmore Congregational Church and members of the Westmore Association.



Left to right: Craig Whipple, VT State Parks and Windsor Wright

ANNUAL FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Please use the enclosed form & envelope to 're-up' and send in your dues for the coming year!

OR

Visit www.westmoreassociation.org to renew your membership

If you missed paying in 2015 – it's not too late to renew!

Just add it to 2016's and mail it off. Remember, any amount over the basic dues can be legally taken as an income tax deduction. Many thanks for your vital, timely, continuing support.

Questions? E-mail Bruce Tanner at bruce.tanner50@gmail.com

THANKS!

Time and Talent Auction 2015

By Anne Brooks

For sure, Craig Vance is the star of the show at the Time and Talent Auction held in Westmore every other summer. So much so that a tourist passing through was compelled to write to The Chronicle to remark about his “hilarious and superior entertainment.” It was the potluck supper sign that caught her eye on Route 5A so she stopped to partake of the “homemade delights” which did not disappoint. But she stayed for the auction, was amused by the competitive bidding, and impressed by the community support that allowed the Westmore Association to award \$9,000 in scholarships to deserving local students.

The Auction was introduced several years ago as a fundraiser that would encourage members of the Westmore Association to think of ways to contribute their time and talents to raise funds for the Association’s projects. The organizers felt that too often the local businesses have been called upon to donate goods and services. It was time for the local neighbors to find a way to contribute. And our members have certainly stepped up to the

plate. The auction would not be possible without the photographers, knitters, gardeners, cooks, computer gurus, boaters and crafters. A special thanks must go out to the folks who contribute their time and talent. Thanks, folks!! We were able to raise about \$2,500 to support the scholarship and greeter programs that are so important to our community.



Craig Vance, auctioneer

2015 Greeter Program Report

By Ray Lanier



The Westmore Association in partnership with the Town of Westmore conducted the 2015 Greeter Program to educate boaters and check boats being launched and retrieved from the Fish & Wildlife Access Area on Willoughby Lake. The program was managed by Ray Lanier with help from Gary Seslar and Phyllis Parrott who tabulates the data collected by the greeters and who will file a report to the State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for analysis. The program this year ran from the Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. Returning full time greeters were Bruce Rumball and MaryLiz Riddle and Sonya Fee-Doran. Two new hires this year, David Punt and Maura Gahan, were hired as alternate greeters to substitute for greeters who had to take personal time off. The greeters are employees of the Town and worked two shifts Tuesdays through Sundays from 4:45 AM to 6:45 AM and two shifts on Mondays 4:45 AM to 9 AM and 2:30 PM to 6:45 PM. This allowed for 92.5 hours of coverage per week as compared to the 59.5 hours of coverage in past years. The extra hours

of coverage was funded by a \$6,000 grant from Vermont Fish & Wildlife that Art Brooks and Ray Lanier obtained. Because of the extra hours, many more boaters were greeted and more plant material was removed from boats being launched and retrieved. In addition, one boat being launched had curly leaf pondweed, an invasive species, attached to it that was removed by our greeter thereby not allowing it to infest Willoughby. The boats being retrieved that had samples of Milfoil or native non-invasive plants were also removed by our greeters as it is illegal to transport any plant from a body of water. Once again, this shows that the program not only protects Willoughby Lake but also protects other lakes. As in past years, a good part of the program involves the education of boaters about the problems caused by invasive species such as Eurasian Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, and Spiny Water Flea while checking the boats and trailers. I will provide a detailed Greeter Program report for the President’s News Letter that will provide the total number of boats encountered and the cost of the program.

Eurasian Watermilfoil Harvesting Report, 2015

By Bruce Tanner

2015 was a good year at Willoughby Lake in terms of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EW) infestation. The cold winter and heavy rainfall in June and part of July inhibited EW growth statewide. Although EW harvesting by AE Commercial Diving Services has not yet finished for 2015 as of this writing, it can be safely stated that this was one of the lowest yields of EW on record. This is good news!

An interim progress report from AE states that a total of 145 buckets (~20 gal/bucket) of EW have been harvested to date, which is well below past year totals. There are at least three more days of harvesting planned, which will revisit the boat launch and North Beach areas, two past hot spots.

In July, Art Brooks, Bruce Tanner and Rob Patton conducted a detailed survey of the entire northern half of Willoughby Lake shoreline for EW (the southern half is still free of EW), with the intention of producing a map of EW hot spots to be avoided by boaters. That survey confirmed that EW infestation was generally much lower than in years past. Hopes are high to produce a map which can be handed out by Greeters to the boaters in the Spring.

If only EW were our only concern! There are many more invasive species knocking at the door and it is imperative that we keep vigilant for new arrivals. To this end, a number of Volunteer Invasive Patrollers (VIP) on Willoughby Lake are desirable for catching potential new introductions of invasive species early, when remediation can be most effective. We have a few VIPs signed up along the western side of Willoughby Lake but need VIPs on the northeastern shore and south end. If you are interested in participating, please contact me (802-525-4471, brucetanner50@gmail.com) for more information.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

www.westmoreassociation.org

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**Our 49th Year!
1967-2016**

NEWSLETTER
Reflections