



LAPA - West
Lakes and Ponds Association of Western Massachusetts

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ANNUAL REPORT

To: Lake Association Presidents
From: LAPA Board of Directors

Dear President,

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following is a brief description of activities over the past few years:

- **FALL SYMPOSIUM** Held at BCC since 2009, it has been our premier event, and we plan to continue. A wide variety of topics has been covered, including focus subjects for the last 3 events; Weed management, Zebra mussel threat, and working within the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA). The half day format at BCC seems to provide adequate time to cover the topics, reduces the time commitment needed by attendees and presenters, and eliminates the expense and logistics of providing lunch.
- **SPRING WORKSHOPS** These have focused on a single topic ranging from Canada Goose control, Zebra mussel detection and response, weed identification, role of Conservation Commissions in lake management, among others.
- **ADVOCACY** We have developed good working relationships with the leaders of the state agencies responsible for our lakes. We also have kept our state legislative delegation apprised of the concerns we have as lake stewards. Two actions which probably would not have happened without our work are the funding of the boat ramp monitor program, and the law enacted last year prohibiting introduction of invasive species into our lakes.

As our president, Jack Hickey has provided the very able leadership over the past 6 years needed to accomplish all the above. He is stepping down this year, and as of now there is no replacement. Fortunately he has agreed to stay on as a member of the Board of Directors, so we will continue to benefit from his advice and experience. Thank you Jack for your past service and for agreeing to continue on with us.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The LAPA board is committed to continuing to support Member Lake Associations which work to maintain and improve our lakes but we can't do it alone. Specifically we are asking for:

- **OUTREACH** We need to reach out directly to your members and others in your communities who have an interest and commitment to the lakes. Attendance at the 2013 symposium was somewhat improved over prior years, probably because of work we did with some of you to improve our contact list, but it needs to be better. Board members will be in contact with you to get email and USPS addresses for your constituents.
- **FEEDBACK** Tell us what you would like for symposium and workshop topics, and share with all of us your problems and solutions.
- **MONEY** Please pay your dues using the attached invoice. We ran a deficit for several years so we really need the \$.

Lee Hauge, LAPA Vice President

Contact any of us with questions, comments, suggestions, and requests.