

Mirror Lake Protective Association
P.O. Box 311
Mirror Lake, New Hampshire 03853

Notice of Annual Meeting

June 7, 2010

Mirror Lake Watershed Resident:

You are receiving this letter because you either reside in, or own property or a business in, the watershed for Mirror Lake. What is a watershed? It is the land area from which all the water that falls on it ends up in the same place. For your property, that's Mirror Lake. You may be more familiar with the terms "drainage basin" and "catchment area". The Mirror Lake watershed is approximately, 2,160 acres and includes properties from Poor Farm Hill to the south and Bennett Hill to the north. There are approximately, 324 properties in the Mirror Lake watershed and, about half of them are located in the Town of Tuftonboro and the other half in the Town of Wolfeboro.

Mirror Lake has a pollution problem and the solution must start with addressing the runoff into the lake from the watershed. In late summer in 2007, 2008 and 2009 the NH DES confirmed findings of toxic cyanobacteria blooms in Mirror Lake. The toxins cause health problems, including skin irritations and liver and central nervous system damage. In 2007 and 2008, the NH DES issued press releases closing Lang Pond Road beach and issued warnings about recreation on Mirror Lake. In 2009, the blooms were late enough in the season so that the NH DES concluded that recreation warnings were not necessary. During those years, MLPA's water testing program identified high levels of phosphorus and other nutrients throughout Mirror Lake, which nutrients cause these toxic blooms.

How does this affect you? The issue of cyanobacteria affects your health and your property values and that of your neighbors. It demands our immediate attention. There are many lakes in New Hampshire with cyanobacteria problems and there are limited funds to assist in addressing the issue. The problem with New Hampshire lakes is national news. In the May 27 issue, on page 6A, USA Today published the announcement that NH DES "is warning swimmers about cyanobacteria in Locke Lake in Barnstead, Angle Pond in Hampstead, and Sandown and Willand Pond in Dover and Somersworth." The MLPA wants to be ahead of the curve in resolving this problem in the Tuftonboro and Wolfeboro communities.

What can be done? To start to address this problem, the MLPA has been selected to receive a \$65,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (Grant). Awards under this program are administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES). The purpose of the \$65,000 Grant is to fund, in part, a diagnostic study of the Mirror Lake Watershed to identify the sources of the runoff of the excess nutrients into Mirror Lake which cause the cyanobacteria blooms. The study will include the development of a Mirror Lake Watershed Community Plan which will identify remediation actions and the costs thereof. Public outreach and watershed data collection efforts are included. Grant

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funds also will be used to pay the costs of design plans for 1 to 3 initial, modest remediation actions. The grant requires a 40% match in the form of funds (cash) and volunteer hours. Among other things, the Grant will cover the costs of hiring an environmental consulting firm, and an educational outreach consultant. Research and analysis to be undertaken by the environmental consultants will be extensive. In addition, together with volunteers from the Mirror Lake Watershed and the surrounding communities of Tuftonboro and Wolfeboro, data on water, sediment and soil quality will be collected. Surveys of roads, inlets and outlets, and septic systems will be conducted. Information on land usages in the Mirror Lake Watershed will be gathered and compared against models, all with a view of identifying the sources of the excess nutrients and appropriate remediation actions and costs. Volunteers will also participate in fundraising and public education activities.

What to do? Participate! Your membership and involvement are critical.

Where and When? Please attend: **NOTE NEW LOCATION**

**MLPA Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 26, 2010, 9:00 am
The Tuftonboro Town House**

(On Route 109-A, just past the Tuftonboro Town Offices, on the right. Parking in back.)

How can I help?

Join or Renew your membership. Please complete the membership information on the enclosed envelope. For more information about Mirror Lake, see MLPA's web site at: www.mirrorlakenh.org.

Attend the meeting. Requests for proposals are out to environmental consulting firms and we plan to have the bid selection process completed so that you can meet the selected bidder at the meeting on Saturday, June 26th. At that time they will provide an overview of the program for the summer.

Participate. We need funding and volunteers. We are asking watershed residents to either contribute 20 volunteer hours this summer, toward the data collection and public outreach efforts described above, or to donate \$400 to help us meet the Grant's matching requirements. Please indicate the amount of your contribution on, and enclose it in, the membership envelope. **Your contribution is critical to the efforts to address Mirror Lake's pollution problems.** MLPA, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all contributions are tax-deductible, to the extent allowed by law. MLPA's Federal ID #: 02-0450541. Corporate matching gifts and trust fund donations are welcome.

Thank you for joining and your contribution. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Officers and Board of Directors
Mirror Lake Protective Association