

The Reservoir Review

A Newsletter About Life on Neponset Reservoir

BEAUTIFUL TO LOOK AT, BUT...

IT'S SPRING ON NEPONSET RESERVOIR, as evidenced by the swan families and nests we see on and around the lake. As beautiful as these creatures are, there are things you may want to know about them.



Photo courtesy of Hippopx

To begin, the predominant species of swan found on Neponset Reservoir is the Mute Swan. The adult has a white body with a black face mask. However, the distinguishing characteristic with the Mute Swan is its orange bill with a black “knob” at the top of their beak, near the forehead. The male, known as a “cob” and the female, known as a “pen,” appear identical, but the male is larger with a slightly longer head and body, and wider wingspan. While they mate

for life, if one of the adults should die, the other, regardless of gender, takes on all responsibilities of parenthood making sure babies are fed and well protected.

The young babies, called cygnets, don't develop the colors of their parents till around the first year. When born, their down is grayish and their bill is a dull grayish-black. That said, they grow quickly, reaching close to their adult size approximately three months after hatching.



Photo from Newsletter Author's Personal Photo Library

Swans live 20-30 years and will generally remain in the same area for life using the same nest site. Very territorial, they will protect their nests and babies at all costs if they feel threatened in any way.

...DON'T FEED THE SWANS



Photo courtesy of Pixabay

Of the seven various species of swans, the Mute Swan is one of the most aggressive. During nesting season, they have been known to attack humans, especially young children, who get too close to their nest or young. And while we've all seen the swan nests on our lake's islands, as we've gone by on our canoes, kayaks and boats, don't get too close or you'll see these swans flap their wings and hiss just before attacking.

Mute Swans are vegetarian, eating weeds and algae, however they also eat fish, frogs, insects and worms. It is important for these swans, if they are to survive, to stick with their primary diet.

MassWildlife, US Dept of Agriculture and many other wildlife organizations strongly advise against feeding swans. Doing so teaches them to rely on humans for food, which puts them at a disadvantage for survival. Feeding also increases human/wildlife interactions and once they've established this interaction, it can be very difficult to change as they become more aggressive. Add to that, feeding them human and/or processed food can result in nutritional imbalances leading to dangerous digestive blockages, which can be fatal.

Annually, we have seen people feeding swans on the Reservoir, which have resulted in the swans getting increasingly more aggressive each year. In one instance, the swans were going up to the door of a home on a daily basis and pecking on the window of their slider. In another instance, a swan chased a woman into her basement as she was working in her yard...and this woman had never fed the swans. But they are getting so used to being fed, they are chasing people for food.

In conclusion, please continue to admire and respect these majestic creatures, however for their health and safety, as well as for the safety of all children and adults.....**PLEASE DON'T FEED THE SWANS.**



CLEARCUTTING AND OTHER POTENTIAL PROJECTS ON NEPONSET RESERVOIR

CLEARCUTTING IS A METHOD OF TREE REMOVAL whereby all trees in an area are removed. There are times it's beneficial, such as in instances of harvesting and replanting trees. However, when it's done on a body of water, it can cause erosion, landslides and contamination of the water.

According to the University of NH's article, Landscaping at the Water's Edge, found on the Town of Foxborough's Conservation Commission page, [click here](#), most shorelines include trees, small shrubs and ground cover all designed by nature to protect our water bodies.

The more natural barriers we remove, the more likely the lake or river will be negatively impacted by erosion and runoff. Eroded shorelines invite runoff carrying pesticides, chemicals, and nutrients into the water that kill fish and promote the growth of aquatic weeds. Find a waterbody with no vegetation along the shore and you will see a murky mud puddle that no longer is the ideal place to sit and take in a summer view.



Photo courtesy of maforests.org

And did you know that any alterations that are proposed on any land/soil located within 100 feet of a lake or pond requires the Conservation Commission's review and written approval?

Have a tree you want removed? Unless a property owner has a valid wetlands permit (such as a Determination or Order of Conditions) that was issued by the Conservation Commission, he/she may not alter, clear, fill, cut, grade, build or dump (not even leaves, grass clippings, dirt or swimming pool water) within Jurisdictional Areas.

In short, what steps should you take if you have a project in mind?

1. Determine whether your proposed project might occur in a wetland resource area, buffer zone, riverfront area, or no activity zone. To do this, you may need the assistance of a wetland scientist or the Conservation Agent.
2. Visit the Town Hall's Conservation Office (on the 2nd floor). They will help you with questions and permit requirements.
3. Complete the required wetland permit application form and attachment(s).
4. Meet with the Conservation Commission.
5. Receive your permit before work begins.

Location of Foxborough Conservation Commission:

40 South St
Foxborough, MA 02035
Ph: (508) 543-1251

We welcome you to click on this link below, to learn more:

[Town of Foxborough Conservation Commission](#)

There you will find pages of information and forms to answer any questions you may have.

*(Thanks to Jane Sears Pierce, Foxboro's Conservation Agent,
for her help in putting this article together).*

*"A lake is a landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is Earth's eye;
looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."*

-Henry David Thoreau



NEPONSET RESERVOIR SPRING SURVEY RESULTS

ON MAY 10, WATER RESOURCE SERVICES conducted our Spring survey of the Reservoir, as they do annually.



Fanwort

Overall, the results were positive. The fluridone treatment of 2021 continues to provide good control over fanwort. While still early in the season, no fanwort was observed and more limited control of other species.

We may need to look at controlling the watermilfoil going forward. If necessary, there is a new herbicide approved for use in MA that targets milfoil species with minimal impact on native species. We will keep an eye on it this season and determine options going forward.



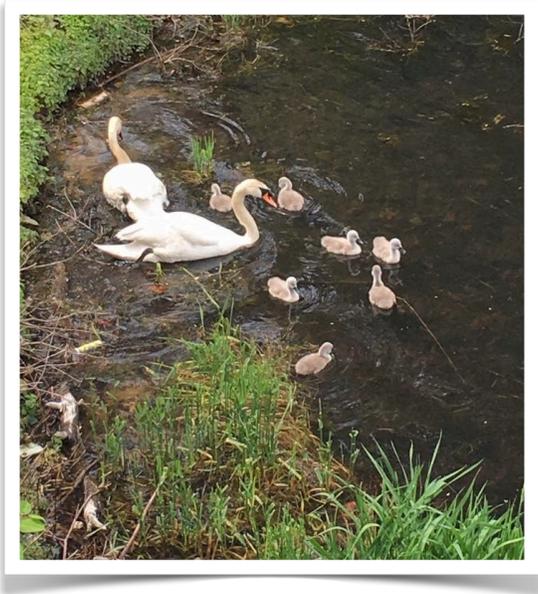
Watermilfoil

Bigleaf pondweed, nitella and filamentous green algal mats were also found but not as invasive as in previous years.

The NRRC will continue to monitor all species annually and take appropriate steps, with the help of Water Resource Services, where and when necessary.



SPOTLIGHT ON....SHORELINE VISITORS



*Mute Swan Family
New to the Neighborhood*

Mallards Out For Some Sun



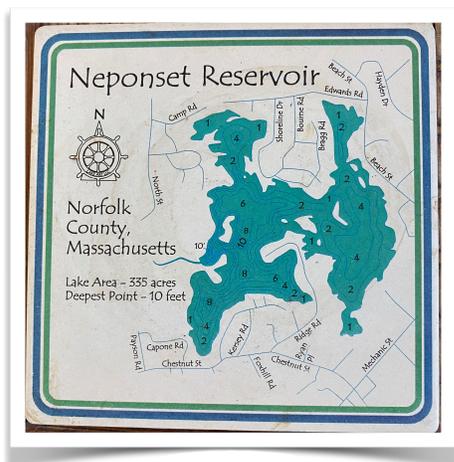
Great Blue Heron On Watch Duty



WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?

BECAUSE MANY OF YOU HAVE ASKED, OCCASIONALLY, IN OUR NEWSLETTERS, we will continue to show some of the items from LakeHouse Lifestyle, that can imprint both home decor and clothing with our Neponset Reservoir map along with all coordinates and depths. Maybe you'd enjoy some coasters or a coffee mug, perhaps a floor mat, pillow or tee shirt, proudly displaying our lake name?

Should you be interested in purchasing something from their website, [click here](#) and you'll get to the page with items suitable for branding and purchase. Questions? Contact Brian at sales@lakehouselifestyle.com.



LAKE LIFE



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