



## *Echoes from Our Lake*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WALKER LAKESHORES LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
SEPTEMBER 2021  
*VOLUME 153*

### **September Message**

A consistent theme among those who survived September 11 and its aftermath was the unanswerable question: “Why them and not me?” Many concluded that the only proper response to their good fortune was to redouble their commitment to serving others.

September 11 was also one of those rare occasions that caused us all – or nearly all – to realize how precious a thing is our democratic republic, our freedom, and our relative (not absolute, relative) enlightenment as a people; how fragile; how in need of vigilant guardianship.

There are few acts of, let’s say, a “public” nature that are as hideous, as purely evil, as those perpetrated on September 11. The wanton killing, maiming and otherwise harming of thousands of innocent humans that took place that day was a reminder that civilization itself is not a uniform phenomenon and that we must, in all our interactions, cultivate our better angels lest the dark side prevail.

In the 20 years since September 11, 2001, we Americans took on the fight against global terrorism, just as – at great cost – we’d taken on – and defeated – the global scourges of Nazism and communism. That fight has been conducted imperfectly and the outcome is not yet clear. But the cost to us and others has been huge. Our ability, not to mention will, to continue carrying on such fights is in question.

The totality of it, from its horrific beginning all the way through to where we are now, is enough to take one’s breath away.

After all the commentary and analysis, all the speeches and remembrances, it might behoove us, we the fortunate ones who survived September 11, to stand lakeside on a suitable evening and simply, humbly listen to what the wind may have to tell us.

— Bob Fisher with photo  
by Kathleen Keady



## Informational Road Update

A Special Road Meeting, to which the entire Walker Lake community was invited, was held via Zoom on August 19. WLLA Road Committee Chair Michael DeVita offered an *“Informational Road Update”* PowerPoint presentation to those – including members of the Board of Directors – who attended. The PowerPoint can be viewed at [walkerlake.com/road](http://walkerlake.com/road).

Two days later, at the August 21 regular Board meeting, directors approved establishing an ad hoc Road Planning Committee to create a long-term plan for WLLA-owned roads and the means of paying for whatever improvements that plan would envision. This Committee will be comprised of current board members and Road Committee members plus three landowners who are neither Board nor Committee members.

At its regular meeting, the Board also approved a contract to tar and chip Walker Lake Road from Pear to Lake Shore.

WLLA also has engaged a new – old – snowplow contractor. At the July Board meeting, Frenchmen Excavating was awarded a two-year snowplow contract at \$35,000 per year. Frenchmen has the equipment and staffing and is prepared to provide the same level of service as Empire Excavating, which is no longer in the snowplowing business.

The remnants of Hurricane Ida brought Walker Lake six inches of rain in a short time. Rainwater overflowed some ditch lines and caused major erosion on some of the gravel roads. As this is written, bids are being solicited from contractors for repairs. Road storm damage repairs have a major impact on WLLA’s very limited road budget and divert funds that were otherwise intended for improvements.

Autumn is fast approaching which again brings to the ground the abundance of leaves from our beautiful trees. Please make sure the ditch lines and culverts along your property are cleaned properly. Cleaning the ditches and culverts is vitally important for road preservation and, hence, the stretching of our roads funds generally.

[If on-line, you can click [here](#) for the 8/19/21 Road PowerPoint]

— Michael DeVita



## **Pike County Tick- Borne Diseases Baseline Study**

[Condensed from a July 5, 2021 Pike County Press Release]

Pike County's Tick Borne Diseases Task Force conducted a first-of-its-kind baseline study from 2018 to 2019 in partnership with the Dr. Jane Huffman Wildlife Genetics Institute at East Stroudsburg University. The public can visit [pikepa.org/tick](http://pikepa.org/tick) to view a video summarizing the study results.

The Task Force is an initiative of the Pike County Commissioners focused on decreasing the number of tick borne illnesses by building community awareness through education, support, and advocacy.

### **Study Parameters**

The baseline study involved the collection and testing of 1,000 Blacklegged Ticks for seven disease-causing organisms, called pathogens, which the ticks may carry. The intent was to assess disease and infection rates in order to provide educational outreach to the public and medical professionals on risks and prevention of tick-borne diseases.

Any tick species other than blacklegged ticks that were found were collected and accounted for but were not tested for diseases. These included the following species: Dog Tick, Lone Star Tick and Asian Long Horn Tick.

Due to the heightened activity of ticks in the spring and fall, the study was conducted from the spring of 2018 through the fall of 2019.

### **Results**

- A total of 1,051 Blacklegged Ticks and 1,003 Dog Ticks were collected... here was a fairly even split between female and male ticks.
- The black legged ticks collected were tested for the following pathogens: Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Bartonellosis., Mycoplasmosis, Miyamotoi, and Powassan Virus Lineage II (also called Deer Tick Virus).
- Lyme Disease was the most pervasive finding, with 38.77% of the ticks testing positive for this pathogen.
- Bartonellosis was the second highest finding, with 18.52% of the ticks testing positive for this pathogen.
- There were 123 ticks found to be carrying two or more diseases, known as a coinfection. The presence of multiple diseases can complicate a medical diagnosis and treatment and may increase the severity of symptoms. The highest co-infection observed was Lyme disease and Anaplasmosis.

### **Educational Outreach**

The Task Force offers educational brochures to help people prevent tick borne diseases and safely enjoy the great outdoors. The Tick 101 brochure covers identification, removal, symptoms, testing facilities, and prevention techniques. Tick 201 (on next following page) provides proactive measures to help protect your property, and includes a refresher on tick identification and testing.

The Task Force also offers educational materials for children including a short story, lessons, and activity sheets.

The Task Force meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m., currently via Zoom. New members are welcome. Information from Brian Snyder at [bsnyder@pikepa.org](mailto:bsnyder@pikepa.org) or 570-296-3500

Brochures: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/gr37rdz8l5hklb5/AACfIYXsZ6mgwq4hDJCDo-vva?dl=0>

Study: <https://www.pikepa.org/Tickfold/Pike%20TBD%20Task%20Force%20Baseline%20Study.pdf>

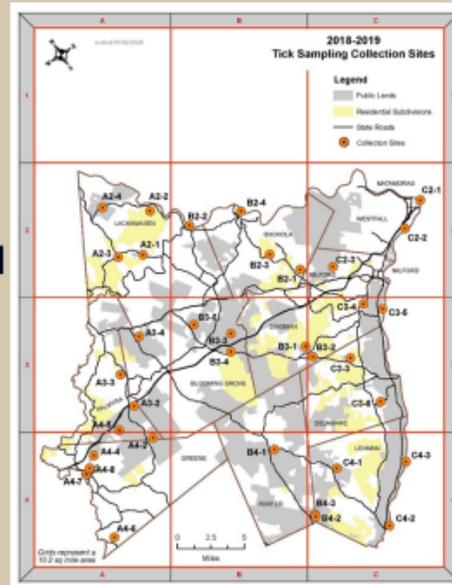
# Pike County Tick Borne Disease Base Line Study

55.4%

Results revealed that 55.40% of ticks tested were positive for at least one pathogen.

In May 2018, the Pike County Commissioners with assistance from the Pike County Tick Borne Diseases Task Force and the Dr. Jane Huffman Wildlife Genetics Institution started a countywide study of Blacklegged Ticks.

This study collected 1,000 Blacklegged Ticks and tested for seven known pathogens

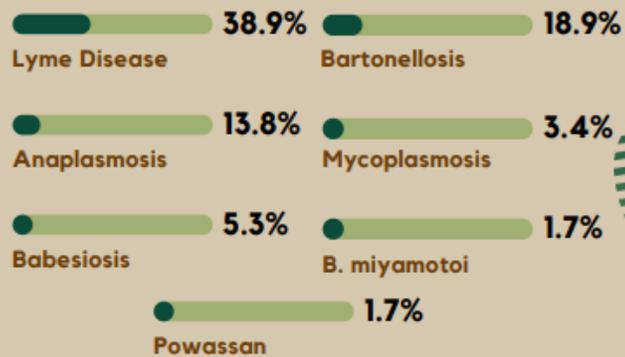


## Co-Infection Prevalence



123 of the 988 blacklegged ticks tested were carrying more than 1 pathogen/disease.

## Tick Borne Disease Prevalence

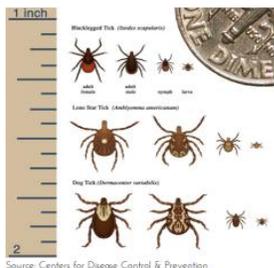


## IDENTIFICATION



Pike County and the surrounding area have Blacklegged Ticks (commonly called Deer Ticks), Dog Ticks, and even Lone Star Ticks.

This image depicts the 3 ticks, in all their stages of development.



Source: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

### Did You Know?

Pennsylvania has led the nation in confirmed Lyme disease cases each year since 2011.

When detected early, Lyme disease and other tick borne diseases can be treated. Left untreated, tick borne diseases can cause a whole host of problems. Early diagnosis is important in preventing long term complications.

## RESOURCES



3rd SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH  
10:00 AM

PIKE COUNTY LAB & RADIOLOGY SUITE  
750 ROUTE 739  
LORDS VALLEY, PA 18428  
(570) 775-4278

Wayne Memorial Hospital offers a monthly support group for those affected by tick borne diseases.

TICK-BORNE DISEASE WELLNESS CENTER  
of PIKE FAMILY HEALTH CENTER  
750 ROUTE 739  
LORDS VALLEY, PA 18428  
(570) 775-7100



2nd SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

PIKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
119 HARFORD STREET  
MILFORD, PA 18337

Our support group is for people with tick borne diseases and their families.

[www.pikepa.org/tick.html](http://www.pikepa.org/tick.html)

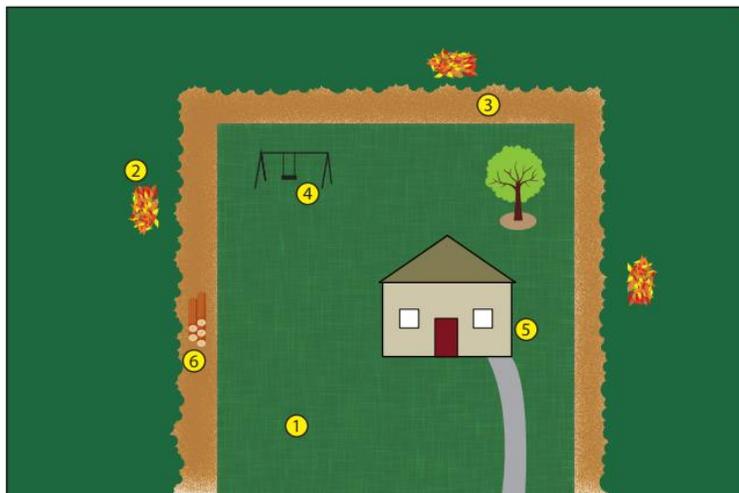


## TICK 201

Protecting Your Property



Compliments of the Pike County Commissioners



## BE PROACTIVE



If you spend any time outdoors, chances are you are going to come in contact with a tick. However, a few simple tricks can make your property less desirable for them in the first place.

- 1 Keep lawns cut short.
- 2 Rake leaves away from the home.
- 3 Keep a debris free border along your yard and wooded areas.
- 4 Keep playground equipment, decks and patios away from yard edges and trees.
- 5 Clear tall grasses and brush around home and edges of your yard.
- 6 Stack wood neatly and in a dry area (discourages rodents)

## TO TREAT OR NOT TO TREAT



When it comes to the use of chemicals, there are many opinions as to the effectiveness of the treatment vs. the safety of the family. While that decision must be made individually, we offer the following suggestions that have proven success in managing ticks.

### DEET

Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus

Permethrin

Picaridin (or KBR 3023)

IR3535

2-Undecanone

Many plant-derived repellents

### PROPERTY TREATMENT

Landowners can hire professionals to treat their property to suppress the tick population or implement a number of other treatments, including Tick Tubes or Tick Boxes. Tick Tubes are cardboard tubes that contain permethrin-soaked cotton that, when placed in the yard, mice will bring back to their nests. Doing so eliminates the ticks at the mouse level.

## TICK TESTING



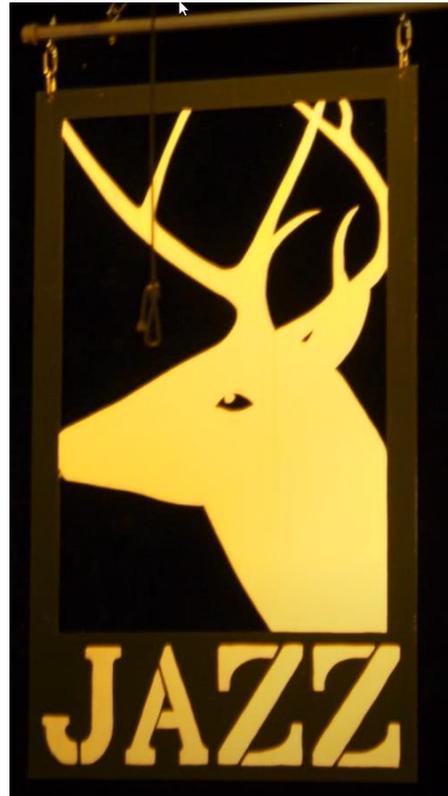
As of Spring 2019, Pennsylvania residents now have a place to send ticks to have them tested for Lyme and other diseases. If you suffer a bite or find a tick attached to you, remove the tick and place it in a bag. Visit [Ticklab.org](http://Ticklab.org) and follow the steps to get your tick tested.

For more complete information, visit our website [www.pikepa.org/tick.html](http://www.pikepa.org/tick.html)

## **Our Piano Man**

“Shohola Campfire,” a musical composition and series of fact-based stories about Walker Lake is one of seven movements of the “Delaware River Suite,” composed by our own Bill Mays, a renowned jazz pianist, arranger and composer, from his CD of the same name performed by his “Inventions Trio” (cello, trumpet and piano).

Bill on piano, joined by Dean Johnson and Ron Vincent, on bass and drums, will performing his “Autumn Serenade,” on Friday evening, October 1, 2021, at the Deer Head Inn – the oldest continuously running jazz club in the country, at Main St. (PA 611) and Mountain Road, Delaware Water Gap, PA. Tickets will be available shortly at: <https://deerheadinn.com/>



William Allen Mays was “born into music,” he says. His father, Bill Sr., was a minister by day and multi-instrument player in his spare time. As Bill recalls, “Gospel was the first music I heard. I have vivid memories of Dad playing the accordion while Mom, who had a fine, natural voice, sang. Dad’s trombone was an old, silver-valved one. I loved that sound – it’s probably the reason I took up the baritone horn and trumpet in junior high school. We had a spinet piano, a Baldwin Acrosonic, and I was at it from a very early age.”

“I had some great teachers down through the years but the one who really set the stage, when I was about eight, was Ethel Bush. She was a loving, supportive person who really ignited my passion for the instrument, including a love of practice, an awareness of tone production and the sheer joy of just being at the piano. That was a great gift.

“My first exposure to jazz came at age 16, when a friend took me to a jazz brunch at which the legendary Earl ‘Fatha’ Hines was playing solo piano. It was so new to my ears, and it was burning! His rhythmic drive, unusual melodic twists, two-handed independence and use of the whole keyboard thrilled and inspired me. Shortly thereafter, I heard Miles Davis’ band at San Francisco’s “Black Hawk,” and that was further inspiration.”

Bill served four years, in the early ‘60s, as a bandsman in the U.S. Navy, playing for admirals and enlisted men from the U.S. Naval Base Coronado in San Diego. He then moved up the coast to be a studio session musician in LA, becoming a fixture in the Hollywood recording studios and working with great film composers.

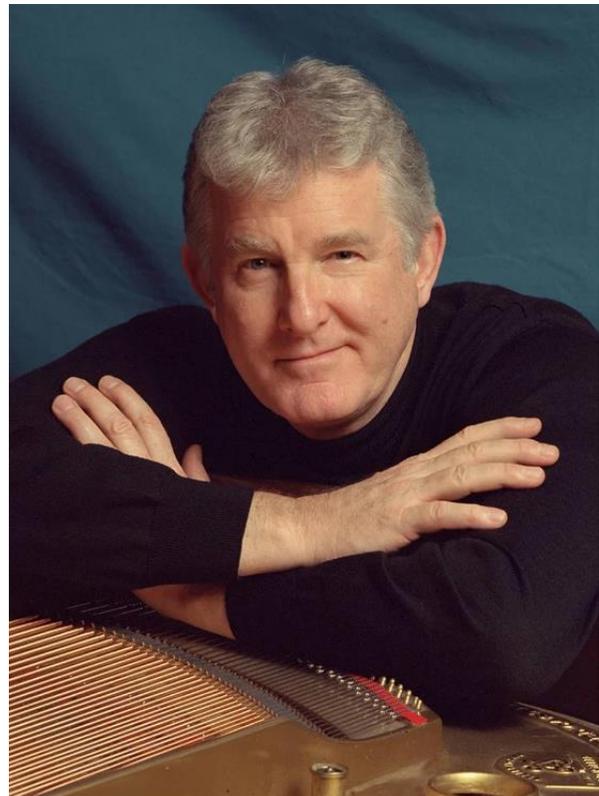
In 1984, Bill relocated to New York City to, as he said, “play with some of the jazz greats of the time.” There, he established himself as an in-demand sideman and leader of his own ensembles, performing at Birdland, Blue Note, Bradley’s, Carnegie Hall, Dizzy’s, Guggenheim Museum, Iridium, Jazz Standard, Kitano, Lincoln Center, Mezzrow, MOMA, Rubin Museum, Smoke, Steinway Pianos, Village Gate, and the Village Vanguard.

In his travels, Bill has been an accompanist to singers Al Jarreau, Peggy Lee, Anita O’Day, Frank Sinatra, Sarah Vaughan and Dionne Warwick; worked with artists such as Don Ellis, Mel Lewis, Barry Manilow, Shelly Manne, Bob Mintzer, Red Mitchell, Gerry Mulligan, Art Pepper, Bud Shank, Bobby Shew, Sonny Stitt, Paul Winter, Phil Woods and Frank Zappa, and recorded over three dozen albums under his own name.

Thirty-two years ago, Bill and his wife, Judy Kirtley, a singer and oil and watercolor painter, bought their home at Walker Lake and started living here part time. “I love the place,” Bill said. “Judy served on the board for a while and I believe the folks running the Association now are transparent and accountable. They’re hobbled to a degree by those who are delinquent in paying their dues and we need to stay on top of that. It will help if we all keep our eyes on what’s going on.”

Picture Bill, sitting at his piano in what he calls “Musik Haus” here giving you, his guest, a brief introduction to jazz. Here’s what he might say:

*Jazz is similar to classical music in that its composition is based on a theme and variations on that theme. The difference, typically, is that the jazz musician is making up the variations spontaneously, albeit based on certain rules. Those improvisations (variations) work off of the basic harmonic structure of the piece. What I play will depend – I don’t want*



*to sound too mystical here – but will depend on what I feel flowing through me at the moment. I have to be a blank slate. I'm feeling the piano, the acoustics of the room, the vibes of the audience, and I'm responding.*

*It's not, however, as if it all were out of thin air. Like everything else in human experience, jazz builds on what went before. There are many – and a growing number of – different styles; there are the crosscurrents with classical music. When I write a song, I'm like a painter. I think of the mood I want to set. What for the painter are colors, for me are sounds, chords, notes. And I also have to work with the instruments which will be used to express the piece and their own individual characteristics. At my writing desk or the piano, I may spend days composing a piece; trying things, throwing things away that don't seem to work; putting others into a compositional notebook for some future use.*

*Speaking of throwing things away, it's time for me, your volunteer weekly trash collector, to head down to the beach and the boat landing to pick up trash. I don't mind doing that. It gets me out in the beauty of this day and this place, and it'll give me material for the next "Shohola campfire."*

Bill's website, where you can find information on his upcoming engagements, CDs available for sale and his book, *Stories Of The Road*, is here: <https://www.billmays.net/home>

Some of his recordings on YouTube that he feels might be of interest are:

Solo concert in Musik Haus (the writer's favorite) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DT3y1OlbwM>

"Coronavirus Song" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWSvuJj5FPg>

Snow Job (The Bill mays Trio): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBsqY5\\_oKTc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBsqY5_oKTc)

— Bob Fisher

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## **Walker Lake Alumni**

### **Vanessa Carlton**

One of Walker Lake's own "children," singer-songwriter Vanessa Carlton, daughter of Heidi and Skip Carlton, now a young woman living who knows where, whose debut single, "A Thousand Miles" reached top five on the Billboard Hot 100 and whose debut album *Be Not Nobody* was certified platinum, made her Broadway debut in 2019 summer.

In performances at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre in New York, Ms. Carlton played the role of Carole King, in *Beautiful*, the hit bio-musical that tells the story of the early life and career of the music star, using songs that King wrote.



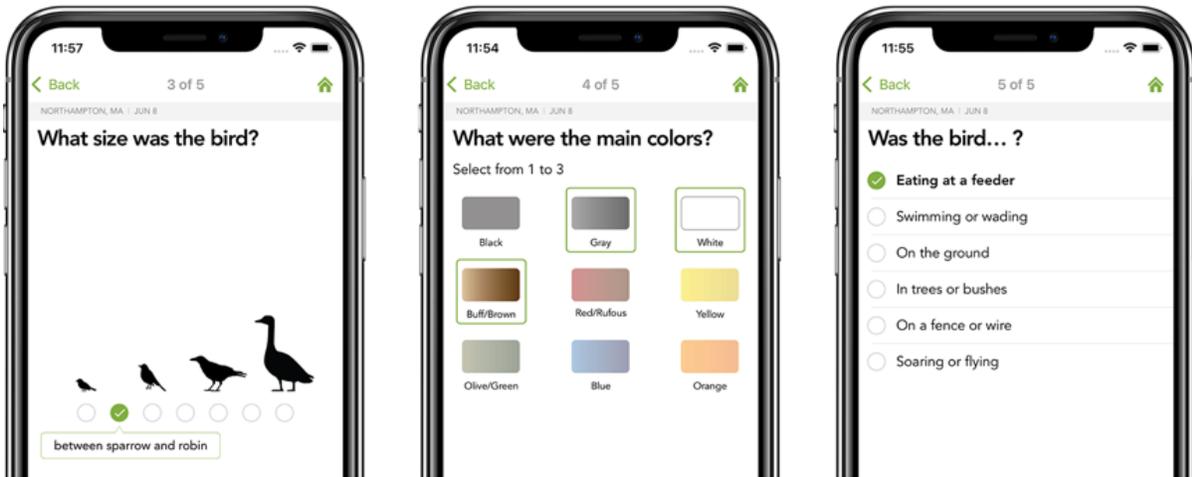
## Merlin



OK.... you see a bird. You hear a bird. How do you identify it when you don't know what it is? Sure, you can go grab one of the many bird books you may have (or wish you had). However, there's an easier way. It's a phone app called Merlin. And it's a game changer.

Why the name? I have no idea. However, maybe because it's a Bird Identification Wizard that takes you step-by-step through the process. Answer three simple questions about a bird you're trying to identify, and Merlin will give you a list of possible matches. Look at the pictures it shows you and find your bird.

It also allows you to identify birds by songs and calls. The Merlin Sound ID listens to the birds around you and shows real time suggestions for which bird is singing.



In addition to bird ID, there are some other Merlin features that I really like. First, it allows one to “save” the list of birds you see in what is called a “Life List”. This allows me to keep a digital scrapbook of birds that I’ve seen this year. Also, once you identify a bird, you can play all of its various bird calls on the app.

A quick bird story regarding use of this app: My wife and I were in the woods. I saw a pileated woodpecker - the Woody Woodpecker type bird. Though I knew what type of bird it was, I used Merlin to identify it. Then I played the sound of the woodpecker on my phone (at full volume) from the Merlin App. All of a sudden, we had three pileated woodpeckers flying around us – drawn in by the calls from the app.

The app was developed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is available at Apple or Google app stores and can be downloaded to a PC.

— Adapted from an article by Jeff McQuaid that appeared in the Summer 2021 issue of *Twin Sails*, the newsletter of the Twin Lakes Property Owners Association



## Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB)

Cyanoalgae exist in all freshwater bodies in the US, including Walker Lake. When they flourish, they can cause Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB), which can be identified mostly along shorelines by their vibrant greenish-yellow to greenish-blue color resembling a paint spill.

Although not necessarily harmful, they can develop toxins harmful to humans and pets and must therefore be noted and reported. When spotted, please be careful and use caution when you or your pets contemplate going into the water. Most often, the vibrant greenish color fades within 24 hours but a milky haze remains for some time. This is when the toxins are released.

Remediation of HABs is difficult. Cyanoalgae are very hardy and can move to strata in the water column beneficial to them. Chemical remedies could cause less hardy, beneficial algae to be destroyed harming the entire lake ecosystem and are therefore not an option.

Currently there are no acceptable methods to eliminate cyanoalgae. To make HABs less likely we can lower some of the known causes for algae growth. These include nutrient loading and rising lake temperatures. The remedies for nutrient loading have been known for many years and most of us practice them. More diligent cleaning of septic systems, eliminating the use of fertilizers from lawns and shrubs and discouraging waterfowl are key.



Water temperature rise in our lake may also be the reason for HAB increases. Global warming is to blame here. It's a phenomenon beyond our individual – but not beyond our collective – capacity to control.

**IMPORTANT** - If someone thinks they see a HAB please notify the office or Lake Committee ASAP so that we can initiate the correct testing protocols and safety procedures!

*— Adapted from an article of the same name by Pete Loewrigkeit that appeared in the Summer 2021 issue of Twin Sails, the newsletter of the Twin Lakes Property Owners Association*

### **WLLA Newsletter Seeking New Editor with the March 2022 Edition**

After four years of diligent, creative work Bob Fisher is no longer able to serve our community as the Editor of the Newsletter after this year's final edition. We have all been enriched by his effort and now it's time for another to take on this important role. You will have help from the Communications Committee! Please contact the WLLA office if you are interested.

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**Walker Lakeshores Landowners Association Officers**

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Treasurer: Carol Gillen  
Secretary: Janice DiMaio

Office Hours: Wednesday & Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Office Administrator: Kathy Zimmermann

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