

Crescent Lake Association – Water Quality Group

Early 2024 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Crescent Lake,

Since CLA President Rich Maynes introduced the Water Quality Group and attached our newsletter to his message dated November 14, 2023, we have been hard at work on several initiatives focused on the protection of Crescent Lake's water.

We submitted paperwork to the state asking for a grant to help fund the **Crescent Lake Watershed Management Plan**. Unfortunately, we were not awarded this grant and will work towards raising money to fund this essential plan. If you're asking why we need this plan, great question. Think of this plan as a road map to know where we need to go. The Crescent Lake Watershed Management Plan will identify fact-based management opportunities specific to our lake. Once these opportunities are identified, we can focus our money and efforts with assured results. For example, everyone who drives on Crescent Lake Road knows about the drainage issues, particularly during and after extreme weather events. The watershed plan will identify what exactly needs to occur to resolve these issues and what we need to do to partner with the town of Acworth to accomplish. Other lakes are way ahead of us and have already funded a watershed plan with great results. If you are interested to see examples of other lakes' plans, feel free to reach out by email to clwaterquality@gmail.com.

Winter Salt Season: Did you know **Salt** is bad for the lake and its watershed? Salt is harmful to aquatic life and since it takes years to naturally work its way through the lake and watershed ecosystem, it's imperative we all do our part to refrain from using Salt on our properties. Fortunately, there are some "Water Friendly" things you can do to eliminate your salt use. The attached flyer titled "Winter Ice Control at Your Crescent Lake Property" contains helpful information with resource links. We hope you will read this flyer and take appropriate steps to prevent salt from entering our lake and watershed.

Permit Reminder: It's always exciting to see our lake beautified by enhancements homeowners make to their properties. As a reminder, permit regulations are in place, primarily to protect the quality of our water. In our last newsletter we attached a flyer titled "Permits and Restrictions for Projects on Your Crescent Lake Property". This flyer is an exceptionally written piece that summarizes what is needed. If you still have questions, no problem...email the water quality group and someone would be happy to help.

THANK YOU for your involvement and interest to Protect Crescent Lake!

Prepared by the CLA Water Quality Group. Have Questions? Email: clwaterquality@gmail.com

Winter Ice Control at Your Crescent Lake Property

Products containing chloride (salt) are commonly used in the winter to control ice on paved roads, driveways, and walkways. Although use of chloride products is beneficial for safe driving and walking, there are effects we need to be aware of. Chloride that leaches into Crescent Lake via runoff is harmful to aquatic life. On shore, it can damage plants in your yard and harm pets.

As we learned at the Crescent Lake Water Quality Forum in July 2023, water testing at Crescent Lake for the past 30+ years indicates that chloride levels are gradually increasing over time. It's important to be aware of the effects of salt on our lake and to do what we can to keep the levels stable or even reverse the trend.

According to NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES), salt is the standard treatment for paved roads, and sand is the standard treatment for gravel/dirt roads. Water Quality Group members have discussed road salt usage with Acworth and Unity. Acworth has agreed to try using sand instead of salt on Crescent Lake Road (paved). Unity uses sand on the gravel roads around the lake and often uses sand on North Shore Road (paved). The first priority is safe driving and walking, and the towns will use salt when needed, but both towns are minimizing salt usage around the lake.

The contractor who maintains the private roads on the Unity side of the lake and East Shore Road on the Acworth side, as well as a number of driveways, uses crushed ledge/stone dust with a low salt content (about 5%). This product is available from St Pierre in Charlestown and is a good solution for driveways.

How Can I Help?

- Shovel as much ice and snow as you can before applying salt products.
- Try using sand for traction before applying salt products. Sand is available free of charge to residents at the Unity and Acworth town garages (bring a shovel and bucket).
- If you must use salt, use it sparingly (a few inches between grains is plenty).
- Don't apply salt if it's too cold. Rock salt only works if the surface temperature is above 15 degrees. Calcium chloride works at temperatures below zero but is corrosive to metal.
- If you spill excess salt, sweep it up so it doesn't run off into your vegetation or the lake.
- If you hire someone to manage your property, find out what they use for ice control. If they use salt products, talk to them about minimizing salt usage. Encourage them to explore the NH DES Green SnoPro program (see below).
- Consider using a chloride-free ice control product. Lake Sunapee Protective Association discusses non-chloride products on their Road Salt Resources website (see below).
- One economical non-chloride product is Clear Way or Clear Path from Bare Ground Solutions (www.bareground.com), which uses potassium formate or potassium acetate. This is a liquid that can be applied with a typical pump-type garden sprayer. Several different sizes are available to order online from Bare Ground Solutions, Amazon, and Home Depot (online), Tractor Supply (online) and other sources. (We don't know of any local dealers currently stocking these products but ship-to-store is available.)

For more information:

- Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) Road Salt Resources (www.lakesunapee.org/salt)
- NH DES Road Salt Reduction information and resources (www.des.nh.gov/land/roads/road-salt-reduction)
- NH DES Green SnoPro Certification (for commercial salt applicators)
www.des.nh.gov/land/roads/road-salt-reduction/green-snowpro-certification
- NH DES Environmental Fact Sheet WMB-4, *Road Salt and Water Quality*,
www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/wmb-4.pdf