

Friends of Lake Williams News

Spring 2007

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- Lenny Tubbs
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Friends of Lake Williams
P.O. Box 216
Windsor, CT 06095

Lake Williams Update

Milfoil Treatment Status— On June 21, 2006, a portion of the Lake was treated with herbicide by Aquatic Controls. This is in keeping with FLW's partnership with the Town of Lebanon to share the costs of controlling this invasive weed threat. FLW identified the location of the most serious infestation early in the spring to focus where to apply the annual treatment. Similar steps in the past have been extremely effective in reducing and controlling the spread and growth of the weeds. In related activity, FLW was advised earlier in the year by Aquatic Controls of a 2006 cost increase for the annual treatment. To address the increase, a request was made to the Town Finance Board to increase the 2006/2007 Town budget for this year's treatment by \$500 to \$3,500 and FLW was pleased to learn that the increase was approved.

Membership--The annual membership drive was conducted during May and June in preparation for the start of the FLW fiscal year on July 1. Since our organization's funding is primarily derived from membership, members are strongly encouraged to solicit new members by speaking to neighbors or visitors to the lake. Discuss the merits of belonging to the group and the benefit all will derive by maintaining the quality of the lake. FLW stresses membership as the best way for all to have a voice in the health and future of the lake. Please consider joining FLW if you are not a member.

The Annual Meeting of Friends of Lake Williams was held on June 10, 2006. The minutes are published on the FLW web site at: www.lakewilliamscampground.net.

Boating Safety—FLW has conducted three boating safety courses, with the most recent held on June 3, 2006. It was co-sponsored by FLW and The Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department. This is a fund raising activity for our organization and thanks are in order for Lenny Tubbs who served as the instructor.

Water Quality – The water quality committee tested the water this past summer and the water quality continues to be good and remains stable. A water sample has been provided to Columbia labs for biological testing. Results are pending and the report, when received, will be passed on to members at the next FLW meeting. Results will also be posted after the meeting with the meeting minutes on our web site.

First Annual Boat Parade — Board member Frank Catalano organized the first annual boat parade that was successfully held on July 1st. The theme was tropical and boaters were asked to decorate their craft



accordingly. The parade consisted of one lap around the lake starting at the rock pile and ending at the third beach area. Estimates of the number of boats entered vary because it was difficult to separate the participant vessels from the observers who followed the procession. The approximate number that most arrived at is sixteen, give or take. The winning boat as judged by participants is owned by Lenny and Debbi Tubbs and is pictured below.



The winner was awarded with the Best Boat Banner that can be proudly displayed until the next parade..

Boating Guidelines – Because of the navigational hazards that exist on Lake Williams, FLW decided to develop a map to point out the danger zones. The map is intended to be beneficial to all lake users, but particularly to first time visitors. It was also decided that the map could reinforce Connecticut Boating Guidelines while at the same time provide recommendations for safe powerboat operation. A copy of the guidelines and map is provided as the last two pages of this newsletter.

NEW STATE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES CT LAKES - CFL HELP PUT LAKES INTO PLAN FOR FIRST TIME

By Larry Marsicano, Board of Directors, Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL)

Each city and town in Connecticut has a Plan of Conservation and Development (C&D) that serves as a guide for the future of the municipality. Similarly, the State has a C&D Policies Plan that serves as a statement of the development, resource management and public investment policies for the State. Past plans listed many of the State's important natural resources like Long Island Sound, rivers, forests and wetlands and management strategies to protect the

values those resources offer. The new State plan adopted several months ago now, for the first time, includes lakes.

The State Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is required to prepare a State plan of C&D on a recurring five-year cycle. CT DEP Advisor to the CFL Chuck Lee brought it to the attention of the CFL that a new plan was being prepared with public forums being provided through out the State where comments and recommendations could be submitted. Several members of the CFL, including President George Knoecklein, and Board members Tom McGowan and Larry Marsicano, attended and spoke at those meetings urging OPM to include lakes in the new plan. The appeal to OPM by the CFL did not go unnoticed and on May 27, and June 2, 2005, respectively, the Connecticut House of Representatives and the State Senate voted in favor of adopting the new C&D Policies Plan for Connecticut, 2005-2010, which includes the following language: Lakes and ponds across Connecticut provide access for fishing, swimming, boating, and wildlife habitat. By increasing residential property values and recreation expenditures into the local economy, Connecticut's lakes are also important economic resources. The benefits Connecticut enjoys from its lakes are directly related to their water quality. However, Connecticut's lakes face many issues that are deteriorating water quality and inhibiting their uses.

Among the threats to Connecticut's lakes are invasive plants. In 2003, aquatic non-native invasive plants were specifically listed in legislation as plants that are illegal to sell and transport in Connecticut. Other threats to lakes include eutrophication, a process that occurs when a lake becomes more fertile from nutrient laden runoff, resulting in problematic weed and algae growth. As Connecticut becomes increasingly developed, controlling and abating eutrophication will continue to be a

major issue. Monitoring sanitary conditions at public bathing beaches has become more consistent over the past several years. The information provided from these surveys indicates that sanitary water quality of lakes is an issue that will need to be further assessed and managed to assure that Connecticut lakes meet public health standards for contact recreation. In addition to water quality issues, Connecticut lakes are increasingly used for recreation. This increased demand for lake-based recreation has amplified public safety concerns and user conflicts. Policy:

Manage Connecticut lakes and associated watersheds to enjoy optimal water quality and recreational benefits,

Provide technical assistance and support to communities for Lake Studies, restoration projects and land use planning,

Develop programs to control invasive plants,

Develop and support programs to assess lake water quality for trophic trends and sanitary conditions and the presence of non native invasive plants and

Assess the recreational demands for lakes in order to help resolve public safety and use conflicts.

For more information on the new C&D Policies Plan for Connecticut, 2005-2010, go to www.opm.state.ct.us/igp/cdplan/cdplan2.htm.

Protecting storm drains from pollutants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has published a brochure that shows how everyday activities can harm waterways. It makes people aware of just how much potential pollution goes down the storm drain when these activities take place. If it goes down the storm drains, chances are pretty good the pollution will make its way to a stream or other waterway and

eventually to the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound. What can you do to prevent this pollution? The brochure provides the following tips:

1. Leave grass clippings on the lawn.
2. Wash cars on the lawn or at a car wash.
3. Clean up after pets whether n the park or at home.
4. Clear leaves, road sand and litter from the storm drain.
5. Dispose of household hazardous waste properly at town transfer station or during hazard waste collection.
6. Use gravel, crushed stone and plant buffers in landscaping plans to help absorb runoff naturally.
7. Sweep instead of hosing soil, leaves, grass clipping and fertilizers off sidewalks, driveways and streets.
8. Minimize use of de-icing materials on sidewalks and driveway or use non-toxic substances such as sawdust.
9. Re-direct downspout away from paved areas to vegetated areas.
10. Install gravel trenches along driveways or patios.
11. Pick up litter anywhere and everywhere.

Can your company help FLW?

Does your company provide matching funds if you make a donation, or grants for volunteers? A member once received a \$500 grant

for FLW from her company as part of their volunteer incentive program. Check to see what your company has to offer.

Join FLW

Thanks to our members for their support over the past year. Please renew your membership, and if you are not currently a member, please consider joining this worthwhile organization. If you are a member and are aware of other members who have not renewed, please remind them. Lets all work toward maintaining a strong, viable and successful FLW.

For the 7/1/06 – 6/30/07 fiscal year:

- \$30 Individual Membership (1 person)
- \$60 Family Membership (2 or more people)
- \$25 Business Card Ad in Newsletter
- \$_____ Tax deductible donation

Name _____

Address _____

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Mail check to Friends of Lake Williams, c/o P.O. Box 216, Windsor, CT 06095

FLW Web Site

The FLW web site space is made available courtesy of Lake Williams Campground. It can be viewed at www.lakewilliamscampground.net.

Newsletter Committee

The Newsletter Committee requests your help in producing this newsletter. Articles containing relevant information will be welcomed. Factual data from which news stories can be developed is also welcome. Committees are also requested to provide input after completing any significant activity such as identifying where invasive weed infestation is located on the lake, the results of water quality testing, interesting stories related to the water treatment activities, etc. Please send your input, articles or suggestions to:

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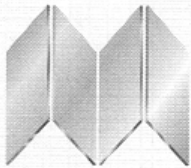
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Meridian Payment Systems in association with National City Bank of Kentucky, Louisville KY

Advertise Your Business

For \$25 per year, you can advertise your business and support for Lake Williams in this newsletter. Please send your business card and a check for \$25 to FLW c/o P.O. Box 216, Windsor, CT 06095.

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