



Newsletter

2011 Issue 2
June 25, 2011

Friends of Lake Williams
P.O. Box 216
Windsor, CT 06095
Website: www.lakewilliams.com

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A word from our newly elected President

Friends and members

Welcome back to another season at Lake Williams. For those of you new to the organization, thank you for your support! For those of you who have been part of it for awhile - you know it is a special place. We have a summer full of special events beginning with the boat

parade - onto the lake clean-up - and then the canoe & kayak rally. We look forward to seeing you on the water!

Ryk

Support our sponsors

You will find several business cards interspersed between the articles. We welcome the support of these advertisers. Not only do they demonstrate that they are in tune with the goals of our organization, but they also represent another valuable source of revenue to further these goals. Let us in turn support our sponsors and help each of them meet their individual business goals.

Did You Know?

By Paul Cote

A granite bench was erected in 2009 on the Lake Williams Lebanon Town property near Route 207. Have you ever wondered about the story behind the bench?

It is a memorial to 26 year old Shawn Matthew Kanter who died on July 25, 2008 of cystic fibrosis, a genetic disease that attacks the lungs and digestive system. Friends and family collected money to build the bench in his honor. A proposal to place the bench in its current location was presented to the Town Selectmen in early 2009 and was unanimously approved.

In life, Shawn was very fond of the lake. His grandparents were the previous owners of Lake Williams Campground and he grew up there, spending many happy summers in the Campground. He loved fishing and boating on the lake and it was concluded by all that knew him that it would be fitting to have a memorial that overlooked the lake that he loved so much. "I just wanted something where all his friends could go and feel like they're with him," said Rebecca Eselunas, Kanter's close friend and organizer of the project. The bench is engraved with words from Kanter's funeral invitation. Donations in his honor may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



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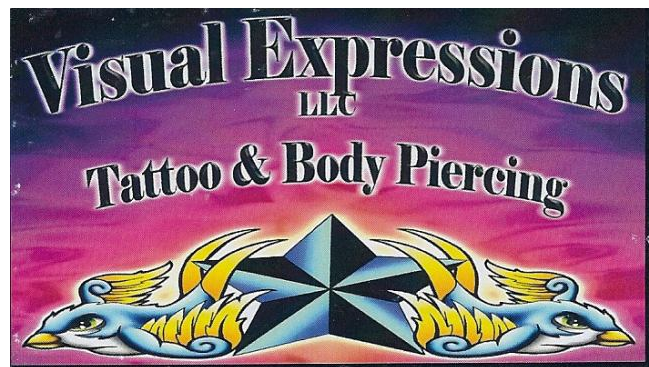
Keeping an Environment Friendly Lawn

Portions of this article were extracted from a Dummies.Com article entitled "Keeping an Eco-Friendly Lawn" by Yvonne Jeffery, Liz Barclay, and Michael Grosvenor. Some content was modified to be more specific to lawns maintained within a lake's watershed area.

If your lakeside lot (or land located in the lake watershed area) includes some lawn and you aren't yet ready to replace it with more sustainable alternatives, make your grass as green as possible by using eco-friendly, toxic-free methods to keep it healthy. Follow these suggestions:

- Use native grass seeds. They'll grow better in your local climate than other varieties.
- Leave grass cuttings on the lawn to feed the soil. Cuttings will help retain water and impede erosion. If there are too many cuttings, put the excess in the compost heap.
- If your lawn turned brown in the sun the last time you cut it, let the grass grow a little longer between cuttings and don't cut it so short next time. Longer grass (2-1/2 to 3-1/2 inches, depending on the grass variety) stays greener than a close-mown lawn, is less likely to scorch, and needs less watering. Additionally, if your lot is sloped, longer grass will deter erosion and/or impede the flow of water directly into the lake.
- Leave some of your lawn to grow wild with flowers and decorative grasses, or plant some trees and shrubs, particularly in a narrow band before your lawn joins the lake. Those areas will attract wildlife, reduce the amount of effort needed to care for the lawn, and establish a riparian buffer between your lawn and the lake that is beneficial to slow or stop lawn runoff from reaching the lake.
- If you must use fertilizers, obtain phosphorous free fertilizers. Fertilizers are usually described with three numbers, also known as the N-P-K ratio (Nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium - example,

10-10-10). Some fertilizers will be identified with four numbers, the fourth representing the amount of sulfur. In any event, the second number specifies the percentage of phosphorous and you will find that zero phosphorous fertilizers are available. If you cannot find a zero phosphorous fertilizer, organic fertilizers would be the next best alternative because of their low phosphorous content. For lake area properties, experts recommend fertilization just once in the spring and once in the fall. Follow the instructions on the package and apply only the amount needed. Irrigate the lawn immediately after applying the fertilizer to promote quick absorption. However, avoid overwatering to prevent runoff that can result in further pollution of the lake. Before applying fertilizer, check the weather forecast. Don't fertilize on days when thunderstorms are predicted. If lawns are overwatered or receive heavy rain after fertilization or other chemical treatments, the water can run off or seep into the lake, taking the nutrients will be detrimental to the lake and promote the growth of algae.



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Update on milfoil weevil

In an earlier newsletter, FLW reported that a milfoil weevil exists that feeds on native and Eurasian milfoil. This is an effective natural method to control the invasive plants and is being evaluated in many lakes throughout the country including Candlewood Lake in Connecticut. Unfortunately, the type of milfoil that exists in Lake Williams is variable

watermilfoil, and the weevil has not demonstrated that it has an appetite for this variety. **However, there is some hope for the future.** Martin Hilovsky, President and Aquatic Ecologist with Envirosience Incorporated (<http://www.envirosienceinc.com>), the firm that breeds and introduces weevils to lakes, reported the following to FLW via email:

“Regarding the weevils and variable watermilfoil, what little work we’ve done in this area indicates that weevils don’t readily adapt to it. We’re not sure why, but suspect that it may have something to do with chemical defenses that some of the native milfoil species have and that Eurasian apparently doesn’t. Having said that, we are continually surprised at how well the weevils seem to do in situations and environments that we expect to be bad for them. They apparently have a much broader range than we previously thought, and we’ve seen them flourish in lakes that are heavily developed, choked with filamentous algae, or have very poor water quality.

Coming back to variable milfoil, we have plans to set up a series of lab experiments with our weevils and variable watermilfoil to see whether we can gradually adapt a population of them to the plant over a number of generations. We haven’t started this work yet, but hope to within the next year.”

CFL LakeSmarts Program



The Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) and the citizenry of Connecticut cherish and greatly value its lakes and ponds. These beautiful jewels within our environment are fragile and need our constant help.

In its recent national assessment study of US lakes and ponds, the EPA in 2009 reported that majority of lakes are in

worse shape now. Over the years more and more lakes are showing signs of creeping impairment.

The future health of each pond and lake depends on the folks who live on the shorelines or nearby anywhere within the watershed of these lakes. If all of us living in these areas understand how our day to day activities affect our water bodies, and if we make a commitment to partner together in ideal lake stewardship, the future of our waters will be healthier and brighter. Everyone needs to pitch in with the small things we do every day as good watershed citizens.

Will you join us by taking the LakeSmart Home Pledge and earn a small sturdy sign that reads "LakeSmart Home" for display on your property. The sign tells the world that you care and that you’re doing your share to help your pond or lake. The first sign is free to CFL members; a second can be obtained with a \$25 dollar donation. Non CFL member can obtain two signs and become members for a donation of \$50 dollars.

Go to the CFL web site at ctlakes.org to download the pledge and instructions on how to obtain your LakeSmart signs.

Volunteer of the year awards for 2010 and 2011

Each year an anonymous donor provides funds for a volunteer of the year award with the recipient determined by the President.

Recognition of last year’s award was overlooked by the newsletter committee. It was presented to Steve Looby for ongoing service to FLW. Steve has served in many roles during his membership including a recent term as President. His dedication and willingness to volunteer his services is much appreciated. We apologize that there is no available photograph of the presentation so we substitute a picture of Steve serving as a safety monitor during the 2010 Kayak/Canoe rally.



This year's Volunteer of the Year recipient is Richard Lesh. He has been a long time Treasurer for the organization and an active participant in all of the organization's functions. More recently, he was instrumental in coming up with the concept of a Canoe/Kayak rally. He organized, planned and oversaw the first highly successful event in 2010. He also envisioned a Facebook presence for our organization and after receiving approval to proceed in a recent Board meeting, he was solely responsible for creating and publishing the organization's Facebook page.

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Calendar of FLW Activities


All activities are open to the public.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
July 3, 2011	6:00 PM	Boat Parade	Meet at Rock Pile
August 6, 2011	9:00 AM	FLW Lake Clean-Up Day	Meet at 2 nd Beach
August 20, 2011	10:00 AM	Canoe/Kayak Rally	Meet at 1 st Beach

Check our web site and Facebook page for new updates, for other schedule information and for additional details as we near each event date.



Out going President Frank Catalano presents Volunteer of the Year Award to Rich Lesh on June 13, 2011.


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Reminder – Can't find an old issue of our Newsletter?

Old issues are available on the FLW Web Page. Even if you have the old issue, it is oftentimes distributed in black and white to reduce cost, therefore the benefit of checking the copy on line is that it will be a color version. However, the web version has been optimized for viewing on a computer screen. Therefore, if you wish to print another copy in color with better resolution, contact the newsletter editor at the following email address for assistance:

Email: cotehome@snet.net

FLW to offer merchandise for sale

Two years ago, FLW offered various merchandise for sale that displayed the organization's distinctive logo. The promotion proved to be quite popular. It was valuable to FLW because it not only promotes our organization but also serves as an additional income source. FLW is pleased to announce that we plan to repeat this promotion again this year. We learned that specific items were most popular with consumers and we plan to place the emphasis on making those items available. Check out our web site and Facebook page for more details.

Join FLW

The FLW annual membership drive is in full gear for 2011. The organization's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. New memberships are accepted at any time during the fiscal year.

Please clip the below section of the newsletter and forward it to the following address (If you prefer, you may go to our website and print the application.):

For the 7/1/2011 – 6/30/2012 fiscal year:

- \$30 Individual Membership (1 person)
- \$60 Family Membership (2 or more people)
- \$_____ Tax deductible donation
- \$30 Advertisement

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Mail check and include the above contact information to Friends of Lake Williams, c/o P.O. Box 216, Windsor, CT 06095.

Thanks to our current members for their support over the past year. Please remember to 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 FLW as a strong, viable and successful proponent of our lake.

Otters spotted in Lake Williams



Photographed in early May 2011.

Carl Burleigh, an FLW member and Lake Williams' property owner, informed me that he observed a creature approaching the entrance to the Lake Williams Campground boat launch that he thought was an otter (a.k.a., River Otter). It turned into a den in the bank on the north side. Carl then found some skeletal remains of a decomposed otter under his stored paddle boat when he uncovered it following winter storage.

Since he was still unsure if the creature in question was an otter, he brought the skeletal remains to the local DEP office where his suspicion was confirmed. I apologize for the clarity of the above photograph. It was taken with a telephoto lens out toward the middle of the lake and from quite a distance, but I believe it is an otter.

The CT DEP web site provides some interesting facts about otters:

The otter is the largest member of the weasel family. The overall color is dark brown which pales to gray on the underside. The head is small with a broad nose and small eyes and ears. They spend most of their time in the water and have large, webbed feet for this purpose. They will use dens made by beavers, muskrats or woodchucks. Their diet consists of fish, frogs, crayfish, shellfish, and sometimes aquatic insects, snakes, turtles, salamanders, earthworms, and small birds and mammals. They can grow to be 36 to 50 inches long from the head to the tip of the tail. The tail itself can measure from 12 to 18 inches. They can stay submerged for up to 4 minutes and can swim up to a quarter of a mile underwater. They are active all year and are generally nocturnal (active at night) or crepuscular (active at dawn or dusk), although diurnal (daytime) activity is not uncommon. Otters are rarely seen in the wild as they generally avoid contact with humans. Due to their diet and habitat, otters may serve as indicators of the health of the aquatic ecosystems.

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