



# Newsletter

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## Milfoil bloom

Candlewood Lake, one of the largest lakes in Connecticut, normally drops the level of their lake about 12 feet every year to allow the roots of their Eurasian milfoil to freeze and thereby be eliminated for the upcoming year. The Candlewood Lake Association reports in their recent

newsletter that the procedure was less effective this year because of the mild winter we experienced in 2011/2012.

Preliminary inspections of some of the Lake Williams areas normally infested with Variable Leaf milfoil suggest that we may have similar blooms of our invasive plant for the same reason. FLW has already marked some of the areas and members, or anyone else, is encouraged to mark the sites where milfoil is visible. Use brightly colored swimmer's plastic foam noodles cut into segments about one foot. Anchor them with a rock and heavy string or light line. Aquatic Controls, the contractor that the town and FLW hires every year to conduct the treatment, will be conducting a pre-survey in early June and any markings that exist will aid in their process.

A secondary purpose for marking the milfoil is to warn power boats to avoid these areas. It is believed that the primary means of propagation of variable leaf milfoil is by fragmentation. Motors will churn off segments that will drift away to become another plant.

## Legislation Passed To Limit Use of Phosphorus in Lawn Fertilizers

State Senator Andrew Roraback (R-30) and State Representative Clark Chapin (R-67), the ranking members on the General Assembly's Environment Committee, held a press conference earlier in 2012 to propose legislation that would limit the use of phosphorus in lawn fertilizers and add phosphorus clean-up to the qualifying criteria for the Clean Water Fund. CT Bill 254 is an attempt to reduce the effects of phosphate fertilizer runoff on the state's water system. There has been increasing awareness of the detrimental effects phosphate can have on bodies of water, such as lakes. The legislation tries to limit phosphate contamination by restricting the use of phosphate fertilizers.

The bill was amended, passed and becomes law on January 1, 2013. Some key points of the new law are summarized as follows:

No person shall apply fertilizer, any soil amendment, or any compost that contains phosphate to an established lawn, except when: (1) A soil testing method approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture and performed within the previous two years indicates the soil is lacking in phosphorus and fertilizer and soil amendments or compost containing phosphate is needed for the growth of such lawn, or (2) such fertilizer, soil amendment or compost containing phosphate is used for establishing new grass or repairing such lawn with seed or sod.

The law shall not apply to: (1) Property classified as agricultural land, or (2) a golf course.

No person shall apply any fertilizer, soil amendment, or compost that contains phosphate to any lawn during the period beginning December first and ending March fifteenth of the following year.

No person shall apply any fertilizer, soil amendment, or compost that contains phosphate to any portion of a lawn that is located twenty feet or less from any brook, stream, river, lake, pond, sound or any other body of water, except if such fertilizer, soil amendment or compost is applied with the use of a drop spreader, rotary spreader with a deflector or targeted spray liquid, such application may occur on any portion of lawn that is located not less than fifteen feet from any such brook, stream, river, lake, pond, sound or any other body of water.

No person shall apply any fertilizer, soil amendment, or compost that contains phosphate to any impervious surface defined as any structure, surface or improvement that reduces or prevents absorption of storm water into land, including, but not limited to, porous paving, paver blocks, gravel, crushed stone, decks, patios and elevated structures.

For use by the general public or posting and distribution at retail points of sale, the Commissioner of Agriculture may approve consumer information on use restrictions and best practices for fertilizer, soil amendments and compost that contain phosphate.

Any person in violation of this law shall be assessed a civil penalty by the Commissioner of Agriculture of \$500.

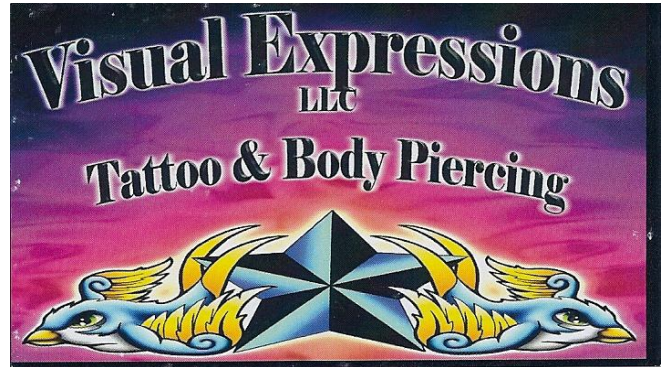
Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of any fertilizer, soil amendment or compost that contains phosphate levels of 0.67% or less.

## Why is phosphorus a water quality concern?

*The below excerpt was obtained from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection web site.*

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring element that is essential to support plant growth. When present in excessive amounts, phosphorus contributes to a process called “eutrophication” that can impair both aquatic life and recreational use of Connecticut’s water resources. Eutrophication, or nutrient enrichment, is a serious threat to water quality in Connecticut. Excessive loading of phosphorus to surface waters as a result of discharges from industrial and municipal water pollution control facilities (WPCF) or nonpoint sources such as runoff from urban and agricultural lands, can lead to algal blooms, including blooms of noxious blue green algae, reduction in water clarity, and in extreme

cases, depletion of oxygen, fish kills, and other impairments to aquatic life.



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## Did You Know?

*By Paul Cote  
Information for this article was obtained from the Town of Lebanon Web Site, Lebanon Historical Society Museum display and a May 02, 1994 article By Lee Foster that appeared in the Hartford Courant*

In 1994, Paleo-Indian artifacts were recovered by archeologists from the bottom of Lake Williams while it was being drained to repair the dam. The Liebman site, as it was called, is one of three locations in Connecticut where Paleo-Indian artifacts have been excavated in a controlled, scientific manner. This find is very important to our understanding of the earliest humans. These same artifacts, made from stone indigenous to eastern Pennsylvania and the Hudson River Valley, help archeologists reconstruct migrations and prehistoric trade routes. Among the artifacts recovered are projectile points, scrapers, and knives. These tools were made on site but the flakes from the manufacturing process are chert and jasper, types of stone not found anywhere in Connecticut. They provide physical evidence that the history of humans in Lebanon dates back 10,000 years or more.

Archaeologist John Pfeiffer conducted the excavation at Williams Pond. The site is named for the owner of the area, Harold Liebman. The Liebman family donated the artifacts to the Lebanon Historical Society.

The Lebanon Historical Society Museum and Visitor's Center, located near the town green, displays some of the artifacts and provides much more detail about this archeological find. Below is a photograph that was taken of one of their displays that depicts where the artifacts were found on the lake bottom.



The excavations proved that the first inhabitants of what is now the town of Lebanon were mobile bands of Paleo-Indians who used the Lake Williams area as a stopover on hunting or trading trips as long ago as 10,000 years before the present time. At that time, the lake did not exist and their encampment was located on Bartlett Brook. As we all know, a dam was installed many thousands of years later near Route 207 to create Williams Pond, more familiarly known now as Lake Williams.

## 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 most often distributed in black and white to minimize cost, therefore a benefit of checking the copy on line is that the pictures will be in full color. However, the web version has been optimized for viewing on a computer screen and may not be suitable for printing. If you wish to print a color copy with best resolution, contact the newsletter editor or the webmaster via the email link provided on the web site.

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## Herbicide application unmasked

Aquatic Controls, the contractor that the town and FLW hires every year, uses herbicide called Reward that has kept invasive milfoil in check for over twelve years. A description of the Reward herbicide appears on their Web Site. It states that Reward is a concentrated liquid aquatic herbicide effective against a wide variety of submersed, emergent, and floating aquatic plants including duckweed, naiads, and cattails. Reward poses virtually no environmental risk in aquatic applications because the herbicide concentration rapidly decreases as it is absorbed onto soil, vegetation, and organic matter. The following are restrictions on water usage following application:

- Livestock consumption - 1 day,
- Irrigation of food crops - 5 days,
- Irrigation of turf and non-food crops- 1-3 days,
- Human drinking - 1-3 days.

Reward is the product of choice when fishing restrictions are not tolerable. Application rates are 1 to 2 gallons per surface acre.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) approved the annual treatment of Lake Williams from 25 to 30 acres. Lake Williams is approximately 270 acres.



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# Friends of Lake Williams Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Any	Any	Annual Membership Drive for the new fiscal year (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013).	Applications are accepted throughout the fiscal year.
June 2012	TBD	Aquatic Controls conduct a preliminary milfoil survey in preparation for the annual milfoil treatment.	Lake Williams
June 9, 2012	10:00 AM	Annual FLW Meeting	Lake Williams Beach Association "The Acre" Pavilion
June 2012	TBD	Annual milfoil treatment	Lake Williams
July 7, 2012	6:00 PM	Boat Parade – Theme is "Music of the Decades."	Meet at Rock Pile
July 28, 2012	9:00 AM	FLW Lake Clean-Up Day & Picnic	Meet at 2 <sup>nd</sup> Beach
August 26, 2012	10:00 AM	Canoe/Kayak Rally	Meet at 1 <sup>st</sup> Beach

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



## Join FLW

The FLW annual membership drive is in full gear for 2012. 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 7/1/2012 – 6/30/2013 fiscal year:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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. Let's all work together to help FLW remain a strong and viable organization that actively champions the protection of our lake.

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## Send Offs for Uninvited Summer Fowl

It's only human: You see a pair of Canada Geese waddling across your yard with half a dozen fuzzy goslings in tow and your heart melts; they're so darn cute. Until you follow the same path the feathered family took, and realize they've left something decidedly unpleasant - and potentially hazardous - in their wake.

Goose feces can put a major damper on outdoor fun at this time of year, especially for properties near water. Not only do bird droppings make an environment unpleasant, they pose a slip-and-fall hazard, and are a breeding ground for bacteria and disease.

To get geese to move along safely and effectively, eliminate one of the things that draw them to a spot - water, food, lush greens and a safe, easy location for rearing families.

Sight aversions can include devices like a three-dimensional coyote replica or a Gator Guard - a life-size, lifelike replica of an alligator head - that make birds think a predator has moved into their territory. Actual goose distress calls, broadcast from a Goose Buster sonic device, make birds believe an area is unsafe for their kind. Finally, Goose Chase, a biodegradable food-grade agent made from the bitter-tasting, smelly part of concord grapes, makes food sources such as grass and ponds taste bad.

To learn more about effective goose removal products and techniques that are also environmentally conscious, visit [www.bird-x.com/ARA](http://www.bird-x.com/ARA) or other similar web sites.

## Seasonal Reminders

1. During the spring, summer and fall seasons, limit the use of phosphate in your fertilizers. All fertilizer labels have three bold numbers. The first number is the amount of nitrogen (N), the second number is the amount of phosphate (P2O5) and the third number is the amount of potash (K2O). These three numbers represent the primary nutrients (nitrogen (N) - phosphorus (P) - potassium (K)).

This label, known as the fertilizer grade, is a national standard. A bag of 10-10-10 fertilizer contains 10 percent nitrogen, 10 percent phosphate and 10 percent potash.

We shouldn't have to wait until the law limiting phosphate in fertilizer goes into effect in January 2013 to do our part to be responsible stewards of our lake and environment.

2. Do not rake your leaves into the lake or into street gutters where they could eventually be washed into the lake. As discussed in earlier newsletters, nature has a way of depositing its own share but once leaf litter reaches the lake, it begins to decay and consumes oxygen during the process. The decay process also releases nutrients that could cause excess algae to exist, making water recreation a less than pleasant experience. Even if the leaves themselves don't move, rain seeping through leaf piles and leaves crushed by car tires makes a rich "nutrient tea" that flows along the curb into the storm drains and eventually into our water bodies. Consider these alternative uses for leaves:
  - a. Compost leaves for a nutrient-rich fertilizer for your gardens
  - b. Till them directly into your garden.
  - c. Chop the leaves with your lawnmower into small particles that will decompose directly into your lawn.

## Cormorant visit to Lake Williams

During the fall of 2011, many of us were pleased to observe and photograph a cormorant that decided to visit the Lake Williams area. This particular bird species, an infrequent visitor to the lake, was seen most often on the docks or boats near the cottages on the northeast portion of the lake. This picture was taken on the dock that sits between the east side of Fox Island and the shoreline.





Friends of Lake Williams  
PO Box 216  
Windsor CT 06095

Address correction requested