



Newsletter

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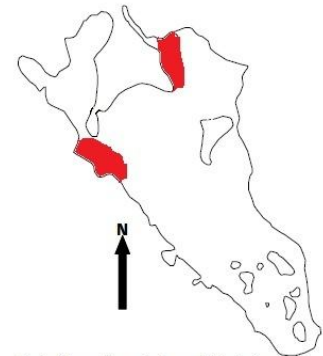
<p>Officers:</p> <p>Ryk Nelson, President Frank Catalano, Vice President Penny Hermann, Secretary Richard Lesh, Treasurer</p> <p>Directors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn Borsa • Lisa Catalano • John Clayton 	<p>Directors (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Collison • Paul Cote • Steve Looby • Diane Marquis • Dave Santoro • Lenny Tubbs 	<p>Distribution of the newsletter</p> <p>Newsletters will be distributed via email to all members who have provided an email address. The format of the newsletter has been changed to make it more readable in emails or on line. Newsletters will be distributed to members without a valid email address via USPS. This change in distribution is being made to bring down the cost of mailing. It is becoming more critical for FLW to hold down its costs to be able to afford the increased cost of treatment for invasive weeds.</p> <p>Newsletters will continue to be available in living color for viewing on our web site.</p>
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Lake Williams Is Under Attack!

Most of you who are reading this article probably guessed the attack relates to those darned beavers again that are devastating our shorelines and knocking down trees wherever they please. Well you guessed wrong! The problem is Fanwort. What is fanwort? The first thing you need to know is that fanwort is the second invasive weed discovered in Lake Williams. The second thing you need to know is that fanwort is much more of a problem than the variable leaf milfoil that we have been battling for the last fifteen years since it was discovered in 1998.

Here is the background on how it was identified. During our annual meeting in June 2012, some members expressed concern that the growth of lake vegetation, both native and invasive, seems to be increasing. President Nelson stated that FLW would organize a tour of the lake to include, if possible, representatives from the town, Aquatic Control Technologies, the Department of Energy and Environmental Technologies (DEEP) and Friends of Lake Williams. The tour would evaluate if a problem exists and solicit solutions.

The survey started innocently enough with a viewing of the lily pad growth on the west side of the large open water between Fox Island and the northernmost cottages. As the survey team progressed into the lily pad area to investigate markers that had been placed by FLW Board members, the weeds we had mistaken for milfoil were identified to be fanwort by Aquatic Controls. The shaded or red areas in the map further identifies where the fanwort seems to be established. In all likelihood, the weed hitchhiked into the lake on a boat, boat trailer, or other boat related equipment such as a live well, boat anchor, minnow bucket, etc. Why is fanwort such a threat? Fanwort is native to our southern states where it does propagate by seed, but science has not established if that is true in the northern non-native environment. One plant will generate runners on the bottom that go out like spokes on a wheel. At the end of each runner, a rhizome will be created that grows into another plant. Experts have told us the rate of spread of this invasive is from 20% to 40% per year. If we do nothing, the lake will be overrun in a few short years. Friends of Lake Williams' representatives asked a local limnologist, Dr. George Knocklein, to survey the lake and make recommendations to address the problem. After much discussion with representatives from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Town of Lebanon, a course of action was established.



Shaded (or red) area is fanwort infestation.

The first was to draw down the water during the winter months and freeze the invasive weeds. To be effective, FLW was told this strategy requires a few variables to fall into place. First, the ground has to be dry before the freeze. Second, no snowfall must be present to insulate the roots during the freeze. Thanks to quick responsive action by the Town, a drawdown of three feet recommended by DEEP was made possible and occurred between December 2012 and March 2013.

The second recommendation was to employ a combination herbicide treatment to treat both fanwort and milfoil in June 2013. The additional cost for the fanwort treatment is approximately \$4,000, a cost that had to be absorbed by FLW in 2013.

The good news is that a preliminary and informal survey was taken by some of the Board members in the summer of 2013 and they were encouraged with what appeared to be a decline in the plant growth that was seen in 2012.

Volunteer of the year award

During the annual meeting in June 2012, Penny Herman was presented the FLW Volunteer of the year award for 2011 by President Ryk Nelson. Penny has been the organization’s secretary since its inception in 1999. She is active in the organization by monitoring Lebanon town meetings, participating enthusiastically in all of the input to the FLW newsletter. Finally, through her of Lakes, she has kept our organization informed of with the CFL and the Department of Energy and been able to help FLW achieve all of their goals. Penny shore of Lake Williams. Pictured is the metal replica of was presented to her.



FLW sponsored events and providing timely membership in the Connecticut Federation CFL’s initiatives. Through her contacts Environmental Protection (DEEP), she has maintains a seasonal cabin on the western the FLW logo (17” high by 20” wide) that

and is funded by an anonymous donor. It is time and effort to improve the quality of our

award, the anonymous donor has decided important goal of battling the weed infestation in the lake.

The Volunteer of the Year Award began in 2000 designed to honor those members who have given their lake life and our organization. While there are many worthy candidates for the 2013 that it would be more beneficial to the organization to donate the award funding toward the more

Boat Parade

The 2012 version of the boat parade was held on July 7, 2012. Approximately a dozen boats gathered at the rock pile at 6:30 PM for the annual parade of decorated boats. The theme was “Music of the Ages.” The winning boat is owned by Ann and Gerald Loftus who reside in their cabin on the western shore of the lake. No boat parade was held in 2013 but plans are being made for 2014.



Praying Mantis or Chameleon?




If you use your imagination, a fallen tree on the eastern shore of Lake Williams can become a praying mantis or a chameleon. The tree has existed in the same configuration stalking the shoreline for three seasons or more. If you have taken some interesting pictures of the lake, of lake wildlife, or any area surrounding the lake, please send them to cotehome@snet.net with a brief description and your picture will be considered for inclusion in the subsequent newsletter.

Support our sponsors

We welcome the support of our advertisers. Not only do they demonstrate that they support the goals of our organization, but also represent another valuable source of revenue to further our goals. Let us return the favor by supporting our sponsors.

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Drawdown of lake proposed for 2013-2014

A drawdown of the lake has been requested again this year by FLW. If approved by the town, the drawdown is expected to begin at the end of October 2013 and end in March 2014. FLW has requested that the drawdown start earlier and be 5 ft in lieu of the previous 3 ft drawdown. Approval from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is required. If approved by the town and DEEP, it is expected that the same provision will apply, and that is that the drawdown is not to be utilized by property owners as an opportunity to construct retaining walls or to encroach into the lake. Any changes to shorefront property or lake bottom must first be approved by the Inland Wetlands Commission and appropriate permits must be obtained.

Friends of Lake Williams Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Any	Any	Annual Membership Drive for the new fiscal year (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014).	Applications are accepted throughout the fiscal year.
February 22, 2014	12:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Log Cabin Restaurant in Lebanon, CT
June 14, 2014	10:00 AM	Annual Meeting	“The Acre”

For more timely updates or additions to this schedule, check our web site and Facebook page.



Lost homing pigeon

By Paul Cote

On June 11th 2012, several people observed a pigeon in the Lake Williams Campground, near the ski and swim beaches. While we do have numerous mourning doves in the lake area, a pigeon is definitely out of place. This reporter noticed that the animal had a band on its right leg, and having homing pigeon. Using my camera able to zoom in on the band to obtain band information identified it to Organization. I contacted that information that it belonged to one of provided the contact information for and he identified the owner to be Paul information. During that entire to feed the bird twice a day in the the bird with a simple box trap and on wayward bird.



As I raised pigeons in my youth, I recognized the bird to be a with a zoom lens, I took a number of pictures and was the identifying numbers. The first two characters in the belong to the American Racing Pigeon Union organization by email and they identified through the band their local organizations in southern Rhode Island. They the secretary of that local club. I emailed the secretary Hussy, a Lebanon Resident and provided his contact correspondence period that took several days, I continued same manner his handler would. On June 21st, I captured June 22nd returned it to its grateful owner pictured with his

Join FLW

The FLW annual membership drive is in full gear for 2013. The organization’s fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. New memberships are accepted at any time during the fiscal year. Our membership fee has increased slightly this year to help defray the additional cost of battling our new enemy, fanwort. Tax deductible donations would also go a long way toward aiding FLW to slow down the growth or spread of the two invasive weeds plaguing our lake.

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

Membership Application for the 7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014 fiscal year:

- \$35 Individual Membership (1 person)
- \$70 Family Membership (2 or more people)
- \$_____ Tax deductible donation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____ (if FLW has your email, we will send newsletters and other important organization related information directly to your inbox – we will not share your email address with anyone)

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

Measures to reduce stormwater runoff

By MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE Akron Beacon Journal
Reprinted with permission of the Akron Beacon Journal and Ohio.com

When it rains, it pours - and sometimes it floods or pollutes. That's the problem with stormwater runoff, a condition that happens when rain falls so fast or heavily that it can't be absorbed by the earth. Stormwater runoff has become an increasing problem as development creates more hard surfaces like roofs, parking lots and even compacted lawns that interfere with natural drainage, said Sandy Barbic, education specialist with the Summit (Ohio) Soil and Water Conservation District. Stormwater poses a number of problems, Barbic said. For one thing, it picks up pollutants as it rushes over the ground, carrying them to bodies of water - either directly or through storm sewers.

Runoff can also cause erosion, and the dirt that's collected along the way can cause problems in bodies of water by blocking sunlight and settling on the bottom, raising the base so there's less room for water and more chance of flooding.

Nitrogen and phosphorus in the runoff can promote growth of algae, which use up oxygen when they die and decay, Barbic said. That leaves less oxygen to support aquatic life. And in areas with combined storm and sanitary sewers, stormwater can overwhelm the sewers and cause overflows and backups into basements.

Here are some of the methods you can use to divert the problem of runoff.

RAIN BARRELS - A rain barrel is an old-fashioned idea that's getting new respect. The barrel typically ties into a downspout and collects rainwater coming off a roof, so the water can be reused for purposes such as watering plants and washing cars.

Most rain barrels hold about 50 to 75 gallons, but rain barrels can be linked together to increase capacity. The water they capture is free of the chlorine and salts used in treating water, and its pH is neutral. That makes the water better for plants, proponents say.

Algae can form if the barrel is made of a white or clear drum that sunlight can penetrate. All barrels need to be removed and stored in winter and the downspout reconnected.

RAIN GARDENS - Rain gardens are collections of native plants in slight depressions that are strategically situated to collect runoff. They're designed to hold the water just long enough to let it percolate into the soil, where it's filtered and cleaned naturally.

Native plants are recommended because they require little maintenance and don't normally need fertilizers or pesticides. The plants used in a rain garden must be able to tolerate both temporary wetness and dry periods between rainfalls, and they must have large root systems to help absorb rainwater.

Siting is important. A rain garden needs to be situated down-slope from the house and at least 10 feet from the foundation, so water doesn't leak into the house.

PERMEABLE PAVEMENT - Unlike traditional pavement that sheds rainwater in sheets, permeable pavement lets water flow through it and into the ground. It's sometimes used in commercial settings to reduce runoff from large parking lots, but it can also be used to replace residential patios, driveways and walkways.

The term permeable is often used to describe any type of flow-through paving, but used precisely, it's only one kind, said Rich Sherer, paving products manager for the Belden Brick Co. Other types are called porous or pervious, terms that describe how the water gets through the surface.

Strictly speaking, permeable products are hard pavers designed so water can flow through the joints between them. Porous and pervious surfaces include concrete and asphalt specially made to let water drain through the material itself, more like a sponge.

Consequently, all types of what's broadly called permeable paving are costlier alternatives to traditional methods.

The surfaces need to be cleaned regularly to remove leaves, sediment and other debris that can interfere with drainage.

MORE STEPS - Other things you can do to reduce runoff:

- Mow properly to encourage grass roots to absorb water better.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn. As they break down, they add nutrients to the soil to feed the grass.
- Water wisely. Make sure sprinklers are watering plants, not surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks.
- Wash your car on the lawn instead of the driveway. The soapy water will be absorbed into the soil and cleaned naturally, rather than running into a storm sewer.
- Aerate your lawn periodically. Core aeration pulls plugs of soil out of the lawn, allowing oxygen, water and nutrients to reach grass roots.
- Test your soil. A soil test will tell you what your soil needs, so you don't add unneeded fertilizer that can wash off into bodies of water.

Seasonal Reminder

Do not use any fertilizer that has any phosphorous content on your lawns. If you must fertilize, there was an important law that went into effect January 1, 2013 - Public Act No. 12-155 "An Act Concerning Phosphorous Reduction In State Waters." This law applies to everyone and has special regulations for waterfront owners. Phosphorous is usually found in abundance in the soil and is not needed nor allowed unless you have performed a soil survey that demonstrates a shortage. You can determine the phosphorous content by checking the description of the content on the bag. Three numbers are used to describe the makeup of the fertilizer such as 20-0-20. The middle number (0 in this case) is the phosphorous. You will most likely find that most retail suppliers are already stocking fertilizer without phosphorous.

Did you miss the Friends of Lake Williams Calendar and Merchandise Sale?

It is more important than ever to help FLW in their fundraising projects to help us combat not only milfoil, but the new invasive threat of fanwort. Please stay tuned to FLW newsletters, the facebook page, and the web site to see future announcements of calendar and merchandise sales.