



Newsletter

Web Site: www.friendsoflakewilliams.org
 Email: friendsoflakewilliams@gmail.com

<p><u>Officers:</u> Ryk Nelson, President Lenny Tubbs, Vice President John Collison, Secretary Richard Lesh, Treasurer</p> <p><u>Directors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn Borsa • Tina Caplan • Tom Cartelli • Paul Cote 	<p><u>Directors (continued)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane Marquis • Kirk Matson • Dave Santoro 	<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. Additionally, you can click on the links in the email or on line version. Newsletters will be distributed via USPS to members who have not provided a valid email address. If you prefer that your newsletter be provided via email, ensure that you provide your email address when you renew your membership. 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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A Few Words from Our President

The Friends of Lake Williams, in partnership with the Town of Lebanon, continued the treatments in 2014 and 2015 to control the invasive weeds, milfoil and fanwort with some measure of success. Although we see some improvement, we must continue to be vigilant, as this stuff will continue to spread if we don't. We ask those of you that use and love the lake to get involved with the Friends. The memberships raise the funds that pay for half the treatments (the town pays the other half). The cost of treatment is up to \$12,750 per year, which doesn't sound like a lot until you figure that it takes a lot of \$35 memberships to get to our half!

On another note, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Penny Hermann, one of the founding members of Friends of Lake Williams, and the long term secretary of the organization. She has sold her cottage on the lake and retired to Florida. Her efforts on behalf of the lake will be greatly missed.

Turbidity (lack of clarity) in the lake's water

(References include Wikipedia and multiple Environmental Protection web sites maintained by CT and other states.)

Many noted in 2014 that the turbidity of our lake significantly increased. Turbidity is a measure of the degree to which the water loses its transparency due to the presence of suspended particulates. The more total suspended solids in the water, the murkier it seems and the higher the turbidity. This article will only scratch the surface of the causes and effects of turbidity and does not attempt to identify the causes of this year's increase as this is currently under investigation.

Our herbicide contractor, Aquatic Control Technology, performed a post-treatment inspection of the lake on July 31, 2014. The results on invasive plants were great as not a single plant was found to be living. We do expect that milfoil and fanwort growth, if it does exist at depths not visible during the survey, will become more evident in September. A clarity test was also performed at this time and the depth was good to 4.3 feet. At the request of FLW, a water sample was then taken to check for algae. The results are in and the conclusion is that we have a form of brown-green algae, a nuisance that is not harmful to humans but reduces the appeal of the lake for swimming and other water activities. FLW continues its routine monitoring of the clarity of the lake's water by taking periodic secchi disk readings. The **Secchi disk**, as created in 1865 by Angelo Secchi, is a plain white, circular disk (30 cm in diameter or approximately 12 inches) used to measure water transparency in bodies of water. The disc is mounted on a pole or line, and lowered slowly down in the water. The depth at which the disk is no longer visible is taken as a measure of the transparency of the water. This measure is known as the **Secchi depth** and is related to water turbidity. Since its invention the disk has also been used in a modified, smaller 20 cm diameter, black and white design to measure freshwater transparency.

Turbidity Causes:

- In open water it may be caused by growth of phytoplankton.
- It can be caused by algae or aquatic weeds and products of their breakdown or by humic acids and other organic compounds resulting from decay of plants, leaves, etc.
- Algal blooms have been seen in some lakes after draw downs have occurred.
- Human activities that disturb land, such as construction, mining and agriculture, can lead to high sediment levels entering water bodies during rain storms due to storm water runoff, but this is normally a shoreline phenomenon.
- Areas prone to high bank erosion rates as well as urbanized areas also contribute large amounts of turbidity to nearby waters, through storm water pollution from paved surfaces such as roads, bridges and parking lots.
- Certain industries such as quarrying, mining and coal recovery can generate very high levels of turbidity from colloidal rock particles.
- Boat activity that roils the lake bottom in shallow lakes can also contribute.

Effects of high turbidity:

- In drinking water, the higher the turbidity level, the higher the risk that people may develop gastrointestinal diseases. This is especially problematic for immune-compromised people, because contaminants like viruses or bacteria can become attached to the suspended solids. The suspended solids interfere with water disinfection with chlorine because the particles act as shields for the virus and bacteria. Similarly, suspended solids can protect bacteria from ultraviolet (UV) sterilization of water.
- In water bodies such as lakes, rivers and reservoirs, high turbidity levels can reduce the amount of light reaching lower depths, which can inhibit growth of submerged aquatic plants and consequently affect species which are dependent on them, such as fish and shellfish.
- High turbidity levels can also affect the ability of fish gills to absorb dissolved oxygen.
- Turbidity can have a negative effect on the perception of water quality, which may in turn reduce use of waters for recreational uses and swimming.

As demonstrated by the above discussion, research of turbidity leads to the conclusion that it is a very complex issue with a large number of variables. The causes and effects also vary with the size of the lake, the depth of the water and proximity to the shoreline. Let us hope that the turbidity increase in Lake Williams can be easily explained, can be corrected, and is only a temporary phenomenon.

Happenings at Lake Williams

Fish Survey - In an effort to update their data on the fish population in Lake Williams, DEEP Fisheries Division sampled our lake with an electro-fishing boat on October 1st, from 6:30 p.m. until midnight. Ryk Nelson accompanied the 5 person crew: Ranger scientist, pilot, scaler and two netters. The 18-foot flat bottom "jon" boat had a generator and two outriggers. The two umbrella style rigs extend out with electrical cables that reach 12-15 feet beyond the boat. The fish are shocked by the electric cables. The two netters scoop up the fish and place them in the live well. The scaler measures the length of each fish. Scales of some fish are taken to determine the age, health and growth rate. The crew works in water that is 3-6 foot deep and at night because that is when the fish are closer to shore and are more actively feeding. DEEP surveyed Lake Williams in the early 1990s (before the dam was opened), 2002 (soon after the lake was refilled) and now in 2014. The fish are released unharmed back to the lake. During the survey the crew collected a large number of fish and most notable caught during the one hour that Ryk Nelson was a participant are:

1 - 20 inch plus pickerel
2 - 3 1/2- 4 pound bass
Sunfish

1 calico
Bluegill
Numerous perch from fingerlings to 8-9 inches

Results of the count and variety of fish will be available soon.

Lake Draw Down - Lake Williams was not drawn down again during the past winter of 2014-2015. There has been a reported reduction in the spread of the weeds over the past two winters and as a result, lowering the water again was not required. President Ryk Nelson noted that lowering the water level did cause damage to some property and the use of this method for weed control will be looked at very carefully in the future.

2014 Boat Parade Canceled But 2015 Parade Is On

The 2014 boat parade was canceled because the primary organizer was unavailable due to the demands of his blossoming business. FLW member Victor David has stepped forward and volunteered to organize and lead the 2015 event. Participants are asked to assemble near the entrance to Mary's cove at 6:00 PM on August 29th. The event is open to the public as always. To encourage more participation, there is no theme therefore decorating of your boat is optional.

2014 Lake Cleanup

The lake cleanup organized by Sarah Cartelli was held on August 9, 2014. Approximately six boats gathered at the Lake Williams Beach Association 2nd Beach. Some volunteers did not have a boat and drove to the Route 207 Town Recreation area to clean on foot. Due to the turbidity of the water, fewer bottles and cans were found in the water. Most of the trash was collected on the shorelines (see picture). An arrangement for pick up was made with the Town of Lebanon.



2015 Lake Cleanup

The lake cleanup is scheduled for August 15th. Volunteers are needed and are asked to assemble at the Lake Williams Beach Association 2nd Beach at 9:00 AM.

2015 Mile-Long Tag Sale

FLW is sponsoring the 2015 version of the Mile-Long Tag Sale. It is scheduled for August 22nd and will be conducted between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. Residents of Lake Drive on the northeast side of the lake will display their wares during this period and all are encourage to visit.

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We welcome the support of our advertisers. They demonstrate support of the goals of our organization and also represent another valuable source of revenue to further these same goals. Please support our sponsors.

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Join FLW

The FLW annual membership drive for 2015 is in progress. The organization's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. New memberships are accepted at any time during the fiscal year. Membership fees are primarily used to defray the cost of battling our two identified invasive enemies, fanwort and variable leaf milfoil. 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 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016 fiscal year:

\$35 Individual Membership (1 person)

\$70 Family Membership (2 or more people)

\$_____ Tax deductible donation

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____ (If you provide FLW with 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 above completed application to Friends of Lake Williams, PO Box 698, Hebron CT 06248

Thanks to our current members for their support over the past year. Please remember to renew your membership. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining this worthwhile organization that is working hard to preserve your lake. If you are already a member and know 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 strives to retain the beauty of our lake and is dedicated to its protection.

DEEP Releases Revised Requirements for Storm Water Systems New Proposal Will Protect Waters at Lower Cost to Municipalities

Excerpt from the DEEP Press Release dated January 26, 2015.

In the past, permit requirements for storm water systems have been put in place because waters they discharge carry contaminants – everything from oil and gasoline residues to excess nutrients and bacteria from animal feces - into lakes, rivers, streams, and Long Island Sound. This has a significant impact on water quality and is a major reason why many water bodies are classified as impaired and unsuitable for fishing and swimming.

The issue has become even more central to the environmental quality of Connecticut, through the growth and development of the state. This has increased the amount of area with hard and impervious surfaces, where storm water systems have replaced the natural infiltration processes that allowed storm water to be absorbed back into the ground. This means increasing amounts of polluted storm water runoff is being carried into our waterways – degrading water quality, threatening recreational opportunities, and putting habitats and aquatic species at risk.

Connecticut’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) released revisions to a proposed permit for the management and oversight of municipal storm water systems that offer municipalities and institutions less costly and more flexible requirements for compliance. “After carefully reviewing the draft requirements we originally proposed with the concerns of local officials in mind, we have developed new approaches that will achieve environmental and public health objectives with lower costs for our municipal partners,” said DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee. Commissioner Klee said, “We believe cities and towns can realistically and cost effectively implement the type of revised requirements we are now proposing – which will safeguard the quality of our waters and aquatic life and make certain they are attractive and safe for people to enjoy for swimming, fishing, and boating.” The revised requirements of the proposed permit:

Adhere more closely to requirements the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently proposed in other states, such as Massachusetts, where it directly administers the storm water permit.

Minimize capital and labor intensive requirements by providing larger communities and state and federal institutions covered by the permit extended timeframes for implementation and more flexibility in steps that must be taken to comply when it comes to street sweeping, leaf management, catch basin cleaning, and water quality testing.

For more information on the proposal, visit the DEEP web site.

Friends of Lake Williams Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Any	Any	Annual Membership Drive for the new fiscal year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016).	Applications are accepted throughout the fiscal year. See “Join FLW” that follows this calendar in the newsletter.
August 15, 2015	9:00AM	Lake Clean-up	Volunteers assemble at the Beach Association’s 2 nd beach to receive your assignments
August 22, 2015	9:00AM – 3:00 PM	Mile-Long Tag Sale sponsored by FLW	Lake Drive on Northeast side of the lake.
August 29, 2015	11:00AM	Boat Parade – No Theme – Decorations are optional	Assemble at the entrance to Mary’s Cove at 6:00 PM.

For more timely updates or additions to this schedule, check our web site (www.friendsoflakewilliams.org) and Facebook page.

FLW is seeking volunteers to prepare and publish the newsletter

Volunteers are being sought to prepare and publish future FLW newsletters. Paul Cote has recently notified the president that he wishes to resign from the post for personal reasons and allow someone with high energy and enthusiasm to take the reins. Paul has agreed to assist in the transition by providing all newsletter materials collected over the years including past issues in Microsoft Word format. He has also agreed to assist as necessary in the preparation and publishing of the next issue. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Paul at 860-303-8380.

RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR SAFE POWERBOAT OPERATION ON LAKE WILLIAMS

The purpose of these guidelines prepared by Friends of Lake Williams is to promote the safe operation of all boats, to increase your awareness of navigation hazards and to enhance the boating experiences for all boaters who navigate the waters of Lake Williams. Recipients of this newsletter are encouraged to retain these pages and share them with your fellow boaters on the lake. They are especially useful to identify the navigation hazards to any newcomers. The guidelines are as follows:

1. Operate less than 6 mph within 100 feet of the shoreline, including the islands.
2. No water-skiing from ½ hour after sunset until sunrise.
3. When water-skiing or tubing, there must be an observer in the boat who is 12 years of age or older.
4. No motors should be used in the northwest bay of the lake.
5. When more than one boat is on the lake towing a skier (or tube), all boaters should go counter clockwise around the large open center of the lake (refer to map).
6. Operate slowly around the islands at the south end of the lake and between Fox Island and the shore (see map).
7. Operators of motorboats are requested to avoid fishing boats, canoes, kayaks, etc. Remember that you are responsible for your wake.
8. Refer to the map that identifies the location of some of the known hazards such as sandbars and submerged rocks.

Board of Directors
Friends of Lake Williams
2015

