



P.O. Box 2272
New Preston, CT 06777

Board of Directors

Paul Frank
President

Peter Bonachea
Vice President

Sally Paynter
Recording Secretary

Betty Sutter
Corresponding Secretary

John Santoleri
Treasurer

Lloyd Arnel
Gail Berner
Maxine Deutsch
Bernard Dishy
Rod Funston
Peter Mullen
Susan Payne
Joseph Rowan
Cynthia Vance
Harold Wellings

Consultant

Thomas McGowan

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2009 2:00 P.M. LAKE WARAMAUG COUNTRY CLUB

Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend our 2009 membership meetings. The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 14 at 2 P.M. and our "end of summer" meeting will be held on Sunday, September 13 at 2 P.M., both at the Lake Waramaug Country Club. At the June 14 Annual Meeting, Tom McGowan, Executive Director of the Lake Waramaug Task Force, will report on the State of the Lake, including the status of Curlyleaf Pondweed in the lake and the experience of the Task Force in dealing with it. We will bring you up to date concerning implementation of The Lake Waramaug Agreement, activity at the newly reconstructed Washington Boat Launch and plans for renovation of the Washington Town Beach area. There will be an election of directors of the Association and reports concerning the continuing work of the Association. **In furtherance of our mission to protect and preserve Lake Waramaug, there will be a special presentation: Sean Hayden, Soil Scientist with the Northwest Conservation District, and Lisa Turoczi, landscape designer and owner of Earth Tones Native Plant Nursery in Woodbury, will speak concerning simple landscaping techniques to protect Lake Waramaug from the effects of storm water runoff. Come and learn about the latest techniques for water quality protection, how to create simple rain gardens and bio-retention areas, the plant species which work best to protect the lake, and many other ways to improve water quality with eye-catching and functional landscape modifications.**

This is your opportunity to learn of important matters affecting Lake Waramaug, so please be sure to attend!

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION Saturday, July 4

The Association is once again pleased to continue the holiday tradition of fireworks and flares at the lake. This year's display—on Saturday, July 4 (rain date Sunday, July 5) promises to be spectacular! Flares will be available for purchase at our June 14 meeting so that the tradition of rimming the lake with flares will continue. Flares will also be available for purchase following the meeting date (while supplies last) at Boulders Inn, Hopkins Inn and County Wine & Spirits. The celebration begins with the lighting of the flares at 9:00 PM, as a prelude to the magnificent fireworks display sponsored by the Association at 9:30 PM. Thanks once again to the Hamiltons for making their property available for the firing site and handling the arrangements there. The fireworks display is presented by the Association as a reminder to the community of the efforts of the Association and the Task Force to protect and preserve Lake Waramaug.

Your annual renewal of membership is crucial to us. Please return the enclosed envelope as soon as possible. The Association's only source of income is your annual dues payment and the additional contribution you choose to make. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS WHERE NOTED ON THE ENVELOPE SO THAT WE MAY CONTACT YOU PROMPTLY WITH LAKE NEWS.

(OVER)

Maintain Your Septic System to Protect the Lake. Discharges from septic systems near the lake and watercourses within the lake's watershed have the potential to have a dangerous impact on the lake's water quality. Septic systems require periodic maintenance including pumping to remove accumulated solids at least every three years. Recent purchasers of properties should make sure that their systems have been inspected and serviced during this period. For a primer on this important subject, see "A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems" (US Environmental Protection Administration) at the Association's website: www.waramaugassoc.org/Septic

Inland Wetlands and Zoning Regulations. A comprehensive system of regulation designed to protect Lake Waramaug affects construction, alteration and other activities at or near the lakeside and beyond. Zoning regulations have detailed requirements in this respect for buildings, other structures, docks and floats, and fences and other visual barriers. In addition, most work involving the lake and land within 100 feet of the lake shore (and beyond in many instances) is regulated by the Inland Wetlands Commissions of the three towns. Particular attention is paid to the control of storm water runoff which can adversely affect water quality. Since creation of more than 10% of impermeable surfaces in the lake's 14 square mile watershed will harm the lake, close attention is paid to enforcement of the lot coverage restrictions affecting lakeside properties. **For the protection and preservation of Lake Waramaug, check with the land use officials in your town BEFORE commencing any work.** Mike Ajello is the Zoning and Wetlands Enforcement Officer in Washington (868-0423), Craig Nelson is the official in Warren (868-7881, Ext. 106) and Jennifer Calhoun is Land Use Administrator in Kent (927-4625).

Landscaping Near Lakes and Streams; Demonstration Buffer Planting. The Task Force advises that **lawns do not protect the lake.** Lawns within 200 feet of lakes and streams should not be fertilized. The reason is that fertilizer application, whether chemical or organic, can act as a pollutant and cause physical impact to adjacent wetlands or watercourses. If you have a problem lawn and believe that you must apply a fertilizer, be sure to use a zero phosphate product (the middle number should be "0"). But the better practice is to add native plants to your lawn area. Visit the Lecher property at 47 West Shore Road to see the model buffer planting sponsored by the Task Force. After four years, it has become a natural looking country landscape, doing its job filtering runoff, preventing erosion, and serving as a native habitat for many insect and bird species. Pick up a card from the box at the site identifying the plantings you will see there.

Restrict Outdoor Lighting: Save the Night Sky. Nighttime darkness is a vanishing natural resource. Excessive or poorly designed outdoor lighting unnecessarily brightens the night sky, emits objectionable illumination visible on and from other properties, poses a safety risk to pedestrians and drivers, disturbs natural habitats and is not in keeping with the rural character of the Lake Waramaug area. The Town of Washington Zoning Commission adopted regulations restricting outdoor lighting in residential areas (Section 12.15, effective April 14, 2007), but residents of all towns should be sensitive to the reasonable standards expressed in these rules. All outdoor lighting should be shielded and be aimed so that the light sources cannot be seen from beyond the property served. Decorative lighting of trees, ponds and structures is prohibited, except for traditional holiday lights during the year-end period. No light fixture may be aimed at the sky or toward any area, structure or surface that is not situated on the property, nor may be installed more than 15 feet above grade or 30 feet from the object or area to be illuminated. See the Zoning Commission section of the Washington website (washingtonct.org) for the full text of Section 12.15. As noted in the regulation, "keeping exterior lighting to a minimum is neighborly [especially where houses may be close together as here in the lake district] and it helps to preserve the rural character of our town".

Lake Waramaug Websites. The websites of the Association and the Task Force contain information about Lake Waramaug and its environs, including news and links to town regulations and other important sources of information relating to the protection and preservation of the lake. View them at:

Lake Waramaug Association: www.waramaugassoc.org

Lake Waramaug Task Force: www.lwtf.org

E-Mail Addresses. From time to time, we attempt to reach our membership with important announcements. Please include your e-mail address on the enclosed dues envelope or send it to the Association at info@waramaugassoc.org



Printed on recycled paper