



P.O. Box 2272
New Preston, CT 06777

Website:
www.waramaugassoc.org

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2012
2:00 P.M.
LAKE WARAMAUG COUNTRY CLUB

Please plan to attend our "end of summer" meeting. This is our sixth meeting held jointly with the Lake Waramaug Task Force, to enable the Task Force to discuss its programs and achievements directly with the members of the Association.

Tom McGowan, Executive Director of the Task Force, will lead an expanded "State of the Lake" discussion concerning lake conditions and results of lake testing for the summer; the Task Force Sucker Brook watershed initiative; operation of the in-lake LayerAir Restoration System along the Route 45 shoreline and the Frost site system at the tip of Arrow Point; the invasive species boat inspection program; special projects being considered by the Task Force to maintain and improve the lake's water quality; cooperative ventures in land preservation in the watershed and on the lake shore, and other lake topics.

Ted Morse, President of the Warren Land Trust, will discuss the activities of that organization to protect open space in the Town of Warren. This is particularly significant to the protection and preservation of the lake, since 82% of the lake's watershed is within Warren.

Take advantage of this opportunity to learn about important matters affecting the protection and preservation of Lake Waramaug. And please stay after the meeting for a period of conversation and refreshment.

Welcome to the new directors of the Association elected at our June Annual Meeting: Christine Beckett, Rudolph Montgela, Elaine Peer and Scott Weaver. Many thanks to our retiring directors – Rod Funston, Sally Paynter and Joseph Rowan – for their years of dedicated service.

Lake Waramaug Task Force has produced a remarkable documentary film, "Saving Lake Waramaug", reviewing the history of the lake and the successful (and continuing) efforts of the Task Force to restore and maintain its water quality over the last three decades. Copies of the DVD are available upon request at the Task Force website, www.lwtf.org

"A History of Lake Waramaug", Mary Harwood's 1996 book of historical background and pictures, is in its second reprinting to meet continuing interest. It will be available for purchase (\$25.00) at our membership meetings, the Hickory Stick Bookshop in Washington Depot, the Gunn Historical Museum at Washington Green, and the Institute for American Indian Studies on Curtis Road in Washington. We are grateful to the Hickory Stick and the museums for handling sales for the Association without charge as a community service. Please show your appreciation by supporting your local bookstore and the activities of these cultural institutions.

DUES REMINDER

If you receive a dues payment envelope with this mailing, our records indicate that your 2012 dues remain unpaid. Please send your payment today. Your contribution supports our efforts to protect and preserve Lake Waramaug. INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO THAT WE MAY CONTACT YOU PROMPTLY WITH LAKE NEWS AS THE NEED ARISES.

Law Limits Use of Lawn Fertilizers Containing Phosphorous. Recognizing that an overloading of phosphorous in lakes, ponds and streams supports excessive growth of algae and weeds leading to harmful loss of oxygen, Connecticut has enacted a law substantially prohibiting the use of phosphorous in fertilizers for established lawns. While fertilizers containing phosphorous may continue to be used for establishing new grass or repairing bare spots in lawns with sod or seed, they may never be used from December 1 through March 15 in any year (when the ground is likely to be frozen) or within 20 feet of any body of water or on any impervious surface. The best rule to follow in the Lake Waramaug area is *never* to use a fertilizer containing phosphorous (the middle number on the product packaging description should be zero, as in 28-0-6). If you utilize a lawn service company, make sure that they know about this and comply with the law. Tom McGowan played a major role in the introduction and evolution of this legislation, with the support of the Task Force and the Association. For this legislation (introduced by Senator Andrew Roraback and Representative Clark Chapin) to have been enacted upon its initial submission was a spectacular achievement for clean water advocacy organizations. Thanks once again to our members who contacted their representatives and legislative leaders to encourage their support.

Safety Concerns on the Lake. The Lake Waramaug Authority, the three-town agency with the responsibility for enforcing state boating laws and ensuring that the lake is used safely for its many and varied recreational activities, has advised the Association of these concerns:

- Swimming across the lake – It is extremely dangerous to swim across the lake (even with another swimmer) unless you are accompanied by a boat to alert other boaters of your presence. You cannot be seen by operators of motor boats or other craft. Given the unusually low water level of the lake, similar concerns affect those swimming a substantial distance from the shore.
- Water-skiing or towing any person behind a power boat without a spotter – Connecticut law requires the operator of a boat under power to have a responsible observer at least 12 years of age facing the skier to assist the operator and monitor the progress of the skier or other person being towed.
- Speeding – Connecticut law provides that no person shall operate a motorboat at a speed in excess of Slow-No Wake (generally 6 miles per hour) within 100 feet of the shore, or a dock, pier, float or anchored or moored vessel, unless taking off or landing a water-skier. (For jet-ski personal watercraft, the limit is 200 feet.) In other areas, a boat must be operated so that it will not endanger others. The boat must be able to stop safely within the clear distance ahead.

Report any water safety concerns to the Lake Waramaug Authority police boat or by calling Resident State Trooper Stephen Sordi at 860 868 9671.

Safety Concerns on the Roads. The roads encircling the lake are narrow and winding. They must be shared by cars, trucks, bicyclists, walkers, runners, campers and others. The posted speed limit for West Shore Road, Lake Waramaug Road and North Shore Road is 25 MPH (reduced to as little as 15 MPH on the dangerous curves of West Shore Road) and 40-45 MPH on Route 45. Since vehicles travelling in excess of the posted limits continue to be observed, the Association has arranged for special police patrol coverage from time to time during the latter part of this summer to encourage compliance.

Maintain your Septic System to Protect the Lake. Discharges from septic systems near the lake and 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 lake properties should make sure that their systems have been inspected and serviced within this period. For a primer on this subject, see "A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems" at the Association's website: www.waramaugassoc.org/Septic.pdf

New on the Association's website: "Community". The Association's website, www.waramaugassoc.org, now includes a new section to contain articles about life on the lake. The first article, by Sophia Schein, is a profile of Les Ernhout (entitled "Les is More") who, as Sophia notes, may be "the resident who has consistently lived on the lake the longest." Sophia is 13 years old and lives with her parents and brother in the home first owned by her grandparents, Joy and Harvey Schein, who came to Lake Waramaug in the 70s.