



# *Gazette*

**Because Our Lakes Are At Stake**

**Support the Friends of Bolton Lakes Tag Sale  
Saturday, June 1, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Indian Notch Park**



**Volume 1, Issue 1**

**Spring, 2013**

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### Mission Statement

To conserve and preserve the pristine condition of the lakes and their watershed areas;  
 To engage in and promote education concerning the lakes as natural resources;  
 To provide and maintain a means of communication between the lakes' communities, the Towns, and the State;  
 To observe and report to the Towns on the condition of the lakes, the flora, fauna, and surroundings;  
 To cooperate with and assist organizations and individuals performing research on the lakes and their watershed areas, and to disseminate the scientific information to the lakes' communities and the Towns;  
 To represent the lakes within the Connecticut Federation of Lakes.

### Board of Directors

Leona Crosskey, President  
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 Peter Van Dine, Chairman,  
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 Jerry Lalancette  
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### Friends of Bolton Lakes Gazette

Produced by the Board of Friends of Bolton Lakes, members receive this newsletter twice each year, in the spring and again in the fall. Members without email receive via the U.S. Postal Service. Please direct all comments to Lauren (Davis) Lalancette, 1Lakeside@comcast.net.

### Communications Committee

Lauren Lalancette, Chairman  
 Nancy Carini, Webmaster  
 Jerry Lalancette, Graphic Design



Dear fellow Friends of Bolton Lakes,

Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself and our newly formed association. Born in Hartford and raised in the diverse Frog Hollow neighborhood, I have always lived in this state.

When I met my husband, Bill, he had just finished the complete renovation of one of the lovely homes on Lower Bolton Lake's waterfront. We enjoyed countless days sailing and BBQ'ing with friends, watching many beautiful sunsets.

Because we have a rather large extended family, we searched for a home on Bolton Lake with more space. We are now working to remodel our "new" home on Llynwood Drive, built in 1939.

Because Lower Bolton Lake was severely troubled with the growth of

naiad weeds and a significant blue-green algae bloom in August 2012, many of us in Bolton and Vernon joined to form the Friends of Bolton Lakes (FBL). As a lake association we have a unified voice as we speak with the many integral groups that are involved in the care and upkeep of the lakes. We worked with the towns of Bolton and Vernon, participating in discussions with the State Department of Health, and the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, as well with the lake consultant the Town of Bolton hired.

In the past six months, I have participated in town meetings including those held by the Conservation Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Selectmen. Now, I better understand the many issues facing Bolton residents.

I have also met with our State Representatives including Tim Ackert, Brian Hurlburt,

Geoff Luxenberg, Jason Rojas, Stephen Sidorak, and of course Pam Sawyer, all of whom attended an informational meeting organized by the FBL board. Our association plans to stay connected to these legislators to ensure they have up-to-date lake condition information so they can assist us in protecting and improving our lakes.

Please know that The Friends of Bolton Lakes Association has a very active and involved board. Each board member has committed many hours to become well-acquainted with our lakes and related issues. I am very proud to serve with so many concerned citizens who put the energy needed into the projects ahead. Please look forward to more info and educational material from FBL as we begin the 2013 summer season.

Leona Crosskey  
President

Friends of Bolton Lakes

FBL has made some significant progress to operate as a non-profit, including the filing of the application with the IRS for non-profit status. Recognition as a non-profit allows us to accept grants and larger donations which will benefit the clean-up of the lake and the continued water quality that we all desire. It is important for FBL to have an independent voice and be able to have a say in where funds will be used to help with the clean-up, which could take a number of years.

Fundraising can be challenging—FBL is counting on you—our community. Our Committee includes FBL Secretary Shelly Jewell, FBL Treasurer Cheri Smith, Laurie DiMauro, Sarah Zalewski, and Lisa Brooks, and we have been meeting on a regular basis conjuring up fundraisers that will be fun for families. We have scheduled a **Tag Sale/Vendor Sale to**

**be held at Indian Notch on Saturday, June 1, with a rain date of June 2.** We encourage our members to attend and make a donation to FBL via donated items or to purchase your own table and sell your own tag sale items. **Either way, FBL will benefit.** If you have cleaned out your attic, basement, or garage and you have donations (no clothing please), either small or large, or if you are a vendor and would like to purchase a table, please contact us either through our website, [www.friendsofboltonlakes.org](http://www.friendsofboltonlakes.org), or at my home phone number: 860.512.0284. If you are not available for the day of the tag sale and want to donate, please feel free to contact me and we will arrange for drop-off or pick-up.

On **Saturday, July 13 we are planning a Boat Parade.** This event will be a great opportunity to express your enthusiasm for summer and what

better way to celebrate it than to decorate your kayak, boat, or canoe for the parade on Lower



Bolton Lake. We encourage participants to dress up in crazy outfits—prizes will be awarded for your unique ideas. The celebration will include Paul's pizza, a \$5 cover charge per member covers pizza and soda. In addition to the awards, you can purchase hats and T-shirts with our FBL logo, with all proceeds going to FBL.

If you have fundraising ideas please contact us. Possible fall events: a Turkey Plunge; plant sale; or another social event/raffle.

**If you know someone who wants to become a member and hasn't had a chance to sign up, encourage your friend to sign up at our website, [www.friendsofboltonlakes.org](http://www.friendsofboltonlakes.org), or purchase a membership at any of our events.**



To treat Lower Bolton Lake's *najas guadelupensis* weeds, the Town of Bolton, on the advice of Consulting Limnologist George Knocklein, contracted with Aquatic Control Technology (ACT) to use the herbicide fluridone, <sup>TM</sup> Sonar. ACT obtained a permit from the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The application was May 20; FBL notified everyone on our distribution list.

The Science Committee spent considerable effort researching the safety and efficacy of fluridone. We were completely satisfied that this is probably the best chemical to alleviate, or possibly eliminate, the terrible nuisance weed mat problem. Fluridone works by inhibiting photosynthesis in plants and is reported to have minimal effect on any animal life. Lake residents are advised not to use lake water on lawns or gardens as it very likely will also affect that plant life.

**The following references provide further information:** [www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/pesticidepdfs/0521002a\\_Floridone.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/pesticidepdfs/0521002a_Floridone.pdf); and [www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/fluridone\\_tred.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/REDs/fluridone_tred.pdf).

Once this near term herbicide treatment has been completed, please remain aware of the ensuing emergence of aquatic plant populations. Be vigilant—identify any strains which could prove invasive so we can address that. While consultants will provide oversight, **we hope that those who spend the most time on the lake—residents and those who recreate on the lakes—learn how to identify weeds.**

Watch the FBL website for literature and announcements of courses providing helpful info and ways to work with your local towns to identify and report your findings.

We are also looking into various ways to suppress the growth of blue-green algae and its associated toxins. One readily available approach is using copper sulfate. We are finding that it has been used frequently for such purposes and that it can create nearly

immediate reductions in algae population density. However, there also appears to be knowledge of relative short-term benefits vs long-term impacts of its use. For humans and animals, it is reported that it can irritate the skin, eyes and gastrointestinal tract, while excessively high doses can result in killing fish. Repeated use may also be less effective against the blue-green algae itself or even evolve algae colonies that are immune to its effects. For these reasons, we will continue to seek info about additional alternatives for long term success.

**Using herbicides and algicides to control the growth of weeds and algae amounts to treating the symptoms of the underlying problems** of Lower Bolton Lake and its associated watershed. Severity of these symptoms over the past several years has grown—and particularly the closure

of the lake last summer certainly calls for such intervention. **Unfortunately, if this becomes the primary approach, this could be looked at as treating the lake almost like a swimming pool.** If continued over the long term, this could create an onerous financial burden to the citizens of our towns—and very undesirable ecological outcomes.

For this reason, the Committee is looking into long-term approaches that could support returning the lake to a natural healthy state. The Committee will continue to review literature, meet with limnologists and other lake ecology experts, and seek to identify lakes where similar issues have been addressed.

We encourage everyone who lives on one of the Bolton Lakes, or within the watershed, or who uses these lakes for recreation—become part of the solution, restoring our lakes to a healthy condition.

## Channel Catfish—What's the Big Deal?

by **Peter Van Dine, Science Committee Chairman**

Channel catfish have been introduced annually into Lower Bolton Lake by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) since 2007. This stocking equates to about 17,000 catfish weighing close to four tons—a significant, established population.

It is unfortunate but true that the sudden decline in the health and beauty of Lower Bolton Lake occurred shortly after the State began to stock channel catfish.

Our Committee has actively investigated whether stocking channel catfish is a significant contributor to the Lower Lake's recent problems. The Committee's efforts were pivotal to an April 25 decision by the DEEP Inland Fisheries Division to cease stocking for one year, as requested by both the Town of Bolton and Rep. Pam Sawyer.

In addition, DEEP set trap nets in Lower Bolton Lake on May 3. Trap nets are large, submerged net boxes. The nets are in near-shore areas of the lake, clearly marked with buoys. The nets will remain in the lakes for several weeks and will

be checked at least once each week. This sampling technique should result in a better estimate of the fish population distribution in Lower Bolton Lake—and in particular the role of channel catfish in this distribution.

Studies in other states have noted that these fish, by virtue of their tendency to swim near the bottom, can stir up nutrients into the water column, nourishing algae growth.

Like any animal, fish eat, digest, and excrete. Their waste biomass can contribute to the nutrients that support aquatic plant growth.

Our Committee will continue to study all aspects of the problem to restore and maintain the Bolton Lakes ecosystem. We are very happy that the catfish stocking stopped.

**More information is available at [www.friendsofboltonlakes.org](http://www.friendsofboltonlakes.org) under the "Channel Catfish" tab; link to "Lake Ecology."**



### FBL Science Committee

*Peter Van Dine, Chairman*

*Rich Jewell*

*Jerry Lalancette*

*Karl Prewo*

Lake restoration and long term watershed management is neither simple nor easy. We encourage your active participation, and would appreciate being made aware of any information, leads, or even historical background on our own lakes it could be helpful.

**FBL Invited Fox 61 to Bolton Lakes to cover channel catfish concerns. Watch the video.**



**<http://www.courant.com/videogallery/75599395/News/Catfish-Being-Blamed-For-Algae-In-One-CT-Lake#pl-62898248>**

## Friends of Bolton Lakes Seeks Chairman for Education Committee

By Lauren Lalancette, Chair, Communications Committee

### Check out:



<http://www.friendsof-boltonlakes.org/installing-a-rain-garden.html>.

Once upon a time, there were four people; their names were EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, NOBODY, and ANYBODY. Whenever there was an important job to be done, EVERYBODY was sure that SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY could have done it, but NOBODY did it. Well, EVERYBODY thought that ANYBODY could have done it! Still NOBODY did it.

This is an apt story about where Friends of Bolton Lakes stand when it comes to having a chair for our Education Committee. Sue Beth Van Dine and FBL Secretary Shelly Jewell are willing to participate on the committee but without SOMEBODY stepping up to lead we have a gaping hole in our group's foundation.

### What would the Education Committee Chair do?

Informing lakeside residents about the appropriate use of lawn fertilizers is crucial to reduce lake contamination. While **it is now illegal to sell fertilizer with phosphorous, residents and retailers may still have some around.** Every spring, the Education Committee could inform home-owners: never use fertilizers that contain phosphorous.

We've been learning about the importance of buffers—a linear rain garden approximately 20' from the water. It would be helpful to have the Education Committee take the lead in teaching lakeside residents how to build and maintain rain gardens. We have an expert from UConn who is willing to help—he gave the presentation at our first public meeting this past January. A Bolton High School senior developed a design for a rain garden at Indian Notch Park. Soon, we'll receive grant funding—that has been approved—and will need volunteers to implement his plans (see box at left).

The State of Connecticut is offering training about invasive plants on July 20—teaching individuals what to look for and how to identify invasive species (see website in July for locale).

Volunteers will be trained how to ask people to remove hitchhiking plants from their kayaks, canoes, fishing and sail boats. **These plants are so hazardous to lakes that there is a \$95 fine per plant** for carrying invasives on boats or trailers. An Education Committee could lead the campaign to encourage lakeside residents to participate in this training—and in taking a turn serving a few hours as host/clean-lake-guard at the Boat Launch.

These are just a few ideas to get started—please don't wait for SOMEBODY else to be the FBL Education chair. To take a little creative license with Mahatma Gandhi's advice, **"Be the change that you wish to see in Lower Bolton Lake."**



**By Lauren Lalancette, Chair, Communications Committee**

Rep. Pamela Sawyer, 55<sup>th</sup> District, continues her efforts to help the towns of Bolton and Vernon clear the Lower Bolton Lake of toxic algae and other invasive weeds. She garnered support from other legislators to sign a letter written to Gov. Dannel P. Malloy requesting that the Connecticut State Bond Commission allocate \$250,000 over the next five years to remediate lake water conditions. She also held a meeting with the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, members of the agency, and the Bonding Subcommittee Chairman to brief them on the funding's urgency.

In January, with other local legislators' support, she introduced House Bill 5841, An Act Concerning Lower and Middle Bolton Lakes. The bill would have required DEEP to

restore Middle and Lower Bolton Lakes, remediating the severe algae and aquatic plant infestation, and making corrective inter-lake drainage alterations.

The other legislators who supported the Bill were Rep. Bryan Hurlburt, 53<sup>rd</sup> Dist. (recently resigned); Rep Geoff Luxenberg, 12<sup>th</sup> Dist.; Rep Joe Diminico, 13<sup>th</sup> Dist.; Rep Tim Ackert 8<sup>th</sup> Dist.; Rep Jason Rojas, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist.; and Sen. Steve Cassano, 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. Rep Claire Janowski, 56<sup>th</sup> Dist. stepped up to support the bond request.

Because it was decided that the town of Bolton would best be able to take immediate action this spring to treat the lake water, a request for state bonding was the most expedient action. House Bill 5841 died in the Joint Committee on Environment. The Governor sets the agenda for the Bond Commission and the Bond Commission will consider Gov. Malloy's request for financial consideration when it next convenes. No date has been set for the next meeting as of the writing of this article.



### **Friends of Bolton Lakes Membership Nears 100** **by Cheri Smith, Treasurer**

As of the most recent FBL meeting in May, FBL has 89 paid members, including:

41 individuals;  
21 families;  
16 seniors;  
1 student; and  
10 benefactors.

Our members live in the following towns: Bolton, 47 members; Vernon, 31 members; Manchester, 4 members; Tolland, 2 members; South Windsor, 1 member; and Wethersfield, 1 member.

As of the FBL meeting on May 8, there is \$2,329,70 in the treasury.

During the past month, FBL obtained \$70 in new membership dues and paid \$400 for nonprofit status and \$46 for postage stamps.

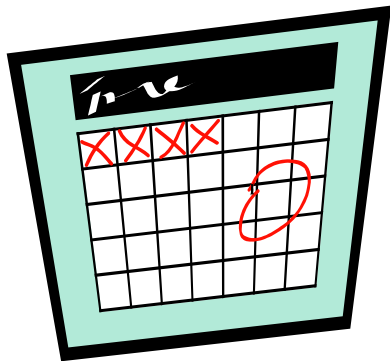
**Friends of Bolton Lakes**

P.O. Box 1385

Manchester, CT 06045

<http://www.friendsofboltonlakes.org>

(email FBL by clicking on Contact Us link)

**Mark Your Calendar****Friends of Bolton Lakes****Tag Sale**

June 1, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Indian Notch Park

**Boat Parade/Pizza Party**

July 13

**Invasive Plant Training/  
Be a Clean Lake Host/Guard**

July 20, Check website closer  
to date for the place; as of  
now undetermined.

**Executive Board Meetings**

2nd Wed. of each month (no  
meeting in July or August)  
Notch Rd. Municipal Building,  
Room 9, 6:30 p.m.

A synopsis of FBL's May  
meeting will be on the web:  
[friendsofboltonlakes.org](http://friendsofboltonlakes.org) after  
the June 12 meeting.

**Bolton Selectmen**

June 4, July 2, August 6,  
September 3, October 1,  
November 12, December 3.  
7 p.m. Town Hall

**Bolton Board of Finance**

June 20, September 19,  
October 17, November 21,  
December 19.  
7:15 p.m. Town Hall

**Bolton Conservation  
Commission:**

June 3, July 1, August 5,  
September 9, October 7,  
November 4, December 2.  
7 p.m., Town Hall

**Vernon Town Council**

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday  
of each month.  
Town Hall, 3rd Floor  
14 Park Place

**Vernon Conservation  
Commission**

Meets the 2nd Monday of  
each month.  
Town Hall, 3rd Floor  
14 Park Place  
7 p.m.