



Friends and neighbors,

On behalf of the Officers and Directors of the Friends of Bolton Lakes, I would like to thank all our friends for your financial support and your participation in our organization during 2018.

Since our incorporation in 2013, FBL has been committed to keeping the Bolton Lakes Region a neighborhood treasure. Our membership rolls continue to be stable, as does our balance sheet. One might say our organization has grown up. Whether you live on or nearby the Bolton Lakes or simply use the vast watershed for recreational purposes we work to protect and preserve the lakes for your benefit now and into the future.

Our town officials, state legislatures, and other groups respect the collaborative nature, thoughtfulness, expertise, and tenacity that FBL brings to bear. On behalf of our membership, FBL has been steadfast in its mission during 2018. It will be no different in 2019.

The events of 2018 show that the Directors are good listeners and took appropriate actions to benefit our members and the lakes.

- The Spring Seminar reviewed invasive plant controls.
- The Annual Fall Forum presented wonderful speakers to inform the members about the roles that DEEP, the CT Invasive Aquatic Plant Program, and FBL play in lake management as well as the continued need for research on the prevention and control of invasive plants.
- The discovery of fanwort in Middle Bolton Lake near the Hatch Hill boat launch was reported to the town of Vernon who quickly arranged for the fanwort's removal.
- We continued to monitor and test the water quality and clarity in the Bolton Lakes and reported the declining condition of the Lower Lake in September. At that time Northeast Aquatic Research identified the toxic blue-green algae bloom that led to the lake's closure. FBL observed Northeast Aquatic Research's data collection and as a result is increasing its focus on understanding and identifying future algae blooms.
- We advocated successfully with town and state officials resulting in the suspension of the 2019 stocking of channel catfish in Lower Bolton Lake.
- We continued to follow the progress of the planned reconstruction of the Hatch Hill Dam and installation of adequate water flow controls between Upper and Middle Bolton Lakes.
- During "Lake Week 2018" FBL directors and members gave lake tours for officials who need to comprehend and be knowledgeable in the complexities of water science and lake management.
- The development of an online invasive plant reporting tool that continued to be useful during the Lower Lake remediation efforts during 2018.

I urge everyone to stay involved with FBL. I challenge everyone to attend at least one monthly FBL Board meeting during 2019. The meetings are held in the Notch Building 106 Notch Road, Bolton at 6:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month.

Your voices need to be heard. Please use the FBL website to its fullest extent.

Together, let's have a productive, communicative and algae-free 2019.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,
Happy New Year

David Forrest,
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