



Happy Summer Solstice 2022! A few updates on happenings around Bolton Lakes from Friends of Bolton Lakes (FBL):

Signs - Watershed and Invasive Species

Two projects that were funded in the 2021 AIS grant have almost reached completion. The first is eleven signs marking the boundaries of the Bolton Lakes Watershed. The towns of Tolland, Coventry, and Vernon have put their signs in place. The Town of Bolton is waiting for posts, but their signs should be up soon.

The second is invasive species signs posted at the boat launches. At the Lower Bolton boat launch the new sign identifies curly pondweed and at the Middle Bolton launch there are two signs, one each for milfoil and fanwort. All three signs explain best practices for cleaning boats and trailers to stop the spread of invasive species.

FBL would like to thank the Bolton and Vernon town administrators and their Departments of Public Works for getting the signs up. In addition, we would like to thank Yolanda Cooley with the Department of Energy and Environment Protection (DEEP) who worked with FBL to have the invasive species signs installed at the launches.

Library Loves Lakes

In order to cultivate a love for our lakes, FBL will be partnering with Rockville Library (Vernon) and Bentley Library (Bolton), to promote the Libraries Love Lakes program. This project pairs public libraries with lake scientists to provide collaborative programming that will emphasize a lifelong appreciation for lakes. During the month of July, the libraries will be hosting story times and arts and crafts, along with displays of books on lakes for the children to enjoy. Also, Kendra Kilson, a Research Scientist from Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR), will be speaking to families and children at both libraries. We encourage everyone to contact the libraries for exact dates and times in order to learn the basics of lake wildlife and ecosystems, recreation, and conservation.

AIS Grant 2022

The towns of Vernon and Bolton, along with FBL, applied for the 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species Grant from the State of Connecticut. The 2021 was awarded and the 2022 grant award is with the DEEP commissioner's office awaiting approval.

Milfoil on Middle Bolton Lake

This spring has produced a lot of milfoil on Middle Bolton Lake. There are plants along most of the western side and some outbreaks on the eastern side too. The town of Vernon is working with the limnologists at NEAR and the treatment company, Solitude, to determine when and to what extent the lake will be treated. The good news is that so far, no fanwort has been reported on the FBL invasive species form.

Reporting Over-sized Motors to DEEP

In the late afternoon of Sunday June 12th, there was a jet ski flying around Middle Bolton Lake. At least two members of FBL contacted DEEP using their hotline, **860-424-3333**, to let the state know about the boat. If you see something happening on the lakes that should not be happening, your best option is to use this number to contact DEEP. It would be helpful if you added the DEEP hotline number to the contact list on your phone for quick access. If possible, record or take a picture of the Connecticut vessel number that is on the watercraft so it can be reported to the authorities. In the past, DEEP officers arrived at the launches ten minutes after receiving the calls. This phone number and other important information may be found in the FBL welcome brochure. You may find a copy at the town halls or on our website [here](#) or you may have received a copy with your new membership.

The following three items are from Kim Welch, the Bolton Lake Commissioner for the Town of Bolton. Kim works very hard serving as the voice of Lower Bolton Lake for the town of Bolton. In addition, Kim works with FBL and government officials from other towns and the state to improve the conditions of the Bolton Lake Watershed. When you see Kim, thank her for all her work.

New Lake Webpage on Bolton's Website

The Bolton webpage has been updated with a link specific to Lower Bolton Lake. This page is a new online resource for lake residents and visitors. The lake webpage has three areas: conditions, care, and concerns. The top of the page features a stoplight system that will be used to indicate the degree of caution when using the lakes. The green will indicate conditions are good and there are no use restrictions, yellow will indicate users should use caution, and red will indicate conditions are not good and lake use should be limited. Please review the page found [here](#), become familiar with it and plan to use it!

Curly-leaf Pondweed at Lower Bolton Lake

Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) is an aquatic invasive species (AIS) that is currently present in Lower Bolton Lake. A plant survey was conducted to determine the locations where it is growing. The Town of Bolton is obtaining the appropriate permits and contracts to spot treat it as soon as possible. Prior to the end of June is targeted.

Hazardous Algae Blooms (HABs)

There were several harmful algae blooms (HABs) at the Bolton Lakes last summer. These are caused by a number of environmental conditions, such as heavy rains or excessive winds. Obviously we can't control the weather, but there are steps we can take to help prevent HABs; create shoreline buffers at the water's edge to absorb or redirect stormwater runoff away from the lake and eliminate or limit the use of fertilizers on any property within the watershed.

You can report HABs using one of the following:

- Use the new lake webpage on Bolton's website. Select cyanobacteria in the conditions area of the webpage. The link is provided above.
- Use the FBL reporting tool on FriendsofBoltonLakes.org website
- Email us directly at lake@boltonct.org. Please provide photos, location of the bloom and your contact information.
- Use the Bloomwatch App. Download the app. On the submission screen, scroll down to the Custom Email List and add the email addresses you want to receive the submission. Please add: hillary.kenyon@gmail.com, lake@boltonct.org, and fbl@friendsofboltonlakes.org. Then select 'Email Data.' This will generate an email that defaults to DEEP.AlgalBlooms@ct.gov, bloomwatch@epa.gov, and the addresses on your Custom Email List. Select Send to submit your findings.

Contact the local health district; Eastern Highland for Lower Bolton Lake, (860) 429-3325. North Central for Middle Bolton Lake, (860) 745-0383.

Membership

FBL encourages all residents and visitors to the Bolton Lakes Region to join Friends of Bolton Lakes. The community educational outreach, water quality sciences, lake advocacy programs and state and local collaboration are just a sampling of the benefits sponsored by the organization.

Please renew or start your membership on our membership page found [here](#) online or by mailing in a membership form. As a reminder, memberships are for each calendar year.

Have an enjoyable summer season.

FBL board of directors