



Summer Newsletter 2023

President's Corner

Driving down Bolton Road one recent day, my son, Xavier, and I were fortunate enough to see two turkey hens along with about a dozen of their very young chicks foraging in the woods. In a chance encounter about two weeks later while driving on Wildwood Road, we saw the same hens with their chicks once again. This time, the young birds could fly short distances and took off to the trees as we neared them. As wonderful as this second sighting was, it also became a teachable moment for Xavier. What once was a flock of twelve or so young birds was now down to three. I had not anticipated the question, but my son sadly asked why so many young birds were gone. I hesitated. Now, I had the delicate task of explaining to him that young turkeys were very easy prey for predators like foxes, raccoons, coyotes, and hawks. Thus, the strategy for turkey success is to lay high enough numbers of eggs (up to 21 in a clutch) in the hopes that one or two chicks will survive into adulthood. After a few rounds of probing (and sometimes graphic) questions and my best attempts at answering them, Xavier seemed content and moved on to a different topic. However, I continued thinking about the interaction we had just shared. Though talking about the loss of so many young turkeys was decidedly a less-than-happy moment for Xavier, he was able to learn about a complex natural process in a way that no textbook could ever capture. Through this experience, Xavier was able to gain additional knowledge and appreciation for the nature around our home. This knowledge, in turn, will lead to a greater desire to protect the nature that surrounds us. Speaking of that nature, the ecosystems in and around the Bolton Lakes are some of the richest in the State of Connecticut and are home to a diverse population of amazing wildlife. Teachable moments about nature, like the one we shared, are appropriate for all ages and only require spending a little extra time to notice the many amazing things around us. I encourage you to get out and spend a few extra moments to notice something new in nature around you. Your own teachable moment just might change how you think about nature around you.

Libraries Love Lakes

Summer is here! Are you looking for activities for the kids and grandkids? On July 24th at 2:00 the Rockville Library will be hosting Kendra Kilson, a Research Scientist from Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR), to speak to families and children, ages 4-8 and up, about lake wildlife and ecosystems, recreation, and conservation. This family friendly event will include a story time and a fun craft. The Bentley Library in Bolton will be hosting a program also on July 24th, but in the evening, at 6:00pm. Kendra Kilson will be speaking about invasive species that affect our lakes. Please mark your calendar and join us! Again this year, FBL has purchased lake-related books to donate to our local libraries. Just one of the ways your membership dollars are at work.

Member Summer Updates

Did you know that you can renew your membership online? It's easy and only takes a few minutes. And you won't need a stamp, or an envelope, or a trip to the post office. Just click [here](#) or go to the FBL website and "Click here to become a member." Then choose "Click here to register and pay online." Fill out the form and you're done! You can even make it an automatic annual donation so you won't need to remember every year. And please consider

adding a small additional amount to cover the processing fee. It's a great way to support the Friends of Bolton Lakes!

Weeds and Treatment in Middle Lake

The milfoil and fanwort in Middle Lake will be treated on July 20th. A combination of two herbicides will be used: Tribune (diquat) & Flumigard (flumioxazin); the first is for fanwort and the second is for the milfoil. Once the treatment is done, Solitude (the company performing the treatment) should post signs around the lake indicating any restrictions on usage; FBL will distribute this information as well once it is available.

Weeds in Lower Lake

The town of Bolton had a limnologist from NEAR map the plants in Lower Lake. The main plant he found is large leaf pondweed, also known as bass weed. This plant is a native plant and in fact is a sign of a healthy lake. There is no plan to treat the lake for this plant. However, it does not spread by fragmentation, so you are free to pull up plants that are impeding swimming or boating.

Bolton Town Manager on Lower Lake

Jim Rupert, the Bolton town manager, went out on Lower Lake with FBL members Leona Crosskey, Peter Van Dine, and John Williams to see how we monitor and test the lake. He was very appreciative of all the work that is being done and gained a better understanding of what is done each month. See photo at the bottom of this message.

Rain Garden at Indian Notch

The Friends of Bolton Lakes mission includes the protection and enhancement of the ecological health of the Bolton Lakes. Toward that end, in 2013 some of FBL's founding members worked together to learn about and build a small 'rain garden' near the public beach at Indian Notch. That year, our annual educational forum included a presentation by Michael Dietz from the CT Institute of Water Resources. We were able to secure a small grant to fund the project and each year a few FBL members weed and manage the perennial garden. We hope you have a chance to walk through the park and perhaps rest on the bench near the rain garden as you look out over the beautiful lake. See the photo at the bottom of this message.

Board Member Spotlight

Carol Thompson

Q. What year did you join the board and what motivated you to get involved on the board of FBL?

R. I joined in 2022 after my retirement. I wanted to join the board to see what they did and how I could help out. I was most curious about the water testing program and wanted to learn more.

Q. What are some of your favorite hobbies in your spare time?

R. In my spare time I go to Ray of Light Farm where I board my horse, Sugar. I ride her there and volunteer at the farm.

Q. What are some current activities you are working on as a member of the board of FBL?

R. Currently I am working on the Libraries Love Lakes program and gathering resources to educate our community on alternatives to lawn care. I am also working to expand this program in partnership with the Vernon Public Schools.

Q. What do you enjoy most about our lakes?

R. I particularly love all of the wildlife in and around the lakes. On two occasions I've seen deer swimming across the lake. I enjoy quiet kayak rides around the lake and floating in the cool water on a hot day.

Q. What is your hope for the future of Bolton Lakes?

R. I hope that the lakes will continue to be healthy and provide joy for years to come.

