



FBL Spring Newsletter 2024

2023 was a good year for the lakes. We had some of our clearest water in years. That did lead to increased plant growth and the clarity did not last. Below are a few items we are looking to address in 2024.

Fluoroscopy Project: Last year FBL received a grant from the Bolton Greater Together Fund to learn how to use fluoroscopy to determine levels of cyanobacteria in Lower Bolton Lake. The idea is that by shining a certain frequency of light through a water sample we can approximate the cyanobacteria population. That approximation is specific to a particular lake. Last summer we took samples and had them checked by a limnologist to determine the settings for Lower Bolton Lake. The grant paid for the equipment, the cell counts and for a consultant to help us with processing and analysis.

This coming summer we should be able to use the device to get instantaneous readings that we can use to notify the health department of cyanobacteria bloom events on Lower Bolton Lake. In addition, we are seeking funds to extend this monitoring to Middle Bolton Lake. We will again take up to ten samples and find the correlation in this lake. It should be about the same but as we have seen with invasive aquatic species of plants, the two lakes are not identical.

Spring Forum: Save the date, April 17th. FBL will host their annual forum at Newhoca Lodge at 6:30 PM. The speaker for this spring will be Bob Kortmann, from GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., who will be speaking about the fluoroscopy project and the Connecticut River Hydrilla that has been found in Middle Lake. Light refreshments will be served.

Membership: FBL encourages all residents and visitors to the Bolton Lakes Region to join FBL. Membership in FBL provides you with periodic newsletters, email blasts of important information, forums with informative speakers, and strong advocacy with the towns and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Also, your dues support the FBL's continuing monitoring of the water quality of our lakes. Your membership dues are our main source of working capital. Memberships run from January through December each year, while the sign-up period runs from October through the end of September. So, if you joined in October 2023 or later, you are a 2024 member. Please renew or start your membership on our online membership page found [here](#) or by mailing in the membership form.

Hydrilla: Hydrilla is an invasive aquatic plant that is choking the Connecticut River. A task force that consists of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the University of Connecticut, and numerous stakeholders is working on stopping the further spread of hydrilla throughout the state. The strain of hydrilla in the river has been confirmed to be located in six lakes in the state so far. Middle Bolton Lake was the fourth lake in the state to be confirmed.

Hydrilla is spread by fragmentation. So, boats that are exposed to hydrilla in the river, not sufficiently cleaned and then are launched into our lakes can spread it. All three of our lakes

have public boat launches with lots of water activity in the summer. The state only has about 20 seasonal boat monitors for their 120+ public boat launches.

How You Can Help:

Become a Hydrilla Detective: Learn to identify the plant (consult the resources below) and report any suspected sightings on the [FBL website](#) immediately.

Clean Your Boat and Gear: Meticulously remove all plant material and water before launching and after leaving the lake. This simple step can prevent accidental spread.

Stay Informed: Follow FBL and partner organizations for updates on the latest developments and ways to get involved.

Together, we can make a difference! By understanding the unique challenges posed by the Connecticut River strain of hydrilla and actively participating in control efforts, we can safeguard the health and beauty of our cherished lakes for generations to come.

Additional Resources:

[Connecticut River Conservancy](#)
[US Army Corp of Engineers Program](#)

On behalf of the FBL Directors, thank you.