



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On behalf of the Board of The Friends of Bolton Lakes (FBL), I would like to wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. As you will see in this newsletter, last year was a notably successful year for FBL and for our lakes. A number of long-term projects were completed and several new initiatives are now in the works. Our success last year was due, in large part, to the tireless efforts and advocacy of our outgoing President, David Forrest. I would like to personally thank David for all of his work advocating for the lakes. As the new President of FBL, I will strive to continue the progress of our organization and am firmly committed to the health and well-being of our lakes. The success of FBL requires the continued commitment and participation of our members and I would like to welcome you to become more involved. If you have an interest in becoming more involved, I would love to hear from you! Please send me an email at [jasonseacat@friendsofboltonlakes.org](mailto:jasonseacat@friendsofboltonlakes.org).

As in years past, we would like to take this opportunity to review the activities of 2022 and present highlights of upcoming initiatives for the year to come.

Sincerely,  
Jason Seacat, President

## 2022

**2022 AIS grant** - The towns of Vernon and Bolton, along with the FBL, once again was awarded an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant in the amount of \$25,456.50. This year the money went to help the towns pay for treatments to protect our lakes from invasive species.

**Signage** - Money from the 2021 AIS grant awarded to Vernon, Bolton, and the FBL was used to purchase several types of signs that will be beneficial to our lakes. First, in partnership with the four towns contained in the watershed (Bolton, Coventry, Tolland and Vernon), signs marking the edges of the watershed boundary were purchased and erected. Second, in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), invasive species informational signs were erected in prominent locations at the boat launches for Middle and Lower Bolton Lakes. Finally, six sandwich-board signs were purchased to be used by FBL for promoting events as well as for rapid deployment to boat launches and public access points along the lakes to inform residents about conditions that may affect lake usage.

**Algae Bloom**- In late August/early September both Middle and Lower Bolton lakes experienced algae blooms. In the summer, the water in the lake is layered and cold water is trapped at the bottom of the lake. This layering inhibits algae movement. As we approach fall, temperatures in the water change and the layering goes away. At that point algae can be seen in the entire water column and the clarity decreases. As always, use caution if you suspect an algae bloom. Stay out of the water and keep pets away. Please use the reporting tool [here](#) on the FBL website to report suspected blooms.

**Fall Members Forum** - October's Fall Forum marked a return to in-person events and was a huge success! The forum was held at Newhoca lodge to a full audience. After a short business meeting where the board members who were up for re-election were confirmed, Hillary Kenyon

from Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) gave an informative presentation on the state of the lakes. Going forward, we welcome your input and suggestions on forum content. Please feel free to send your forum suggestions to [fbl@friendsofboltonlakes.org](mailto:fbl@friendsofboltonlakes.org).

**Libraries Love Lakes** - In its commitment to public education about our lakes, the FBL sponsored inaugural educational programs at the Rockville Public Library and Bentley Memorial Library in Bolton. Dubbed the “Libraries Love Lakes” program, these sessions featured limnologist Kendra Kilson from NEAR, who gave a presentation to attendees. The FBL also contributed to the libraries by donating several lake-related books to each of them. Looking forward, we hope to make this an annual event and welcome your input on possible topics and/or venues to promote the FBL educational mission.

**Leadership** - For the past five years, David Forrest has served as president of the FBL. During his time as president, David has worked tirelessly to ensure that many of the FBL’s long-term goals came to fruition. Most notably, David oversaw:

- A watershed plan for the Bolton Lakes was created and submitted to the DEEP for approval.
- A new dam at Hatch Hill between Upper and Middle lakes
- A joint application from the towns of Vernon and Bolton for the annual lowering of the lakes in the fall

We thank David for all of his efforts collaborating with town and state governments to improve the conditions of our lakes and we are pleased that he will remain an active member of the board.

Replacing David as President of the FBL is Jason Seacat. Jason and his family are residents of Middle Bolton Lake and Jason has been a member of the Board since 2017. As a conservationist, educator, and a member of the Vernon Conservation Commission, Jason brings a strong passion for environmental issues and a deep concern for the health and well-being of our lakes. Jason welcomes input and questions from the community and can be reached at [jasonseacat@friendsofboltonlakes.org](mailto:jasonseacat@friendsofboltonlakes.org)

### **Looking Forward to 2023 and Beyond...**

**Bolton Greater Together Community Fund** - The Town of Bolton has instituted an internet warning system concerning the safety of Lower Bolton Lake due to the possible presence of toxic algae blooms. A problem with this system is that it is dependent upon processes that take several days to complete and come at a significant expense to analyze the water samples. Recently developed technology can now be used to predict the level of toxicity due to harmful algae within a matter of minutes. FBL applied for and has been awarded a grant of \$4,282 from the Bolton Greater Together Community Fund ([here](#)) established by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to purchase the required equipment and professional consultation to put this technology into use. Given the success with this project it will now be extended to Middle Bolton Lake.

**Bench for Karl Prewo** - Working with DEEP and the town of Vernon, the FBL will purchase a bench in memory of Karl Prewo. Karl was a founding member of the FBL and a champion for our lakes. Sadly, Karl passed away in 2022. The bench will be located on the dam between the Middle and Lower lakes and should be installed this spring. Once the bench is in place, FBL will have a dedication ceremony for Karl’s family. Be on the lookout for a notice this spring.

**Milfoil Treatment** - Currently the town of Vernon is planning on treating the milfoil in Middle Lake this year with a new chemical, ProcellaCOR. This treatment requires less chemical herbicide and is supposed to keep milfoil at bay longer than traditional treatments.

**Membership** - Your annual membership dues are our main source of working capital. Memberships run from January through December each year. The sign-up period runs from October through the end of September. So, if you joined in October 2022 or later, you are a 2023 member.

We ended 2022 with a membership total of 105. That's down from a high of 129 in 2020 but compares well with a total of 103 for 2021. Welcome to the 28 new members who joined in 2022!

Membership is a bargain! There have been no increases in membership dues since 2013! Membership in FBL provides you with periodic newsletters, email blasts of important information, forums with informative speakers, and strong advocacy with the towns and DEEP. Your dues also support the FBL's continuing monitoring of the water quality of our lakes. We seek to increase our membership even more in 2023 and gladly welcome all new members (and their friends) to our community. Thank you for your support!

Have a healthy and prosperous New Year.

The FBL Board of Directors