



# THE BANTAM LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

[www.bantamlakect.com](http://www.bantamlakect.com)

*Lake Letter*  
Spring 2009

## FANWORT: The demon in our lake

Unfortunately, we are yet to win this battle. In 2004, Dr. George Knoecklein, our resident limnologist (lake doctor), advised us of his discovery of a few fanwort plants in Little Pond. This pond is located on White Memorial property, upstream of the Bantam River inlet to the lake i.e. a few miles north of the lake. He warned us that this plant is extremely aggressive and can reproduce via fragmentation. We were advised to install a barrier at the mouth of the river output to screen for incoming fanwort plant fragments. Such a barrier was installed the following spring.

It is shocking to see how quickly the fanwort infestation has manifested. Now, more than three fourths of the Bantam River leading from Little Pond to the lake is choked with this menace and portions of the river are becoming nearly impassable for kayaks and canoes.



*Fanwort lining the banks of the Bantam River*

Although the plants are dormant at this time of year, you can see for yourself in a few more months. Just take a stroll around the boardwalk surrounding Little Pond. Once on the bridge that crosses over the river on the south end of the pond, look down into the river. Fanwort is lining the banks. Now imagine these weed patches to be doubled in size next year, because they will. That is how quickly it grows.

The worst part: it has spread into the lake. The 2007 fall survey turned up two large patches of fanwort; one was along the east bank of Folly Point near the lake outlet; another was found just west of the river inlet to the lake. In an attempt to slow down this massive aggressor, the B.L.P.A. contracted with Bruce Lockhart last summer to suction harvest as much of these weed masses as possible. Hundreds of bags of weeds were suctioned up, boated out and hauled off. It was an enormous and grungy task, and, sadly, all but a band aid on an immense problem. Hopefully we have gained some time.

Herbicide treatments for fanwort in the lake are extremely expensive - estimated in the millions of dollars. Further complicating matters, the constant water flow of the river would negate the effectiveness of any herbicide.

We are still pursuing possible solutions and will keep our members posted as we proceed. For now, it is extremely important for all users of the lake to be on the lookout for any areas of fanwort growth. If you see this weed, or even think you do, please report the location as accurately as possible to the BLPA or mark it (an empty, capped soda bottle or life vest, weighted down and attached to a rope makes a great marker), so that it may be properly removed before it can spread. More information regarding fanwort may be found on our website.



*Dr. Knoecklein & Bruce Lockhart at fanwort suction harvest operation, North Bay*

## Spring Fundraiser:

It will happen!

After hearing from so many disappointed folks as to why we did not host a 2008 fundraiser, we are determined to hold an event for 2009. Mark your calendars for **May 16<sup>th</sup>** at the Litchfield Community Center. There will be wine tasting, music and some big-ticket raffle items. If anyone has raffle items for donation such as canoes, kayaks, weekend getaways or ball game tickets, please contact Debbie Shurberg at 567-3829 or [dashurberg@optonline.net](mailto:dashurberg@optonline.net). Stand by for more information.



*Camp Quarta - Lakeside. circa 1940's? photo courtesy of Joan and Robin Graham and RC Shaw*

## BLPA NEEDS YOUR INPUT

In an effort to ensure that BLPA is addressing the needs and concerns of all who enjoy the lake, we have created a short survey that we would like all members and lake users to complete. The survey link is located on the front page of our website ([www.bantamlakect.com](http://www.bantamlakect.com)). If you are unable to complete the survey via the internet, please contact us and we will send you a copy by mail or you can pick one up at the spring fundraiser. Please take the time to complete this important survey and provide your input. Information gathered from this survey will be used by Bantam Lake Protective Association in the creation of its Lake Management Plan. This information will also serve as a valuable tool for other stakeholders such as the Morris Planning and Zoning Commission in relation to the Town Plan of Development and the Morris Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission for their use in long-term planning. The closing date of the survey is 4/20/09.

[www.bantamlakect.com](http://www.bantamlakect.com)

## Board of Directors

Constance Trolle, President  
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 Kathy Hill, Secretary/Website  
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 Charles Marshall  
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 Joel Rathbun  
 Ginny Stukshis

email us: [bantamlakehelp@optonline.net](mailto:bantamlakehelp@optonline.net)

### Cash Projection

Our 3-year pledges from the Towns of Litchfield and Morris and the White Memorial Foundation will soon end. The BLPA board recently set forth expenses and spending projections for the next several years and presented this information to the three entities in order to propose the necessary funding for our lake. As we are all aware, budgets are tight this year. The Town of Morris has pledged \$12,500 for 2009. White Memorial Foundation has pledged \$12,500 over the next five years. Unfortunately, the Town of Litchfield has refused all funding. We will have to work hard to cover expenses and hope all members can be generous this year.

### Campfires

Sadly, many campfire remains were left behind on the ice this winter. Ashes are always bad for our lake. In summer or winter, campfires should always be burned in fire resistant containers whether on or near the lake. All residues should be removed and disposed of safely.



Our TO-DO list is long.....  
 ..... can you help??

There are many issues to deal with and we have many irons in the fire these days. We realize it has become more and more difficult for people to commit to the time requirements of being a full-time board member. With respect to this problem, we are attempting to breakdown our tasks and form more committees. Help would be most welcome from anyone willing to lend a hand. If you have skills that you believe would be helpful or you would like to become more involved with the Bantam Lake Protective Association, please contact us at [bantamlakehelp@optonline.net](mailto:bantamlakehelp@optonline.net) or by mail. The task and project list will soon be posted on the website.

## Our Top FIVE

In order To streamline our activities and maximize limited time and resources, the BLPA board of directors has prioritized goals as follows:

- Combat** the fanwort i.e. find a solution to remove the fanwort infestation in the Bantam River
- Carry out** the 2009 milfoil herbicidal treatment
- Create** the Bantam Lake Management Plan. This long-term plan will become a written document of guidance that can be passed along to future generation stewards of the lake. It will set forth goals regarding water quality and protection of the natural beauty of the lake.
- Compile** results of the membership survey. A link to the survey may be found on our website.
- Craft** a brochure promoting good lakefront building practices including the use of buffer zones and rain gardens. This package will contain guidance for managing storm water runoff, erosion control, and seawall construction as well as copies of dock regulations and town zoning mandates in areas adjacent to the lake. It will include information that will help homeowners in making decisions regarding homebuilding or remodeling and the design of landscapes around their lakefront residences. We would like this package to be accepted and promoted by the both the towns of Litchfield and Morris and the White Memorial Foundation. Information regarding buffer zones and rain gardens is presently available on our website at:  
[www.bantamlakect.com/bantam\\_lake\\_front\\_landscaping.html](http://www.bantamlakect.com/bantam_lake_front_landscaping.html)

**Please don't rake leaves into the lake. They decompose and add to weed and algae growth.**

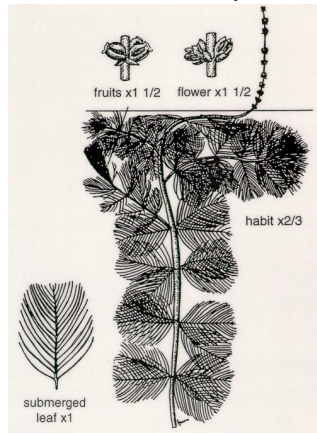


### Mark your calendars:

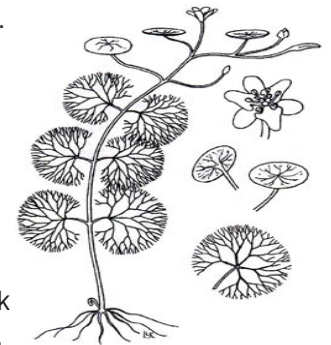
The annual membership meeting will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at 10am at the Morris Town Hall.

## Weed Identification 101:

Milfoil, fanwort, naiad, pondweed..... invasive or non-invasive..... native or non-native, it's easy to get confused. After all, they are all green and no one really likes swimming with them between their toes. However, some weeds are natural to our lake and certainly necessary to support aquatic life. Although milfoil is an invasive, non-native plant that we have been battling to keep in check for years, it is fanwort that has become the real threat to our lake. It is truly a monster and must be



*Eurasian Milfoil*



*Cabomba caroliniana*  
Fanwort

removed as soon as appears. The two look and grow much alike. The most noticeable difference being color – Fanwort is a very bright green (similar to those bright green plastic plants sold for aquariums). Milfoil is darker. Upon closer inspection, fanwort's fan-shaped leaves grow from a tendril that grows off the main stem of the plant shaft. Milfoil leaves grow directly off the stem. Fanwort has tiny white flowers that show upon the water surface when in bloom. (not to be confused with the native water buttercup which also has small white flowers). Fanwort must be hand pulled – carefully. It can propagate from plant fragments that may break off, drift around the lake then set up camp in other areas.