



THE BANTAM LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

www.bantamlakect.com *Lake Letter* Fall 2009

Fanwort: Where are we now

Bruce Lockhart of Water's Edge Restoration & Management attended the September BOD meeting. He reported on this summer's fanwort suction harvest project as follows:

In 2008, two large patches of fanwort were located and removed from two areas near the Bantam River inlet. The total acreage was approximately .52 acres at a cost of \$45,000.00. Early this summer, these two areas were surveyed and found to be free of fanwort. This suction harvesting is expensive, but it works! According to Dr. Knoecklein, the weed's growth was, generally, less vigorous than last year – perhaps due to less sunlight this summer. A map depicting the treatment areas is now available on the website under the *Maps* tab.

Unfortunately, these two areas are merely the tip of the iceberg. Approximately two miles of the Bantam River are already choked with fanwort, not to mention that Little Pond is also completely infested. To make matters worse, fanwort has the capacity to double in density each year. At present, our plan of attack is to continue the suction harvesting further up the river in order to keep any new growth of fanwort from getting a foothold in the lake. It is extremely important that any newly found patches be reported to the BLPA as early as possible so they can be removed before they spread and become large enough to require suction harvest machinery.



The cost for removal in 2009 was \$32,000 and \$45,000 in 2008. Even with our latest grant monies, we could easily exhaust our funds prior to the eradication of this menace. We continue to look for more cost-effective methods to deal with this invasive beast.

Bantam Lake Receives a Grant!

We were pretty shocked ourselves when the DEP informed us that Bantam Lake would be receiving a \$78,000 grant from the State of Connecticut to fight the fanwort battle. We applied for this grant some time ago, but were told the funds had been swept away due to state cost-cutting measures. This money will help us continue the endeavor to eradicate the fanwort weed in the Bantam river and Bantam Lake inlet.

New! Bantam Lake WebCam

Want a "birds-eye" view of the lake? Check out the new Bantam Lake web cam on the front page of our website for 24/7 instant access to lake conditions at www.bantamlakect.com



BLPA donations are tax deductible

Need a Christmas gift idea for the one who has everything and loves the lake? How about a tax-deductible donation to the BLPA in that person's name? BLPA is a 501(3)(c) non-profit corporation. Our federal tax id number is located on the website and on our membership application form. We will be happy to send a card honoring the gift recipient

Board of Directors

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email us: bantamlakehelp@optonline.net

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS ALL ARE WELCOME!

B.L.P.A. B.O.D. meetings take place each month on the third Thursday at 7pm at the upstairs meeting room of the Morris Town Hall, East Street

Campfires

Campfires on the ice were a big problem last winter. There were many instances where campfire remains were left behind on the ice only to melt into the waters in the spring.



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.

PLEASE don't rake leaves into the lake. They decompose and add to weed and algae growth. Fertilizing lawns near the lake also aids weed proliferation. If you *must* use fertilizer please be sure to use a zero phosphate brand. Non-phosphate cleaners for bathing, dish & clothes washing are always a better choice for the environment.



Spring Planning - Buffer Zones and Rain Gardens

Not only are they beautiful but also an effective way of controlling storm water runoff. Information is available at the Morris Town Clerk's Office and there is also lots of useful information available on the internet

Holiday Shopping Tip: Visit the BLPA website for lots of great logo items for your favorite lake enthusiast. Paypal accepted.

Lake plant survey results -

the good news and the bad news

At the September Board of Directors' meeting, Dr. George Knoecklein reported his findings of a lake-wide plant survey. The good news: milfoil growth has been greatly arrested. Although this will not be the end of this weed for Bantam Lake, the second treatment in August packed a powerful punch to the milfoil weed population. The milfoil infestation in Nick's Cove and the area adjacent to the east shore of Point Folly and the Bantam River outlet has shown severely decreased plant numbers.



Painter turtles at the Bantam River Outlet

The bad news: the water naiad came marching back to many shoreline areas in late summer. Particularly hard hit was the west shore of the lake. Why this has occurred two years in a row is perplexing, even to Dr. Knoecklein. We will address treating this weed next season. Homeowners may want to consider the use of an aqua mat or screen to inhibit the naiad growth near their swimming areas.

Fundraisers: Mums & Aerial Photos

Two successful fundraisers were held this fall. Aerial Photography of Connecticut took pictures of the lake during the July 4th weekend and gave BLPA 40% of each sale! The demand far outweighed our expectations and Peter Longo generously held a one-day sale at his garage on East Shore Road to allow folks to browse and buy their favorites. Additionally, Michael's Flowers of Cheshire donated a truck-load of beautiful fall flowers for us to sell. Many BLPA board members and their families spent the rainy weekend outside at Morris Town Hall, selling flowers. Without all the volunteers and donations, neither fundraiser would have been possible. Proceeds from both fundraisers totaled over \$4,000.00.

Membership survey results

Earlier this year, we requested our membership to take a short online survey of issues concerning the lake. 138 members completed the survey. When presented with a list, the topics that gave respondents the highest degree of concern were: Invasive weeds, effects of fertilizers on the lake, weed proliferation from boats and trailers, water clarity, litter in and around the lake and septic system/outhouse testing. A more detailed list of the survey results is available on the website



ICE FISHING

Connecticut Guidelines for Ice Fishing Tournaments - now available on the BLPA website under **Regulations**