



BANTAM LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

Preserving and Protecting Since 1925

**THE BANTAM LAKE
PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION IS A
NON-PROFIT 501 (3)(C)
CORPORATION. OUR MISSION IS
THE PROTECTION AND
PRESERVATION OF BANTAM
LAKE, ITS WATERSHED AND
SHORELINES**

DEAR FRIENDS OF BANTAM LAKE,

Summer is Bantam Lake's time to shine, and an opportunity for all to explore, relax and reconnect with all the lake has to offer. Our association has always been dedicated to preserving the pristine beauty of our lake and ensuring the well-being of everyone who uses and enjoys it. We have important updates on the state of our lake, including a matter of concern: the increasing presence of Cyanobacteria, commonly known as blue-green algae. It is crucial that we remain vigilant and informed about the potential risks that Cyanobacteria can pose to our cherished ecosystem and ourselves.

Cyanobacteria is abundant in Bantam Lake. Yes, it's actually been here for thousands of years; however, it is reproducing at alarming rates. The lake is being overfed by constant and excessive "loading" of nutrients along with consistently warmer water temperatures due to climate change. When the algae reproduce very rapidly due to favorable conditions they cause a "bloom". You may recall when the lake turned this sludgy green towards the end of summer for the last few years.

Cyanobacteria is a photosynthetic microorganism that feeds on Phosphorus that settles on the bottom of the lake. As the algae feed they produce a toxin called Mycrocystin which can be very harmful to humans, animals and aquatic life. Exposure to these algae blooms can cause a range of symptoms including mild rash, liver damage and nervous system disorders. Inhalation of cyanobacteria causes damage to lungs and other organs. Aquatic life is also at risk as are birds. Domestic pets, particularly dogs that often enter the water and collect the algae on their fur and then lick it off causing ingestion of possible lethal doses of the toxin.

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CYANOBACTERIA: OUR BIGGEST THREAT

This Phosphorus sediment layer arrives at the lake via many different paths - leaching septic systems, fertilizer runoff, waterfowl feces, detergents, stormwater and the like. In the case of Bantam Lake, we also have the Bantam River and a 21,000 square acres watershed feeding into the Bantam River and then the lake. . To make matters worse, a recent study conducted by the US EPA and State of CT DEEP clearly indicates that a significant input to our nutrient loading is originating from the Woodridge Lake Sewer system which is leaching into the West Branch of the Bantam River just north of Litchfield. (The Woodridge Lake Sewer system was deemed inadequate by the DEEP in 1989).

We are in trouble! While we make every effort to promote a solution to the WLSL issue - the most viable being a tie-in to the Litchfield sewer system; we need to mitigate the problem and clarify the water in the more immediate future. We have used Copper Sulfate treatments in the past which have worked short term; however, we have scientific studies verifying that this course of action will not be suitable long term and is already becoming less and less effective.

➤➤➤ POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The only really effective treatment appears to be the use of ALUM (Aluminum Sulfate). An Alum treatment to the lake would allow for the bonding of the Phosphorous sediment layer rendering it unusable as a food source to the Cyanobacteria. Forecasts indicate that this treatment would buy us about 10-12 years while we work to correct more of the internal and external nutrient loading sources in/to the lake. Specifically, a solution to the Woodridge Lake Sewer system effluent leaching problem.

The BLPA is advocated this two-pronged approach:

Short Term: Short term: Administer an ALUM treatment as soon as possible to eliminate the algae overgrowth and clarify the lake water.

Long Term: Work with the State of CT DEEP and the Litchfield WPCA to engineer and implement a more efficient and regionalized sewer system that incorporates not only Litchfield but also Woodridge Lake and the remainder of Bantam Lake in Morris and Litchfield.

As always we appreciate the support of our members and hope you will help us on the endeavor. Your voice is needed!



←
Like the new signs around the lake? Get one for your lawn and support BLPA!



Bantam Lake shoreline in 2020 due to Cyanobacteria/blue green algae bloom

ALUM FAQ'S

➤➤➤ HOW ARE ALUM AND COPPER SULFATE DIFFERENT?

Copper sulfate kills algae directly; however, the alkalinity levels of the water are critical for its effectiveness. Overtime it can kill fish and aquatic plant life. Aluminum sulfate acts to control algae by controlling the amount of phosphorus available in the water. When aluminum sulfate is activated by the water it then reacts with the phosphorus sediment, binding the compounds together and thereby removing the phosphorus from the water. Once the algae lose this food source, they will begin to die and stop reproducing.

Aluminum sulfate and the compound it turns into once immersed in water, aluminum hydroxide, are not toxic to plant life, fish or any other wildlife that might be present in the lake water. Aluminum sulfate is completely safe for human consumption and commonly used in pickles and water sanitation.

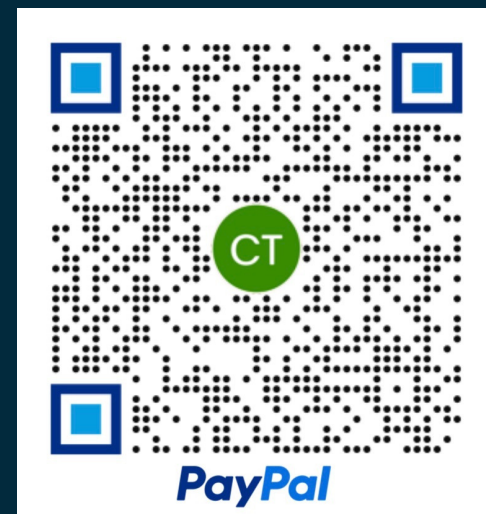
➤➤➤ WHY IS AN ALUM TREATMENT SO MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE THAN PREVIOUS COPPER SULFATE TREATMENT?

ALUM (Aluminum Sulfate) is a more expensive product than Copper Sulfate and requires several hundred pounds per surface acre to be effective. It will also need to be trucked in and then applied to the specified areas of the lake.

➤➤➤ WHY IS THE NUTRIENT LOADING SO IMPORTANT?

Nutrient loading - particularly Phosphorous - is the food source for Cyanobacteria. We must bring our total maximum daily load down (TMDL) as per the US EPA in order for the lake to be able to return to a healthy condition. The continued input of these nutrients - whether from fertilizing waterfront shoreline properties or input from the Bantam River must be reduced! The continued input of these nutrients will continue to cause explosive productions of these algae and eventually render the lake eutrophic - mean void of oxygen and hence unable to support aquatic life.

DONATE HERE!



➤➤➤ HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Sign the petition and write to your local and state representatives urging them to support the BLPA endeavors
- Stop using fertilizers along or near the shoreline where they can be washed into the lake via runoff or storm drains.
- Use buffer gardens near lake shore lines.
- Have septic systems pumped out regularly.
- Do not rake/blow leaves into the lake.
- Do not allow ashes from fires to enter the lake.

**Report reckless boat operations or emergencies to the
State of CT DEEP 860-424-3333**

WAKEBOARD BOATS

Please keep to the center of the lake when operating boats with large wakes and while surfing. The large wakes cause damage and erosion to shoreline properties along with docks. They also devastate natural nesting areas for birds and aquatic life on the shorelines.

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\$10,000 and above

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The Piper Foundation
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Whittemore Family
Lynne Wilson





\$22.

ADULT LONG SLEEVE TEE

Sizes: **S, M, L, XL**

Nothing beats this traditional t-shirt in comfort, versatility and casual style.

-  **STONEWASHED GREEN**
-  **NAVY**
(WHITE INK)

6.1-ounce, 100% soft spun cotton
 98/2 cotton/poly (Ash)
 90/10 cotton/poly (Athletic Heather)
 Rib knit collar
 Shoulder to shoulder back neck tape


ADULT POLO

\$30.

Sizes: **S, M, L, XL**



6-ounce, 50/50 cotton/poly DryBlend moisture-wicking properties
 Tear-away label
 Contoured welt knit collar and cuffs
 3-button clean-finished placket with reinforced bottom box
 Wood-tone (transitioning to dyed-to-match) buttons
 Double-needle hem

-  **NAVY**
(WHITE THREAD)

UNISEX WINDBREAKER

Sizes: **S, M, L, XL**

\$35.

This Zephyr style merges wind- and water-resisting performance with a silky smooth hand. This unlined piece is easy to wear over base or thermal layers. Modern sleek details offer instant appeal at a very appealing price.

100% polyester
 Interior storm flap with chin guard. Elastic binding at cuffs
 Left side seam zipper for easy on/off. Open hem with adjustable locking drawcord



-  **BLACK**
(WHITE THREAD)

ALL COTTON CINCH PACK

\$16.

100% cotton sheeting
 Dyed-to-match drawcords closure
 Dimensions: 15.5"h x 13.5"w
 Navy - White Graphic



BANTAM LAKE DIE CUT DECAL

Perfect for your Cooler, Tumbler, Car or Boat!
 Thick, durable vinyl protects your stickers from scratches, water & sunlight.

5" wide
 Navy & White

\$3.





UNISEX T-SHIRT

\$24.

Sizes: **S, M, L, XL**

-  **LIGHT HEATHER GREY**
-  **BLACK**

Crafted from ring spun cotton for ultimate comfort.
 4.3-ounce, 100% combed ring spun cotton, 34 singles
 90/10 combed ring spun cotton/poly (Light Heather Grey)
 Slightly slimmer body and shorter sleeves
 1x1 rib knit neck
 Tear-away label
 Shoulder to shoulder taping



WOMEN'S V-NECK

\$26.

Sizes: **M, L, XL**

-  **BLACK**
-  **LIGHT HEATHER GREY**

This v-neck delivers important style.
 4.3-ounce, 100% combed ring spun cotton, 34 singles
 90/10 combed ring spun cotton/poly (Light Heather Grey)
 1x1 rib knit neck
 Tear-away label
 Shoulder to shoulder taping



UNISEX HOODIE

\$35.

Sizes: **S, M, L, XL**

-  **HEATHER SPORT ROYAL**
-  **DARK HEATHER GREY**

8-ounce, 50/50 cotton/poly
 Double-needle stitching at waistband and cuffs
 Double-lined hood with dyed-to-match drawcord
 1x1 rib knit cuffs and waistband with spandex
 Front pouch pocket

FLOATING KEY CHAIN

\$4.



PATCH CAP

\$18.



20oz TUMBLER

\$35.

