

THE LAKELETTER

Photo Cred: Charlie Denler



NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

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The Lake Advisory Commission (LAC) has been focusing on education through our letters to the editor in the Advisor and this newsletter. We also have several items on our agenda for action and discussion such as Improvements to the Boat Ramp, stocking the lake with fish, weed control, lake clean-up, and working with Land-tech and the town on the health of the lake. While the LAC can advise and promote lake initiatives, the responsibility to preserve the lake's pristine beauty and environmental health lies with its residents. By adopting sustainable practices and becoming stewards of this precious resource, residents can ensure that Lake Terramuggus remains a thriving ecosystem for generations to come.

1. Sensible Chemical Use: Chemical pollutants can be detrimental to the health of the lake and its aquatic life. Residents should avoid using fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in their yards if possible. Eco-friendly alternatives or natural methods to maintain lawns and gardens are preferred, minimizing the runoff of harmful substances into the lake.

2. Promoting Native Landscaping: Creating a sustainable environment around the lake involves embracing native plants and reducing the use of exotic and invasive species. Native plants are adapted to the local climate, require less maintenance, and help preserve the natural balance of the ecosystem, while also preventing erosion, and promoting a healthy shoreline.

3. Conserving Water: Water conservation is essential to maintain the lake's water levels and ensure a healthy ecosystem. Residents can contribute by adopting efficient watering practices, such as watering lawns and gardens during early morning or late evening hours to minimize evaporation. Installing rain barrels to collect rainwater for irrigation is another great way to reduce the strain on the lake's water supply.

4. Supporting Wildlife Habitat: Lake Terramuggus is home to a variety of wildlife species. Residents can play an active role in protecting this habitat by providing food, water, and shelter for local fauna. Installing bird feeders, bird baths, and creating wildlife-friendly areas with native plants and nesting boxes can attract and support a diverse range of birds, butterflies, and other beneficial organisms.

5. Responsible Waste Management: Proper waste management is crucial for maintaining the water quality of the lake. Residents should dispose of all waste materials, including garbage, recycling, and hazardous items, in designated bins. Recycling and composting are encouraged to reduce the amount of waste ending up in landfills and ultimately protect the lake's surroundings.

6. Participating in Community Initiatives: Active involvement in community-led initiatives focused on lake conservation can significantly impact the long-term health of Lake Terramuggus. Residents can join local environmental organizations, volunteer for lake clean-up drives, or participate in educational workshops that promote awareness about conservation practices. Collaborating with neighbors and sharing knowledge can create a more cohesive and effective effort towards safeguarding the lake.

Lake Terramuggus is an invaluable natural asset that enriches the lives of Marlborough residents. By adopting sustainable practices and embracing the role of stewards, residents can preserve the lake's pristine beauty and maintain a healthy environment for both current and future generations.

Marlborough's Lake Advisory Commission – Safe Boating Tips

As the temperature rises and the days become longer, our minds turn to fun on the water. The following are brief safety and regulation reminders for boating at Lake Terramuggus. We hope you have a fun and safe summer!

Boating Actions:

- Notify someone of your intended schedule and when you expect to return.
- Drain all water from your boat and bilge before entering the lake to prevent the spread of invasive plants and animals.
- Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment for invasive plants and animals.

Boating Checklist:

- Current boat registration, trailer registration, and CT safe boating certificate.
- Personal flotation devices in good condition for each passenger.
- Fire extinguishers which are fully charged and operable.
- Paddle in case of motor problems.
- Well-stocked first aid kit.
- Dedicated tool/repair kit with spare spark plugs, fuses, and bulbs.
- Proper signaling devices (day, night, visual and audio).
- A Marlborough town parking pass - required when parking at the lake.

Gas motors in excess of 3.3hp are prohibited at the lake.



Photo Cred: Mike Ski

Lawn Care Tips



To many people a yard without a lawn is not a yard. Lawns provide play areas for children and sports. A lawn's open space is ideal for enjoying the sun and outdoor dining or entertaining. But aren't there water quality problems with having a lawn in a shoreline area? Yes, in fact, there are. The same nutrients that promote a lush green lawn can

promote lush green growth of aquatic plants and algae in a lake. Studies on some lakes have indicated that lawn fertilization is one of the largest sources of human-induced pollution. Although nutrient pollution can be minimized by carefully managing fertilizer application or not fertilizing at all, the very existence of a lawn which extends to the water's edge causes other types of problems, such as near shore habitat destruction, increased overland runoff to the water, and weakened shoreline soils increasing the likelihood of erosion. Lawns are not a natural landscape feature and generally require high maintenance. You can still have a lawn on a shoreline property and protect water quality, especially if the area adjacent to the shoreline has natural vegetation. This brochure provides some tips on how you can manage your lawn without impacting the lake's water quality.

Guidelines for Shoreline Lawn Care

Maintain natural vegetation along the shoreline. Maintaining natural vegetation with trees, shrubs, and ground cover can preserve water quality, enhance aesthetics, and protect your property from shoreline erosion.

Pesticides and Herbicides

Avoid pesticide/herbicide and fertilizer mixtures. Since many commercial lawn herbicides can harm aquatic plants and animals if they get into the water, it is better to dig up or live with the weeds. There are many tools available to manually pull out weeds such as Friskar's Deluxe Stand-up Weeder. Devices like this will also immediately eliminate your weeds. If you decide that weeds must be treated, spot treat herbicide in the fall. This will minimize runoff and reduce harm to trees, shrubs, and aquatic life. **Do NOT use a fertilizer containing phosphorus.**

Phosphorus is the most critical nutrient in lakes. Even a small amount of phosphorus added to a lake can stimulate excessive growth of aquatic plants and algae.

Lawn Cover

If you are establishing a lawn, plant a fescue mixture rather than bluegrass. Fescue requires much less nitrogen per square foot than bluegrass. Tall fescue and creeping red rescue grass are drought and shade tolerant and does very well here in Connecticut. Water the lawn with lake water to keep it green and thriving without the use of fertilizer. Nutrients in the water can be utilized by the grass, reducing concentrations in the lake or stream. A thorough weekly watering during dry spells promotes deeper root growth and healthier grass than light watering. Avoid excessive watering, especially on sandy soils, as it can cause nutrients to leach from the soil and move into surface water. Pesticides not only can contaminate water and wildlife, but can cause harm to humans too. Many alternatives to pesticides are available and can be equally if not more effective than pesticides.

Professional Care

If your lawn is maintained by a lawn care professional, discuss your priorities for water quality protection with them. Be an informed consumer. Don't let them put anything on your land that will harm our beautiful lake. There are many alternatives to a highly manicured lawn. Preserving or restoring natural vegetation may be more attractive and beneficial. Some other options to consider include a pruned lake viewing corridor, a deck, or a small patch of lawn near your house with a diverse, low-maintenance mixture of trees, shrubs, and ground cover planted in other areas.

Dangers of Leaves, Lawn Clippings & Animal Wastes to our Lake

When leaves, lawn clippings, animal wastes, fertilizers, and soil are picked up by storm water runoff and are carried directly to our local lakes and streams, they provide the lakes with excess phosphorus. This excess phosphorus causes increased algae growth.

Composting

A compost pile located away from the lake is a good way to dispose of leaves and grass clippings. If you don't compost your yard waste, dump leaves, grass clippings, or brush back from the lakeshore. Burning leaves is not recommended, as it causes air and water pollution. If you have a fire ring near the shore, periodically remove the ashes for disposal away from the waters edge.



Photo Cred: Erica Gorman (no fertilizer used!)

PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATES

With summer fast approaching, we begin to make plans for fun under the sun at the Town parks. The following list serves as a reminder of the safety rules and regulations for swimming, boating and recreation at Lake Terramuggus and other Town athletic fields. For more info visit www.marlboroughct.net

General Rules:

1. The following items are strictly prohibited at all Town parks and fields.

- Use or sale of alcoholic beverages
- Operation of unauthorized motor vehicles
- Feeding or annoyance of wildlife
- Unauthorized camping
- Pets (except service animals)
- Smoking or vaping
- Glass containers
- Firearms or weapons



Photo Cred: Lisa Seethaler

2. No mooring of boats or boats with engines greater than 3.3 horsepower.

3. Parking is restricted to designated areas and for use by Town residents with a Town parking sticker.

4. Beach closings may occur if one or more inches of rain have fallen within 24 hours.

5. Take out what you take in.

6. Open fires and cooking is restricted to designated areas with permission only.

7. One or more Lifeguards may be on duty between Memorial Day until the end of the season.

LAKE WILDLIFE

Photo Cred Kathryn Hood, (Bluebirds & Eagle & Merganser Duck & Fox); Marilyn Haney (Geese); Erica Gorman (Blue Heron); Marcus Wilkinson (Hawk)



LAKE FLORA

Photo Cred: Cheryl Morgan. Dr. Tom Dugdale, Charlie Denler, Nancy Viscoe



LAKE FUN

Photo Cred: Cheryl Morgan. Dr. Tom Dugdale, Jae Alexander, Nancy Viscoe



PARKS AND REC SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

ALL CONCERTS AT BLISH PARK AND START AT 6 PM

JUNE 22ND - SIDEWAYS

(MODERN COUNTRY)

JULY 6TH – WINDHAM CONCERT BAND

(BIG BAND)



JULY 20TH – JUDY PANCOAST

(CHILDREN'S CONCERT)



AUGUST 3RD – NIGHTSHIFT

(CLASSIC ROCK)

AUGUST 24TH – SEAT OF OUR PANTS

(FOLK)

AUGUST 31ST – THE DAILY PLANET

(CLASSIC ROCK)



LAKE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Daniel Dupre - Chairperson
Joseph J. Asklar III
Louise Concodello
John Planeta
William Evans
Jane Rovero Boston
Anthony Bassilakis

Alternates:
Cheryl Morgan - editor
Nancy Visco
Jason Valentine

Assist Town agencies with protecting, monitoring, and managing Lake Terramuggus through recommendations.

Primary responsibilities include:

- Educating town residents about best practices to minimize negative impacts on the lake (yard maintenance, invasive species, ordinance compliance, etc.). Achieved through the Lake Letter, local newspaper submissions, regular meetings, and special event participation/arrangement.
- Functioning as a funnel for resident questions, complaints, and commentary to ensure proper Town staff is informed and involved.
- Overseeing the water quality monitoring program and annual Lake Report.
- Monitoring weed populations and growth/expansion trends. Overseeing weed treatment programs when warranted.
- Stocking fish and conducting fish population counts.
- Collaborating with Parks & Rec and other groups regarding recreational use of the lake.

https://marlboroughct.net/boards_and_commissions/lake_study_advisory_commission.php