



Tonight's Agenda



5:00 to 6:00pm

Cocktail Hour



5:15pm (1st Tour)

Mine Hill Distillery Tour
(Meet at the check-in table)



6:00pm to 6:40pm

Lake Health Presentation



6:45pm to 8:30pm

Dinner, socializing & Music



8:45pm

Departure



Lake Lillinonah Health Report

2026



*But first...
Gratitude*



FRIENDS *of the* LAKE

WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Mine Hill Distillery



*An evening of celebration,
community, and gratitude.*



*But first...
Gratitude*



Chatfield
True Value.



Recognition of our Lake Partners...



Serving Brookfield, Bridgewater, New Milford, Newtown, Roxbury and Southbury

Lake Lillinonah Authority



FirstLight



Thank You to our Politicians

For your continued & unwavering support

Here this evening:

- Southbury First Selectman: Tim O'Neil
- Newtown First Selectman: Bruce Walzak
- Brookfield First Selectman: Stephen Dunn
- New Milford Mayor: Pete Bass
- Bridgewater First Selectman: Eric Gsell

- Roxbury First Selectman: Patrick Roy
- Bridgewater Selectman: Carolan Dwyer
- House of Representatives: Marty Foncello
- House of Representatives: Bill Buckbee
- State of CT Senator: Steve Harding
- United States Senator: Richard Blumenthal



Special Guest & True Friend of the Lake



Senator Richard Blumenthal

- US Senator from Connecticut (2011 - Present)
- CT Attorney General (1991 - 2011)
- Connecticut State Senator (1987 - 1991)
- Member of the Connecticut House of Representatives (1985 - 1987)
- United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut (1977 - 1981)

Special Guest & True Friend of the Lake

Senator Richard Blumenthal



Combatting Hydrilla in Lake Lillinonah

- **2026 Hydrilla testing & treatment costs: ~\$100,000**
- **2027 strategy:** Pursue state & federal grants, while establishing a **sustainable local funding structure**
- **Partnership needed:** Support from **DEEP, state legislators, and local municipalities** will be critical
 - *Need help from the six surrounding towns to adequately & consistently fund the LLA so it can help support ongoing Hydrilla monitoring and treatment*



Awards

2026

Jeff Tinley Memorial Scholarship



1955 to 2021

The scholarship was established in memory of our dear friend, neighbor, founding member and board member Jeffrey Tinley, Esq. Jeff contributed his legal expertise and an enormous amount of time to Friends of the Lake, particularly around environmental preservation and water quality.

Among his more notable efforts, Jeff worked to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen discharges from the Danbury Wastewater Treatment Plant. His advocacy ultimately helped lead to enforcement action and greater focus by Connecticut DEEP on cleaning up the Limekiln Brook and Still River watershed.



2026 Jeff Tinley Scholarship



This year's award goes to:

Margaret Pouder

- Maggie graduated from Shepaug Valley High School in June where she was a member of the Agriscience program. She is headed to Ithaca College where she will major in environmental sciences.
- Maggie's interest in environmental issues grew from a combination of hands-on experience, academic study, and a deep personal connection to the natural world, especially aquatic ecosystems.
- Maggie's senior project consisted of designing and building a self-sustaining pond for native fish species.
- She was also involved in community outreach by educating others about the ecological risks of non-native species and the importance of sustainable watershed management.
- Her interest in environmental issues is driven by both curiosity and a sense of responsibility.



Membership Update

2026

Welcome & Thank You to our newest Members!

- Vince Buzzanca
- Betsy Dizengoff
- Rodney Galella
- Shirley Galella
- Brett Hayden
- Riva Hayden
- Steve Shabet



Our Membership is larger & stronger than
ever before!

THANK YOU!!!



300+
Active Members!!!

Operations



MEMBERSHIP STATUS

**300+
Active
Members
Across
13 towns**



COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

**Email
Text
Website
FLP Call System
Snail Mail**



COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Save the Lake Day
Dine Around
Anniversary Party
Debris Survey**

Sign up for alerts at the table!





**2027 Events
Reminder
&
Sign up at the
easels**



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Save the Lake Day: Sunday May 30th
Dine Around: Saturday July 17th (TBD)
Anniversary Party: Thursday Aug 12th



Water Quality

2026



2026 Supporter of the Lake Award(s)

For Execution of Hydrilla Management

Matthew Goclowski

Supervising Fisheries Biologist



Connecticut
Department of Energy &
Environmental Protection

Zach Davis

Aquatic & Fisheries Specialist



THE POND AND LAKE
— CONNECTION —

CLEO (Citizen Lead Environmental Observatory)

UPDATES

- Maintained 4 historic sites:
 - Rt. 133
 - Shepaug
 - Ryan's Rock
 - Poison Ivy Island
- Looking to re-establish in 2026:
 - Barkwood Cove

Volunteer Commitment

- 3 Hours Preseason Training
 - o Classroom training
 - o Dock Sampling Training
- Seasonal Testing
 - o 15 minutes
 - o 3 times per week (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday)
 - o Hours: between 3 - 7 p.m.

WE ARE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN TRAINING ANYONE
TO BE A SUBSTITUTE OR ESTABLISH NEW SITES



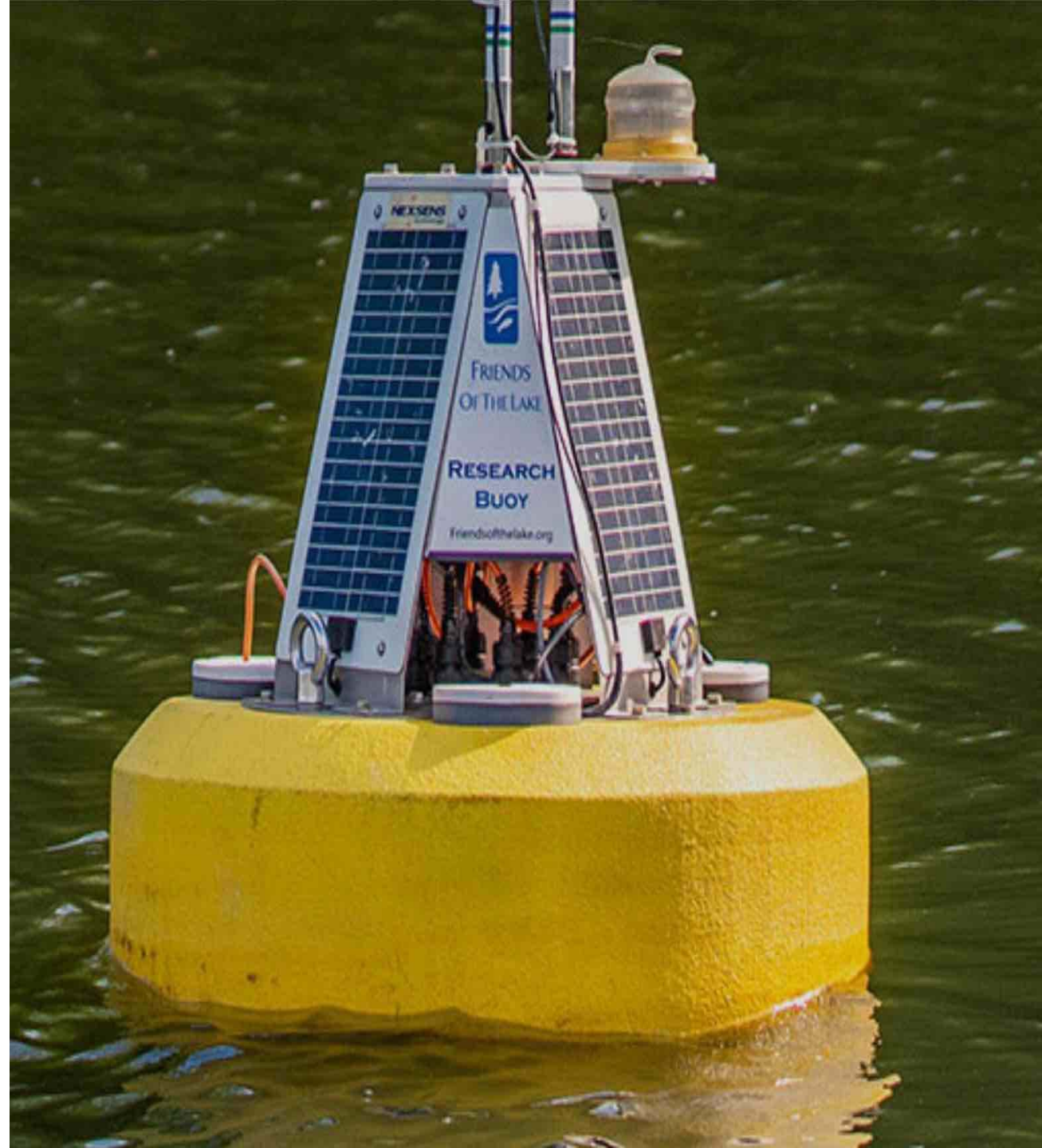
Research Buoy

GLEON

(Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network)

Data Parameters

- Temperature (Updated Sensors 2024)
- Dissolved Oxygen
 - Surface (Updated sensor 2024)
 - 15 meters (Out for repair)
- pH (Updated sensor 2026)
- Conductivity
- Phycocyanin Pigments
- Chlorophyll Pigments
- Water Level (Updated 2025 including a new logger)



Deep Water Testing - (June - September)

5 Sites

- Goodyear Island
- Barkwood
- Buoy
- Dam
- Shepaug

Samples Collected

- Toxin Sample
Quantify microcystin
- Nutrient Sample
Quantify Phosphorus
and Nitrogen



Zebra Mussels

- Pull boats and allow to dry for a few days
- Raise outboard engines to allow intake to dry for a few days.
- Clean bottom to reduce drag and conserve gasoline
- Consider a lift



Water Chestnut

Invasive Aquatic Plant Removal



Lake Lillinonah

- If you see it, pull it!
- Place in the garbage or a compost pile.
- Use caution handling the nuts or plants with nuts, the points are sharp.
- One plant removed this year prevents 10 plants in the future!





Hydrilla Update

Rebekah White

Kendra Kilson

Greg Bollard

Hydrilla

Invasive Aquatic



Image courtesy of Kendra Kilson



Image courtesy of: <https://www.ctriver.org/hydrilla>



Hydrilla

Invasive Aquatic Plant Treatment

2026

- Herbicide (Fluridone, AKA Sonar) treatment applied to populations discovered in 2025.
- Next 2026 treatment will include those populations discovered during the invasive plant survey paid for by FirstLight Power.
- If you see it, DO NOT PULL IT!

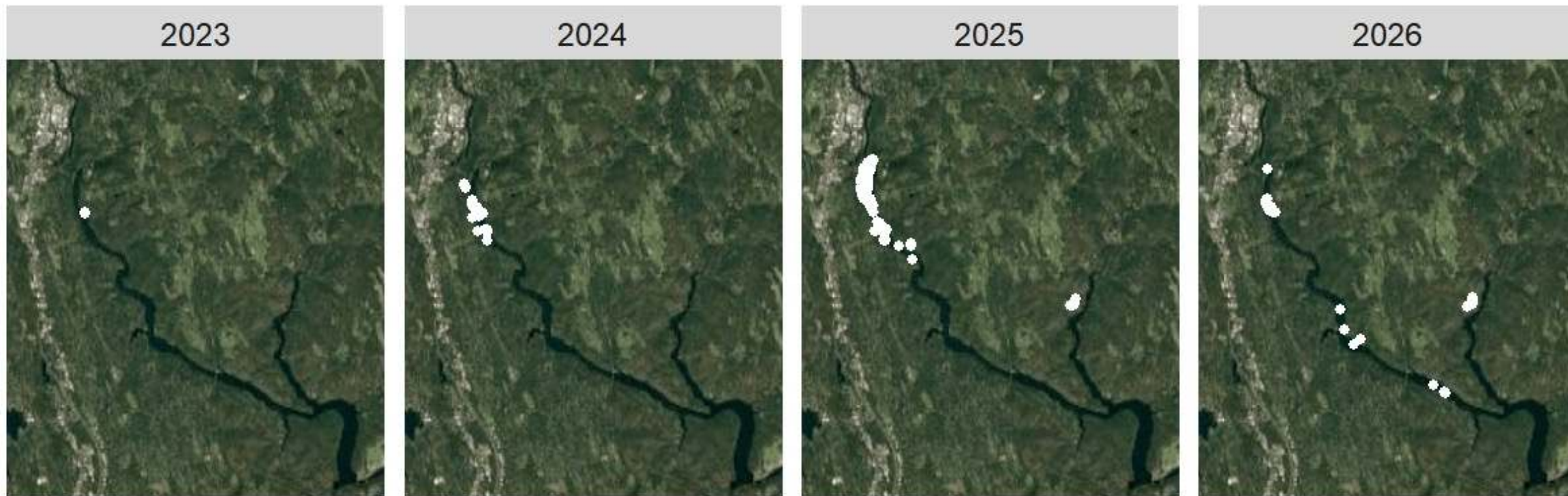
REPORT IT!

- Grab you phone
- Get close without using a boat propeller
- Collect the GPS coordinates from your phone.
- Snap a picture
- Email picture and coordinates to info@friendsofthelake.org



Hydrilla

Invasive Aquatic Plant Survey 2026



2026 NEAR survey is currently ongoing and NOT completed.

***Locations to date 10Aug2026.**

****2026 Shepaug Arm locations provided by Rebekah White.**



Hydrilla Treatment Funding & KC Update

- Funding update:
- AIS Grant
 - Working off balance this year
 - Cost share 25% of the \$50k
- Currently have no funding secured for 2027
 - Will Apply for Grant in November
- CASE is also managing separately (50% co-pay)
- Will need towns support LLA to cost share
- Kimberly Clark Update





Debris Update

George Walker & Mike Schimenti

2026

Wood Debris Update

- Objective

Conduct a comprehensive survey to better understand the causes, impacts, and potential mitigation strategies for wood debris accumulation on Lake Lillinonah.

- Scope

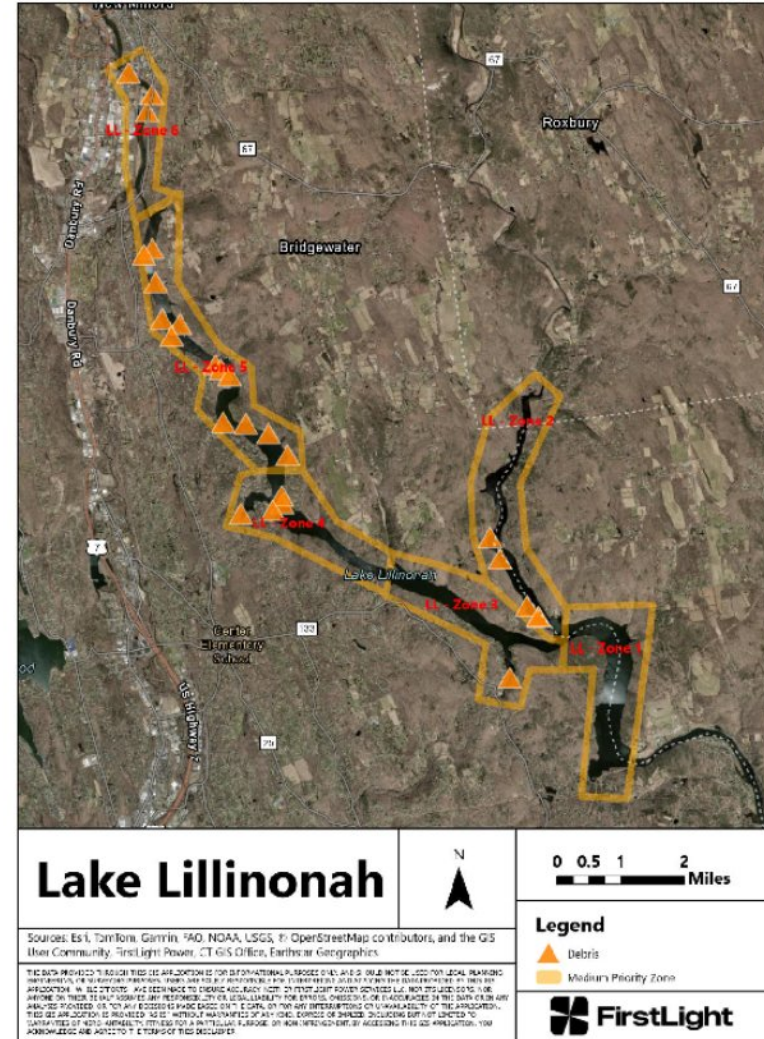
Locate and Identify wood debris within the lake and geo tag the location

- Methodology

Together with FirstLight and the LLA we went out on FL boat in May. As a team we located the wood debris, mostly along the shorelines and coves. The wood debris was recorded within the FL geo mapping system. After a day on the lake, we identified all the wood debris as shown in the image. FL then deployed their consultants to remove the identified wood debris.

- Outcome

Boaters report less wood debris year after year, which means it is safer to navigate the lake (especially at night)



Lake Lillinonah Wood Debris Program

Drone pilot evaluation & an AI-powered crowdsourced concept

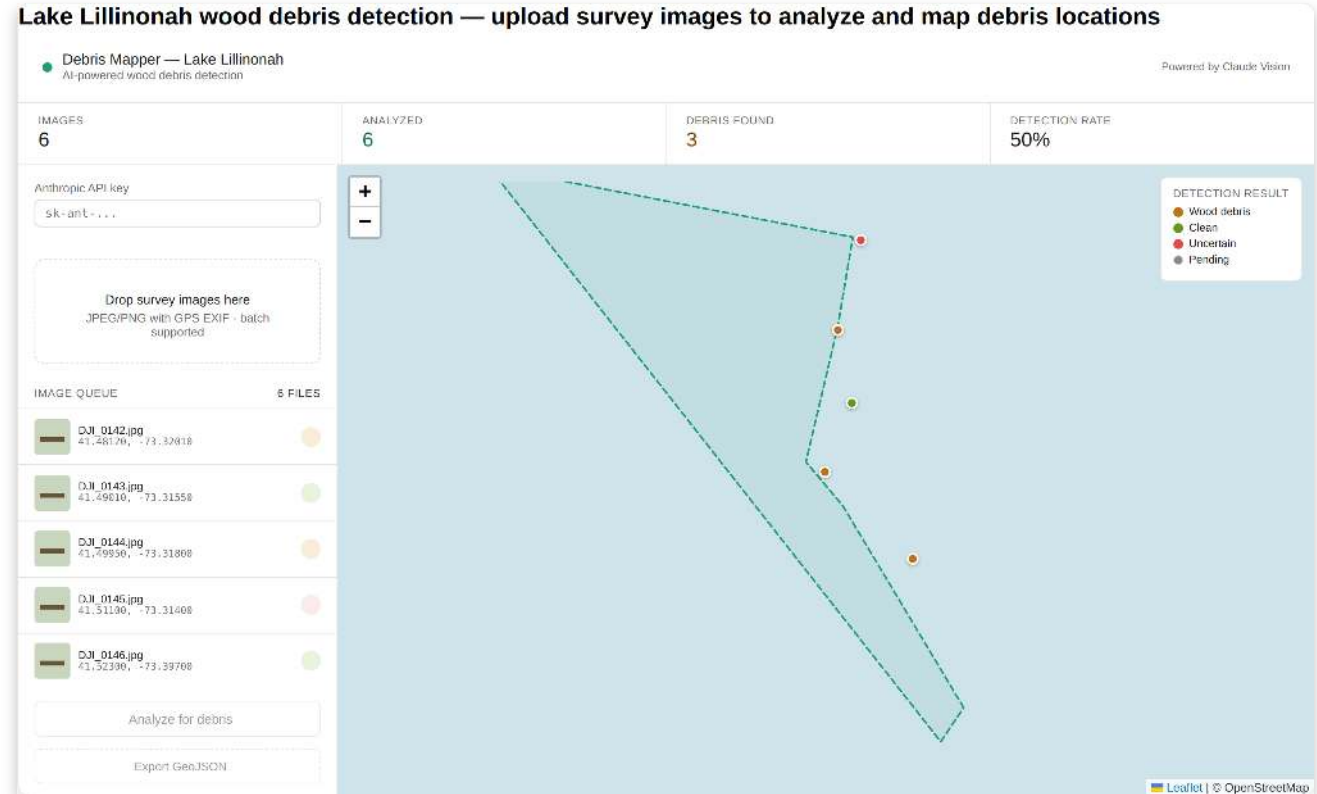
Drone Pilot Evaluation

- We evaluated hiring professional drone pilots to survey the lake for wood debris.
- The cost of recurring pilot-led surveys wasn't justifiable relative to the value delivered — flight fees.

Future Concept: Crowdsourced Mapping

- Use this app — designed and built with AI (Claude) — instead of paid drone flights.
- Residents and lake users upload their own photos, e.g. around STLD or right after a big storm.
- The images get uploaded to a FOTL location
- The app analyzes each image with AI vision and automatically labels debris findings on a live map.
- Near-zero marginal cost, coverage scales with community participation instead of flight-hour budgets.

Image upload & auto-labeled debris map



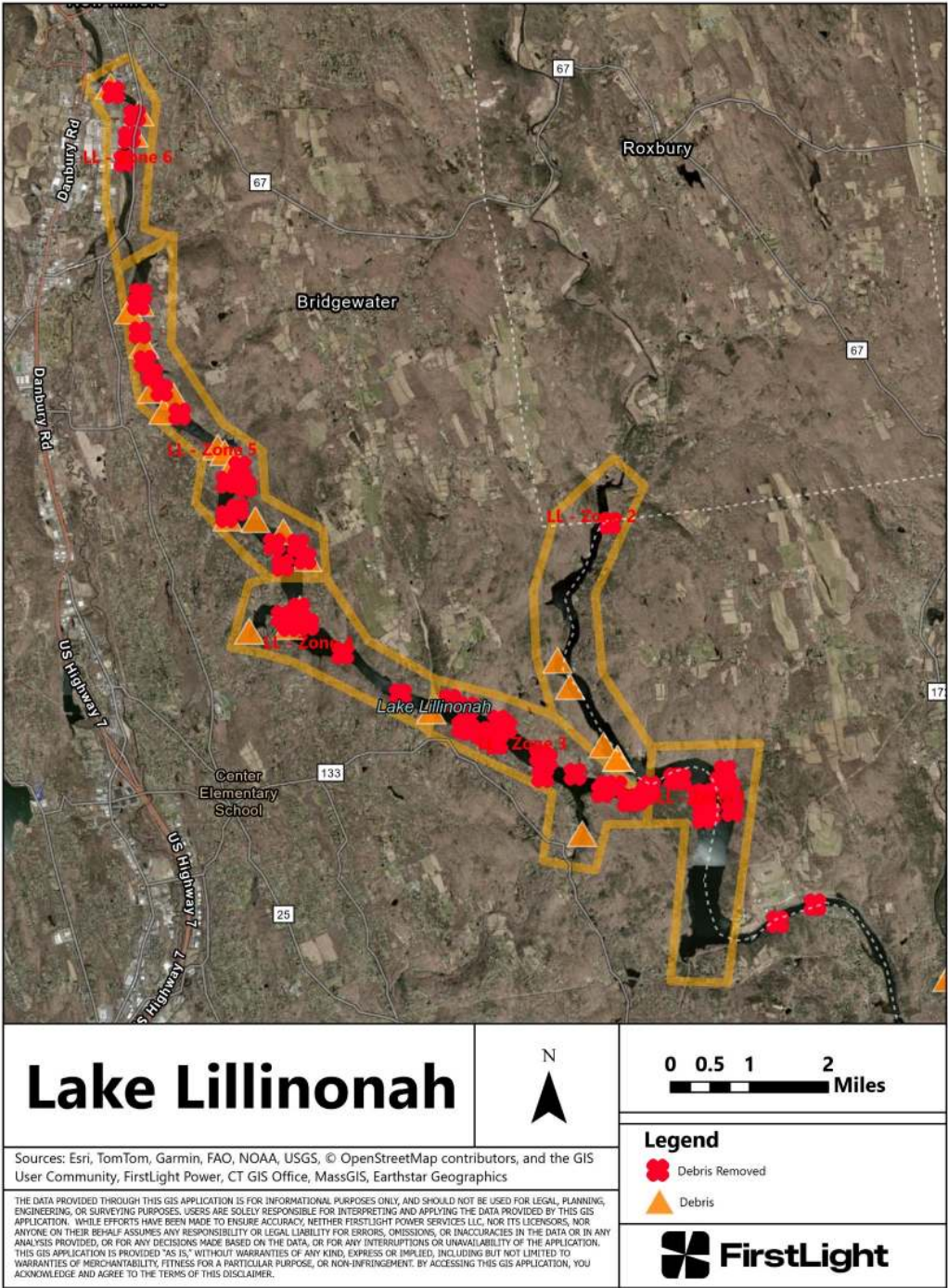
Debris Management



Large Woody Debris to Remain. Note visible moss and secure connection to shoreline.



Large Woody Debris to Be Removed. Note loose connection to shoreline and strong likelihood that debris could float during a high-water event.





Closing Remarks



Appreciation for our Board Members

Greg Bollard (23 years)

Scott Conant (23 years)

George Walker (23 years)

Jeffrey Silverman (23 years)

Josh Francis (13 years)

Bart Conant (5 years)

Michael Schimenti (5 years)

Jeff Bradshaw (5 years)

Angela Macchiarulo (5 years)

Director of Water Quality: Rebekah White

What's Next?



6:45pm (Last Tour)

Mine Hill Distillery Tour
(Meet at the check-in table)



6:45pm to 8:30pm

Dinner, socializing &
Music



8:45pm

Departure



Thank you!!!