



Connecticut Federation of Lakes
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For Immediate Release

Governor Rell Proclaims Lakes Awareness Week From July 12th thru 18th

North American Lakes Management Conference Coming to Hartford in October

In an official signed statement, Governor Rell proclaimed the week of July 12 – 18, 2009 as Lakes Awareness Week. In her statement the Governor acknowledges the values our lakes and ponds provide, as well as the problems that many now face. She concluded the statement with, *“Therefore, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim July 12 – 18, 2009 as LAKES AWARENESS WEEK in the State of Connecticut. I urge all our citizens to join me in appreciating the valuable resources that are Connecticut’s bodies of water.”*

Several months ago the Connecticut Federation of Lakes, Inc. (CFL) approached State Representative Mary Ann Carson of the 108th District for assistance. Said Rep. Carson, *“As a legislator representing three municipalities on Candlewood Lake, Connecticut largest lake, it is very clear to me how our lakes and ponds contribute to the quality of life in many communities around the State and just how important they are as inland water resources. If we’ve created a little more awareness with this proclamation, then our efforts here were well spent.”*

The CFL have expressed appreciation for the efforts of Representative Carson and Governor Rell in providing this important proclamation. All members of lake communities should follow their leads at their own lake. There are many positive actions to protect and improve our lakes. For example:

1. Organize a lake clean up during Lakes Awareness Week. Involve local Scout and other youth groups. Be sure to inform the local press of the event.
2. Have your own municipalities follow suit with a proclamation of their own recognizing Lakes Awareness Week, signed by the Mayor or First Selectmen of those municipalities.
3. Take an inventory of catch basins in your watershed, “GPS” them, place stencil or sticker alerts on them, work with your town to get them cleaned out and identify and correct the worst stormwater runoff erosion problem.
4. Place with permission signs to and from boat launch areas to encourage proper disposal of invasive weeds that cling to boats and trailers.
5. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper describing why you appreciate your lake or pond and the impact it has on your quality of life.

6. Contact your local health district director to initiate a septic pumpout, inspection and correction regulation.
7. Join the Connecticut Federation of Lakes! Information on how to become a member can be found at the CFL's website at www.ctlakes.org and clicking on Contact Us.

Whatever you do, don't take your lake or pond for granted. Without awareness, public education and action, the quality of water and life on lakes will deteriorate. The Governor's Proclamation can be seen in its entirety at www.ctlakes.org under Hot Topics.

To learn the latest in lake stewardship and watershed management, come to North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) International Symposium this October in Hartford starting Tuesday, October 27th. Friday October 30th and Saturday October 31st are specifically designed for the lake and watershed steward, as well as for lake professional. See www.nalms.org or the CFL website for more information.

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