



1st Quarter 2004 Newsletter

FRIENDS
OF THE LAKE

***Friends of the Lake** is a non-profit group of concerned citizens who care about the management, safety and recreational uses of Lake Lillinonah and wish to develop a lake community to encourage the continued protection of its natural beauty and wildlife. The objective is to work closely with the Lake Lillinonah Authority, elected officials and residents of the bordering towns to increase awareness, foster stewardship and solicit additional funding for prioritized projects in order to reduce debris and pollution so that we may protect and maintain the quality of Lake Lillinonah now and for future generations*

Debris and pollution increase yearly worsening the condition of Lake Lillinonah. The Friends of the Lake organization was created to address and tackle these issues now... to preserve this local haven for both current and future generations.

In an effort to better inform the lake community, we have launched the website www.savingthelake.org. The site contains information for those interested in learning more about Friends of the Lake, Lake Lillinonah's history, actual pictures of debris and pollution affecting Lake Lillinonah, a current list of our members and sponsors, currently funded programs and volunteer opportunities. In addition, the site allows people to become patrons. We ask each of you to sign up and spread the word.

There are three areas Friends of the Lake address:

- ✓ **Water Quality**
- ✓ **Debris**
- ✓ **Development**

Water Quality update:

In January, Friends of the Lake retained Hydro Technologies to perform water quality tests on the Still River. Early results confirm elevated levels of nitrates and phosphorous. Further studies are ongoing with a complete report due at the end of 2004. In the meantime, we are working with

the CT DEP and other organizations to prepare an action plan on how we can reduce the levels of these and other pollutants.

Debris update:

On June 5, 2004 Friends of the Lake is resurrecting *Save the Lake Day*, formerly known as *Source to Sound*. In the past, the event had been organized and executed by HVA. The goal of this event is to clean the lake and build a stronger lake community by increasing awareness of Lake Lillinonah and issues it faces. Neighbors, friends and lake enthusiasts are invited to come together, collect the trash and debris along the shores and in the lake via boats or walking the shoreline.

The central depository for all the collected trash and debris will be the State boat launch located next to the Bridgewater Bridge off Route 133. Volunteers will be present at the launch to assist in collection. The event will commence at 9am and conclude at 1pm with pizza and beverages for all those who participate. In addition, donated prizes will be awarded to individuals, teams and organizations that collect the most garbage and debris.

Volunteers are needed to help market and organize this event. If you are interested, please contact us at info@savingthelake.org or (860) 210-8064.

Development Update:

The Friends of the Lake executive team continues to meet with the First Selectman and Mayors of six towns that boarder Lake Lillinonah. Limited development along the shores of Lake Lillinonah enhances the natural beauty, encourages wildlife, and will help limit pollution. In the coming months, Friends of the Lake will work with the towns to develop a water shed treatment program.

Lake Lillinonah Authority Update:

May 20th, 7pm at the Roxbury Town Hall, the second half of the Lake Study report and the findings will be presented by LLA Director George Knoecklein. All those wishing to attend please call LLA Chairperson, Ann Schiessl at (203) 775-2997 or email her at hschiessl@earthlink.net.

In addition, Police Patrols begin the weekend after Mother's Day, May 15, 2004. The Lake will be examined by Robert Moss and Mark from the Company that has always done the treatment for Milfoil and any other blooms that might affect the quality of the Lake. Treatment, if found to be necessary, is usually the first week of June. All docks will be posted as to limitations on swimming, fishing and irrigation to lawns. These notices will also be posted on the Friends of the Lake website - www.savingthelake.org.

Membership Drive:

Friends of the Lake will be participating in several events during the next few months to make the community aware of the organization and encourage membership. One of the events, *Paddle Days*, sponsored by the Trading Post of New Milford, CT, will be held at Lynn Deming Park, New Milford on May 14th, 15th, and 16th. The Trading Post has granted us permission to set up a visual display and hand out flyers. We are looking for volunteers to help support this important event.

Contact us if you can dedicate an hour or so, on one of the days mentioned above, to help save the lake. Watch for upcoming *Paddle Days* ads as we are expecting to draw over a thousand people each day.

Friends of the Lake would like to thank its patrons, sponsors and partners in helping make the first quarter of 2004 enormously productive. If you are not currently a member, please join now and encourage your friends and neighbors to join us too! The larger the membership, the greater our lake's voice. *The challenge that lies ahead of us is great, but the task is not insurmountable!*

When Nature has work to be done, she creates a genius to do it

- Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)