

# 1st Quarter 2005 Newsletter



FRIENDS  
OF THE LAKE

*Friends of the Lake (FOTL) 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*

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## Friends of the Lake Executive Board Welcomes Jeff Tinley:

In November, Friends of the Lake added a new Executive Board Member, Jeffrey Tinley of Southbury. Jeff lives on the Shepaug River branch of Lake Lillinonah with his wife, Mary and their four boys, Jeff, Jr. (age 22) James (age 20), Chris (age 15) and Kevin (age 12). Mary is the Director of the St. James Lutheran Church Preschool in Southbury.

Jeff is an attorney with the law firm of Tinley, Nastri, Renehan & Dost, LLP in Waterbury. Jeff's practice focuses on commercial litigation and business matters, in the areas of general corporate law and business transactions, health care law, banking, securities, employment, environmental law, and business litigation. A former federal prosecutor, Jeff also handles white collar criminal cases and matters involving government regulatory issues, including trade regulation, administrative law and environmental law. While employed as an Assistant United States Attorney, Jeff received a Special Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Justice and prosecuted a conspiracy to smuggle TOW missiles from the United States to Iran. Jeff is admitted to practice in state and federal courts in Connecticut, New York and Florida and has successfully argued appeals in the Second and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeals, the Connecticut Appellate Court and the Connecticut Supreme Court. Several of Jeff's appellate cases have broken new ground in the area of employment law.

Jeff obtained his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he received his B.A. in English and Environmental Studies. He thereafter attended St. John's University School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor degree with honors, graduating in the top 2% of class. Jeff is enthusiastic about the projects Friends the Lake currently is pursuing and hopes that his background and training will enable him to contribute to achieving the goals of improving the quality and enjoyment of Lake Lillinonah.

## Debris update:

During the last quarter of 2004, FOTL, LLA and other stakeholders had several meetings with NGC reviewing their draft of a concept of a Debris Management Plan. The concept of the draft plan and especially the approach to funding was unacceptable. In return, FOTL provided written correspondence for the record detailing objections and suggestions on the draft plan.

As predicted in our last newsletter, on December 22, 2004 NGC submitted a document to FERC outlining their draft plan and attached the response correspondence from us, along with those responses from LLA and others. The NGC document requested an extension of an additional year to submit a final DMP to FERC. However, NGC did propose an interim action plan that proposes they deploy a skimmer craft during the summer of 2005. They will test out the capability of a skimmer craft, provide some temporary woody debris removal, and

investigate removal and disposal location options. They also proposed continuing to pursue funding options and continue dialogue with the various consulting parties.

In short, FOTL does not agree with NGC's draft plan. Their view is that lake residences should fund a large percentage of the plan is unacceptable and go against what FERC had mandated. In addition, we also are in disagreement was NGC's method and schedule regarding the debris removal. NGC was planning for a 3 day per week operation with removal of only limited debris. The plan was short on substance and details. This is disappointing, since NGC had stated in the press that they have done a number of Debris Management programs across the country in the past.

We expect FERC will be reviewing the documents submitted by NGC, LLA, and FOTL during the early part of 2005 and they should come back with further recommendations or clarifications so that an acceptable DMP could be developed for Lake Lillinonah. We have obtained a firm in Washington DC to assist us in getting our voice heard at FERC and help make NGC live up to requirements that came along with their 40 year operating license.

### **Water Quality update:**

This past quarter has been very active with the "Still River Study" from Hydro Technologies. FOTL has discussed and presented the study results to Lake Lillinonah Authority, CT DEP, local politicians and the City of Danbury. Progress is being made, although we remain a considerable distance from seeing proactive changes to help reduce this loading source.

We are awaiting confirmation that CT DEP will be undertaking a TMDL (total maximum daily loading) study within the next two years, which will be instrumental in regulating any discharges going into the Still River and Lake Lillinonah. In addition, The City of Danbury has assured us that they are working with the Danbury Sewage Treatment Plant studying "best available" technologies in reducing total phosphorus discharges. FOTL will continue to educate and inform various agencies to help keep the attention and resources needed directed to Lake Lillinonah.

Our group will also continue to develop a "land owner's manual" of useful land management information to help reduce nutrient loading from the properties that abut the lake. As part of those efforts, we are also developing some criteria for local contractors who manage properties along the lake, which would include resource information for proper management techniques.

The Still River Study has clearly brought to light the issues that plague Lake Lillinonah. The next step sits with CT DEP, Town of Danbury and The Danbury Sewage Treatment Plant. FOTL will continue to work closely with the LLA to continue to monitor the situation and press them for a definitive action plan within a reasonable amount of time.

Please forward and report any water problems to us so we can pass the information onto the necessary agencies. In addition, please send us any pictures of debris or algae blooms. This type of material will be posted and helps drive home our point.

### **Grant Strategy and Status:**

FOTL is researching a variety of projects to help our lake. Our in house Grant Specialist, Peg Daley has uncovered a large number of grants that are out there for environmental-related projects. We ask our members to please contact us with any ideas you may have to make the lake cleaner and safer!

### **Savingthelake.org Update:**

We encourage you to visit the website. It has a tremendous amount of information regarding what we, as an organization, is doing. In addition, we have posted the lake studies, articles, membership list and a discussion forums, as well as links to other organizations which our membership will find useful.

#### **Lake Lillinonah Authority Update:**

The LLA continues to work on several critical issues affecting Lake Lillinonah as well as monitoring the day to day operations of our lake. We will pass along any additional information we receive from the LLA, as well as encouraging each of you to subscribe to their Newsletter, which we also post on our website.

An FOTL executive board member attends each monthly LLA meeting, which are open to the public. We encourage all of our members to attend. They are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Bridgewater Town Hall.

#### **FOTL Volunteer Opportunity:**

We are pleased to announce that Kathy Berg and Barbara Petriccione have volunteered to co-chair the 2005 Save the Lake Day. It will take place on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am to 1pm. Additional information will be posted on our website in the coming months. Kathy and Barbara need a lot of volunteers that day. It is not too early to sign up now by emailing us at [info@savingthelake.org](mailto:info@savingthelake.org). Especially needed this year are more pontoon boats. If you have one or know someone with one, please let us know.

#### **Paddle Days 2005:**

Trading Post is once again hosting Paddle Days. Last year over 3,000 paddlers attended and this year, with good weather, warm water and some luck they expect about 4,000. The event takes place on Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 6pm. We encourage our membership to attend this worthy event.

#### **Student Internship Program Opportunity:**

The FOTL has a Student Internship opportunity available. If you know someone looking for an internship program in marketing and sales please have them contact the FOTL office at (860) 210-8064.

#### **FOTL 2005 Funding Opportunities:**

A number of companies, organizations and trusts have expressed interest in underwriting an FOTL program. If you are and someone you know is interested please have them contact the FOTL office at (860) 210-8064. For as little as \$2,500 opportunities exist to help sponsor a program that will save and protect Lake Lillinonah. 100% of the money will go towards the program. Please help us out – membership dues can only go so far.

#### **Membership Drive:**

For those members that are approaching their one year anniversary as a member of FOTL, please look for the renewal membership form in the mail. We not only ask you to renew, but to try and increase your membership level. For those that have not joined, we encourage you to join now. Our success has been based upon our large and active membership base. A lot was accomplished in 2004 with your membership – let's keep up the momentum.

#### **YES – We Do Listen To Our Membership:**

A number of you suggested that we print the newsletter on two sides, as well as fold it and place it in a regular envelope in order to save money with printing and mailing. As you can tell, we agree with your suggestion and have changed the way we print and mail. Emailing the newsletter is not an option at this time, since we mail to over 450 people and only have 1/3 of those email addresses. Thanks for the feedback and keep it coming!