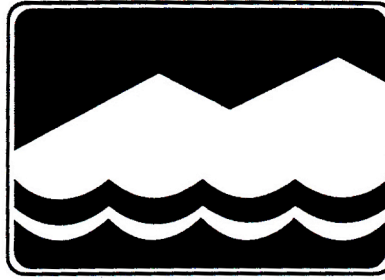


Bridgewater  
Brookfield  
New Milford



Newtown  
Roxbury  
Southbury

## Lake Lillinonah Authority NEWSLETTER

Spring/ Summer 2004

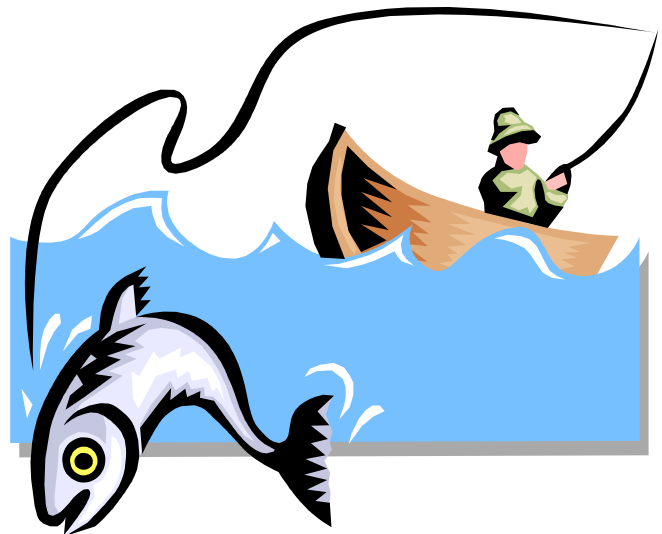
### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Ann Schiessl, Chairman of Lake Lillinonah Authority and the Board Members

Another boating season is upon us! Our police are now patrolling the lake to ensure your safety. When on the lake, please be sure:

1. Your registration is current.
2. Your boating certificate to operate is on board your boat.
3. You have life jackets for each person on board.
4. You have a spotter when water-skiing.
5. You obey the daytime speed limit of 45 mph and the post-sunset speed limit of 25 mph.

These and other good boating habits, such as courtesy to other boaters, obeying no-wake zones and avoiding hazardous areas will ensure you have a happy and safe boating season.



Around the last week of June, the lake will be treated with Diquad, a very safe treatment to rid the lake of Milfoil. It will be applied in swimming areas. Fishing areas will not be treated. All forms of algae will be monitored and treated as necessary.

Here is some exciting news:

1. The Lake Lillanonah Authority (LLA) has received the results of a comprehensive study which it sponsored, addressing the various concerns we have about our lake, such as over-all aesthetics, debris, water quality and maintaining water levels safe for boating activities. We are looking forward to working with Northeast Generating to resolve these issues.

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2. We are pleased that a Harvester, a machine that will remove the wood debris from the edge of the shore and from our lake's surface, has been approved by NE Generating. It must service, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Lake Zoar and the Housatonic as well. This has been a long sought after request and we are delighted. Many issues must still be resolved.

3. The LLA will meet with Bob Gates and Attorney Robert Head, Chief Executives of NEG, and its executive committee, to discuss many issues about the Harvester operation: how it is used, how often it will be used. All information from this meeting will be passed on to everyone.

4. LLA has worked for the past three years to get to this point on the Harvester project and I, as the Chair, am very proud of the members who were at all the meetings held with FERC in Connecticut. They traveled near and far to be sure, that The Lillinonah Authority was represented, voiced the problems, and made sure we were heard. This was hard and time-consuming work done by the volunteers that make up the LLA. All of us are now very relieved about this debris situation and are looking forward to getting it completely resolved.

5. We are also working on another very important project; the GE clean up fund which involves a great deal of money. We have been very involved with the process of how the funds will be paid out. These funds are as a result of monies General Electric of Pittsfield, Mass., had to pay to the state for the PCB's they put into the lake as a result of operations at that plant. It is a large sum of money. We have a committee called "The Think Tank" who are attending all of these meetings and putting in what we call, "Ten Things We'll Use the Money For." You can rest assured we will do our best to make sure Lillinonah will get its share of those funds.

LLA will continue to work toward ensuring the lake continues to be the jewel it is now and well into the future.

Here's wishing you a happy and safe boating season.

The Chair  
Ann Schiessl

## Water Courtesy

### By Shannon Young, LLA Board, Bridgewater

When skiing, tubing, bare boarding or bare footing smooth water conditions are desired. Slalom water-skiing and bare footing require flat water. A great quality of Lake Lillinonah is a natural shape. When traveling along the lake, boats leave wakes until they reach a shore. The basic rule is that you should allow your boat to settle to idle speed when turning around to pick up a fallen skier. When you make a high speed turn in the lake it causes a large wave to travel the distance of the lake until it finally is absorbed on a shore.

This is one of the very best ways of keeping the water flat. Practicing good water etiquette is not only polite, it's safe. When leading water-skiing or wakeboarding we should all have the calmest, most distraction free environment possible. If you see a boat that is attempting to get a skier up, give them a wide berth. Never ever follow some one who is being towed behind a boat.

There are sections of the lake that remain protected from even moderate winds. Other sections are wide and open. The narrower sections are the preferred sections for skiing and bare footing.

These sections are the one where turning at high speed against the direction of the river (or going fast across the river) ruins what are most often prime skiing conditions.

Personal watercraft is so nimble and maneuverable they love to jump the wake of passing larger craft. This also ruins the flat-water. Open water sections are better for enjoying the capabilities of personal watercraft. All of us have the right to use the lake however we want, within the confines of the law, however, we should all be aware of how those around us are also using the lake and what little things we do that make us all enjoy the much more enjoyable

Remember to go slow when turning to pick up a fallen skier, for the safety and as a courtesy to other boater and skiers nearby. Enjoy the lake.



## EAGLES ONLINE

### **The Kingfisher Newsletter of Lillinonah Audubon Society & Audubon Center at the Bent of the River March-April 2004**

Whether or not you were lucky enough to see bald eagles near the Houstonic or Connecticut Rivers this winter, you may have a chance to get a close-up look at eagle chicks on the Northeast Utilities web site, <http://www.nu.com> go to "Eagles Online," where a remote video camera is trained on the nest. The birds may return in March, and chick sighting may be possible in April.

NU has been a partner in eagle conservation in Massachusetts since the original pair of nesting birds established the Barton Island territory on an island in the Connecticut River in Massachusetts in 1989. NU worked with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to install predator baffles on nest trees and posted sign and buoys to keep boaters away from sensitive areas. A camera near the nest, powered by a solar panel, transmits images, which are changed every 5-15 minutes during the daylight hours, Monday through Friday.

## **In Memory of Charles G. Paine, Jr.**

Last Winter I received a letter from Charles G. Paine's wife, Irene, the widow of a former Lake Lillinonah Authority Chairman. Mr. Charles G. Paine, Jr., who was buried at Arlington Cemetery, July 7, 2003. After reading her letter it became apparent that he must have been a special man. He entered the U.S. Army where he served during World War II and was assigned to Company G. 242 Infantry Regiment, 42 Infantry Regiment, 42 Infantry division. He received a Battlefield Commission, a Bronze Star and a Silver Star for gallantry in action in April 21, 1945, at Guzenhausen Germany.

He did not stop there; he graduated from the University of Maine in 1952 and earned his masters degree in Science from the University of Connecticut in 1956. He was the president of the Connecticut Education Association and the West Hartford Education Association.

He touched many others in his life; he was a volunteer with the American Red cross and served as Deacon at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Bridgewater. Additionally he was served as the secretary to the North East Chapter of the Veterans Rainbow Division Association serving as the secretary and treasurer of the North East chapter of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division RDVA and as it national membership chairman.

His accomplishments in life were remarkable and many. His biggest accomplishment was how well he is remembered by all who touched his life. Members of the board remember him so fondly, but from what I have been able to learn since about him he was a kind, hard working and generous man.

It was a delight to talk to his wife. She was very proud of him. Thank you for contacting me. Our best regards and deepest sympathies to you and your family,

Diane G. Nebinger and The Lake Lillinonah Authority Board

PS Hope your feeling better after your little fender bender.

## **FISH KILLS IN LAKES AND PONDS**

**From Connecticut Federation of Lakes Inc.  
Newsletter (CFL News)  
By George Knoecklin,  
Director Lake Lillinonah Authority  
CFL President**

A vast majority of fish kills in lakes and ponds are from natural causes. The causes boil down to three different stresses that occur in combination or singly, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and spawning. The different fish kill conditions have been grouped into three categories based on the time of the year in which they occur.

### **Winter Fish Kills**

During long severe winters, not unlike the one we just experienced, the lake or pond surface is ice covered for an extended period of time. The ice isolates the water in the lake from the oxygen in the atmosphere hence sets up the lake water for stagnation. If the ice also has a blanket of snow, this will reduce or even completely exclude light from reaching the water. Without sunlight, photosynthesis by water plants and algae cannot take place effectively eliminating oxygen production inside the lake or pond. The shallow lakes and ponds are prone to this type of fish kill because the water volumes are small and there is significant quantities of dead vegetation that consumes oxygen as it decays. Under these conditions the older fish succumb first leaving the pond with mostly younger fish. The last winter was long and severe, with several months of thick ice and snow cover. Shallow ponds with thick organic sediments and lots of aquatic plants probably experienced a winter fish kill.

### **Spring Fish Kill**

This type mortality occurs in a couple of notable species after spawning in June. As fish spawn they undergo metabolic stress leaving them prone to infections and other diseases. After spawning the weaker individuals contract bacterial infections and die. Usually these fish kills involve only one or two species at a time with bass and sunfish the most common to have post-spawning mortality. This is part of the natural selection process in which weak and sick individuals are removed.

### **Summer Fish Kill**

This type of fish kill occurs in the period of warmest water temperatures, typically July and August and usually in shallow weedy ponds. In this situation the high water temperatures cause accelerated rates of decomposition of the dead plant material on the bottom especially during the night when no oxygen is produced. The oxygen levels can be depleted just prior to dawn resulting in a fish kill. Also if large amounts of aquatic vegetation are treated with a herbicide this material would cause a rapid exhaustion of the oxygen leading to a fish kill. It is also possible to cause oxygen depletion during intense algae blooms. The dense layer of algae restricts light from penetrating very far into the water and can result in oxygen declines in the water below the algae bloom.

**If anyone suspects that a fish kill occurred due to unnatural causes it should be reported to CT DEP Fisheries Division immediately at 860-424-3474.**

## **The Friends of the Lake, Clean Up**

We, the member of the Lake Lillinonah Authority, would like to say "Thanks" to The Friends of the Lake as well as all the sponsors, supporter, and citizens for their hard work on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Several members of LLA participated in the lake clean up and reported a successful and fun day.

The sponsors included NorthEast Generating, Waste Management, Housatonic Valley Association and the supporter were Bridgewater Chocolates, Arby's Inc, Joseph Merritt & Co., Bridgewater General Store, Inland Water Sports, Candlewood Valley Golf Course, The Valley Angler, Marketing Resources, Inc., Phuture Design and RJM Group.

The Friends of the Lake reported that a 30 Cubic yard container was filled with everything including a kitchen sink. The volunteers were Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school groups, church organization, fishermen and residents of the six towns bordering the lake.

Thanks again and congrats, for a successful day,

Lake Lillinonah Authority Board Members

\* \* \*

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

BY DIANE G. NEBINGER, LLA , BROOKFIELD

Since the last Newsletter, I have received a number of E-Mails for address updates, questions and information. I must say it's wonderful to get your notes and I'm glad to hear that the Newsletter is pleasure to receive.

One question was regarding treatments of the lake last year. The lake was not treated last year because it was not till late in the season that some areas required it so it was decided that it was not worth the large expense. However this year we plan to treat the lake in June to avoid severe blooms later in the season. It is more cost effective to tackle it early.

Regarding the trees that are cut near the lake, LLA only has jurisdiction of the lake not the surrounding land. Much of the land is owned by NorthEast Utilities, and privately owned properties are regulated by each town wet land authorities.

We at LLA, are very interested in your thoughts regarding the lake and its management. We are especially interested in what you would like to read about in this newsletter or any problems you'd like to let us know about. Please forward E-Mails to my address: [Dianeneb@ureach.com](mailto:Dianeneb@ureach.com) or I can be reached at my home address.

It would be very helpful if you could let me or your town LLA member know if you have new neighbors or anyone else that might be interested in receiving the LLA Newsletter.

I hope you have found this edition to be informative and interesting. Have a happy and healthy summer.

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