

Friends of Lake Williams Newsletter

2009 Issue 1

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UConn announces hiring of Connecticut Invasive Plant Coordinator

In December 2008, Donna Ellis, Co-Chair of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) announced for the University of Connecticut that Logan Senack has been hired as the new Connecticut Invasive Plant Coordinator. Logan will be based at both the University of Connecticut in Storrs and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection in Hartford. As a Research Specialist, his duties will include serving as the Connecticut Invasive Plant Coordinator and being responsible for assisting with development, coordination and implementation of invasive plant actions related to prevention, early detection, rapid response, monitoring, control, and education. He will work with existing invasive plant programs in Connecticut and the Northeast, and with Federal Agencies. He will coordinate a competitive grant program for invasive plant control and will provide support to the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council. He will also conduct site investigations, develop databases, prepare and disseminate educational information on invasive plants, conduct research, serve on invasive plant species boards and committees, and conduct other duties as assigned.

The email address for Logan at the University is logan.senack@uconn.edu. For additional information regarding CIPWG, please visit the CT Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) web site at www.hort.uconn.edu/cipwg.

Origin of Lake Williams

This is a follow-up to an earlier article seeking the origin of the lake's name. This response was graciously provided by Alicia Wayland, the Lebanon Town Historian.

Lake Williams is not named after William Williams, signer of the Declaration of Independence, who lived in Lebanon. It is named after Elias Williams and his son Elias L. Williams who had a saw mill and other mills on the pond. The Williams name is a very common surname and there is no connection between the family of William Williams, the signer, and the Elias Williams family.

As you know, Lake Williams is really a man-made pond and is correctly called Williams Pond. The ecclesiastical survey map of 1770 does not show any body of water at the site, although it does show North Pond (Amston Lake). The 1811 map of Connecticut that shows the locations of mills in the state does not show a body of water at the site although there are two mills noted downstream on Bartlett Brook. The 1854 map of Lebanon does not show a body of water at the site, although there is a saw mill shown down stream on Bartlett Brook. However, there was a dam on the brook built

sometime around 1816. It is referred to in the 1816 deed from John and Abigail Welles of Boston in their sale of several large tracts of land to Elias Williams that year. Welles retained the right to flow the premises with water "in Consequence of a Dam lately Erected at the New Saw Mill," which indicates both the dam and the saw mill were relatively new. Many small mills on brooks were operated seasonally. It was the custom to retain ponding rights to provide a source of water for a mill during the fall and spring when rainfall would be heaviest. The water would be drawn off in the spring so the land could be farmed, usually for hay. Then the dam would be closed in late fall so water would back up again to provide water power for the mill.

The circa 1816 dam was rebuilt or replaced by the Kent Manufacturing Company about 1865, and this is probably the time that the pond remained flooded year-round. Williams Pond is shown and named on the 1868 map of Lebanon. Below Williams Pond, the 1868 map shows Kent Co. Pond, now Brewster Pond. The dam was purchased in 1905 by Gilman Brothers, Inc.

Williams Pond was "renamed" Lake Williams probably after 1902 when the Lugars opened a hotel across from the pond and they wanted to make it sound attractive to boarders from the cities.

The development of the seasonal lots began after the Sun Valley Development Corporation bought a large farm from the Greenbergs on Leonard Bridge Road in 1948. The company sold off the best acreage as standard building lots, then built a road into the pond and subdivided that land into seasonal "lake" lots. The company did not build houses, just sold vacant lots. John Wilcox, a local realtor, bought a number of unsold lots and sold and resold these for a number of years. Many buyers of these small lots assumed they could live year-round in the houses they built, although the lots were always considered seasonal and sold as such. In 1970, the PZC grandfathered a number of lots as year-round to those people who could prove they were living year-round in their houses prior to the adoption of zoning in 1962. The other lots continue to remain seasonal.

Did You Know?

By Paul Cote

The newsletter staff would like to make this article "Did You Know?" a regular feature. A few ideas exist for follow-on articles but a need exists for inputs from people who are familiar with the lake's history and lore surrounding the lake. Please provide your submissions to the email address at the end of this article or provide you input via the web site at www.lakewilliams.com.

Milfoil Treatment Status

Another section of the Lake was treated in June 2008 with Reward herbicide by Aquatic Controls. FLW partners with the Town of Lebanon every year to split the annual cost. With the help of FLW members and lake residents, the areas with the heaviest infestations requiring attention will be identified for the 2009 treatment. FLW asks its members and other users of the lake to help in this process by marking any plants that you see. It is recommended that you use an approximately one foot segment of an orange child's swimming noodle tied with a piece of line and a rock for an anchor. If you do not have these materials available in your boat, please use anything you have that will make a suitable marker. In this way, we can not only help in the eradication process, but we can also warn other boaters to avoid passing near these buoys with motored boats. Milfoil fragments chopped by propellers and released into the water will float and be carried to other locations by wind and current to grow into another nuisance plant. Marking of nuisance plants should occur early in the spring to enable them to be addressed during the herbicide application in late June 2009.

Membership

The FLW annual membership drive will kick off again in the spring of 2009. The organization's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. New memberships are accepted at any time during the fiscal year.

Boating Guidelines

FLW recognized that there are navigational hazards on Lake Williams that need to be pointed out, especially to first time users of the lake. In addition, boaters noticed that some of their peers were navigating in a manner that was not courteous in some instances and in some cases simply unsafe. Enforcement of the rules is not FLW's role, but FLW recognized that they could perform a service in this area with education. The map and guidelines is intended to be beneficial not only to first timers, but also to all lake users. The map reinforces Connecticut Boating Guidelines and at the same time provides recommendations for safe and courteous powerboat operation. It includes by reference some of the rules and regulations from the State's Handbook.

A copy of FLW's guidelines and map is posted at boat launches and can also be obtained at the Lake Williams Campground office. It is also available on our web site at www.lakewilliams.net.

A Big Win for Connecticut Lakes – State Approves Funds for Invasive Plant Detection and Control Program

By Tom McGowan

Reprinted from the spring 2007 Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) Newsletter

In 2007, the State legislature approved and Governor Rell signed a bill authorizing \$1,000,000 (\$500,000 a year for each of the next two years) to implement the recommendations of the State Invasive Plant Council and establish a State program to combat the spread of invasive plants both terrestrial plants and aquatic.

Approval of this funding after three years of effort is a great victory for the Connecticut Federation of Lakes and all lakes and ponds in the State of Connecticut.

These funds will permit the State to hire an Invasive Plant Coordinator who will coordinate the invasive plant functions of the various State agencies. The Coordinator will also develop educational training and a rapid response programs designed to control the spread of invasive plants.

At long last it also provides the funding needed to enforce the law passed four years ago banning the sale and transport of invasive plants. This enforcement work will fall primarily to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and the State Department of Agriculture.

Although no specific amount of this fund is earmarked for grants, these funds can also be used to support a grant program to Towns with aquatic invasive plant removal and control projects.

The approved bill which as effective July 1st 2007 reads as follows:

Sec. 8. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2007) There is established an account known as the invasive species detection and control account, which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the Conservation Fund. Said account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited therein. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection for the purposes of controlling invasive species, including, but not limited to, employing an invasive species coordinator, developing an early detection and rapid response policy, educating the public regarding invasive species, funding Department of Agriculture and Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station inspectors and making grants to municipalities for the control of invasive species on publicly accessible land and waters.

International Lakes Conference Coming to Hartford

By Chuck Lee

Editor's note: The below article is reproduced (with slight modification) from an article that appeared in an August 2007 Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) Newsletter. The information is even more relevant as we approach the New Year.

In 2006, the New England Chapter of the North American Management Lake Society (NECNALMS) volunteered to host the North American Lake Management Society's (NALMS) 2009 international symposium. Throughout the year NECNALMS board members have been working with NALMS to select a location for this

meeting of lake enthusiasts, managers, and researchers. After consideration of locations in almost all New England States, NALMS has selected Hartford for the 2009 annual symposium. The new convention center on the Connecticut River and the soon to be completed science center makes Hartford an ideal location for an organization like NALMS to meet and Hartford is looking forward to hosting this event. Most importantly for the CFL is that this international lakes symposium will be a great opportunity for the CFL to showcase our Connecticut lakes and bring attention to our past successes, current efforts, and ongoing needs.

The NALMS Symposium will provide opportunities to attend presentations and workshops Wednesday through Saturday and expose participants to vendors and topics related to almost every subject imaginable on lake management. In the past approximately 800 individuals throughout North America attended. With a large population of lakes and people in the Northeast, NALMS is expecting the 2009 symposium to be well attended. The CFL will keep you posted on details as more information becomes available.

Do you have favorite pictures of Lake Williams or interesting lake related information that could be included as a column?

The newsletter committee is seeking pictures or interesting lake related information either for the newsletter and/or the FLW Web site. If you have a favorite Lake Williams picture or interesting story and want to share it with others, please forward it to the newsletter committee (see contact information at the end of this newsletter). Perhaps you have a unique picture of activity on the Lake, animals in the wild, a fisherman's catch that stands out from the rest, etc. If you have a short story to pass along to supplement the picture, it would greatly enhance the value of the addition.

Join FLW

Thanks to our members for their support over the past year. Please renew your membership, and if you are not currently a member, please consider joining this worthwhile organization. If you are a member and are aware of other members who have not renewed, please remind them. Lets all work toward maintaining a strong, viable and successful FLW. This, in turn, will assure that the management activities needed to control the quality of the lake environment will be jump started and monitored for effectiveness. Please clip the below section of the newsletter and forward it to the following address:

For the 7/1/2007 – 6/30/2008 fiscal year:

2009-1

- \$30 Individual Membership (1 person)
- \$60 Family Membership (2 or more people)
- \$25 Business Card Ad in Newsletter
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Name _____

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Mail check and include the above contact information to Friends of Lake Williams, c/o P.O. Box 216, Windsor, CT 06095

Friends of Lake Williams Web Site

The Friends of Lake Williams has totally revised their independent web site. Web Site space was donated by FLW member Jim Smith on one of his company's servers. His company, Blarneystone, LLC, is one of our advertisers and you can check him out at the end of this newsletter.

The web site includes background information about our organization and administrative information such as a list of officers, our bylaws, meeting minutes, the FLW calendar and newsletters. Also included are parade and wildlife photos and other general interest items such as contact information, boating guidelines for the lake and a discussion forum to name a few. Please check us out at www.lakewilliams.com.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Workshop

Would you like to be an expert on aquatic invasive plants? Would you like to be able to differentiate between native plants and those that pose a threat?

Roslyn Reeps of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Invasive Aquatic Plant Program (CAES IAPP) has agreed to conduct a workshop for Invasive Aquatic Plants during the winter of 2008/2009, possibly in Lebanon CT. Attendance is open to the Friends of Lake Williams or any other interested parties but she requires at least ten attendees. We have asked the Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) to assist us in locating potential attendees. Please email the Webmaster if you are interested.

The Newsletter Committee seeks your help

The Newsletter Committee requests your help in producing this newsletter. Articles or ideas concerning the lake, or information relevant to FLW's mission will be welcomed. You don't need to write the article. If you prefer, provide the facts from which news stories can be developed. FLW Committees are also requested to provide input after completing any significant activity such as identifying where invasive weed infestation is located on the lake, stories related to the lake treatment process, the results of water quality testing, etc. Please send your facts, articles or ideas for articles to:

Paul Cote
70 Pruett Place
Oakdale CT 06370-1819
E-mail: cotehome@snet.net.

References:

1. Historical Airline Train information was obtained on the web from the free encyclopedia web site Wikipedia.

Advertise Your Business with Friends of Lake Williams

For \$25 per year, you can advertise your business and show your support for Friends of Lake Williams in this newsletter. Please send your business card and a check for \$25 to the FLW address shown on page 1 at the end of the 1st column.

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