



# Newsletter

Issued first Quarter of 2021

Web Site: [www.friendsoflakewilliams.org](http://www.friendsoflakewilliams.org)  
Email: [friendsoflakewilliams@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflakewilliams@gmail.com)

<p><b>Officers:</b>          Kimberly Cavanna, President          Diane Marquis, Vice President          Brenda Quesnel, Secretary          Tony Tyler, Treasurer</p> <p><b>Directors:</b>          Barb Lesh          Mark Coletta          John Collisson          Dyan Kozaczek          Mark Weller          Michael Natri          Rich Lesh          Paul Cote</p>	<p><b>Newsletter Information</b></p> <p>Newsletters will be distributed quarterly via email to all members who have provided an email address. Additionally, you can click on the links in the email or on line version. Newsletters will continue to be available on our web site. If you prefer that your newsletter be delivered right to your inbox, please ensure that you provide your email address when you renew your membership. Email distribution is chosen to bring down the cost of mailing. It is becoming more critical for Friends of Lake Williams (FLW) to hold down its costs to be able to afford the increased cost of treatment for invasive weeds.</p>
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## A Few Words from Our Committees

### Lake Treatment and Water Quality

Last August water samples were taken from three locations on the lake. The water was analyzed for the presence of E. coli, Ammonia, Nitrogen and Phosphorus. All levels were within acceptable ranges with the exception of Phosphorus, which was elevated. Phosphorus is a common constituent of agricultural fertilizers, manure, and organic wastes in sewage and industrial effluent. It is an essential element for plant life, but when there is too much of it in water, it can speed up eutrophication (a reduction in dissolved oxygen in water bodies caused by an increase of mineral and organic nutrients). A repeat test will be performed early this spring to ensure accuracy. In the meantime, we are pursuing guidance from a limnologist or fresh water scientist and will update you accordingly. As always, it is important for all surrounding property owners to avoid using fertilizer and never mow lawns into the water's edge or throw leaves or grass into the water. This is very detrimental to the health of the lake. It is also important to maintain your septic systems.

We are in the process of working on the 2021 permit to treat the lake's invasive weeds with the same herbicides as 2020. We hope to apply the treatment early in the summer, which is the optimal time.

Pictured to the right is the boat used by our contractor in 2020 to apply the herbicides.



### Community Outreach

This committee represents FLW members in dealing with our state and local government in matters relating to the management and health of the lake and the important role it plays in our community.

Our most urgent goal is to secure funding from the town to help in our efforts to properly manage the lake and maintain a healthy and safe environment. We are working through the proper channels to make this happen and will

keep you posted as we progress. Last year, the town contributed only \$6375.00 towards our annual maintenance expenses which average more than \$20,000.00 per year. Clearly we have some work ahead of us.

To reach our long-term goals, we are partnering with Sen. Cathy Osten and Congressman Brian Smith to explore programs and grants for which we may qualify. We have been very encouraged by their willingness to work with us and we look forward to sharing good news in the near future. We are also exploring other government and non-government funding sources and encourage all of you to pass on anything you may come across that might be beneficial.

## Activities

Happy New Year from the activities committee! In 2019, FLW made a commitment to organizing activities for the residents of the lake. We had a wonderful game day at the campground and we were really looking forward to planning more fun events in 2020. Last year threw us off track, but we were still able to safely socialize with movie nights on the lake. We have big plans for 2021 and are looking forward to getting together again in a safe and fun way. This year, we plan on having a boat parade, Christmas in July, a kayak adventure/scavenger hunt, and more movie nights. It will give us the opportunity to meet some new faces on the lake, socialize with friends, fund raise for the lake, and most importantly have fun and enjoy our beautiful lake!

Our committee is already hard at work planning activities for 2021, but if you have other ideas or would like to participate, please do not hesitate to reach out.

## Did You Know? (Three items related to the lake)

- 1 Have you ever tried to find Lake Williams on the internet? If you have, you may have concluded that it is not easy and downright frustrating. There are many misdirecting links that may even sweep you away to another state. This is because the official name of the body of water is Williams Pond. That name should be used for successful searches.
- 2 Adding further to the confusion is the naming of the new State Park on Williams Pond. A few unofficial web sites identify it as Lake Williams Scenic Reserve State Park. Why not Williams Pond Scenic Reserve State Park? Why also is it so difficult to find information on the State's web site? We contacted Mr. Tom Tyler, Director, State Parks and Public Outreach Division, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. His e-mail to us said: "Lake Williams State Park is a new, and so-far, undeveloped state park scenic reserve. While the property is open to the public, we have not developed parking areas or any amenities, so we are not publicly promoting it on our website."
- 3 Finally, a search for Williams Pond in Google Maps returns a very nice map of the lake. However, expanding the map reveals incorrectly that the Willimantic River originates downstream of the dam. We all know that this should be labeled Bartlett Brook. We have communicated the error to Google on several occasions during past years to no avail.

## Board of Director ((BOD) Meetings

The Friends of Lake Williams BOD meets throughout the year but more frequently during the spring, summer and early fall months and is open only to BOD members. However, the minutes of the meetings are published and available on the web site at [www.friendsoflakewilliams.org](http://www.friendsoflakewilliams.org). These minutes are an excellent resource to obtain information about what your organization is doing with regard to preserving the quality of the lake and also provides you with early information about what activities are being planned.

## Join FLW

The FLW annual membership drive for 2021 will commence shortly. The organization's fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. New memberships are accepted at any time during the fiscal year. Membership fees are primarily used to

defray the cost of battling our two identified invasive enemies, fanwort and variable leaf milfoil. Please clip the below section of the newsletter and forward it to the listed address (If you prefer, you may go to our website to print the application):

Membership Application for the 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2012 fiscal year: _____ \$45 Individual Membership (1 person) _____ \$70 Family Membership (2 or more people) _____ \$30 Business Card advertisement on web site for one year _____ Tax deductible fanwort crisis donation Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____ (If you provide FLW with your email, we will send newsletters and other important organization related information directly to your inbox. We will not share your email address with anyone.) Mail check and above completed application to Friends of Lake Williams, PO Box 698, Hebron CT 06248.
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Thanks to our current members for their support over the past year. Please remember to renew your membership. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining this worthwhile organization that is working hard to preserve your lake. If you are already a member and know of other members who have not renewed, please remind them. Let's all work together to help FLW remain a strong and viable organization that actively strives to retain the beauty of our lake and is dedicated to its protection.

## Lake Guidelines

The following two pages were developed in 2014 and have been updated through the years. They contains useful information with a lake map. This information needs to be repeated periodically for the benefit of new members. Consider printing these two pages and keeping them in your vessel.

## **RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR SAFE POWERBOAT OPERATION ON LAKE WILLIAMS**

The purpose of these guidelines prepared by Friends of Lake Williams is to promote the safe operation of all boats, to increase your awareness of navigation hazards and to enhance the boating experiences for all boaters who navigate the waters of Lake Williams. Recipients of this newsletter are encouraged to retain these pages and share them with your fellow boaters on the lake. They are especially useful to identify the navigation hazards to any newcomers. The guidelines are as follows:

Operate less than 6 mph within 100 feet of the shoreline, including the islands.

No water-skiing from ½ hour after sunset until sunrise.

When water-skiing or tubing, there must be an observer in the boat who is 12 years of age or older.

No motors should be used in the northwest bay of the lake.

When more than one boat is on the lake towing a skier (or tube), all boaters should go counter clockwise around the large open center of the lake (refer to map).

Operate slowly around the islands at the south end of the lake and between Fox Island and the shore (see map).

Operators of motorboats are requested to avoid fishing boats, canoes, kayaks, etc. Remember that you are responsible for your wake.

Refer to the map that identifies the location of some of the known hazards such as sandbars and submerged rocks.

Please refrain from operating any motored boat beyond the markers placed in the north end of the lake to reduce the chance of fragmenting invasive weeds. Fragments drift to other locations of the lake and establish new strongholds.

Board of Directors  
Friends of Lake Williams

