



CFL News

Volume 20, Issue 1 – Winter 2015

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CFL ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 15, 2015

CT DEEP'S OSWALD INGLESE, JR. TO SPEAK ON STORMWATER, MS4 AND IMPACTS ON LAKES, STREAMS AND WATERSHEDS; MEMBERS TO VOTE ON DIRECTORS

The CFL's Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2015 at 7pm in the Northeast Utilities Headquarters in Berlin, CT. There the membership in attendance will vote for directors, including directors for three vacant seats. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for the position of Director, please send to Anne Lizarralde, the CFL's Secretary (aliz@conncoll.edu), your Director nominee(s) - name, address, some biographical information, lake experiences and lake organization involvements. Make sure your nominee is a registered member and is willing to serve if elected. Membership is free; register online at ctlakes.org or mail your contact information to the CFL at Connecticut College, PO Box 5604, 270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320. Please do so as soon as possible because nominations must be received at least 45 days before the meeting and the slate needs to be established at least 30 days before the meeting. There will be an opportunity to have a write-in candidate proposed at the meeting. Nominees should attend the Annual Meeting.

LAKE PHOTO CONTESTS!

1. LAKE SMART SHORELINES AND 2. ALGAL BLOOMS FROM CT

The CFL would like to introduce the 2015 photo contest. The contest is open to all recreational photographers and hopes to spread awareness of two facets of lakes and their management. The first category aims to highlight the importance of preserving natural lake shorelines and responsible waterfront property practices. If you are proud of your LakeSmart shoreline, send us a handsome photo of your native plantings and buffer zone! Remember, shrubbery and large trees ARE beautiful. Capture the essence of lakeside nature from your property. Winning shoreline photos will be published in a future newsletter to serve as stellar examples of LakeSmart properties.

The second category is for algae or cyanobacteria bloom photos. In light of the CT DEEP and CTDPH Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) guidance for CT, it has become increasingly important for lake users to determine if a lake may be experiencing a HAB. *But what do they look like?!* The CFL wants to help by compiling photos of both non-harmful and HABs from around the state. The photos will be used as a learning tool and if you have any reservations, it is not necessary to name the location of the bloom. Not all blooms are created equal and we need your photos to further public education and future scientific research!

Submit photos to Hillary, CFL newsletter coordinator, at hillary.kenyon2@gmail.com. Photos will be accepted until November 2015; only one shoreline photo per person, but multiple algal bloom photos are accepted. The CFL wants to see your LakeSmart shorelines and we would all benefit from sharing more information about HABs in Connecticut!



CT DEEP FUNDS TWELVE AIS PROJECTS

SUPPORT NEEDED FOR MORE FUNDING

By Larry Marsicano & Tom McGowan

Back in August we informed you that the CT DEEP had put out a request for proposals for *Funds for Grants to Municipalities for the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species* (AIS). This grant program was the result of efforts last year by State legislators, the CT DEEP, and the CT Federation of Lakes, which advocated for help in the battle against AIS, and others.

As part of the State's AIS initiative, \$150,000 dollars were made available for aquatic invasive species projects, including diagnostic feasibility studies and control or management efforts. The grant program required a 50% match and grant applications were due to the CT DEEP by September 15, 2014.

In late November of 2014 eleven municipalities and one Lake Authority were notified that their grant applications were approved. Grant awards ranged from \$2,650 dollars to the maximum allowed of \$50,000 dollars, and all of the available \$150,000 dollars in funds were distributed. Targeted invasive species in the approved projects included variable-leaf milfoil, Eurasian watermilfoil, and fanwort.

There were five applications that were not funded with requests ranging from \$2,452 to \$50,000 dollars for a total of nearly \$120,000 dollars. These five unfunded applications, coupled with the fact that there was limited time to prepare proposals, suggest that there are still many lake communities in need of assistance in addressing aquatic invasive species.

As a result of last year's efforts a line was created in the State's budget for the CT DEEP's AIS program and funded \$200,000 dollars. Two-thirds of that money went towards the grant program. The balance went toward the Boating Education Assistant Program which resulted in aquatic invasive species inspections conducted at State boat ramps, and partial funding of the State's Invasive Plant Coordinator, a critically important position in the fight against invasive species.

Because the AIS program was included in last year's State budget we were hopeful that the Governor would include it again in next year's proposed budget, which was unveiled on Feb. 18th. Unfortunately that line was not funded in the Governor's proposed budget.

We all appreciated the State funding made available in this year's budget, but if it stops there we can say with confidence that this one year of town grant funding will not arrest the rapid escalation of invasive aquatic weeds in Connecticut's lakes.

The States around the country that are making progress in controlling aquatic weeds have on-going grant programs and State staff available to assist towns. This is what Connecticut needs!

Since it is not in the Governor's budget, all lake groups will need to appeal to their legislators to add funds to the budget so we can continue the fight to save our lakes. The focus of this appeal will be to members of the State Legislature's Appropriations Committee, particularly their Conservation and Development Sub-Committee.

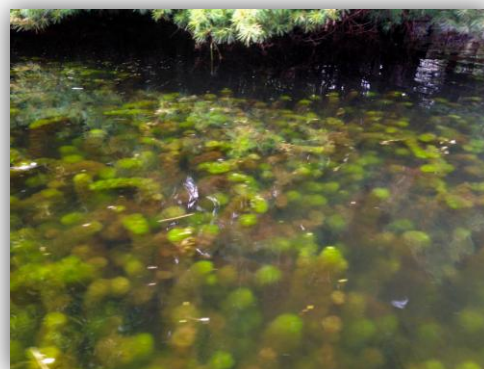
There is no doubt that it will be another fiscally challenging year for Connecticut... but so was last year. It will be up to all of us, the stewards of CT lakes, to urge our elected leaders to again fund the AIS line of the CT DEEP's budget so efforts to rid our lakes of invasive species can continue. Check the CFL website for more information, including Conservation and Development Sub-Committee and Appropriations Committee membership lists and model language for communications with those members and the legislators in your districts.

Additional Reading

[Public Act No. 14-217 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015](#) (See Section 248 on AIS funding)

[5 Things to Watch For In Malloy's New Budget](#) (Hartford Courant, February 10, 2015)

[Website of Appropriations Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly](#)



*Maintain
a keen
eye and
be on the
lookout
for
fanwort!*

MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT PROGRAM MAKES NEWS

by Rick Canavan, Ph.D.

The reissuance of the municipal stormwater general permit for the program known as MS4 resulted in some heated discussions in 2014 with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities calling the proposed changes 'unfunded mandates' while the CT Fund for the Environment issued a press release calling for enacting regulations with 'strong protections with a clear vision for lowering nitrogen, phosphorus and bacterial pollution'. The MS4 program will be a topic of discussion at the CFL's annual meeting where our guest speaker will be Oswald Inglese, CT DEEP Director of Water Permitting and Enforcement.

Background on the Permit Program: deciphering acronyms

Stormwater discharges are regulated under the Federal Clean Water Act. One program of the Clean Water Act is the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). As a Federal law NPDES is directed by the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) which sets national policy for the operation of the program. When it was first issued in 1972 the program was focused on reducing the impacts of large point-source discharges (think heavily polluted water flowing out of large pipes). The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulations were issued as Phase I in 1990 for cities over 100,000 and Phase II in 1999 which regulate 'urbanized areas'. In Connecticut 130 of our 169 towns require MS4 registration. In Connecticut the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) administers the NPDES program under authorization from US EPA. Most states run their stormwater program like Connecticut although Massachusetts does not have state authorization and US EPA runs the MS4 permitting program directly.

What is required?

In the MS4 program towns register under a general permit and must meet six minimum control measures:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction
5. Post-Construction
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

Right: Stormwater outflow into stream that feeds lake.

Below: Corrugated stormwater outfall pipe drains to lake.



Actions under these steps focus on informing people about stormwater, looking for discharges to a stormwater system that aren't stormwater - particularly sanitary sewer overflows, and minimizing construction impacts and system maintenance. Most of what is required under Connecticut's MS4 General Permit is based on the program requirements that are established by US EPA.

Why the debate?

Towns primarily complained that in a proposed modification to the MS4 general permit, CT DEEP added elements beyond the basic requirements of the program established by US EPA. Those extra items included additional meetings, reporting, water quality monitoring, street sweeping and catch basin clean outs. Based on the miles of locally maintained roadway and associated stormwater systems the costs to towns could be significant. A discussion of the costs and needs of maintaining drainage systems is important since typically it is a part of our local infrastructure that is easy to overlook. It is also worthwhile to have a discussion about how regulatory elements help provide for reductions in the water quality impact of stormwater. Despite this debate the majority of the program requirements that are mandated by US EPA will be required to remain as part of the MS4 requirements.

(MS4 Permitting article continued...)

What it means for lakes

Having stormwater and its impacts to surface water quality in the news is good for lakes. Hopefully the discussion with Towns and regulators will help lead to practical steps to improve water quality. Raising awareness of the costs of maintenance is also valuable, although answers are not easy. Stormwater from roads, parking areas and driveways are not all covered by the MS4 program, not all areas need to register under the program and not all roads and parking areas are part of municipal systems. Don't expect a resolution of the latest MS4 permit to mean an end of the discussion of stormwater.

Recommendations

- Keep an eye on conditions of stormwater outfalls near your lake, especially when it is raining. Try to work with owners whether they are public or private to keep systems maintained.
- The Public Outreach and involvement portions of an MS4 plan allow your lake group to have a dialog with your town about stormwater, take advantage of that opportunity to identify priority issues for your lake with your Town.
- The MS4 program calls for reducing barriers to 'low impact development' LID stormwater measures. Does your town promote LID measures such as sheet flow drainage from roads that eliminate catch basins and point discharges? Make sure that other LID measures you promote can be adequately maintained.

For more information

US EPA

<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/stormwater/Municipal-Separate-Storm-Sewer-System-MS4-Main-Page.cfm>

CT DEEP

http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2721&q=558562&DEEPNav_GID=1654

CT Conference of Municipalities

<http://advocacy.ccm-ct.org/Plugs/MS4-Stormwater-Permit.aspx>

Hartford Courant

<http://www.courant.com/reminder-news/rnw-rop-0122-ms4-mandate-20150115-story.html>

CALL FOR DESIGNS!

The CFL is also looking for a design for a LakeSmart boat sticker. Design submissions should use the same color pallet as the CFL logo and be sized at about 3x5 inches. Please send any entries to cflakesmart@gmail.com.



See page 6 to view some of the received entries!



Enjoy more of Don Bousquet's cartoons about stormwater management @ <http://web.uri.edu/riss/stormwater-managers/educational-materials/quick-easy-materials/cartoons/>



THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION'S INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANT PROGRAM:

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ICONIC PROGRAM

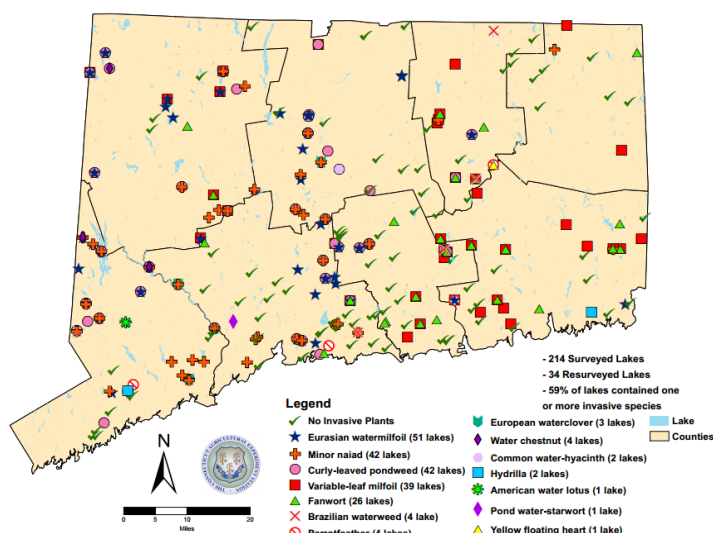
By Mark June-Wells, Ph.D.

There is no delicate way to open the discussion that will be presented in this article. The fact of the matter is that The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Invasive Aquatic Plant Program has lost its funding and is in danger of being shut down. This article is intended to act as a call for action – political and fiscal – from the Connecticut Federation of Lake's members. I would ask that you all reach out to your elected officials and implore them to champion support for the important services that The Invasive Aquatic Plant Program offers.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with The Connecticut Agricultural Station's Invasive Aquatic Plant Program (CAES IAPP), I will highlight its functions and accolades. In short, CAES IAPP acts as a public outreach agent that performs lake surveys – usually at no cost to citizens – that track and evaluate non-native aquatic plant species populations. Furthermore, CAES IAPP examines water quality of lakes and provides cost benefit analyses of lake management options. This group also conducts baseline research in the areas of plant community ecology, invasive plant control, and it provides public education for Connecticut residents. CAES IAPP has surveyed over 200 Connecticut lakes, published numerous research articles, and presented at hundreds of public education initiatives. Finally, it boasts one of the largest LTER (Long Term Ecological Research) lake databases in the United States (www.ct.gov/caes/iapp).

I would like to provide a personal perspective on the importance of this program. Beyond the significant contribution to the public sector, CAES IAPP has provided significant training to many individuals who currently work in lake management. Personally, the program catapulted my career to what it is today. When I joined CAES IAPP in 2010 I was a newly minted Ph.D. out of Rutgers University with a degree in plant ecology. I had limited direction beyond my doctoral degree and CAES IAPP provided me an opportunity to explore a new field. Following my first research initiative, where I adapted my terrestrial plant ecology expertise to lakes, I was inspired to shift my career to this exciting field. CAES IAPP provided me training in aquatic plant taxonomy, invasive plant control technologies, water quality monitoring, experimental design, and grant writing. This experience has allowed me to provide fiscally and ecologically responsible management plans to my clients. CAES IAPP has also trained many others that now use their skills to protect lakes throughout the United States.

So what would be the fall out if CAES IAPP were shut down? First and foremost the tracking of invasive species populations and the search for solutions to Connecticut's invasive aquatic plant problem would be greatly diminished and forced into the private sector. Without an up-to-date CAES IAPP online database (www.ct.gov/caes/iapp), government officials, private sector limnologists, lake managers and concerned citizens would be without a great amount of information critical to conserving Connecticut lakes. Secondly, the public outreach conducted through the CAES IAPP program that is essential to preventing the spread of invasive aquatic plants and enhancing early and rapid response would also be lost. Thirdly, the training of Connecticut's students and scientists in the field of lake management would be dramatically reduced. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Invasive Aquatic Plant Program is unique in that it bridges the gap between the theoretical and applied sectors of lake management. This feature provides a unique opportunity for its associates and has resulted highly trained alumni scientists that are participating in lake protection programs nationwide. These researchers have developed theories about invasive aquatic plant transport, species-specific risk assessment, targeted surveying techniques, and strategies for enhancing plant control. All of this research, which has positively influenced the field of lake management, would no



longer be possible should CAES IAPP be shut down. It is extremely important to support this program and allow the services to continue.

The Connecticut Federation of Lakes and I request that you support this program by reaching out to your elected officials and imploring them to fund CAES IAPP. I would ask that you remind them that the functions of the program are of the utmost importance from pedagogical and functional perspectives. It trains many scientists, publishes many research papers, conducts public outreach initiatives, and retains one of the largest LTER data sets in the Eastern U.S. By supporting this program, you will help the field of freshwater ecology and conservation in Connecticut, support baseline ecological and applied research, as well as support public education. Thank you all for considering giving your support and – as a final note – I would like to remind all of you that freshwater resources are the single most important resource to us [humans] and that healthy water ecosystems equate directly to a healthy human population.

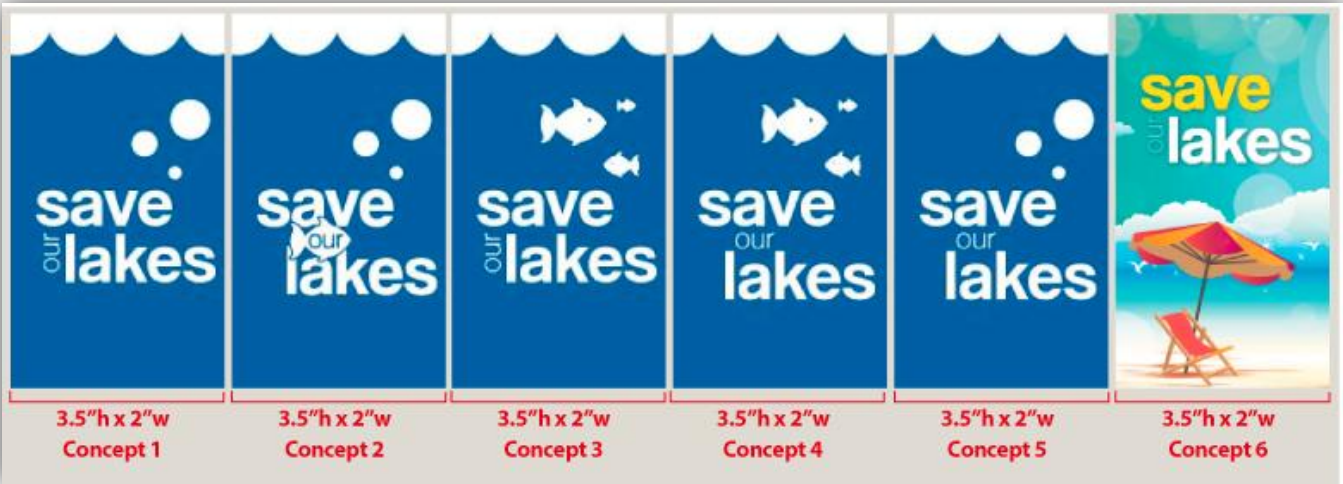
Please support the CFL and its efforts by making an online donation today!
(Click [DONATE NOW](#))

Below: A look at some of our concept images for the LakeSmart boat sticker! Please submit all further entries to cflakesmart@gmail.com.

What will Connecticut lakes look like in ten years? What about fifty years?

In order to remedy a suffering waterbody, we must attempt to understand what is making it ill.

Let us not hold onto the dangerous belief that we know enough about lakes and nature. Management is an adaptive process that requires ongoing monitoring.



BASHAN LAKE DAM REPAIR PROJECT

by Bruce Fletcher

This 276 acre lake in East Haddam was dropped 18 feet over winter 2015 for the repair of its State owned dam. The State had offered the Bashan Lake community the option of having a high coffer dam built to negate the need for such a drastic drawdown, but the residents voted no, thereby saving the State from excessive costs. Despite the potential risk of two summers without a full lake, the lake folks wanted to take a gamble in the hopes that the massive drawdown would negatively impact the invasive variable milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*). The D'Amato Construction Co. of Bristol, CT began the repair in late January. They plan to resurface the lake side and fortify the outlet side with a projected completion date in late March or early April.

Since Bashan Lake has had for over twenty years 50-75 acres of variable milfoil that is treated annually with systemic herbicide, the Bashan Lake Association hoped that Mother Nature might help out. Residents had prayed that the existing milfoil beds would remain exposed without an insulating blanket of snow long enough to be exposed to very harsh cold, dry weather that could potentially kill the milfoil roots. Yet, the first blanket of snow came on January 24th and another on Jan. 26th and 27th and a third on Feb. 2nd and it is continuing to pile up! Hopefully the milfoil was freeze dried/killed prior to these snows. Bashan Lake won't know the extent of the milfoil die back until the Summer and Fall of 2016.

In the Fall of 2014 and in much of 2015 when the lake is slowly refilling, many waterfront owners and their neighborhood associations had and will have the rare opportunity to clean up their waterfronts and do limited muck out of the soft, squishy sediment [built up over the years from storm water runoff debris, decaying leaves and yard and pet waste (cultural eutrophication) which provides fertile soil loved by milfoil. SO...the Bashan Lake Association hopes that its milfoil can be greatly reduced by the early freezing cold weather prior to the snows and by the muck out efforts. Time will tell.



MEGA THANKS TO BRUCE LOCKHART AND GEORGE BENSON

by Bruce Fletcher

At the CFL's upcoming 20th annual meeting the CFL's first officers Bruce Lockhart and George Benson are retiring. Connecticut and the CFL are indebted to the foresight, energy and initiative of these Directors, who have done so much for CT lakes and ponds since 1995.

After graduating from Michigan State University, Bruce Lockhart spent over a decade managing water-based parks and recreational areas in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In the early 1990s, Bruce came to CT to become the Executive Director of the Candlewood Lake Authority. As a charter member of NEC-NALMS, he led the formation of the CFL. Then after 13 years with the Candlewood Lake Authority, he formed Lockhart Environmental, a lake and pond management company- specializing in the control of aquatic invasive weeds, suction harvesting and waterfront landscaping.

George Benson is the Director of Planning for the Town of Newtown, CT. He worked at WCSU from 1983-1989, and two years later formed Benson Environmental and conducted extensive consulting work and field studies throughout CT.

From all of us at the CFL, thank you!

CFL PRESIDENT LARRY MARSICANO STEPS DOWN

by Maryellen DiLuzio

Larry Marsicano is stepping down as president of the Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) after serving four years in the position. His term will end in April and thankfully he will remain as a board member. In 1995, Larry was part of the group that founded the CFL and with his personal drive, compassion, commitment, and diplomatic skills, he has had an important impact on the group and the protection of lakes in Connecticut. As President he represented the CFL at the State Legislature, the DEEP, lake groups, and conferences. The CFL has been fortunate to have Larry, who in addition to performing the duties of President, is the Executive Director of the Candlewood Lake Authority. Because of this and his educational experience, (he is a graduate of Western Connecticut State University and has a Master's Degree from Connecticut College) he is very familiar with the water quality and management issues Connecticut lakes are facing.

Lakes are a fragile ecosystems and Larry has made it his professional career to protect them. In recent achievements he, along with other board members, was integral in the development of the State's AIS program and the CFL's recent hosting of the New England Chapter of the North American Lakes Management Society conference. In the past, he is credited with getting the CFL website up and running.

Many thanks to Larry Marsicano for your support of the CFL and we look forward to working with you in the future as a voice for Connecticut lakes!



CFL NOW 20 YEARS OLD!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Bruce Fletcher

In a 4/3/95 memo Bruce Lockhart called for the formation of a Steering Committee for a CT lakes advocacy organization. At the First Steering Committee meeting on 6/6/95, eight lake stewards attended and the name The Connecticut Federation of Lakes was chosen. These eight and a few others could be called the Founders. They were leaders: Bruce Lockhart, George Benson, Vivianna Tul, Chris Fray, Bob Impresa, Bob La Bonne, Larry Marsicano, Molly West, Nick Marsicano, Stuart Wilson, Pete Emond, Bob Head, Fred Perry, Claire Stevens, Craig Dennen, Lee Johnson and Larry Liebman.

On 6/14/95 the official State of Connecticut Letter of Incorporation signed by Bruce and George was issued. At the Second Steering Committee meeting on 10/5/1995, Interim President Bruce Lockhart and Interim Secretary George Benson and Interim Directors were named and they all reviewed a petition to fund the CT Clean Lakes Program. At the Third Steering Committee meeting on 11/15/95, they discussed Directors' and Officers' insurance. On 1/17/96, it was reported that the 19 Charter Members had raised \$2,330.00 dollars to cover start-up costs and that Jack McMillan had designed the first CFL logo.

A First Annual Meeting was discussed for September 1996. The IRS awarded the CFL's tax exempt 501(c)(3) status on April 3, 1997 thanks to Ellen Burns, CPA. The Second Annual Meeting on 5/13/1997 featured the re-election of President Lockhart and Secretary Benson. Larry Marsicano was elected Treasurer while George Knoecklein and Bruce Fletcher became directors. Dr. Barre Hellquist spoke about nuisance aquatic weeds. Some things never change!

Annual Conferences began in 1996 at various locations such as Conn. College, UConn, WCSU, Wesleyan and the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. Charlie Fredette and Chuck Lee (CT DEP advisors) began to attend meetings in 1998. George Knoecklein became President in April 1999. Penny Hermann was hired as the CFL administrator in 2001.

Thanks to all who have supported the CFL since its very beginning.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Current Directors whose terms end in April 2016

John Burrell
Joe Carbonell
Maryellen Diluzio
Mark June-Wells
Anne Lizarralde
Chris Mayne
John Moore
Rebekah White

Current Directors who wish another 2-year term

Richard Canavan
Bruce Fletcher
George Knoecklein
Larry Marsicano

Nominated for the 3 vacant Director positions

Hillary Kenyon
Randy Miller
Connie Trolle

Write in nominee _____

Information is just a few clicks away!

www.ctlakes.org

Join the club! Take the LakeSmart pledge and make your property LakeSmart. Donate \$25 to the CFL to receive your plaque.



Please “Like” us on Facebook to receive news and updates.



Contact the CFL

For more information regarding the Connecticut Federation of Lakes, visit our web site at www.ctlakes.org, contact Aliz@conncoll.edu or write to P.O. Box 216, Windsor, CT 06095.

CFL Board

Larry Marsicano, President – Candlewood Lake
Richard Canavan, Vice President – Limnologist
Anne Lizarralde, Secretary, – Conn College
Rebekah White, Treasurer - Lake Lillinonah
Mark June-Wells – Limnologist
George Knoecklein – Limnologist
George Benson - Limnologist
John Burrell - Columbia Lake
Mary Ellen Diluzio - Bashan Lake
Bruce Fletcher – Bashan Lake
Bruce Lockhart - Certified Lake Manager
Chris Mayne - Certified Lake Manager
John Moore - Lake Pocotopaug
Joe Carbonell - Lake Pocotopaug
Chuck Lee - DEEP Advisor

Newsletter Committee

Do you have an idea for a story that you think lake community members should hear? The Newsletter Committee welcomes your input and your articles. Please send suggestions or articles via e-mail to either sabinaperkins@gmail.com or hillary.kenyon@gmail.com.

Calendar

Board Meetings – 3rd Wednesday of January, March, April, May, June, September, and October 7PM at Northeast Utilities, Newington, CT

Check CTLakes.org for meeting updates

Join the CFL

Membership is Free! Simply fill out and mail the form below or go to our website and fill out a brief form there. Lakes in Connecticut need to receive more preventive medicine. In other New England states, the citizenry and legislators have pushed through bigger and better programs for lakes. If you treasure your lake, please join the CFL. With your help the CFL will continue to make a difference locally and statewide.

Support the Connecticut Federation of Lakes

YES! I want to help the CFL continue to advocate for CT Lakes!

Please accept my donation to:

- ✓ Help protect Connecticut Lakes!
- ✓ Promote awareness about stewardship and the vulnerability of lake environments through education!
- ✓ Assist in the fight against invasive species and pollution!

Lakes Friend \$40+	Lakes Conservator \$250+	Lakes Guardian \$2,500+
Lakes Sponsor \$75+	Lakes Steward \$500+	Lakes Leader \$5,000+
Lakes Advocate \$100+	Lakes Patron \$1,000+	Other \$ _____

Please make checks payable to CFL. We may periodically list our supporters, check here if you want to remain anonymous ____.

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We will not share your address and will use it to send newsletters and important bulletins.

We appreciate your support. We greatly appreciate you passing on this newsletter to a friend.

Please mail to CFL, PO Box 5604, 270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320 (**NEW ADDRESS!**)

Thank you!