



Mamanasco Lake Improvement Fund

2012 Fall Newsletter

President's Message

Hello Watershed Residents,

I hope you all are getting a chance to enjoy Mamanasco Lake in this beautiful season: the morning fog that slowly lifts over a glassy surface, the swan parades all day, the dancing light as the sun hits the riffled surface in the afternoon, the spectacular fall colors reflected in the lake and the glorious sunsets.

The MLIF Board has been busy all year in our efforts to protect and preserve the lake. We work hard to keep the lake as pristine as possible. You can help in a number of ways:

- Don't push your leaves or debris into the lake or the streams that feed the lake. Organic matter decomposes and feeds the algae and weeds.
- Use as little fertilizer with as little phosphorus as possible. It washes into the lake and guess what!
- Keep your septic system well maintained. Have it pumped out at least every 3 years.
- If you have not already done so, please make a contribution to MLIF to enable us to care for the lake.

Together we can all keep Mamanasco Lake a place of beauty to enjoy for decades to come.

Barb Hartman, President

Phosphorus – The Bad Guy (for lakes)

Did you know that one pound of phosphorus in a lake can grow 10,000 pounds of weeds and algae. It reaches lakes from many sources – storm run-off from yards and roads, erosion and septic systems. Please do your part and limit phosphorus use.

Richardson Grant

MLIF has received a \$5,000 grant from the Anne Richardson Foundation. We plan to use the funds to clean up parts of the shoreline and to have trees and branches removed from the lake. Look for the work to be done some time this fall.

Lake Treatment

Every year MLIF encounters new and varying challenges treating the lake for curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water-milfoil, thin-leaf pondweed, stonewort and filamentous algae.

This past year changes in Federal and State regulations caused a delay in the DEEP (Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection) issuing permits to all applicants. We applied for our permit at the end of February and did not receive it until May 30th. We had planned to treat the lake in the middle of April but because of this delay, we weren't able to treat the lake until late May. That was then six weeks later than scheduled. In those six weeks, the weeds grew 3 feet, to the point of going into their reproduction mode. The excessively large amount of weed vegetation in the lake then caused the formation of algae mats and floating masses in the lake, more than we usually experience in an average yearly algae bloom.

Good News . . . The CT Agriculture Experiment Station did a survey of Mamasasco Lake this summer. They reported that since last surveyed in 2005, the lake coverage of Eurasian Watermilfoil has been reduced from 80% to 20%. Without MLIF's annual treatment program the coverage of Eurasian Watermilfoil would have increased to higher than 80%. We feel very pleased that the results of our efforts are apparent.

In July, we purchased and installed a new thick, black rubber tarp at the spillway. This helped decrease the amount of leakage from the spillway, raising the lake to its near-normal level.

MLIF Board of Directors

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Email addresses

We maintain a list of people who want to know when there is important news about the lake. If you would like to find out what is going on, please send us your email, and we will be sure to put it on our list. Send your email to

barbara-hartman@sbcglobal.net

Fund Raising

MLIF's 2012 Fund Raising campaign is well under way, and we are very grateful to those of you who have already sent in your donations. We are hoping to receive contributions from many more of you in the next few months so that we can cover our expenses and continue our efforts in maintaining the quality and health of our extraordinary beautiful resource.

Does your company offer Matching Funds?

Many companies have matching grant programs. We are a non-profit, tax-exempt organization and would qualify under such programs. Please check to see if your donation to MLIF is eligible for an additional contribution from your company. If they do, request the required form from them and forward it to us at MLIF, PO. Box 246, Ridgefield, CT 06877. These extra dollars will make a great difference in our ability to care for Mamasasco Lake.

Your greatly appreciated donation can be mailed to us at P.O. Box 246, Ridgefield, CT 06877, or you can use our PayPal link, which can be found on our website, www.mlif.org. Thank you for caring.