



Mamanasco Lake Improvement Fund 2014 Fall Newsletter

President's Message

This is one of the most beautiful times of the year on Mamanasco Lake. The trees are doubly stunning – once on the shoreline and again in the reflection in the water. And then when the sun hits the water with a little breeze, it looks like the water is actually dancing. I hope you and everyone else in the watershed can take some time to drive or walk around the lake and enjoy the spectacular scenery. If you do, you probably will notice the work MLIF is doing in the northwest corner of the lake – a project that we hope will help the entire lake. You can do your part to help the lake by not raking leaves or debris into the lake or streams that run into the lake. The leaves decompose and provide unwanted fertilizer for the weeds and algae.

*Barb Hartman, MLIF President
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Third Lane Stream Restoration

The stream at the never-built Third Lane has seen significant erosion for years sending large amounts of silt into the lake, actually forming a delta where several feet of water once stood. MLIF has been working on a project with the town for over three years to line the sides of this deep streambed with stone thereby halting the erosion. Just when we think the project is “full steam ahead” another hurdle blocks us. Previously the last minute need to obtain project approval from the Army Corps of Engineers (AC) held the project up for two years. In August, we received the AC approval and the project went out to bid. Unfortunately, the bids returned well over the amount allotted for the project. At this time, we are working with the Town Engineer to determine whether a portion of the project can proceed this fall/winter and then complete the project next fall. Stay tuned!

Stay Safe on the Lake

Just a quick reminder that from October 1st through May 31st, if you're out on the water in a manually propelled vessel (for example a kayak, canoe, etc.) you must be wearing your life vest. While the safest practice is to always wear your life vest when on the water regardless of the date, now that the water is colder it is especially important and the reason for this CT law. Hypothermia can set in quickly if you fall into the water.

No Draw-Down This Fall

Due to the project to remove muck from the northwest corner of the lake, we will not be doing a drawdown this fall. The removal process requires high water levels. We will probably do a draw down in fall 2015.

Fund Raising

Our 2014 fund raising campaign is off to a good start due to the generous response of many of our watershed residents. Your donations go directly toward the vital programs that keep Lake Mamasasco a viable and beautiful asset to our community. It also lets us know that you care about the health and beauty of the lake, and appreciate and support MLIF and all the hard work we do to sustain Lake Mamasasco for everyone's enjoyment. We thank you for showing that you care, in such a generous way. If you have not made a donation to MLIF yet, we ask that you give what you can, and know that every donation is greatly appreciated. We could not give the lake the attention it deserves without your support!

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 it is, please request the required form from them, and forward it to us at MLIF, P.O. 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.

Sucking Yuck

Yes. That is exactly what MLIF is doing in the northwest corner of the lake near the high school. We hired Aquacleaner to come in with divers who will manually remove wood and debris and then use machines to suck up the weeds and algae. The process will take approximately 4-6 weeks, weather permitting, starting 10/22. The majority of the funds for the project comes from a grant MLIF received from the Anne Richardson Fund.

Why did we pick this end of the lake? It has the worst algae problem in the lake – the algae extends 80 feet from the shoreline and right to the bottom. As breezes pick up, pieces of algae break off and blow all over the lake. The corners of the lake have actually filled in to the point where plants and small trees are growing in what used to be lake water. We are hopeful that next spring we will see improvement all over the lake by cleaning out this major source of algae and weeds.