

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU LIVE NEAR A LAKE

WINTER

- Before the first snowfall clear storm drains near your home of leaves, dirt and debris.
- Plow snow away from the lake
- Gas powered motors, including snowmobiles and snowblowers, are not allowed on Mamanasco Lake.
- Remove all trash when ice fishing.

SPRING

- Avoid fertilizing your lawn. Avoid using phosphorus which spurs excessive algae and weed growth in our lake.
- If fertilizer is absolutely necessary use a slow-release nitrogen product. Better yet, use your composted material.
- Avoid application of fertilizer or pesticide before a rainstorm. Stormwater runoff washes these harmful chemicals into the lake and its contributing streams.
- Volunteer for lakeside and roadside cleanup to keep unwanted material out of our lake.
- Pick up all pet waste and dispose in household trash.

SUMMER

- Never dump yard waste along road or shoreline or into the lake or its contributing streams.
- Do not feed the geese, ducks or swans. Feeding encourages excessive waterfowl that produce waste harmful to the lake.
- If your boat has been used in another waterbody, clean thoroughly before using to avoid bringing invasive plants or species into our lake.
- Wash cars or other vehicles on grass or a permeable surface or use a car wash. Don't wash on paved driveway because harmful soap, dirt and oily grit will wash into storm drains and the lake.

FALL

- Leave grass clippings where they fall -- they're a natural organic fertilizer. A mulching mower works wonders.
- Rake or blow leaves away from the lake and its contributing streams.
- Compost leaves and organic waste.
- Clean septic tank every 2-3 years or more often if your system or soil is not adequate.

YEAR-ROUND LAKE HEALTH

- Use less fertilizer and, please, no phosphorus.
- Start composting.
- Keep refuse (leaves, branches, dirt, etc.) out of the lake and its contributing streams.
- Slow storm water runoff by using planted vegetative buffers, terracing, berms and swales. Use native plants which thrive with little work.
- Remove existing invasive plants and do not plant invasive species.
- Avoid use of detergents and household cleaners that contain phosphorus.
- Don't pour chemicals such as gasoline, paint thinner or cooking fats down your drain, onto the ground or into a storm drain.



ABOUT MLIF

The Mamasasco Lake Improvement Fund, Inc. (MLIF) was established in 1971 to manage and maintain the lake. MLIF is a not-for-profit organization run by volunteers who contribute their talents in a variety of ways to ensure that the lake remains beautiful and usable for the larger community.

MLIF is governed by a Board of Directors that acts in accordance with the organization's bylaws. If you are interested in what we do, please join us at one of our monthly board meetings. For more information on our organization visit our website at www.mlif.org or call Barbara Hartman, 438-3844 or Kitty Fischer, 438-8127.

LEWIS FUND

The Wadsworth R. Lewis Fund was established in 1950 under the term of the will of Wadsworth Russell Lewis, the son of a prominent Ridgefield family, who died in 1942. The Lewis Fund provides grants to non-profit organizations for activities "which are conducted in whole or in part for the benefit or use of residents of Ridgefield and its vicinity." Through 2009 the Fund has continued to fulfill its mission by awarding almost \$3 million in grants to a variety of area non-profit organizations.

MLIF thanks the Lewis Fund for the \$500 grant enabling the production of this educational brochure promoting lake friendly practices.

FUND RAISING

Each year MLIF gives each property owner in the Mamasasco watershed a chance to contribute to the effort to keep the lake healthy and usable. We appreciate all of you who respond to the fundraising letters so generously.

If you haven't taken the opportunity to assist in preserving the lake, it's never too late. Your contributions, large and small, help us meet our yearly budget of close to \$30,000. Our yearly expenses cover lake treatments to keep the lake usable, lake management consultants and projects along the lakeside to prevent erosion and to keep storm water runoff from fouling the lake.

If you wish to contribute, please send your tax-deductible donation to MLIF, Box 246, Ridgefield, CT 06877. We thank you in advance for your generosity and your concern for the lake.



A SEASONAL GUIDE TO LIVING NEAR A LAKE