



MLIF Lake News

President's Message

Hello fellow watershed residents,

I want to thank all of you who contacted me over the summer with suggestions about the lake and messages about the spillway. In all, I sent several dozen emails to the owner of the spillway letting him know how upset and concerned we all were about not being able to treat the lake for weeds due to the leaking spillway. As a result of your emails and a lot of hard work by the MLIF Board, we now have worked out a plan where we think we will be able to treat the lake next summer for those pesky weeds.

However, we are still concerned about the integrity of the spillway and the earthen dam. Unfortunately,

cost estimates to repair them have escalated substantially and are well beyond MLIF's means. We have asked the First Selectman to look into this matter. Hopefully with the Town and possibly the state involved, the leaking spillway and old earthen dam will be repaired.

For now, the lake looks beautiful. Enjoy it! Spend a few moments some day soon and watch the migrating birds, or notice the reflection of the trees on the lake on a quiet morning, or the sun dancing on the water in the afternoon. We all are lucky to live near this treasure of a lake.

Barb Hartman
MLIF President

Mamanasco Lake Savers

Everyone in the Mamanasco Lake Watershed can prevent pollutants from entering the lake. How? By planting helpful, native vegetation that filtrates storm water runoff. Not only do these plants offer aesthetic curb appeal to your property, but also prevent erosion, and trap sediments and excessive nutrients. The Stormwater Drainage Project (see next page) is not enough to save our lake.

What can you do?

- Visit www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/index/html and www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org for suitable plants that accommodate your property conditions.
- Plant vegetation (other than grass) at most vulnerable areas for storm water runoff.
- Do not discard leaves into lake and streams.

LAKE MANAGEMENT

The lake management this past summer was a very unusual one for us since we were operating under a DEP restriction on our use of chemical herbicides. As we were required in our permits to "hold the water in the lake for two weeks after treatment" and there were leaks in the spillway (and the dam) we were prohibited from using any chemicals to control the ever-present weeds.

Fortunately, the slender leaf pondweed and the curly leaf pondweed died off on their own in mid July. We did not see any Eurasian Milfoil (although it was definitely growing underwater, but not fast enough to reach the surface and become a problem) and this was probably due to the residual effect of the three year use of the herbicide Diquat in our weed control program. We were, in fact, able to treat for the algae mats and we were able to do an Alum treatment. These two procedures kept the formation of algae down to manageable levels.

Now for some good news....we met with the head of the pesticide division of the DEP on September 15 at the spillway. To make a long story short, we were granted permission to use herbicides next year as long as the leaking of the spillway does not get any worse. It does seem that the work done by MLIF in making the tarp at the lake side of the spillway more efficient was able to effect a slowing down of the rate of water flow through the spillway sufficient to deem it a very minimum amount. We will be able to control weeds once again and plan to do so in the spring of 2012.

This is only one way that we at MLIF will use your donated dollars to help keep Lake Mamanasco clean and beautiful. Thank you for your help, understanding and support.

Alan Marcus, MLIF Water Quality Chair

Lake Draw Downs

Currently, we are in the process of drawing down Mamasasco Lake. So far, it is down a little over a foot. Our goal is to get it down two feet and keep it down until we get some hard freezes. We hope this may kill some of those pesky weeds or algae in the shallow areas. This is an excellent time to clean up along the shore and do maintenance at the edge of the lake or on docks. We hope anyone who can will help with the clean up: trees and limbs, leaves, trash, toys, everything that is not natural to the lake. Anything you get out will make for a healthier and more attractive lake.

We drew down the lake 1-2 feet in late October. We also did a draw down just prior to Hurricane Irene, and kept the siphon pipes going for several weeks after the hurricane. We think we were able to prevent damage to homes in low lying areas around the lake which might have been flooded with rising lake waters from the torrential rains.

What's Happening Along Mamasasco Road?

For many years MLIF has spearheaded a *Stormwater Drainage Project (SDP)* with help and financing from the town of Ridgefield. This Fall expect to see several small projects along Mamasasco Road designed to reduce the amount of silt flowing into the lake. As you remember this silt also carries attached chemical nutrients from upstream fertilizers, leaf decomposition, septic fields and other sources that feed the plant life in the lake. This doesn't sound too harmful unless you understand the fragile nature of our lake and the invasive plant species that can make it unusable for recreation. Silt and its accompanying plant nutrients are a major problem on Mamasasco Lake.

These roadside projects will allow storm water to settle before flowing directly into the lake. The silt deposited will be cleaned out by the town twice a year. In some cases the water will be directed to flow through a meandering vegetative channel that will also help absorb the nutrients before reaching the lake.

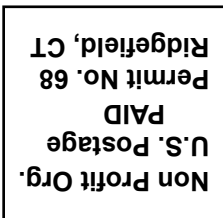
For more information, please call Tessa Jucaite, 438-5851, or Kitty Fischer, 438-8127.

2011 MLIF Officers & Directors

Barbara Hartman, President, 438-3844
Joe Moorhead, Vice-President
Kitty Fischer, Secretary
Rosemary Hawkins Sposito, Treasurer
Barbara Cmiel
Margie Collora
Milo and Mimi Dalbey
Michael Austin
Jeff McAllister
Al Marcus
Tessa Jucaite
Di Masters, Selectman and Town Liaison

Please provide MLIF secretary with your email address to receive the latest information regarding Mamasasco Lake. The board meets the first Thursday of each month at the CVS Community Room. Check , <http://www.mlif.org/meetings> for upcoming dates.

To Current Resident at:



Mamasasco Lake Improvement Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 246
Ridgefield, CT 06877

