

MAMANASCO LAKE IMPROVEMENT FUND SUMMER 2019



Photo Courtesy of Melissa Harris



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President's Message

Dear Friends of Mamanasco Lake,
As the summer of 2019 kicks into high gear, we are in the middle of our 6-month long battle to implement our lake management activities. Each lake season is different, and Mother Nature is often very clever in the challenges she throws at us. The volunteers of Mamanasco Lake Improvement Fund are working tirelessly to keep the balance in our lake. The shallow depth allows the water to become very warm in the summer heat. When the warm water is combined with the fact that our lake has a very nutrient-rich sediment layer, the water is primed for plant and algae growth. Our efforts are focused on reducing the nuisance levels of plants and algae to maximize the boating, fishing and swimming activities on the lake. Of course, for these efforts to be successful, it requires the friends of the Mamanasco Lake to donate their time, treasure and talents to Mamanasco Lake Improvement Fund (MLIF). MLIF has worked for over 45 years to help protect Mamanasco Lake and each year the environmental and financial challenges grow. I encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about how they can help to please reach out to us. We hope you enjoy the remainder of the season on the lake.

Kind Regards,

Dean Williams, President – Mamanasco Lake Improvement Fund



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Your Septic System Can Affect The Health Of Our Lake

Septic systems are important to homeowners in our lake watershed. When septic systems are properly designed, constructed, and maintained, they effectively reduce environmental threats posed by pollutants from household wastewater. However, they require regular maintenance or they can fail. How to maintain a septic system:

1. Inspect and Pump Frequently

You should have a typical septic system inspected at least every 3 years by a professional and your tank pumped as recommended by the inspector (generally every 3 to 5 years).

2. Use Water Efficiently

Average indoor water use in the typical single-family home is almost 70 gallons per person per day. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day. The more water a household conserves, the less water enters the septic system. Efficient water use can improve the operation of the septic system and reduce the risk of failure.

3. Care For Your Leach Field

Plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs might clog and damage the leach field. Also, don't drive or park vehicles on any part of your septic system. Doing so can compact the soil in your leach field or damage the pipes, tank, or other septic system components.

Source: EPA - A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems

Mamasasco Lake Wildlife Profile

Snapping turtles are widespread in Connecticut. Our state's largest freshwater turtle is easily recognized by its dark carapace (upper shell) with a deeply serrated back margin, and a small plastron (bottom shell) that does not completely cover all of the animal's flesh. The upper shell measures 8-12 inches on an average adult, and the turtles can weigh between 10-35 pounds. Snapping turtles are almost entirely aquatic and can be found in a wide variety of aquatic habitats, preferably with slow-moving water and a soft muddy or sandy bottom. As omnivores, snapping turtles feed on plants, insects, spiders, worms, fish, frogs, small turtles, snakes, birds, crayfish, small mammals, and carrion.

Common Snapping Turtle
Chelydra s. serpentine



Plant matter accounts for about a third of the diet. Mating has more to do with size than age. Turtles are ready to mate when their carapace measures about 8 inches. The nesting season is from April through November, with most of the nesting in southern New England occurring in late May through June. One clutch of eggs is laid in May or June. With powerful hind legs, the female digs a shallow bowl-shaped nest in a well-drained, sunny location. Over a period of several hours, she lays approximately 20 to 40 creamy white, ping-pong ball-sized eggs. After covering the eggs, the female returns to the water, leaving the eggs and hatchlings to fend for themselves. Turtle nests are often preyed upon by raccoons, skunks, and crows. As much as 90% of the nests are annually destroyed by predators. Hatching takes approximately 80 to 90 days, but the hatch date can vary depending on temperature and other environmental conditions. When the young hatch, they dig out of the nest and instinctively head to water. Young hatchlings are about an inch long with soft shells and they must make it to water without being preyed upon by raccoons, skunks, foxes, dogs, birds, and snakes. When they reach water, the young turtles may be eaten by fish and other snapping turtles. Once the turtles have grown some and their shells harden, they are virtually predator-free. Snapping turtles generally reach maturity at 8 to 10 years and can live up to 40 years or more.

Source: <https://www.ct.gov/deep>

Fish In Our Lake

The CT Department of Energy and Environmental and Protection surveys our lake every few years to monitor the health of the fish population. While the results from the May 2019 survey won't be available until later this fall, the previous survey identified the following fish in our lake (photos courtesy of CT DEEP):



Large Mouth Bass



Brown Bullhead



Yellow Perch



Bluegill



Black Crappie



Pumpkinseed



Amazon Smile is an easy way to donate to MLIF when you do your shopping on-line.

How do you select a charitable organization to support?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

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MLIF sends out notices by email about lake water test results, lake treatments and water use restrictions.

If you live near the lake or use it for recreational purposes, we need your email address so we can notify you of this important information. Please send us an email at MLIFBoard@gmail.com to be added to our contact list.

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