

REFLECTIONS

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Winter 2006/2007

WELCOME

With enormous enthusiasm we present you with the first edition of the rejuvenated Quaddick Lake Association newsletter. This newsletter is the culmination of the efforts of many people to share information about the current state of the lake and is produced by the QLA Communications Committee.

In this edition, we have included updates on the activities of the Association Board of Directors and the various committees that were formed last summer to help achieve the Association's mission as well as some fun facts and next steps for the Association members. The most interesting inclusion is the Lake Management Committee report that details the issue we are seeing with the explosive weed growth and the options to prevent it from getting worse.

We hope this newsletter gives you a better idea of the hard work that is being done to maintain Quaddick Lake through an active Association.

OUR MISSION:

To enhance ecological and recreational balance while preserving Quaddick Lake as a picturesque natural resource for future generations.



STRONGER THAN EVER

After 3 years of inactivity, the Association was unanimously re-formed in July of this year. New officers were elected and new committees were formed. Your 2006-07 Association leadership is:

President: Rich Chevalier

Vice-President: Bruce Monfils

Secretary: Kathy Finn Campbell

Treasurer: Brenda Duscheneau

Board of Directors (term):

Barry McCarthy and Steve Bordua (1 year),

Brian Howell and Gary Bessette (2 year)

Ron Joliceur and Shirley Rafferty (3 year)

These leaders are dedicated to protecting the lake, its adjacent marshlands, its fish wildlife, and the recreational value of the lake and its surrounding area. The Association intends to promote community activities to develop an awareness of the issues among its members and community residents to assist in the protection of Quaddick Lake.

Quaddick Lake Association
QUADDICK LAKE ASSOCIATION

LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

This summer, Quaddick Lake was inundated with weeds. There are three varieties in particular that affected the lake; fanwort, variable leaf water milfoil and bladderwort. Of these, the first two are invasive (not native or naturally occurring in lakes of this area) while the bladderwort is a native plant. Two companies that specialize in weed control have surveyed the lake and have both concluded that the dominant species, and the one we need to attack, is the fanwort.

Remedies

The Lake Management committee met with numerous experts over the past 6 months. These experts provided helpful input on many possible solutions to our problem. Treatments reviewed included introducing weevils or carp, harvesting or raking, drawdown and herbicide treatments. Weevils or carp will not treat a lake the size of Quaddick and the harvesting is cost prohibitive on a per acre basis. CT DEP Officer Chuck Lee tells us that the bladderwort explosion in Quaddick Lake in 2006 was unlike any he had seen before and that there is a good chance it will not be as bad next year even if we do nothing. But, for the milfoil and fanwort, only deep drawdowns or herbicide treatments offer any realistic hope for improving the weed situation.

Drawdown

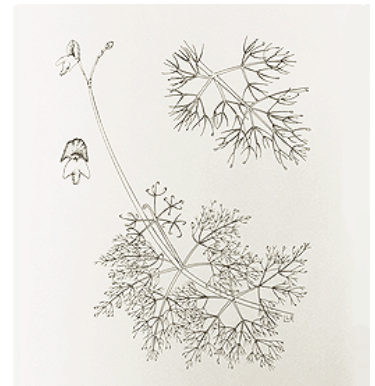
As our first attempt to reduce the weeds, we were hoping that the lake could be drawn down by the permitted generation of electricity at the small hydroelectric plant below the dam. It is now clear that this method will have no impact this year and cannot be counted on in the future. We will need a deeper drawdown. To draw down at a higher rate requires state approval, which will be difficult to obtain. We will try for approval for a deep drawdown next fall, but the plan will have to include a temporary dam at the Baker Road bridge to avoid draining Stump Pond, and will require the use of diesel powered pumps to aid in drawing the level down more quickly than the current dam allows. The cost for these is unknown at this time. It is important to note that deep draw downs cannot be done every year because other invasive plants that prefer dry ground in winter could move in. Also, too many native species are killed off. It is vital to have healthy plant life in the lake, but in much better balance than at present.

Herbicide Treatment

The only herbicide that is effective against fanwort is called Sonar and is available from only one manufacturer. Both weed control companies we worked with have recommended using this product. The good news is that Sonar is harmless to fish, animals and humans. It is used to treat drinking water reservoirs. EPA permissible limits in drinking water are about three times greater than the concentration needed to kill the weeds. It is very effective against fanwort if necessary concentrations are maintained for approximately six weeks.....not an easy task given the flow rate of water through Quaddick, but doable if rains are not too heavy. It will also greatly reduce the milfoil and somewhat reduce bladderwort for the first year. Treatment would be guaranteed for two years for the fanwort, with the expectation that it would be three years or more before fanwort was a problem again. The bad news is that treating upper Quaddick alone would cost between 100,000 and \$150,000. Adding lower Quaddick, which is beginning to see fanwort and the other weeds in shallower areas, raises the cost to about \$175,000. The view of the committee is that, if herbicide treatment is required, it would be best to treat both upper and lower sections of the lake. If the problem is kept in check by re-treatment before things get out of hand as they are now, we should not have to spend this amount of money at one time again. One of the treatment companies estimates that ongoing maintenance over the next 10 years would average about \$36,000 per year.



Fanwort
(*Cabomba Caroliniana*)



Bladderwort
(*Utricularia*)



Variable-leaf Watermilfoil
(*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)

LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT *continued*

The Lake Management Committee met with a representative of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in November. This organization operates with federal funding for studying invasive aquatic weeds in the lakes of Connecticut. The leader of this study has agreed to provide a detailed study of the weeds in Quaddick Lake in 2007. They use very high technology methods for mapping and studying the specific weeds we are dealing with, including DNA analysis to confirm species and subspecies identification. This survey will be conducted no sooner than late June, after the weeds are established. By October, 2007, we will be provided a map showing what weeds are growing where, in greater detail than anything we have seen in the past. This will provide us with much needed ammunition to appeal to the state for approval of a deep drawdown and for financial assistance.

You can learn more about this program by visiting the web site <http://www.caes.state.ct.us> Click on the blue square at the bottom right, Invasive Aquatic Plants. You can see survey results from other lakes, including maps and data.

Funding

The state DEP, which sometimes offers grants for treatment of weeds, typically offers no assistance for herbicide application. We are working with our state representative to push a bill that would require all boat owners to purchase a sticker annually to help fund weed control around the state. State residents would pay a lower amount than out-of-state boaters. Our representative will also be introducing a budget line item specifically for treatment of Quaddick Lake. We're told that, even if it passes, it could be years before we would actually receive any funds. The Fund Raising Committee is working hard to raise money, as described elsewhere in this newsletter but, without serious assistance from the government, it will be left up to the lake residents to pay the majority of the cost for treatment.

Next Steps

We will be working toward obtaining approval for a deep drawdown next fall and toward estimating the cost. We assume the cost would be much less than Sonar treatment. If the state refuses, we will most likely have no choice than to treat with Sonar, so we will also explore applying for a permit to treat the lake in 2008. As things stand now, lake residents will have to pay a total of about \$130,000 to treat upper and lower Quaddick with Sonar, assuming the balance can be obtained from fund raising and other sources. The Association leadership is hugely disappointed that treatment in 2007 is not feasible, and we're certain that the members and other residents feel the same way.

Noteworthy

To make the greatest possible gains for Quaddick Lake, it is necessary to look beyond our own lake community. Members of the Lake Management Committee have been actively seeking outside contacts and have attended meetings of Thompson Together for Environment and Thames River Basin Partnership. Thompson Together has been instrumental in the Town acquiring land for conservation purposes along the Five Mile River, upstream of Quaddick, at little or no cost to the Town. The Thames Partnership is interested in preserving the entire watershed of the Thames, which includes the Five Mile River and Quaddick Lake. They have a grant writer and have acquired funds for weed control in the river itself. We will also look into joining the CT Federation of Lakes. The objective of these associations is to form a larger voice and to improve our chances of having the state, and even the federal government, recognize the threat posed by invasive weeds in our lake, and to provide financial assistance for fighting them.

Lake Management Committee — Responsible to recognize lake problems, identify potential problems and concerns, prioritize and address in order of importance, research options and associated costs for weed control and present to Association membership, maintain communication with DEP, provide education to members and maintain contact with the State of Connecticut to assist with weed management. The 2006-07 members are Ron Jolicouer - Chair, Barry McCarthy, Gary Bessette, Debbie Cyr, Gail Leveille, Carol Ryley, Ray & Lisa Faucher, Peter Trama and Bill Bainbridge

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Communication Committee

Communications Committee — Responsible for creating an annual newsletter, advertising meetings through newspaper and radio, maintaining the web site for QLA, and handling all mailings and emails to the QLA membership. The 2006-07 members are Brian Howell — Chair, Shirley Rafferty, Steve Bordua, Gail Leveille, Dot Graveline, Jane Howell, Brenda Duchesneau, Melissa Bonin

The committee chose a newsletter name, the newsletter format and design was completed, the stories were written and the newsletter was printed and mailed. The decision was made to publish all Association meetings in the Thompson Villager and have announcements made on WINY Radio(1350AM).

An informational website was created and brought online. The site, www.quaddicklake.org, has been updated monthly and continues to be a great resource for the public to learn about us. You can now check the by-laws, read the minutes of board meetings and find out the latest in lake news on the website. Also, the contact list on the site is updated so you can reach out to any Officer or Board Member with any questions, concerns or comments.

Mailings are completed to all members for now. Please consider providing an e-mail address as an alternative to receiving the printed newsletter in the future. This will help reduce the costs associated with printing and mailing the newsletter.

Fundraising & Membership Committee

Fundraising & Membership Committee — Responsible for organizing fundraising events such as picnics, raffles, car washes, QLA yard sale plus contact local businesses for donations, identify and request grants from the town of Thompson and state of Connecticut. Also, maintain an active list of members and recruit new members. The 2006-07 members are Kathy Finn Campbell - Chair, Brian Howell - Co-chair, Brenda Duchesneau, Bruce Monfils, Carol Ryley, LuAnn Quaiel and Jim & Shirley Rafferty

There are approximately 240 homes on the lake. Membership dues collected this year were just under \$2000 and we now have 100 members. We will conduct another membership drive in late spring and at the annual meeting next summer.


This year's 1st Annual Christmas Party and Fundraiser generated \$3,530. Committee members and others solicited donations from local businesses and individuals. The community response was GREAT !! Golf outings, beautiful artwork, cords of wood, limo rides and many other items were auctioned and raffled to raise funds to offset treatment of the lake.

This fall several grants were looked into but none were available. The committee will be working very hard this winter to complete grant requests for 2007.

Lake Facts

Other info that you may not know:

- Before the dam was built in 1866, the lake was called King's Pond
- Quaddick covers 467 acres and holds over 130 million cubic feet of water
- Its average depth is 6 1/2 feet and its maximum is 25 feet deep
- The watershed that feeds the lake covers 25 miles
- The watershed is the single largest contributor of nutrients for the weeds
- Quaddick means "bend in the river"
- The lake is part of the Five-Mile River
- Invasive weeds replace native plants, reduce fish population, spread from cut pieces and affect human health
- Leaking sewage from homes upstream and lake residences fertilize the invasive weeds
- Chemical treatments are the most effective method to control the weeds

	
Treasurer's Report Brenda Duchesneau, QLA Treasurer December 3, 2006	
Balance as of August 27, 2006	\$1766.35
Receipts	
Member Dues	\$1050.00
Donations	\$ 100.00
Bank Interest	\$ 1.45
Christmas Party	<u>\$4943.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$6094.45
Disbursements	
Web Site	\$ 117.00
Postage & Supplies	\$ 237.36
Bank Charges	\$ 45.65
Christmas Party	\$1519.10
2007 Hall Deposit for Christmas Party	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$1969.11
Balance as of December 3, 2006	\$5891.69

Next Steps — Educating Residents of the Quaddick Lake Watershed

I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. — Edmund Everett Hale

One of the next steps to combating the invasive weeds in our lake involves engaging and educating the citizens that reside in Quaddick Lake’s watershed as to how to improve the quality of the water flowing into the lake. Bringing about changes in the behaviors of the watershed residents will be a challenge. As the association takes on the role of community leader and partner there will be a lot of trial and error and important lessons will be learned. Tasks will include providing information regarding items like the conversion to using non-phosphate detergents to wash laundry, cars and homes; the elimination of in-sink garbage grinders, encouraging limits on lawn fertilization and eliminating illegal dumping off roadways and on watercourses. Other approaches will rely upon a combination of techniques focused on source reduction and transport mitigation by educating the residents within the watershed on such practices as manure management, fertilizer management, use of cover crops and the deployment of buffer zones.

Changing the behavior of citizens within the watershed can be brought about in two principal ways; through public education and/or the implementation of local bylaws and bans. Education is the Association’s first choice and precedes any attempt at regulation. Public education of citizens residing in the watershed will be accomplished by mailing an informative brochure on watershed management to all residents in the watershed and by holding public meetings for watershed residents. Public education relies heavily upon cooperation from residents and other lake users and is not likely to result in major improvements in water quality by itself. However, some level of improvement has been noted in other studies and the education process sets the stage for community involvement and cooperation.

The goals of Watershed Education are:

- ⇒ Completing monitoring and water quality research to assess and prioritize water quality issues.
- ⇒ Requesting inspections of businesses regulated under local, state and federal water quality laws.
- ⇒ Ensuring enforcement of state water quality laws and local ordinances.
- ⇒ Providing public education on prevention of water pollution and fertilization.
- ⇒ Coordinating household hazardous waste collection events.
- ⇒ Requesting the provisioning of funds from the town for incentives to connect to a public sewer.

Please consider sharing with friends, family and others that live within the watershed the concerns of the lake property owners and how their actions directly affect the water quality in Quaddick Lake.

Lake Safety During the Winter Months

The docks are out, the boats are winterized, the weather-stripping on the doors and windows is in place. Time to settle in, wait for the bitter cold and hope for a quick, deep freeze. Here are a few tips to stay safe should you choose to venture out on the frozen lake to play or to fish:

- 1) Reassure yourself that there is no such thing as 100% safe ice. There are thin spots.
- 2) Test the thickness yourself. Use an ice chisel, auger or even a cordless drill with a long bit to be sure.
- 3) Refrain from driving on ice whenever possible. If you must drive a vehicle, have an escape plan.
- 4) Stay away from alcoholic beverages. Even a few can cause a careless error in judgment that could cost you your life.
- 5) Wear a life vest under your winter gear and carry a pair of ice picks. It’s amazing how difficult it can be to pull yourself up when weighted down with an extra 60 lbs of water.



Winter settled on Upper Quaddick

Remember, the ambulance will not drive on the ice !!



Quaddick Lake Association

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info@quaddicklake.org

Stamp

Enhancing ecological and recreational balance while preserving Quaddick Lake as a picturesque natural resource for future generations.

We're on the Web!
www.quaddicklake.org

I WANT TO HELP

Re-forming the lake association wasn't difficult; all we needed was a core of people who cared about the lake and wanted to make steps to improve it. HOWEVER - if you and others who use the lake don't take action to protect it, the lake association will fail!!

There are several ways to support the mission of the Association. You can agree to help offset the cost of treating with SONAR. You can support the Association by volunteering to serve on the Communications, Fundraising or Lake Management committees. You can choose to make quarterly financial donations. Or you can choose to contribute items to the next Lake Yard Sale.

No matter how you decide to help, no matter how large or small your contribution, your donation of time or money or both will be used to directly impact the betterment of Quaddick Lake.

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Lake Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

- I will contribute up to \$1500 for SONAR treatment
- Include me in the Quaddick Lake phone directory
- Contact me about volunteering on a committee
- I'd like to make a quarterly financial donation
- Include me in the June 2007 Lake-wide Yard Sale
- I want to reduce mailing costs. Please e-mail me with all information about the Association