

2nd Quarter 2004 Newsletter

Special Summer Issue



FRIENDS
OF THE LAKE

Friends of the Lake (FOTL) is a non-profit group of concerned citizens who care about the management, safety and recreational uses of Lake Lillinonah and wish to develop a lake community to encourage the continued protection of its natural beauty and wildlife. The objective is to work closely with the Lake Lillinonah Authority, elected officials and residents of the bordering towns to increase awareness, foster stewardship and solicit additional funding for prioritized projects in order to reduce debris and pollution so that we may protect and maintain the quality of Lake Lillinonah now and for future generations

Lake Lillinonah Watershed Guidelines:

FOTL is working with Hydro Technologies to address the pollution that is greatly affecting Lake Lillinonah. Although a great deal of the problem comes from a few businesses, we also must carry some of the burden of responsibility.

You may be surprised to discover that traditional landscaping ideas have no place on yards that border a lake. Manicured lawns extending to the water's edge, along with the fertilizer and pesticide applications required to maintain them, can have serious negative impact on the Lake Lillinonah water quality.

The water quality of Lake Lillinonah is affected not only by the homes and businesses along the shore, but those that are set further back.

Negative impacts from both shoreline and uphill residences can be minimized with a landscaping plan that places less emphasis on lawns and incorporates a variety of plants adapted to conditions near the water's edge. Lawns can be redesigned to allow a buffer zone along the lake. Careful landscape design can actually increase the value of your property as well as keep the lake water you enjoy clear and clean.

Enclosed is brief 1 page two sided Lake Lillinonah Watershed Guidelines Question & Answer Sheet. We encourage each of you to review it and pass it along to your neighbors or landscapers. Next year, we will be issuing a more in-depth Lake Lillinonah Watershed Guideline pamphlet.

Debris Update:

On June 23, 2004 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued the new 40 year operating license to Northeast Generation Company (NGC) for their Housatonic Projects which includes Lake Lillinonah and the Shepaug dam. The license was issued subject to many stipulations including the directive for NGC to develop a "**Debris Management Plan**" (DMP) for FERC's approval within six months. The DMP is to consider the following:

1. The method to mechanically remove woody debris using a floating trash Skimmer craft.
2. The schedule and frequency of woody debris removal.
3. The location of the disposal area.
4. Notification procedures.
5. The method to evaluate the effectiveness of the woody debris removal program

The DMP is to be developed in consultation with several stakeholders including the Lake Lillinonah Authority and is to be implemented upon approval by FERC. The entire 60+ page license document may be viewed as a download from our website. The DMP stipulation is described in Article #410 on page #44 of the document.

We applaud FERC for being attentive and all of the private citizens, public officials and the various Commissions and Authorities who have been cooperatively working hard to achieve this major event that will have a positive impact on Lake Lillinonah.

Lake Lillinonah Authority Update:

If you are interested in receiving, in addition to the FOTL Newsletter, the LLA Newsletter – you can contact them at (203) 264-2360. Leave your name and address and they have assured us that you will be added to the mailing. In addition, upon receipt, we will also be posting the LLA newsletter on our website.

FOTL Alerts:

Members Only – Please email us or send us your email address. Poor handwriting or failure to fill in that membership section has left us with only small percent of accurate email addresses. The email address is important, as it allows us to email lake alerts, such as chemical treatments or quick level drops. Your email address will not be sold or given out to anyone.

Savingthelake.com Update:

We have just launched a new and cleaner home page, along with a redesigned membership page. In the coming weeks, we will be expanding our membership levels at the request of our members and non-members. In addition, we will be launching a bulletin board section of the site. We encourage each of you to post anything good or bad you discover on the lake. This section will also accept images, so get out your digital camera! All of this information will be shared frequently with CT DEP and local & state politicians. **Pictures are worth a 1000 words!**

Membership Drive:

FOTL will be hosting a one year anniversary celebration with a cocktail party for **members only** at the home of Jeffrey and Amy Silverman in Bridgewater on Tuesday, August 24th from 6pm to 8pm. Hydro Technologies and the FOTL Executive board will provide a detailed update on the debris and pollution issues that affect Lake Lillinonah. Members will have the opportunity to ask our panel of expert's any and all questions. Members will be receiving their invitation in the middle of July.

For those receiving this newsletter and not yet a member, we encourage you to join. Not only are we building a strong lake community, but powerful voices that will help us address the debris and pollution issues that affect our great lake. For more membership information, you can log on to our website at www.savingthelake.org or visit the Bridgewater General Store and pick up a Friends of the Lake Brochure.