

# 3rd Quarter 2004 Newsletter



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*

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## Friends of the Lake First Year Anniversary Re-cap:

On August 24 over 120 people turned out for the first year anniversary celebration of Friends of the Lake at the home of Jeffrey and Amy Silverman. FOTL would like to thank the following elected officials for joining us and supporting us in our celebration: First Selectman Billy Stuart, First Selectman Herb Rosenthal, First Selectman Jerry Murphy, First Selectperson Barbara Henry and State Representative David Scribner along with representatives of the HVA and LLA. The members and special guests were provided a detailed update on the debris and pollution situation facing Lake Lillinonah. Curtis Reed of Hydro Technologies presented the results of a 9 month study paid by the FOTL membership. Curtis's findings were recently published in The Voice of Local Conservation published by the Northwest Conservation District ([www.conservect.org](http://www.conservect.org)); fall'04, (860) 626-7222 and can also be read on our website. The anniversary party was made possible thanks to the generous donation of two anonymous members.

## Debris update:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued the Northeast Generating Company (NGC) their new Hydroelectric Dam operating license on June 23, 2004 and mandated that a Debris Management Plan (DMP) is to be developed and submitted to FERC within six months (December 2004 deadline) for Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar. FOTL over the past year has done extensive research on suggested equipment and operating requirements and will be supporting and monitoring the development of the DMP as closely as possible. We will keep you informed as progress is made on this important Lake Lillinonah issue. As of the printing of this newsletter no stakeholders have been contacted, as requested by FERC, to voice their opinion or provide any information they might have gathered over the past few years. This leads us to assume that NGC might be planning on requesting an extension from FERC. We have read in the press that NGC has implemented Debris Management programs in the past in other parts of the country FOTL would find this strategy extremely frustrating. Good news is NGC recognizes FOTL as a stakeholder and we plan to keep the debris management plan as a very high priority to the FERC mandate.

## Water Quality update:

Members of the LLA, FOTL, and Hydro Technologies visited the Danbury Sewage Treatment Plant in early August, for a tour of their operations. It was learned that the current allowable level of 1000 parts-per-billion of phosphorus in the effluent was set by the CT DEP in the 80's. As our members were told at the Anniversary Party presentation, 30 ppb is the threshold amount that algae need to grow. As Hydro's study for FOTL revealed, the amount of phosphorus doubles in the lake where the Still River enters, even though the Still River contributes only 1/25<sup>th</sup> of the volume of water. FOTL will be working with the LLA, Danbury Sewage Treatment Plant, and the CT DEP to determine how to reduce the amount of phosphorus in the Still River. In addition, the

FOTL membership has green lighted a 2005 study that will research what type of plant life can help absorb the nitrogen and phosphorous so that it will reduce the algae blooms during the summer months.

#### **Grant Strategy and Status:**

FOTL is researching a variety of projects to help our lake. Peg Daley has uncovered a large number of grants that are out there for environmental-related projects. Peg will be assisting us with the preparation of grant applications. We ask our members to please contact us with any ideas you may have to make the lake cleaner and safer!

#### **Development Update:**

In the spring of 2005, FOTL will begin distributing a detailed watershed guideline pamphlet. It is our intent to also include a list of landscapers who have the appropriate credentials to environmentally treat those homes on and surrounding Lake Lillinonah. If your landscaper is interesting in learning more about the requirements please have them contact our office at (860) 210-8064.

#### **Savingthelake.com Update:**

The website has launched a discussion group. We encourage you to visit it and post your comments and opinions. FOTL would like to receive your input regarding any interest areas you may have in volunteering for various committees or sub committees we will be forming this coming year. Tell us how you would like to be involved in making Lake Lillinonah a better place. In addition, please send us photos of the debris and pollution you might come across so we can post those on our site. The site also includes past lake studies, articles and links to other organizations which our membership will find useful. Please visit our very informative website.

#### **Lake Lillinonah Authority Update:**

The LLA continues to work on several critical issues affecting Lake Lillinonah as well as monitoring the day to day operations of our lake. We will pass along any additional information we receive from the LLA, as well as encouraging each of you to subscribe to their Newsletter, which we also post on our website.

Please note that the regular LLA patrol ended on September 26th. A patrol boat will remain docked until the end of October in case of an emergency. In addition, Northeast Generation has tentatively scheduled the annual fall draw down for October 23 to October 30. An email alert will be sent to our members when this date is confirmed

FOTL has begun to send an executive member to the monthly LLA meetings, which are open to the public. We encourage all of our members to attend.

#### **Student Internship Program Opportunity:**

The FOTL has a Student Internship opportunity available. If you know someone looking for a internship program in marketing and sales please have them contact the FOTL office at (860) 210-8064.

#### **FOTL 2005 Funding Opportunities:**

A number of companies, organizations and trusts have expressed interest in underwriting an FOTL program. If you are and someone you know is interested please have them contact the FOTL office at (860) 210-8064. For as little as \$2,500 opportunities exist to help sponsor a program that will save and protect Lake Lillinonah. 100% of the money will go towards the program.

#### **Membership Drive:**

Our membership continues to grow. You can visit our website ([www.savingthelake.org](http://www.savingthelake.org)) and view the complete list of our members. We not only encourage everyone who receives this newsletter to join, but to reach out to

your friends and neighbors. We are not only building a loud and powerful voice for Lake Lillinonah, but a stronger lake community, which was evident at the Anniversary Party.