

BASHAN LAKE ASSOCIATION

June 2011

Bashan Lake Residents,

The Board of Directors and I would like to thank all of the residents for generously supporting the Bashan Lake Association and the continued efforts to keep our lake pristine.

WATER DRAWDOWN: WE NEED EARLY LETTERS AND PERMITS:

The DEP this year is willing to do a five-foot drawdown of Bashan Lake for the property owners wishing to do repairs or install new walls to their waterfront property. The DEP is requesting the property owners obtain the proper permits from the Town of East Haddam for new walls. NOTE: Walls that need to be repaired or pointed, permits are not required, only letters are required to be sent to the Town of East Haddam notifying them that repairs are going to be done. Keeping this in mind, the five-foot drawdown will only occur if there are a substantial number of property owners willing to make repairs to their walls, stairs, docks, etc. The letters and permits must be obtained by the end of July 2011. Please mail a copy of your letter to the Town of East Haddam, and mail a copy to the BLA, PO Box 206, East Haddam, CT 06423. We will then meet with the town and the DEP with the letters and permits. Please email wdenya@att.net or call me at 860-873-1245 with any questions.

Below is a sample letter:

Re: [insert your property address]

Dear Town of East Haddam and State of Connecticut:

I/We own waterfront property at Bashan Lake in East Haddam. By this letter, I/we are requesting the Town and State authorize the minimum draw down of five feet this fall, 2011. I/We further request the draw down is made as soon after Labor Day weekend as possible in order for me/us to maximize the benefit of lowering the lake.

The draw down will allow me/us to perform necessary maintenance to my/our property. [optional- I/We understand additional permits may be needed to perform any work beyond routine maintenance and repairs.]

Thank you.

[insert name, address and contact information (telephone/email)]

MILFOIL:

Greg Bugbee, from the Connecticut Agricultural Station, spot-treated the lake in late September 2010. The control of the Milfoil weed will be continually treated every year. His efforts are remarkable and continue to reduce the amount of growth of this invasive weed in Bashan Lake. Mr. Bugbee stated, **“Do not pull the Milfoil, as it will seed other areas around your water front.”**

NEW INVASIVE WEEDS:

Bashan Lake has a new invasive weed in our lake, **Fanwort, Cabomba**, which was discovered last fall near the state boat launch area. Greg Bugbee used the underwater video camera and GPS system to map the location of the weed. The BLA and Greg Bugbee had the weeds hand-pulled by divers and contained by Waters Edge Restoration and Management Company at the end of September 2010. **Mid June 2011 Mr. Bugbee and his divers are continuing to pull and monitor growth of Fanwort.** This weed is very dangerous and is an aggressively growing weed that will choke off all other weeds, including Milfoil. Fanwort will take over the lake and is much worse than Milfoil. Fanwort cannot be treated or killed by chemicals. The 2-4 D, which the DEP allows to treat Milfoil, has no effect on Fanwort, Cabomba. The best treatment/management is to hand-pull the weed down to the root, bag and contain the weed so it does not float to another location, and dispose of the weed far from any waterway. **This weed needs to be monitored by all the waterfront property owners.** The BLA will provide education on how to pull/contain/dispose of the Fanwort, Cabomba weed. This weed is not going away any time soon, and we will all have to help out in order to stop its growth and prevent its spread. Attached is information about Fanwort, Cabomba. Also, any scuba divers who are lake residents who would like to get involved in monitoring this new weed, please contact a Board member with your name.

20th Annual Meeting for the Bashan Lake Association
July 23rd, 2011, 9:00 am at the Grange Hall. This meeting will provide education on the growth and spread of the very invasive Fanwort, Cabomba and Milfoil.

*** Fun Days at Bashan Lake:**

July 4th Boat Parade at 11:00

September 4th Bashan Lake Sail Boat Race at 1:00

SAFETY:

The BLA has placed safety buoys in areas that are intended to slow the speed of boats to 5 mph. If you see unsafe or reckless operations of any boat, please feel free to contact the DEP at 860-424-3474 with the boat registration numbers.

LAND TRUST:

The BLA wants to again thank Mr. Wilson Brownell, Mr. Harold Bailey and Ruth Gruenberg for entering their properties, over 40-plus acres, into the East Haddam Land Trust. These properties cannot be developed, and this is a great stride in preserving the Bashan Lake natural watershed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Bruce Fletcher and Wendy Flynn of the CT DEP will be sponsoring a class for Bashan Lake residents and any other volunteers who wish to become a CT DEP Invasive Investigator Volunteer. This program is to educate the boating public about controlling the spread of invasive species (plants and zebra mussels). This training will be held July 16 at 9:00 to 11:30 AM at the Town Annex Building, East Haddam. Anyone interested, please contact Bruce at 860 229-8321 or bfletcherdmd@snet.net.

DONATIONS:

The Bashan Lake Association would like to thank many BLA members that have donated above and beyond the membership fee. It is greatly appreciated!

Again, the Board of Directors and I want to thank all the BLA members for their donations, and ask you to encourage your friends and neighbors to join the BLA in the future. Bashan Lake, one of the top lakes in Connecticut, is all of our responsibility to keep it that way.

Remember, Bashan Lake is our best-kept secret!

William P. Denya

President