

The Bantam Lake Protective Association

newsletter spring 2021



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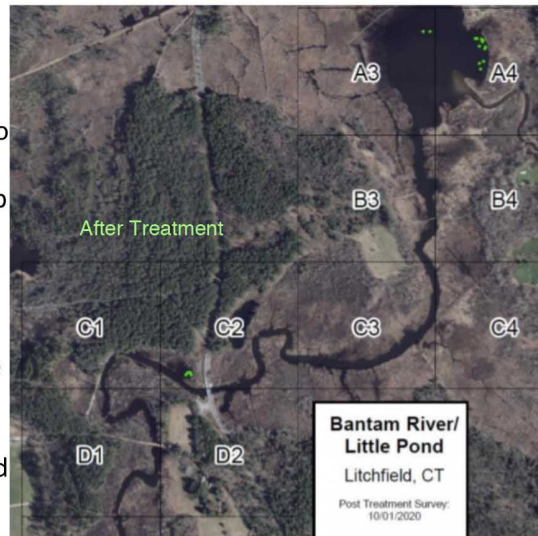
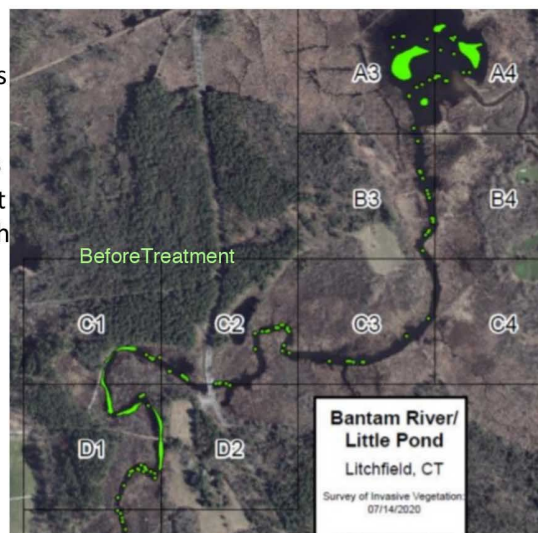
The Bantam Lake Protective Association is a non-profit 501(3)(c) corporation. Our mission is the protection and preservation of Bantam Lake, its watershed and shorelines.



Fanwort in Little Pond

Lake Monitoring Lakes change throughout the year. BLPA contracts Lawrence Marsicano, Aquatic Ecosystem Research Limnologist, to perform biweekly monitoring of Bantam Lake. Larry reports the physical, chemical, and cyanobacteria activity that you can read on the *Bantam Lake Cyanos* website link. James Fischer, White Memorial Conservation Center Research Director, supplements the data collection on alternate weeks. BLPA has amassed a large dataset over many years of monitoring. We shared this long-term database with CT DEEP, who is developing a nutrient loading model and a watershed-based management plan for Bantam Lake expected in the spring 2021. Larry Marsicano has also been contracted to analyze the lake-bottom sediment to explore potential management options that target the nutrients that are mobilized when the anoxic water collects at the bottom of the lake each summer. The results from these studies will help inform future management decisions.

Lake Treatments Controlling invasive plants and cyanobacteria remain a priority for BLPA. When left unchecked, these issues deteriorate water quality, which in turn impacts recreational opportunities. These treatments and surveys are all part of our comprehensive aquatic plant management plan. Years of diligence and hard work following strict scientific guidelines by BLPA has resulted in a maintainable system. In 2020, BLPA acquired the necessary permits and effectively treated the lake for several nuisance plants. The aggressively invasive Fanwort has re-appeared in the White Memorial Little Pond and the Bantam River. The BLPA treated these areas and we believe that we have this prolific invader in check for now. It is extremely important we keep an eye on this plant for further footholds, and we encourage anyone to forward possible sightings to the BLPA. Although there is much work yet to be done, we have been able to keep invasives in check while maintaining the integrity of native and endangered plants which are critical to the natural eco system. BLPA acquired the necessary permits and treated the lake for several nuisance, invasive weeds including Large Leaf Pondweed. Despite our efforts we were unable to secure a permit for Curly Leaf Pondweed from the State of CT DEEP until too late in the season for treatment. We are aware of its spread - particularly in the South bay ,and plan to treat this invasive next season.



Cyanobacteria AKA blue-green-algae AKA a BIG Problem

A little background: Cyanobacteria, also referred to as blue-green algae, are microscopic organisms that are found naturally in all types of water. They are photosynthetic (hence their color) and produce their own food with the help of the sun. They tend to mass produce (or bloom) in water that is warm, stagnant, and rich in nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) from sources such as fertilizer runoff or septic tank overflows. The bacteria feeds on the phosphorus loading at the bottom of the lake then rises to the surface along the temperature gradient of the water. It then releases its by-product which can be a toxic substance at high levels - dangerous to both humans and animals.

We have been monitoring these blooms for several years now and collecting copious amounts of data in order to try to “predict” a bloom. Although nature does not allow this to be an exact science, we have definitely gotten better at approximating an oncoming bloom and attempting to treat the lake just prior to an emergence. The use of Copper Sulfate, an effective anti-algaecide that has been used for over 70 years as a treatment has worked well in the short term but does not mitigate these colonies long term.

We are looking for a more permanent, or at least, long term fix. Several lakes in NY have had success with aeration and the use of enzymatic substances; however, these are yet to be approved by the state of CT DEEP. We are also exploring the use of Alum as a more long term solution. While the cost would be high (possibly exceeding one million dollars), the effects could last 10-20 years.



photo of blue algae on shoreline 9/20

Cyano bacteria monitoring

Check out:
bantamlakecyanos.blogspot.com/
and add it to the home screen of your apple or android device for accurate and current updates of Cyano bacteria counts in the lake in an easy-to-use format.



**Posted
Advisory**



Boat Wakes and Boating Safety - Be careful out there and check your rear view!

We have received many reports of boats operating too close to shore - particularly surf boats that create very large wakes causing damage to property and the shoreline. Please be



cognizant of your wake and consider the effects on our

lake. These oversized wakes damage not only other boats, docks and seawalls but also shoreline habitats for waterfowl and aquatic animals and their nesting areas.

As per CT DEEP Boating Regulations, motorboats operating at high speeds must remain 100 feet from shoreline and docks, (200 ft for jetskis), unless taking off or landing a water-skier. Additionally operators are responsible for damage caused by their wakes. Please see the CT DEEP website for more information.

Please be aware of the wake behind you!

Pontoon Boat

Thanks to a very generous donation from a supporter (who wishes to remain anonymous), we have been able to acquire a

pontoon boat for our use in lake surveys, water sampling and ongoing studies. We are also partnering with several educational institutions to bring aboard future



conservationists, who can assist with lake monitoring while learning lake and environmental scientific practices hands on. We will also be able to invite state and local officials to tour the lake and see, first hand, what we are working on.

Watershed Plan

Bantam Lake Watershed-based Management Plan development is underway and we anticipate a final document in the spring 2021! The plan addresses non-point source nutrient run-off pollution throughout the Bantam Lake Watershed. The lake watershed encompasses 21,000 acres in four towns (Goshen, Litchfield, Morris, & Torrington). The plan is funded by US EPA, who has a contract with an independent consulting firm. CT DEEP is supervising the project, while local stakeholders, including BLPA, White Memorial Foundation, Litchfield Land Trust, Morris Land Trust, Goshen Land Trust, and local municipalities have contributed important information that is being incorporated into the management plan.

amazonsmile

Keep Shopping!

To date, we have received \$130 in proceeds with only 24 of our members participating and supporting the BLPA as their amazon smile charity choice. We hope more of our supporters will sign up. It's quick, easy and free. The BLPA receives donations based on your qualifying purchases at amazon. See our website for a link or go to smile.amazon.com and select us as your charity from the amazon smile drop down menu tab



WHAT CAN YOU DO???



- When planting or replanting a lawn, use a seed mixture with a high percentage of fescue grass. It requires much less fertilizer.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They return nutrients to the lawn. Rake leaves away from the lake. Leaves contain large amounts of nutrients.
- Avoid use of fertilizers. The runoff from this is like a feast for the weeds in the lake. If you must fertilize, use a product with little or no Phosphorus such as 23-0-6, 30-4-4 or 26-4-4. The three numbers on the fertilizer bag are percentages of Nitrogen(N)- Phosphate(P) – Potash(K). Minimizing Phosphate is key as this nutrient enhances rapid root growth. Corn Gluten is a natural fertilizer and herbicide product containing no Phosphate – it also inhibits weeds growth.
- Start a compost pile. Use leaves and weeds from the lake. Compost including lake weeds and algae are an excellent source of nutrients for your garden and landscape plants.
- Be sure there is proper drainage on and near your lot so erosion will not take place. Consider building rain gardens in the path of water runoff to the lake.
- Plant a shoreline buffer of shrubs, bushes and trees. These plants utilize nutrients and act as a filter before groundwater and runoff pass into the lake.
- Septic system owners: Maintain your septic system regularly. The septic tank should be pumped and inspected every one to three years.

- Don't drain any type of sewage into the lake.
- Don't burn anything near the shoreline. Ashes are instant fertilizer which easily washes into the water.
- Don't destroy the soil holding vegetation on the shoreline. These plants prevent erosion.
- Don't feed ducks or geese. Plenty of natural food is available in the lake.
- Don't use cleaning products containing phosphates.
- Don't rake/harvest Milfoil or Fanwort as they can spread by fragmentation.
- Septic System Owners: Don't harm your septic drain field by adding fill, planting deep rooted trees nearby, or driving a vehicle over it.
- Don't use a garbage grinder in your kitchen. Ground-up food contributes to septic system problems and may add nutrients to the lake.



FINANCES:

The Bantam Lake Protective Association is a non-profit organization and its primary purpose is to protect, preserve and treat our lake. The BLPA works closely with the Town of Morris, Town of Litchfield, and the White Memorial Foundation to carry out its mission.

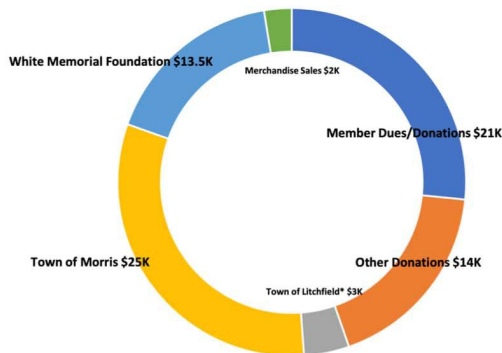
As per the adjacent chart, the Town of Morris has consistently contributed \$25,000 annually to the BLPA. The White Memorial Foundation pledges \$13,500 annually.

This year the Town of Litchfield has resumed contributions and has made an annual pledge of \$10,000. A big shout out to First Selectwoman Denise Raap and the Board of Selectmen of Litchfield for their efforts in resurrecting this much needed funding.

We encourage our members to thank their local representatives for this support and urge them to continue this very important funding.

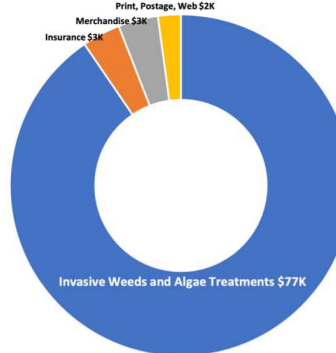
The BLPA fills in the remaining funds with dues, donations and fundraisers. Sadly, our membership numbers are down and the Covid-19 pandemic has forced the cancellations of our two biggest planned fundraisers - the Preakness party and the Beach to Beach 5K. This has left a serious deficit in our income for 2020/21. Even if you can only donate a small amount - your membership is important as we need numbers to make our voices heard.

Income \$79K



BLPA -
Source
and Use
of Funds
YTD
10/31/20

Expenses \$85K



A big **THANK YOU** to all our website sponsors. We appreciate their support and we encourage all our members and visitors to patronize these local businesses

Ace Marine Service * Bantam County Liquors * Bantam Lake Ski Club * Bantam Lake Yacht Club * Berkshire Engineering & Surveying, LLC * Connecticut Water Sports * Evergreen Landscape & Lawn * Fabric Studio * Grela Well Drilling, Inc. * Hopkins Inn on Lake Waramaug * La Cupola Ristorante * Litchfield Catering * Litchfield County Marine * Litchfield County Orthopedic & Spine * Litchfield Distillery * Litchfield Ford * Litchfield Hills Properties * Litchfield Pizza & Restaurant * Love Hearts Bakery * Patty's Restaurant * Regatta Dock Systems * Sportsmen's * The Market CT aka Bantam Market * True Value of Litchfield * Village Wine Cellar * Waters Edge Land & Marine * Westover Lane LLC * West Shore Seafood

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	Lakeside Family Camp Assoc		Wickett	Chester
	Lauretano	Michael & Diane	Wilcox	Patricia
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	Lindsay	Ken & AnnaMarie	Winn	Mark & Michele
	Lipsitz	Randy & Margarite	Wiseman	Junice
	Livingstone	Robie	Wojtczak, Jr.	Joseph
	Lohnau	Frederick	Wray	Pamela
	Longo	Charles	Zajko	Steven
	Longo	Peter & Christine	Zappone	Mark
	Loomis	Lance & Priscilla	Zengel	Keith
			Zguzenski	Peter & Sharon

thank YOU!

The BLPA relies on the generosity of our supporters to help us preserve and protect Bantam Lake. We are an all volunteer board working hard to keep our beloved lake healthy. We greatly appreciate your help and financial support. Donations and membership can be made electronically on our website or with the enclosed envelope.



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Follow us on Instagram

www.bantamlakect.com

BANTAM LAKE SAVE THE LAKE MERCHANDISE 2020



UNISEX T-SHIRT

Sizes: S, M, L, XL

DARK GREY

NAVY

Retail fit
Tear-away label
Side seam
Shoulder taping
4.2 ounce, 100% AirKume combed and ring spun cotton, 32 singles
Auh: 90/10 AirKume combed and ring spun cotton/poly

\$24.



WOMEN'S V-NECK

Sizes: M, L, XL

DARK HEATHER GREY

NAVY

Relaxed fit
Tear-away label
Side seam
Solid Colors: 4.2 ounce, 100% AirKume combed and ring spun cotton, 32 singles
Dark Grey Heather: 5.2/48 AirKume combed and ring spun cotton/poly

\$26.



UNISEX WINDBREAKER

Sizes: S, M, L, XL

NAVY

This Zephyr style merges wind- and water-resisting performance with a silky smooth hand. This unlined piece is easy to wear over base or thermal layers. Modern sleek details offer instant appeal at a very appealing price.

100% polyester
Interior storm flap with chin guard
Elastic binding at cuffs
Left side seam zipper for easy on/off
Open hem with adjustable locking drawcord

\$35.



COTTON KNIT FACEMASK

NAVY

DESIGNS:

#1. Bantam Lake Logo

#2. BLPA

\$8. each

Designed for maximum comfort, the Face Authority® Cotton Knit Face Mask goes beyond standard cotton masks thanks to incorporation of Science's Agree® treatment into the fabric. Science's Agree is a U.S. based global provider of antimicrobial solutions and also can treat most other fabric types.

This three ply, 100% cotton jersey face mask covers the wearer's nose and mouth. Elastic stretch binding ear loops help hold it comfortably in place.

Three ply 100% cotton jersey
Fabric: touching skin: 100% cotton
Mask contains silver and copper

check off your shopping list with our BLPA merchandise. We have hats, shirts, jackets, bags and even masks available - see our website for more details.



UNISEX HOODIE

Sizes: S, M, L, XL

DARK HEATHER GREY

NAVY

8-ounce, 50/50 cotton/poly
Double-needle stitching at waistband and cuffs
Double-lined hood with dyed-to-match drawcord
1x1 rib knit cuffs and waistband with spandex
Front pouch pocket

\$30.



DISTRESSED CAP

NECKL GREY

SCOTLAND BLUE

Fabric: 100% cotton twill
Structure: Unstructured
Profile: Low
Closure: Self fabric; Velcro strap with metal D-ring slider
Adjustable
1 size fits most

\$25.

TOTE BAG



\$25.

This sturdy slip-top tote keeps everything organized for an easier commute.
600-denier polyester canvas body.
600-denier polyester canvas bottom.
Zippered top closure.
Reinforced over-the-shoulder web handles.
Dimensions: 14 1/2" x 13" x 6 1/2".
Approx. 1.185 cubic inches



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