



## Lake Waramaug Task Force, Inc.

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The Lake Waramaug Task Force is a non-profit scientific and educational organization dedicated to maintaining and preserving the ecology and water quality of Lake Waramaug and its watershed.

Dear Friends of Lake Waramaug -

Summer 2019

### DOES ANYONE OWN THE LAKE?

When I am working around the lake, I often get the question, "Does anyone own the lake?" This winter, I attended a CT State Water Plan conference and most of the discussion at the daylong event was centered around the question, "Who owns Connecticut's waters?" The Water Plan, just approved by the State Legislature, came into existence because there was no guidance document that inventories our water resources and describes how Connecticut water is to be used. While Connecticut is blessed with an average of 50 inches of rain per year, there have also been severe drought years. The plan sets up guidelines and strategies for the equitable distribution of water resources, especially during dry periods. It also includes provisions that recommend minimum stream flow standards needed to support healthy aquatic habitats. In short, the plan ensures that there will always be enough water for fish and faucet and Governor Lamont is expected to approve it.

Believe it or not, the answer to the question; "Who owns open water resources" was first documented during the Roman Empire. It was proclaimed by law that nature was to be held in common for all; including air, fresh water and the seas. In the centuries following, this concept became known as the Public Trust Doctrine mandating that certain natural resources be preserved in perpetuity for public use and enjoyment.

The Public Trust Doctrine was promulgated in 1972 by the Connecticut General Assembly, and they declared: *"there is a public trust in the air, water and other natural resources of the state of Connecticut and that each person is entitled to the protection, preservation and enhancement of the same."*

The Public Trust Doctrine empowers residents to protect their resources from degradation. While our state's Public Trust Doctrine can be complicated from a legal perspective, Connecticut has truly embraced the public trust in natural resources by weaving its principles firmly into our laws, regulations and the clean-water-culture I often witness in the communities around the lake. The public has expectations and rights to the life-sustaining benefits provided by common natural resources. Clean water benefits residents and communities well beyond the shores of Connecticut's lakes.

So in the end, no one person owns the lake; the Public Trust Doctrine confirms that we all do. Thank you for helping us preserve and improve the water quality in Lake Waramaug; after all, we all benefit from being good stewards of Connecticut's waters.

**Sean Hayden**

Executive Director, Lake Waramaug Task Force

## LWTF LAUNCHES NEW RESEARCH BOAT!

The LWTF research boat is ready for its first sampling mission! Thank you to all the generous donors who made this possible. Also, thank you to the talented staff at Echo Bay Marina in Brookfield, Connecticut. Their craftsmanship outfitting our boat with propulsion and electronics will certainly keep us up and running for years! Finally, we are very grateful to Bob Garney of Glacier Brook Farm for his support in the construction of our boat and dock.



## GRANT & DONATIONS HELP PURCHASE NEEDED SAMPLING EQUIPMENT

LWTF would like to thank the Khurshed Bhungara Fund, administered by the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, as well as everyone who contributed to our Give Local Campaign for their generous support. These funds will enable us to purchase much needed lake and watershed monitoring equipment. By regularly sampling the lake and surrounding watershed, we will be able to identify the sources of nutrient pollution, the lake's number one water quality threat. We will also be able to capture lake and stream water samples for pollutant concentration analysis. This is necessary to help us better predict and protect the lake from the adverse impacts of stormwater on water quality. Thank you for making all this possible.



## GET TO KNOW YOUR WEEDS: AQUATIC WEED IDENTIFICATION TRAINING



CURLY LEAF PONDWEED

This summer, the LWTF will once again offer our hands-on non-native invasive aquatic weed identification training. To be notified about the Saturday training date or to learn more, follow LWTF on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/LakeWaramaugTaskForce](http://www.facebook.com/LakeWaramaugTaskForce)) or email Sean Hayden at [seanhayden@lakewaramaug.org](mailto:seanhayden@lakewaramaug.org).

## LAKE WARAMAUG CATCH BASIN INVENTORY RECEIVES SUPPORT!

LWTF would like to thank the Connecticut Community Foundation for their generous grant to map the near-lake catch basins and corresponding outfalls around Lake Waramaug. This project will enable us to understand, evaluate and address polluted stormwater runoff entering the lake. We would also like to thank the Environmental Professionals' Organization of Connecticut (EPOC) for their grant, which will enable us to collect and analyze stormwater grab samples from catch basins and outfalls around the lake, and help us identify near-lake pollutant sources. Look out for Task Force staff as they survey and sample catch basins this summer on all the shore roads, sometimes during heavy rain events!



# THE LAKE WARAMAUG TASK FORCE THANKS YOU | THE 2018 LWTF DONORS

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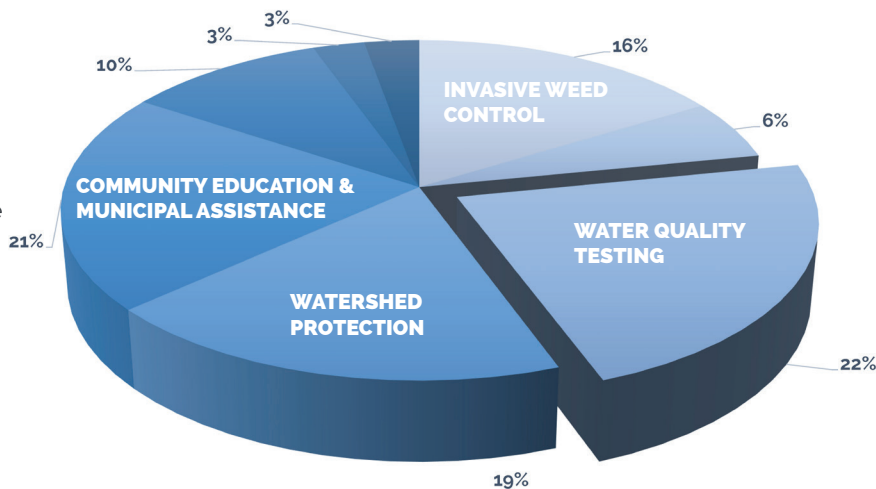

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- Join our mailing list on our website or email us at [info@lakewaramaug.org](mailto:info@lakewaramaug.org)
- Follow us on Facebook (LakeWaramaugTaskForce) or Instagram (lwtaskforce)



This chart shows how LWTF allocates your dollars among our major clean water programs and initiatives. It also demonstrates the relative size of a program as compared to the LWTF's overall budget. All of these initiatives were made possible because of the generous support of donors like you!

- 22% Water Quality Testing
- 21% Community Education & Municipal Assistance
- 19% Watershed Protection
- 16% Invasive Aquatic Plant Control
- 10% Administrative Services
- 6% In-Lake Aeration
- 3% Zooplankton Farm
- 3% Brown Trout Stocking

## CLEAN WATER CORNER

The Town of Warren just approved their 10-year Plan of Conservation and Development (POCAD), which you will soon find on the town's website. The POCAD has many important recommendations to help Warren protect both wetlands and water quality. The most essential is Low Impact Development (LID) regulations. Lake Waramaug Task Force is ready with land use professionals, LID education, training sessions, grant funding and a plan to walk the town through the process of incorporating LID regulations into existing planning and zoning regulations.