



## Lake Waramaug Task Force, Inc.

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*Chair*

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Lee Vance  
Thomas Yamin

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

Dear Friends of the Lake:

Spring 2017

Welcome to another season at Lake Waramaug. It was a busy winter for members of the Lake Waramaug Task Force...and we are looking at an equally busy and critical summer ahead.

First, and foremost, we bid a reluctant adieu to our long-serving and “storied” Executive Director Tom McGowan, whom many of you know as a dedicated champion of and spokesman for the Lake. Tom has retired from “active duty,” but promises to continue to be an advocate for the Lake whenever and wherever he can. Tom was integral to the formation of the Lake Waramaug Task Force in 1975 and has been its Executive Director since 1982. We are sorry to see him go, but understand his desire to “sit back and smell the roses.”

In January, at Tom’s request, we instituted a search for a new Executive Director, and were fortunate enough to find exactly who we need right here in our own backyard! We are pleased to announce that Sean Hayden will assume the position. Sean, a Certified Soil Scientist, has most recently served as the Executive Director of the Northwest Conservation District, where he has spearheaded water quality management and erosion control since 1999.

**We continue work on our Sucker Brook streambank stabilization project, our invasive aquatic weed control program, our Zooplankton Farm and our complimentary Water Quality Planning Assistance Program for landowners planning construction and landscaping projects near the Lake. We reached an historic agreement with the Tanner Farm to end the farm’s dairy operation—and all the lake harmful waste pollution and nutrient runoff that goes with it—and convert into a hay production farm. And, we sponsored and are working with local land use commissions to adopt new and improved guidelines for improving shoreline protection and water quality management.**

Thanks to these efforts, Lake Waramaug remains healthy and swimmable. But this is no time for complacency. Persistent invasive species, development, erosion, a warming climate and toxic runoff present ever increasing challenges. As challenges mount, we must do more. At the same time, what we have always done is costing more too. Expenses in our 3 major programs – In-lake Systems, Invasive Plant Control and Watershed Programs – have increased dramatically. In 2016, these exceeded \$230,000. We project operating expenses to hit \$280,000 in 2017.

**We risk falling behind. In 2015, despite record-breaking donations, our total income fell \$57,000 short of covering expenses. Once again in 2016 donation levels would not have covered expenses, except for a generous donation from Ben Nickoll and Christine Armstrong and the results of increased giving from a fund raising event hosted by Ben and Chrissy at their lake home.**

Please contribute. Allow us to intensify our lake savings programs. If we do not, we risk losing the momentum we need to sustain improved water quality at Waramaug.

Thank you,

Molly Butler Hart  
*Chair, Lake Waramaug Task Force*

## Sean Hayden Joins LWTF as Executive Director

The Board of Lake Waramaug Task Force is thrilled to welcome Sean Hayden as the new LWTF Executive Director. Sean comes to the Task Force with over 30 years of experience in Environmental Conservation, and in depth knowledge of the ecology and history of Lake Waramaug. Prior to joining the Task Force, Sean spent 18 years as Executive Director and Soil Scientist at the Northwest Conservation District (NCD). During his tenure at NCD Sean worked side by side with the 34 towns and residents of Northwest CT – including the Task Force – to conserve natural resources by using sustainable development strategies.



*Sean Hayden, the new Executive Director of the LWTF, enjoying a Connecticut spring day on the shores of Lake Waramaug.*

Because the health of Lake Waramaug depends upon what flows into the Lake, Sean's qualifications are exactly in line with the LWTF's needs. He is an expert in Low Impact Development (LID), and a certified Soil Scientist, Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineator and Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control. He has worked with multiple wetlands and zoning commissions to revise municipal regulations, watershed planning, sediment and erosion control and storm-water quality management plans. In fact, many of you may already have met Sean. He is well versed on the issues facing Lake Waramaug and has been working with the LWTF on our complimentary Water Quality Protection Service for the past year.

Prior to working at NCD, Sean spent 3 years as an Agro-Forester with the Peace Corps in Kenya. One interesting tidbit: Sean is fluent in Swahili! And, he is "home grown." Sean graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BS in Renewable Natural Resource Management & Engineering. He and his wife, Rose Guimaraes, live in Torrington and are avid "outdoors-people."

## Herbicide Plan on Hold

After careful consideration, the Lake Waramaug Task Force Board has decided to put off using herbicides this year as previously proposed and have pulled our State herbicide use permit application. As previously reported we had planned to conduct an herbicide application test on the Sucker Brook delta to evaluate the efficacy of treating the invasive Curlyleaf Pondweed plant. We found the State permitting process extremely slow and because we have to treat this plant in the early Spring we felt we were running out of time. All things considered we decided it best to take more time before we decide on how to proceed with herbicide use for Curlyleaf at Waramaug.

This spring and summer we are again investing more in both tracking this plant's spread and its removal with diver suction harvesting. With this information and the time we have until next spring we feel we can improve and forward the best plan possible for long term control of the Curlyleaf spread in Waramaug. We thank the Lake Waramaug Association and our local Inland Wetland Commissions in Warren, Washington and Kent for their review and comments on our now withdrawn State permit application and reaffirm our commitment to keep you all well informed of any future plan.

## LWA Celebrates 100 Years

We want to wish the Lake Waramaug Association a Happy Birthday. This year marks the Association's 100th year anniversary. Kudos to the LWA's long history of service to the Lake Waramaug Community. With two such similarly named organizations, there can be confusion about the difference between the Lake Waramaug Task Force and the Lake Waramaug Association. Each has a separate and distinct mission. Here is a primer:

*The Lake Waramaug Task Force is a non-profit scientific and educational organization dedicated to restoring and maintaining the ecology and water quality of Lake Waramaug and its watershed. Its mission is: 1) to work with leading lake scientists to research and design the best possible water quality management solutions; 2) operate an extensive in-lake restoration system which restores the natural balance of the Lake's ecosystem by removing or isolating harmful nutrients; 3) improve the Lake habitat for cold water fish and beneficial zooplankton; and 3) control the spread of invasive aquatic species.*

*The Lake Waramaug Association is a non-profit membership organization devoted to protection and preservation of the Lake and its environs as a public recreational area. The LWA is concerned with all matters affecting the ecology of the Lake area, the safe use of the Lake and its surrounding roads for recreational purposes and the development and effective administration and enforcement of the zoning, health, sanitation and other regulations by the towns bordering the Lake.*

**In short, the Task Force's focus is Water Quality of the Lake. The Association's focus is Quality of Life around the Lake.**

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## Keeping abreast of the LWTF's activities is as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Visit our website:  
[www.lwtf.org](http://www.lwtf.org)
2. Join Lake  
Waramaug Task  
Force now on  
Facebook! 
3. Add your email to our  
email alert list. Use enclosed  
response form or email us at  
[info@lwtf.org](mailto:info@lwtf.org)

## A Message from Tom McGowan



After many years of “only in your dreams” work with the Task Force I am retiring. I would like to express my deepest appreciation for everyone who has contributed time, funds and moral support for the mission of the Task Force over the past 43 years. The current and all past members of the Board, the First Selectmen of the three towns on the Lake Waramaug Interlocal Commission, Lake Waramaug Association and Lake Authority. Maintaining good working relationships with these organizations, the town land use boards and local land trusts has been and will continue to be crucial to the success of the Task Force.

Special thanks to our outstanding team of lake science advisors - our long time highly decorated lake research and development guru Dr. Robert Kortmann and his staff at Ecosystems Consulting Services, our invasive plant specialist Dr. George Knoecklein and our plant removal diving team under Matt Vogt. Also to the clerical and bookkeeping staff, especially Lois Pinney, and Hank Vallely who, with his assistance, have since 1999 carefully inspected all motor boats entering the lake for invasive plants.

Waramaug continues to enjoy improving water quality solely due to all the lake saving work we have done every year for so long. This work must continue and it must remain as it has been - ahead of the curve. All the very best to everyone. And here's to the continued health and wellbeing of Lake Waramaug.

