



Spring/Summer 2016 Newsletter

Friends of Lake Warner and the Mill River

- What's happening with the Dam? We received the update below from Kestrel Land Trust.

To Friends of Lake Warner, Town of Hadley, and Abutters,

Lake Warner LLC invited another set of bids for the dam repair from several interested contractors. We have asked for bids for this summer 2016 and next summer 2017 to determine if there is any cost savings. Since we now have approval from the town and state to do a private bidding process, we have more flexibility to negotiate. Bids are due May 31. After we review the qualifications and bids from the contractors, I will let you know.

Meanwhile, Senator Rosenberg and Representative Scibak are working to secure additional funds in the FY17 budget to address the potential funding gap. To date, we have \$275,000 in secured state, town, and private funding.

I appreciate your patience as we go through this second round of bids.

Thank you,

Kristin DeBoer
Executive Director
Kestrel Land Trust

- What's been happening:

The lake clean-up was sparsely attended. Thankfully the trash was also sparse. Several tires were pulled from the lake, as well as an assortment of bottles, cans and garbage. Thanks to those who helped and to those who do clean up whenever they are on or around the lake.



A Friend attended the Massachusetts Congress of Lakes and Ponds annual conference in May. A report is available by request.

The Calendar Game is back with an abundant amount of fabulous local products and activities as prizes, donated by our generous supporters. You may download a calendar from our website friendsoflakewarner.org or pick one up at the North Hadley Sugar Shack, send in your form with payment and PLAY THE GAME!

The first water chestnut plants were found on Lake Warner on May 31st near the middle of the lake. The Great Water Chestnut Hunt of 2016 is on. Come help, there's room in the boat. We ask, however, PLEASE, that you carefully GPS mark the location of any WC you remove from Lake Warner.

Over the last month the FoLW have been hosting two professional participants through the Department of State's [Professional Fellows Program](#) (PFP). This two-way exchange embraces the power of individual citizens to find creative solutions to challenges they face in their home communities. FoLW is one of hundreds of U.S. organizations hosting Professional Fellows from more than 40 countries this spring. At the conclusion of the program, May 31-June 2, all 260+ fellows will gather in Washington, D.C., for the Professional Fellows Congress, a three-day concluding event aimed at preparing fellows to implement follow-up projects upon their return home and to network with other colleagues from around the world.

Both of our fellows are from Montevideo, Uruguay. Laura Fuentes Casulo works on a team that studies the microbiology of the processes involved with energy production from wastewater in Uruguay. Lucia Nuñez is an environmental specialist for the Uruguayan Navy. She investigates soil microbiology in coastal areas, and works with the navy on avoiding maritime disasters.

These talented professionals have been helping us monitor water quality on the lake. They have helped collect nutrient samples from the lake water, sediments and tributaries to the lake. They have worked on a phosphorus model for the Mill River Watershed. We have introduced them to small and large scale water quality projects and explored how environmental issues are handled in Massachusetts. They are developing an action plan for addressing water pollution and invasive species issues in Uruguay when they return home this month.

This has been a rewarding and enriching experience for all of us. We are very thankful for their participation and look forward to ongoing collaboration with them.



- What else have we been doing? Where? When? How? Why?

These goals are addressed in our monthly board meetings. One of our board members came up with this rather eloquent passage that sums up our mission.

“The mission of the Friends of Lake Warner and the Mill River is to preserve the lake for those who come after us. This requires comprehensive scientific measurement, monitoring, characterization and understanding of the environment, adaptive plant, animal and water management and extensive interaction with the local community. It requires active outreach and cooperation with scientific organizations. Supporting a 501c3 organization requires fund raising and applying for appropriate grants. The mission demands dedication and hard work. The reward is a beautiful lake. Thank you for all your help.”

- Our social calendar:

10:00AM, June 4, 2016:	Asparagus Festival.
6:30PM, June 7, 2016:	FoLW Board Meeting.
10AM-2PM, June 11 2016:	Water Chestnut Scouting/Pull
July 1 2016:	Calendar Game begins.
6:30PM, July5 2016:	FoLW Board Meeting.

There will be numerous public outreach and education efforts.

Thank you for your support!



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