

THE FRIENDS OF LAKE WARNER AND THE MILL RIVER

2023 SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Hadley Community Preservation Act Funds for Lake Warner Vote "Yes" at Hadley Town Meeting on May 4th, 2023

The Friends of Lake Warner proposes to engage the services of SWCA Environmental Consultants to oversee the development of the Lake Management Plan. Located in Amherst, SWCA has experience working with other lake associations, such as Friends of Leverett Pond.

We envision working with SWCA in a two-phase process. The first phase, for which we are seeking CPA funds at the May 2023 town meeting, will be undertaken during the summer of 2023. The scope of the project will include:

- Survey of lake users
- Review of historical reports and testing data
- Additional testing of waters and sediments
- Survey of the aquatic plants
- Development of Lake Management Plan
- Presentation of Plan to FOLW Board

Phase 2 of the project, targeted to begin in 2024, will involve the implementation of the Lake Management Plan recommendations including presentation to the Conservation Commission and filing of necessary permits. We envision a secondary application for CPA funds to support Phase 2.

Community Benefits

The Lake Warner Management Plan will benefit the lake, surrounding wetlands and aquatic and wetland dependent species. These benefits will improve both the aesthetic and recreational value of the lake by improving conditions for fishing, boating and wildlife observation. The lake has historical significance in Hadley and maintaining the lake and improving water quality conditions will benefit the entire community.

How you can help

We hope the residents of the Town of Hadley will support our request of CPA funds by voting "Yes" at Town Meeting on May 4, 2023 at 7pm at Hopkins Academy in Hadley.

You can also support Lake Warner by making a donation. We will need an additional \$6,000 in matching funds to complete the project. We also require approximately \$15,000 per year in operating funds which is raised through donations and fund raising efforts.

Last but not least, the Friends of Lake Warner is always seeking volunteers to support our Lake management projects including water chestnut pulls, water testing and user engagement. We also are looking for board members with experience with non-profits.

Thank you for your support!

In This Issue

Hadley CPA Funds	1
New FOLW Website.....	2
Art at Lake Warner	2
Canoe Fund Raiser	2
Images from the Peninsula.....	3
Calendar of Events	3
Poem	3
In Memoriam	4
An Event to Remember	4
Seeking New Board Members....	4
How to Donate.....	4



THE FRIENDS OF LAKE WARNER
P.O. Box 11 Hadley, MA 01035
friendsoflakewarner.org

New FOLW Website

We are very excited to announce the launch of our new website.

www.friendsoflakewarner.org.

Thanks to the talented and hardworking Jennifer Gehly He of Hadley who donated her time to help us with a new website. Jennifer has a website consulting business and we highly recommend her work www.webglowai.com. Ongoing website hosting and maintenance is supported by a generous donation from Kestrel Land Trust.

Art at Lake Warner - Michele Morris-Friedman

We had an unusually mild February this year, masquerading as late March or early April and enticing skunk cabbage and crocus to emerge weeks ahead of schedule. The preternatural warmth evoked conflicting emotions: alarm at the irrefutable evidence of global warming, and at the same time delight in a balmy, sunny day in late winter.

On February 18, I enjoyed a long walk through the “triangle” neighborhood of North Hadley, planning to make a side trip to the Friends of Lake Warner peninsula off of Stockbridge Road. At the peninsula trailhead I was surprised to find a group of artists, ranging in age from 13 to 60+ years, displaying and discussing drawings they had made of the lake and woods. The group’s instructor, Julio Neijens, leads art forays on weekends to easily accessible scenic spots in Hadley and surrounding towns. He emphasizes process and enjoyment, and offers a supportive framework for students to develop their observational skills. When I talked to the group, 13 year old Edward was particularly enthusiastic, crediting the drawing class with helping him get through the pandemic.

Julio Neijns and his students are not the only artists to draw inspiration from the lake. The Amherst Plein Air Society, headed by



Art group at the peninsula. From left to right: Emily Merriman, Julio Neijens, Kate Atkinson and Edward

Susanne Personette, has scheduled a “paint out” at the lake June 6,8 and 9 with rain dates of June 13, 15 and 16. Their 2021 painting session at the lake produced beautiful work (featured in our Fall 2021 newsletter and in our 2021 Virtual Summit on Watershed Management) and was also the talk of the neighborhood, as passerbys interacted with the painters.

It is always a pleasure to meet artists, both budding and experienced, enjoying the simple pleasures that Lake Warner has to offer. If Lake Warner has inspired your photographs, drawings, paintings, pastels or poems, please consider sharing them with the community of people who enjoy the lake by emailing us at friendsoflakewarner@gmail.com.

If you are interested in signing up for an art excursion with Julio, contact him at julioneijens@gmail.com.

And if you would like to join the Amherst Plein Air group, contact them via their Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/people/Amherst-Plein-Air-Society/100064544298058/>



Canoe Fund Raiser

This June 17, the Friends of Lake Warner and the Mill River will once again partner with Adventure East to hold a canoeing fundraiser. Adventure East will provide canoes, paddles and life vests for all participants.

There will be a sliding fee scale for the event, making it financially doable for most. Last year, many people paid above the requested fee, often noting how much they enjoy the lake and how much they appreciate the work of the Friends.

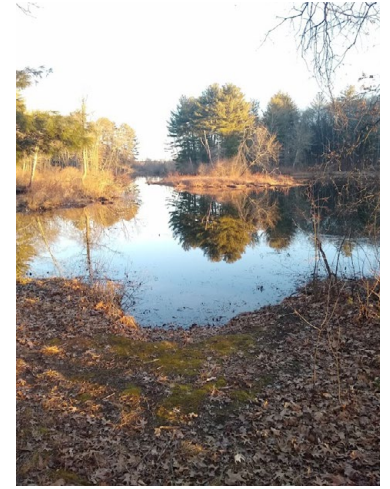
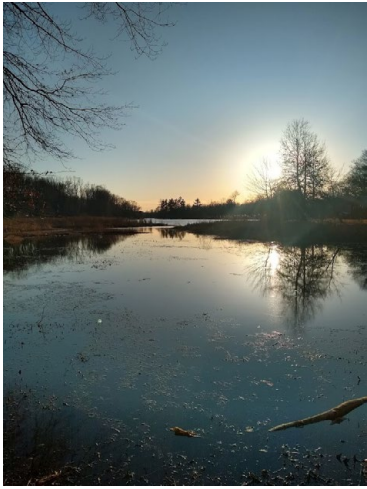
To register for the event go to:

<https://adventureeast.com/details/FOLW-Canoeing>

A Sunday Evening in April



Jay and David enjoy fishing from the bridge



Pictures on a very mild February day at the peninsula. Lots of beaver sign! - Michele Morris-Friedman

A LIGHT EXISTS IN SPRING

By Emily Dickinson

A Light exists in Spring
Not present on the Year
At any other period --
When March is scarcely here

A Color stands abroad
On Solitary Fields
That Science cannot overtake
But Human Nature feels.

It waits upon the Lawn,
It shows the furthest Tree
Upon the furthest Slope you know
It almost speaks to you.

Then as Horizons step
Or Noons report away
Without the Formula of sound
It passes and we stay --

A quality of loss
Affecting our Content
As Trade had suddenly encroached
Upon a Sacrament.

FOLW CALENDAR AND EVENT SCHEDULE

APRIL 27 - Pre-Town Meeting Forum

7:00 p.m. at the Hadley Senior Center and Zoom
The Select Board will be holding a Town Forum to discuss the Articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

MAY 4 - Hadley Annual Town Meeting

7:00 p.m. at Hopkins Academy and Zoom
If you are a resident, please attend and support the CPA article to support water quality improvement in Lake Warner.

MAY 13 - North Hadley Congregational Church

Asparagus Supper

5:00-6:30 p.m.

<https://northhadleycongregationalchurch.org/upcoming-events>

JUNE 3 - Asparagus Festival on the Hadley Common

<https://www.nepm.org/nepm-asparagus-festival>

The Friends of Lake Warner will have a table at the event, which runs from **10:00 a.m.** to **4:00 p.m.**

JUNE 6, 8, and 9 - Amherst Plein Air Society Paint Out at Lake Warner

(Rain dates June 13, 15 and 16)

JUNE 11 - First Water Chestnut Pull

See FOLW website for details. www.friendsoflakewarner.org

JUNE 17 - Canoe Fundraiser

10:00 a.m., 12:00 and 2:00 p.m.

<https://adventureeast.com/details/FOLW-Canoeing>

JUNE 24 - Water Chestnut Pull

JULY 15 - Water Chestnut Pull

AUGUST 5 - Water Chestnut Pull

AUGUST 20 - Water Chestnut Pull

AUGUST 26 and 27 - Additional Water Chestnut Pulls
(if necessary)

In Memoriam

The Friends of Lake Warner is sad to note the passing of long-time board member Peter Vetterstrand on July 21, 2022. He was known in the Stockwell Street neighborhood for his large garden and for hanging Easter eggs from his trees. The Friends appreciated his dry sense of humor and understated wit, and his reliably showing up to help out. We extend our sympathy to his widow Jean, also a long-time board member and Friend of Lake Warner.

FOLW is Seeking New Board Members for 2023

The Friends of Lake Warner and the Mill River, a North Hadley 501c3 not for profit corporation, is currently seeking new board members to help with all aspects of supporting and growing our organization. If you are passionate about local conservation and would like to participate in our mission to improve the local watershed that directly impacts Lake Warner, then please consider applying.

Your time as a volunteer can be spent in any number of ways. We are a very hands-on board and need help with fund raising, grant writing, strategic planning, communications, data management, social media expertise, community outreach and invasive species management.

The Board meets monthly and board members typically serve on one or more committees that meet monthly. There are also weekly activities such as water chestnut pulls, and collaborative projects.

If you are interested, please email Jason Johnson at friendsoflakewarner@gmail.com, or call 413-320-3386 to apply.

An Event to Remember



On November 6, 2022, Karrin Allyson played a benefit concert for the Friends of Lake Warner at the North Hadley Congregational Church. Karrin was joined by ace musicians Ed Howard on bass and Richard Goldstein on guitar. The music and the acoustics were superb, and there was joy all around in being able to gather together for FoLW's first in-person concert since Covid.

Many thanks are due to the musicians; the North Hadley Congregational Church; Ginger Goldsbury, who organized the event; and the many volunteers who helped with tickets, food preparation, set-up and clean-up. Thanks are due also to Big Y Supermarket in Amherst, to Woodstar Cafe and to Carr's Cider House for their generous donations to the refreshment table.

Cleanup Thank You

Thanks to all the people who picked up trash around the lake and throughout Hadley on this year's April 1 Hadley Cleanup Day. This picture is of volunteers Marc and Patty Solomon of North Hadley, who filled many bags from along the banks of the Mill River on North Hadley Road and who also worked at the intersection of Huntington Road and River Road. Every bit of plastic volunteers pick up is one less source of plastic and microplastic pollution that endangers wildlife in the lake, the watershed, the Connecticut River and beyond.



HOW TO DONATE TO FRIENDS OF LAKE WARNER

Mail donations to:
Friends of Lake Warner
P.O. Box 11 Hadley
MA 01035

Donate at our website:
<http://friendsoflakewarner.org/donate/>

Venmo
donations
using this
QR code.



I want to join !

☐ Individual membership - \$25 ☐ Family membership - \$35 ☐ Sustaining membership - \$100

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Lake Warner (FOLW) Checks should be mailed to: Friends of Lake Warner, PO Box 11, Hadley, MA 01035