

THE FRIENDS OF LAKE WARNER AND THE MILL RIVER

2023 FALL NEWSLETTER

Preserving the Beauty: Lake Warner's Matching Challenge for a Sustainable Future

Dear Friends of Lake Warner:

As the vibrant hues of autumn start to paint our surroundings, we're thrilled to announce a pivotal moment for Lake Warner in Hadley. Thanks to the generosity of Eileen and Robin Wood from Amherst we have an exciting opportunity to take our efforts to the next level.

A Matching Challenge for Lake Warner's Future

We are embarking on a fall fundraising campaign with a clear goal in mind: raising \$10,000. What makes this campaign even more special is that every dollar you contribute will be matched by Eileen and Robin, dollar for dollar. This means that your support will have twice the impact!

Investing in the Future of Lake Warner

The funds we raise during this campaign will be dedicated to financing our comprehensive Lake Management Plan. The plan is already under way and is funded in part by a Community Preservation Act grant. This plan will play a crucial role in shaping the future of Lake Warner by helping us make informed decisions on how to reduce vegetation, combat algae growth, and address eutrophication—a process that impacts water quality.

Why Your Support Matters

Lake Warner is not just a body of water; it's a cherished community asset that provides recreation, beauty, and ecological value to our area. By supporting this campaign, you're not only investing in the lake's health but also in the well-being of our community.

Get Involved

Stay tuned for updates in our upcoming newsletters as we launch the campaign and share more about our vision for Lake Warner's future. Your involvement, whether through donations, spreading the word, or volunteering, is invaluable.

Together, we can preserve the beauty and vitality of Lake Warner for generations to come. Thank you for your support.

With much appreciation,

The Friends of Lake Warner Board of Directors

Tom Harris, Michele Morris-Friedman and Brian Pearson

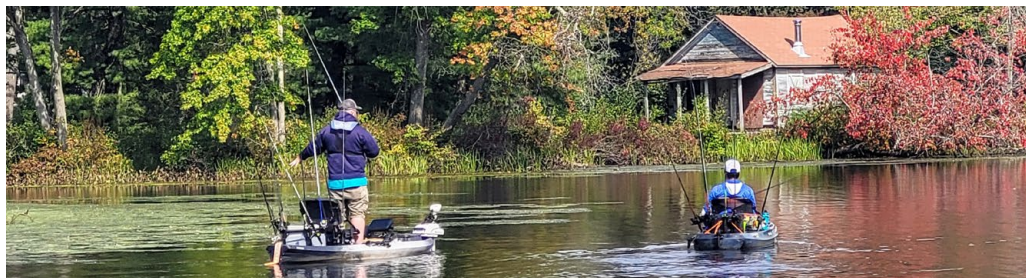


Photo: Professional Bass Anglers on Lake Warner

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UPCOMING EVENT

SUNDAY, OCT 8

**Lake Warner Community Gathering:
Canoeing, Conversation, & Cookout**

Canoeing: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Lake Warner Boat Ramp

Cookout: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

North Congregational Church

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



Lake Warner Community Gathering: Canoeing, Conversation, and Cookout - Sunday, October 8

We're excited to invite you to a special gathering on October 8, as Friends of Lake Warner hosts a canoeing outreach paddle and cookout. (This is the rain date for the previously scheduled event on September 10.) This event is dedicated to our current and potential members, volunteers, and board members, and it's an excellent opportunity for us to connect with our community and hear your thoughts about the lake.

During our time together, we'll also provide updates on our ongoing work, including the development of a comprehensive lake management plan and our endeavors to strengthen the Friends of Lake Warner organization.

Here's what you can look forward to:

Canoeing Excursion:

- Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Location: Meet at the boat ramp
- Equipment: Adventure East will provide boats, or feel free to bring your own.
- Details: Join us for a leisurely paddle on the lake. It's a perfect opportunity to explore the beauty of Lake Warner while mingling with fellow lake enthusiasts.

Community Cookout:

- Time: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Location: North Hadley Congregational Church Backyard
- Food: Friends of Lake Warner will provide a delicious spread, but you're welcome to bring potluck additions.
- Highlights: Enjoy a relaxed cookout in a scenic setting. It's a chance to share a meal, exchange stories, and discuss our shared vision for Lake Warner's future.

We're looking forward to spending this enjoyable day with you, fostering community connections, and engaging in meaningful conversations about our beloved lake. Your presence and insights are invaluable as we work together to preserve and enhance the beauty and vitality of Lake Warner.

See you on October 8! Please RSVP to friendsoflakewarner@gmail.com so that we can be sure to have enough boats and food for all.



Progress Update: Lake Warner's Management Plan in Action

Following the green light from the May Town Meeting to allocate CPA funds, Friends of Lake Warner has eagerly embarked on the journey to craft a comprehensive Lake Management Plan.

Under our contract with SWCA Environmental Consultants, we're excited to share that the project is well underway and is anticipated to reach completion by year's end.

In our concerted efforts to provide SWCA with the essential historical context and data for Lake Warner, Jason Johnson has played a pivotal role. He has collaborated closely with SWCA, furnishing them with invaluable historical records and reports, which will significantly aid in shaping their assessment and testing strategies.

SWCA, armed with their expertise, has wasted no time in rolling up their sleeves for on-site investigations at Lake Warner. Their dedicated efforts spanned two days for an in-depth aquatic vegetation survey, followed by another full day dedicated to meticulous water quality and sediment testing.

Abuzz With Activity

Lake Warner has been abuzz with human (and non-human) activity since we sent out our spring newsletter. Heavy rainfall in the spring and summer made the Connecticut River dangerous to navigate, so Lake Warner had even more people paddling, boating and fishing than usual.

The Amherst Plein Air Society held a "paint-out" the week of July 1. They had planned to paint earlier in the season but frequent rain and storms forced them to postpone.

The Friends of Lake Warner held its second annual Canoe Fundraiser on July 8, after rain prevented it being held on June 17. With better weather, it was a great success and we had some newcomers who went on to volunteer for our water chestnut pulls.

We held water chestnut pulls on June 25, July 15, August 5, August 20 and August 26, and also had a couple of people pull unofficially through the season whenever they paddled. We filled several pickup truck loads full of harvested water chestnuts over the course of the summer. There is always more to do on this front and we hope that

the weather cooperates next summer. (We had to cancel two planned pulls due to thunderstorms and rain.)

Adventure East also brought canoers and kayakers to Lake Warner, including groups from Kestrel Land Trust, Big Brother Big Sister of Hampshire County, Amherst College Outing Club and Adoption Journeys.



Many Thanks

Thanks are due to the volunteers and organizations who helped the Friends this past year. We could not do what we do without you.

Website hosting and maintenance is supported by a generous donation from Kestrel Land Trust. Kestrel's donation also allowed us to participate in the Asparagus Festival. We very much appreciate their guidance in all matters non-profit and their support in publicizing our events.

Jennifer Heuer has done an ace job designing and maintaining our website. We thank her for bringing us into the 21st century!

The Connecticut River Conservancy has put us on their water chestnut pulling schedule and has also assisted with water quality testing.

Jason Johnson, Gail Garrabrants, Brian Pearson, Tom Harris and Ginger Goldsbury have all helped with paperwork and record-keeping. Tom Harris and James Sector deserve kudos for repairs to the jon boat, which was damaged by the heavy rain.

Thanks as always to the North Hadley Congregational Church, who rents space to us and who has been a stalwart backer of FoLW from the beginning.

A hearty thanks to Adventure East for providing boats for our water chestnut pulls and for our canoe fundraiser. Adventure East staff also provided guidance to new paddlers.

Special thanks to the volunteers who have helped on weed pulls: Tom Harris, Gail Garrabrants, Brian Pearson, Kevin Skelly, Matt Foley, Steven Weinseir and family, Jennifer Heuer and family. (If we forgot to mention your name, let us know.) And thank you to our calm canine mascots, Oreo and Ben, for your calm presence.



MERRY AUTUMN

BY PAUL LAWRENCE DUNBAR, 1872 – 1906

It's all a farce,—these tales they tell
About the breezes sighing,
And moans astir o'er field and dell,
Because the year is dying.

Such principles are most absurd,—
I care not who first taught 'em;
There's nothing known to beast or bird
To make a solemn autumn.

In solemn times, when grief holds sway
With countenance distressing,
You'll note the more of black and gray
Will then be used in dressing.

Now purple tints are all around;
The sky is blue and mellow;
And e'en the grasses turn the ground
From modest green to yellow.

The seed burrs all with laughter crack
On featherweed and jimson;
And leaves that should be dressed in black
Are all decked out in crimson.

A butterfly goes winging by;
A singing bird comes after;
And Nature, all from earth to sky,
Is bubbling o'er with laughter.

The ripples wimple on the rills,
Like sparkling little lasses;
The sunlight runs along the hills,
And laughs among the grasses.

The earth is just so full of fun
It really can't contain it;
And streams of mirth so freely run
The heavens seem to rain it.

Don't talk to me of solemn days
In autumn's time of splendor,
Because the sun shows fewer rays,
And these grow slant and slender.

Why, it's the climax of the year,—
The highest time of living!—
Till naturally its bursting cheer
Just melts into thanksgiving.

Plein Air Painters

Eight Amherst Plein Air Society artists enjoyed a lovely morning on June 30 painting Lake Warner. A beautiful foggy scene at 9 a.m. slowly became a perfect sunny early summer morning. The changing conditions presented a challenge to the plein air artists since one painting can't be both foggy AND sunny. Below, the two photos of the lake taken from the bridge show how much the scene changed during the morning.

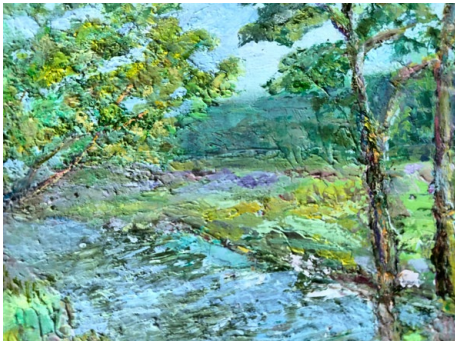
Photo right: Susanne Personette and Simone Alter-Mûri painting on the bridge
Photo first column top: Morning light, bottom: Afternoon light



Painting by Candace Langford



Kathleen Lowry




Simone Alter-Mûri

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:
<https://friendsoflakewarner.org/give>

Venmo
donations
using this
QR code.





Please Join The Friends of Lake Warner and The Mill River. We Need You!

We are a non-profit, citizen community organization. • Members receive a bi-annual newsletter. • Members are invited to participate in our activities, workdays and social events. • Your tax-deductible dues support our efforts to preserve, clean and maintain our lake. • Your dues also support the printing cost of our brochures and newsletters.

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