

Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring

Committee Newsletter — Summer 2020

Alert!!! New Invasive Aquatic Plant Found In Coventry Lake

On Monday June 15, 2020, North East Aquatic Research reported finding 2 water chestnut plants growing in Coventry Lake off Standish Rd. about 450 feet south of Waterfront Heights' beach. The plants were removed. Water chestnut can be as invasive as hydrilla by crowding out other native plants, decreasing dissolved oxygen that fish and other aquatic life need to survive while creating mats that impede swimming and boating.

The plants are easily identified by their rosettes. The plants can be removed by hand pulling. The plant is an annual and grows from seeds. If pulled in July BEFORE it flowers then no seeds are produced. One seed can produce 15 rosettes which then can produce 300 seeds. No seeds means no new plants.

PLEASE: check your waterfront. If you see it: **Pull it! Bag It! Photograph it! Throw it out!** Do your part and help remove this newest aquatic species. Write coventrylakeadvisor@coventryct.org with date, location, number of plants and photo.



(Water Chestnut)

Personal Watercraft **On Coventry Lake**

There has been an uptick in personal watercraft on Coventry Lake recently with reports of restriction violations. Residents have reported PWC towing skiers without a spotter, driving within 200 ft of shore at speeds beyond the No Wake Zone minimum of 6 MPH and towing more riders than the PWC capacity allows. If you feel that these actions are a concern please call Coventry Police at 742-7331.

Hydrilla 2020 Update: The Treatment is WORKING!!

Benthic barriers were removed in June from all three locations on the lake. Pre-survey will be done in early July with the same treatment protocol as in 2018 & 2019: 3 treatments over 90 days with systemic herbicide SONAR ONE. When the treatments have started refrain from watering newly planted seeds and plants plus tomatoes, peppers and tobacco. The lake will be closed to swimming for one day. Dates to be determined. Alerts will be sent out and posted. 2019 final hydrilla report stated there was only **ONE location found!** Location was on the south side of the Woodland Rd. cove. The treatment is working!

How to Keep Your Property Pest Free Organically

Utilize an organic pest control that utilizes Cedar Oil. Brands like Tick Killz and Wondercide are available to control mosquitos, ticks, fleas and other nuisance insects. They are safe for beneficial bugs like bees & butterflies - Remove leaf litter - Clear tall grass and brush around home and edges of the lawn - Create a 3' wide barrier of wood chips/gravel around perimeter - Mow the lawn frequently - Stack wood neatly and in a dry area (discourages rodents) - Keep playgrounds, decks and patios away from yard edges and trees - Construct fences to discourage animals (deer, raccoons) - Remove old furniture and trash from yard where ticks can hide

TIPS FOR WAKE BOAT ETTIQUETTE

Wake boats are on the rise on Coventry Lake and so are the jumbo waves they generate. Common courtesy for other boaters and shoreline property owners can allow all to enjoy lake activities with minimum conflicts and/ or lake front damage.

- Keep a distance of 150 feet from structures and shore line which is a Coventry Lake regulation.
 - Minimize repetitive passes.
 - Drive in counter-clock-wise while pulling a skier is a Coventry Lake regulation.
 - Avoid close passes to other boats and don't follow another boat too closely.
 - Don't impede traffic; avoid busy areas.
 - Look before you turn; refrain from tricks when near other boaters.
 - Early morning times usually have less traffic.
 - Keep music at a responsible level.
- Have fun, but be respectful towards others.

Thank you.

Coventry Lake Advisory and Monitoring Committee Members : Charlie Brown, Suzanne Choate, Laurie Felix, Scott Gallo, Carly Imhoff, Bill Piotroski and Chairperson Debby Zeppa

Email us at: coventrylakeadvisor@coventryct.org

Green Algae Bloom in June on Coventry Lake

The first week in June brought about an expansive algae bloom. Dr Robert Kortmann, from Ecosystem Consulting, visited the lake and identified the algae bloom as a green NON-TOXIC filamentous algae. The bloom had a high level of diversity with a number of different species. This was not a cyanobacteria algae bloom which can be toxic in high levels of concentration. The algae was not brought in by boats or wildlife as aquatic plants are. It grows naturally on the bottom of the lake then becomes buoyant and floats up as the water warms. Some conditions that contributed to the bloom were a mild fall, winter and spring and only a brief ice covering during the winter. These conditions allowed more light earlier and the significant bloom occurred. Light penetration measured by a Secchi disk was 2 meters in May and 5 meters in June. A substantial increase. Less nutrients entering the lake help reduce the possibility of a bloom. Landscape your frontage with shrubs, not grass. Use environmental friendly fertilizers or do not fertilize. Add a water garden. Patios and walkways should be permeable materials such as mulch, pea stone, or pavers laid permeable so there is no run-off into the lake. Soaps used to clean boats or outdoor furniture can also contribute to additional nutrients entering the watershed. Wash away from the lake and be sure the run-off is filtered before it enters the lake.

The New Coventry Lake Police Boat

Have you seen the new Police Boat? It is a SeaArk® hard-bottom inflatable boat. Town Manager John Elsesser and Police Chief Mark Palmer found an amazing deal of the retired State DEEP SeaArk® vessel -- \$50! With just a few thousand dollars of repairs by Jerry's Marine Center the boat is now worth far more; a brand-new boat of this type would cost more than \$100,000. The sale/auction of the old boat will likely lead to an overall debit for the Town.

The new boat will be of great service to our community. It will aid in pulling alongside other boats and watercraft with the inflatable sides. Compared to the old boat, the SeaArk® has an upgraded motor (4-stroke) which is more efficient and environmentally friendly. It also has upgraded lighting.

Special Constable, John Dittrich, is Coventry's Marine Patrol Officer. His mission on the water is safety. He is especially tough on safety items that can lead to injury or death. Please be aware of the following:

Keep safe separation distances between vessels

Have the proper safety equipment on board

Operate on the water with safety in mind

Life jackets are required to be worn for water sports and jet skis

Life jackets are required to be on board for kayaks and paddle boards; children under age 13 must wear them year round. Between Oct 1 and May 31 life jackets are mandatory for everyone.

Always feel free to contact Officer Dittrich with questions or concerns at JDittrich@coventryct.org. Report unsafe boating to the police department (860-742-7331) and provide vessel registration if possible.



Help **STOP** the spread of Water Chestnut!

Kayaking in a Pandemic

Carly Imhoff

During this time of Covid-19, many Coventry residents have turned to kayaking as a pleasant diversion. The average kayak is 10 feet long. So, when you talk to fellow kayakers on the lake, it is easy to maintain social distance. Dory Moore, a Coventry resident, enjoys kayaking because she can meet up with friends safely. According to Dory, "Working at home means that I spend a lot of time in front of my computer. It is so nice to take a break by kayaking on the lake and I can catch up with my friends and neighbors while kayaking." Access to lake recreation is one of the many reasons Coventry appeals to new residents. According to Danielle Boulanger, "As a new Coventry resident, I am so glad I bought a house near the lake. Spending time on the lake has helped me to stay balanced while social distancing. I plan to do a lot of kayaking this summer." But it is not just Coventry residents who enjoy kayaking while social distancing. According to Kate Craven of Vernon, "As a new mom, kayaking on the lake provides me with a safe and enjoyable way to relax. It is wonderful to be able to get out of the house, enjoy the fresh air, and go exploring. It is like a mini vacation close to home!" So, if you are looking for an enjoyable way to unwind on the lake this summer-- give kayaking a try!

