



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH CHANDLER

Lake Waramaug Task Force, Inc.

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

Dear Friends of Lake Waramaug -

Spring 2020

Our natural surroundings assume such an important place in our lives at times like these, reminding us that there is actually order in this newly chaotic and unpredictable world. Prime among them is the Lake; our beautiful Lake Waramaug. We swim in it, boat on it, walk, run and cycle around it and just take it in from afar. It's always there, permanent through all its moods; a sanctuary in difficult times.

Early data would say the Lake made it through the winter healthy and ready for the summer. But this winter was unprecedented; there was little ice cover and in general the temperature of both air and water were way above average. Now the unusually cold and dreary spring adds further uncertainty. It's hard to tell where these events may take us.

Whatever the conditions, you may rest assured that we at the Task Force will do everything in our power to get on the water to monitor the conditions and react to what we find. How? By testing, testing, testing; then by adjusting the times that our aerators and diffusers are on, by changing the amounts and timing of the release of zooplankton from our facility on Arrow Point, and by optimizing the schedules of our biologists and divers to capture and remove invasive plants from the Lake. In the past we have enjoyed inviting interested folks to join us on our monitoring excursions; this year social distancing precautions will probably limit participation in these tours, a fact that we truly regret.

Regrettable too, is the idea that we will almost certainly have to cancel our fund-raising events. While we know that there are many worthy organizations vying for your attention and contributions at this time, we also are in serious need of your generosity. There is so much work to be done and if we take our foot off the pedal now we risk beginning to revert to earlier unpleasant conditions.

Please keep us in your thoughts as you plan your charitable giving, so that we can continue our work. Our sanctuary depends upon it.

Peary Stafford
Chair, Lake Waramaug Task Force

WHAT LURKS BENEATH?

Why is it important for the Task Force to constantly test, sample and measure the Lake and surrounding streams? Collecting local, accurate, environmental data is key to making informed decisions on the most effective methods and practices that improve Lake water quality. More importantly, our regular Lake and stream water testing allows the Task Force to identify potential issues before they become problems, enabling us to spend your generous donation dollars on the most effective water quality-improving programs.



Our new research boat has been outfitted with banners and decals so you can spot us when we are sampling Lake water. One of the primary reasons we chose to build a pontoon boat was so that we could bring folks out to learn more about all that we do to support Lake health. Unfortunately, we will need to maintain social distancing this summer due to COVID-19. We are building a digital Lake Sampling Dashboard that you can access through our website.

The dashboard will include:

- Surface water and bottom water temperature
- Water transparency (Secchi depth)
- Dissolved oxygen at the surface and at the bottom
- Aerator operating capacity
- Weekly estimate of zooplankton reared and released
- Lake discharge measured by East Aspetuck stream flow
- Bacteria sample concentrations at swimming beaches

We will try to update these sampling parameters on our Dashboard every time they are tested. While current events may impact some of our outreach and

education projects, please know that the Task Force will continue to do everything possible to keep Lake Waramaug clean, clear and swimmable.

LOST LWTF HEROES

This past year, we lost three Lake Waramaug Heroes:

- Richard Loughney,
- Maria Allen, and
- Harold "Bud" Pennington.

In the early years of the Task Force, they all worked tirelessly to improve the Lake water quality and laid the foundation that brought us to the record-level clarity we enjoy today.



Thanks to their efforts and steadfast belief that the Lake is a precious resource that needs our constant vigilance, Lake water quality continues to improve. While the Lake community will miss them, the Task Force will continue to honor their memory by serving as stewards and guardians of our beloved Waramaug.

KEEPING IN TOUCH AT A DISTANCE

The Task Force really wants to keep in touch with the community that enjoys the Lake and helps us keep it clean, clear and swimmable.

Covid-19 has altered our ability to deliver in-person Lake science education and outreach programs. Right now, the best way for us to stay connected is electronically. If you would like to join the LWTF email list, please include your email address on the enclosed envelope or go to our website at www.lakewaramaug.org and submit your name and email address at the bottom of any page.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Get news and other information about our efforts to preserve one of the most beautiful lakes in the world.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First Name	Last Name	Email Address

We respect your privacy.

THE LAKE WARAMAUG TASK FORCE THANKS YOU | THE 2019 LWTF DONORS

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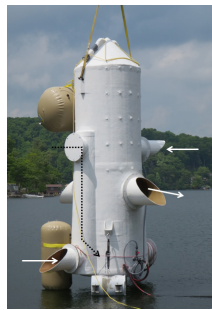
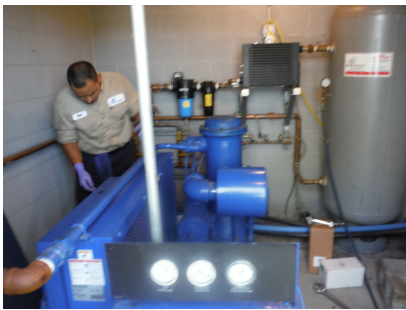
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**PREPARING
THE AERATION
SYSTEM FOR A
NEW SEASON OF
WATER QUALITY
PROTECTION**

CLEAN WATER CORNER

Soon we will be switching on the in-lake aeration system that the Lake Waramaug Task Force installed at four locations throughout the deepest sections of the Lake. The four school bus-sized aerators act as the Lake's lungs during the warm water season, improving water quality and minimizing the chances of cyanobacteria blooms.

We have two industrial-size air compressors that power our four in-lake aerators, one is located at the Washington Boat Launch and the other at our Arrow Point property. Both compressors were refurbished this spring and are ready for at least 4000 hours of continuous operation this summer. The aeration system will be switched on when the lake temperature reaches 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Based on the cold and rainy spring we had this year, we predict that a 65 degree lake water temperature will be reached in early June. Watch for those mysterious bubbles!