

The Gunn Historical Museum has been organizing and hosting a Zoom guest lecture series on topics that expand on the themes exhibited in the Museum's permanent collection. The Task Force is pleased to participate in this unique educational program.



THE LAKE WARAMAUG TASK FORCE PRESENTS

A PAIR OF LECTURES ON THE HISTORY OF LAKE WARAMAUG

CHRIS ADAMS

VIRTUAL LECTURE: **Lake Waramaug and the Generations of People Who Made It Their Own**

Monday, April 18th 2022 | 6:30pm

Lake Waramaug, Connecticut's second largest natural lake and a centerpiece of the Litchfield County landscape, enchants everyone who visits her shores. This lecture will focus on the people who have shaped our ever-changing lake culture. Nomadic people followed migratory animals to our waters and woodland tribes made their permanent residence here. The Weantinoge, whose leader or sachem was Chief Waramaug, used the lake as their summer hunting and fishing grounds.

When Colonial settlers discovered iron ore on the lake's west shore, a true working community arose, complete with an industrial townscape and abutting lakeside farms. William Hopkins became the first to welcome guests to his boarding house in 1847. With the arrival of the railroad at the turn of the century, as many as a dozen inns hung their shingles on Waramaug, creating a resort-like atmosphere. Join Chris as she explores each generation's engagement with the lake, and the unique sense of belonging felt by all who know and love Lake Waramaug.

SEAN HAYDEN

VIRTUAL LECTURE: **How the Lake Waramaug Task Force Brought the Lake Back from the Brink**

Monday, May 16th 2022 | 6:30pm

Lake Waramaug first started to exhibit signs of real distress in the 1950s. By the mid 1970s, the lake's eutrophication (the gradual decay and death of a lake) was rapidly accelerating. Uncontrolled run-off from farms, septic systems, lawns, houses and roads in the lake's watershed made phosphorus levels soar (many times the healthy level of 0.02mg/liter) creating hazardous water quality conditions. Recreational activities on the lake had to be curtailed because of persistent toxic algae blooms, which endangered both humans and animals. Real estate values fell and the future of the lake was in serious jeopardy.

In 1975, a group of concerned lake residents responded to this critical situation by forming the Lake Waramaug Task Force. These determined volunteers raised substantial funds from federal, state and private sources to support cutting-edge scientific research. Several innovative systems were developed, including the first layer aeration system, which was installed in 1989. The positive impact was immediate. The Task Force has developed and implemented many water quality projects over the past four decades. Mr. Hayden will present a photo-rich tour of all the Task Force does for Lake Waramaug, work that has been nothing short of spectacular, as evidenced by the lake's recovery.