



Volume 1, Issue 1- Spring 2015

Moodus Reservoir News Spring 2015

Welcome to the Moodus Reservoir Spring Newsletter

MRPG Annual Spring Meeting on

June 25, 2015

We will hold our annual spring meeting at the Sportsmen's Club, 299 East Haddam/Colchester Turnpike on Thursday Evening June 25, 2015 at 7pm. Please make plans to attend as we have a lot to discuss.

In addition to Officer and Committee reports, our Agenda includes a discussion of the following:

1. Status of Grant Applications
2. Pilot Herbicide Application to a test area of the Reservoir
3. Update on Municipal Storm Water Legislation
4. Other Impacts to Lake Health
5. Election of Officers and Board Members
6. Membership Dues

Grant Status

Now that we are classified as a 501(c)3 charitable organization we have been busy applying for grants from several state, municipal and philanthropic organizations, and have been very fortunate to receive funding from several sources this past winter and spring. All of the money is earmarked for a pilot study of herbicide treatment of invasive weeds in the Lake (see article below). Our thanks go to the Town of East Haddam, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Environmental Professionals' Organization of Connecticut for the support necessary to conduct the pilot study. Total grant money received to date is \$15,000.

Help US Continue Our Progress

Membership dues are only \$25 per year, due by the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2015, and payable in cash or by check to "MRPG" at 76 Falls Bashan Road, Moodus, CT 06469, or to any one of our board members or officers. And remember, all contributions are tax deductible. Also, when speaking with your neighbors please mention the good work that the Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group is doing to improve the quality of this key recreational resource in East Haddam and invite them to become members.



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Election of MRPG Officers and Board of Directors

All current Officers and two Board Members will have concluded their terms of office as of June 30 and elections must be held for new candidates. The Board of Directors recommends that the current officers be re-elected for another one year term and that two current Board Members be re-elected to three year terms per the MRPG By-Laws. **(Only dues paying members may vote or run for office)**

Officers up for Re-Election

Jeff King	President
Bob Falletti	Vice President
Tim Varriale	Treasurer
Barbi Batchelder	Secretary

Board Members up for Re-Election

Al Howat
Gary Christopher



Testing the Effectiveness of Herbicides on Invasive Weeds – Pilot Study Scheduled for Late June, 2015

A 2013 analysis by environmental scientists of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) determined that there was significant growth of invasive weeds in the upper and lower basins of Moodus Reservoir. After near unanimous approval at our last general meeting in late 2014, it was agreed that the invasive weed situation had become a problem for boaters, swimmers and other recreational users of the lake. Recognizing that a full lake treatment program would be both costly and take multiple years to enact; we began a campaign to raise funds to do a pilot test application of EPA and DEEP approved herbicides on a small 25 acre area of the reservoir to test their effectiveness in eradicating Variable Milfoil and Fanwort, two invasive plants which now cover 80% of our lake bottom.

The Board of Directors interviewed several environmental companies and determined that Aquatic Control Technology (ACT), a licensed lake management specialist from Sutton, MA with contracts to manage over 150 lakes and ponds in Connecticut, provided the most effective solution for this pilot study. Their proposal recommended the application of EPA and DEEP approved herbicides Clipper and Reward, shown to be safe and effective in lakes throughout the U.S. To gauge the effectiveness of the application we have also contracted with Dr. George Knoecklein, a respected limnologist from Northeast Aquatic Research to do a pre and post analysis and report on the effectiveness of the treatment. We expect a one day application of the herbicides in late June with follow-up analysis and a detailed report by Dr. Knoecklein as to the herbicide's effectiveness in late fall.

We have been assured by DEEP and ACT that the application will have no adverse effect on swimming and boating activities and that there will be no negative impact on fish or other wildlife. All public access points to the lake will be posted with a notice of the application date.

Impact of Unmanaged Storm Drainage into Lakes and Streams

Mr. Oswald Inglese, CT DEEP Director of Water Permitting and Enforcement, spoke at the annual Connecticut Federation of Lakes meeting in April to discuss revised permitting guidelines that would require smaller municipalities such as East Haddam to do a better job in managing and improving storm water discharges into Connecticut lakes and streams. Storm water discharges are regulated under the Federal Clean Water Act directed by the US EPA. In Connecticut DEEP administers the regulations known as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) under authorization from the EPA.

Until recently the focus of these regulations has been on larger urban areas or highly industrialized areas and covered 130 of CT's 169 towns. DEEP is now requiring that these regulations be expanded to smaller municipalities such as East Haddam because of the significant negative impact on elevated levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and bacterial pollution that has been measured in lakes and streams in the larger urban areas. This expansion will require that towns register under a general permit and take actions to include a focus on public information about storm water, performance of regular storm drain measurements to look for storm water discharges that contain contaminants, performance of regular storm water system maintenance and cleanout, and regulation of new construction to minimize negative impacts to our lakes and streams. These new regulations have created a lot of debate in the smaller towns that will now be included in the permitting process, primarily because of the additional burden they will place on local administrations in areas such as compliance reporting, water quality monitoring, catch basin clean outs, and greater maintenance of storm water outflows.

Being lake users and residents we clearly understand the importance of cleaning up storm water drainage into East Haddam's lakes. We also must recognize that there will be incremental costs associated with implementing these regulations that will likely have an impact on the town's budget and ultimately on tax payers. However we need to be diligent and stay on top of storm water issues to prevent us from being classified as an "impaired lake" by the EPA and DEEP because of high concentrations of phosphorus, nitrogen, bacterial pollution or other contaminants. According to DEEP, Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton is now classified as an impaired lake.

Speaking of Things that can Pollute our Lake

A reminder...fertilizers applied to shrubs or lawns adjacent to the lake can have the same negative impact on water quality as storm water runoff. There are other alternatives to fertilizer such as mowing lawns at a higher level and not raking grass clippings but rather allowing them to remain on the lawn to provide natural food source to the grass root system. If you have a need to fertilize your lawn adjacent to the lake however, please use more lake friendly organic fertilizers. Look for the EPA rating of EQ (Exceptional Quality) on bags of organic fertilizer. All other ratings are not environmentally safe for lakeside use. A key ingredient in fertilizers is phosphorus which plants need to grow strong root systems. However, excessive amounts of phosphorus leached into lakes either directly or through storm drains can cause algae and aquatic weeds to grow very rapidly.

According to documentation published by the manufacturer of Milorganite (www.milorganite.com), an organic fertilizer available in many big box stores and nurseries, its form of phosphorus is slow release, more readily binds to plant root systems and is less likely to leach into waterways. So, organic fertilizers with an EQ rating having low levels of phosphorus are the best alternative if fertilizing is necessary.

Also, following up on our discussion in last year's membership meeting, the Chatham Health District wishes to remind everyone in town that a permit is required for all septic maintenance or pump outs. Permits cost \$30 and can be obtained at the East Haddam Town Hall or on line. You can log on to the Chatham Health District website at (www.chathamhealth.org) for more information about this program and pump out forms.



And one last reminder regarding the health of the lake...when you are out boating this year, be a good lake citizen and retrieve any items that are floating in the lake or on adjacent shore lines that shouldn't be there; and remember to wash down your boat and trailer before entering the lake and after departing so that you don't introduce more invasive weeds into the lake