

Lake Pocotopaug News and Notes

Seventh Edition – Fall/Winter 2002

Buffer Zone Complete at Sears Park

A buffer garden has been planted in Sears Park, as a cooperative effort between the Parks and Recreation Department, Balleck's Garden Center in East Haddam, the State of Connecticut DEP and Steven Meanwell who completed an Eagle Scout requirement. The purpose of the buffer zone is to educate and demonstrate to the public simple, attractive landscaping options and what type of native plants can be used. We hope that you will take the time to visit the Park and take notice of this area. The area is located just north of the boat launch. The following plantings were used in the Buffer Garden:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| * 6 Clethra Alnifolia | (Summer Sweet) |
| * 1 Aronia Arbutifolia | (Beauty Berry) |
| * 6 Vaccinium | (Blueberry) |
| * 6 Myrica Pennsylvania | (Bayberry) |

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank Balleck's Garden Center in East Haddam for the planning and design. Also thanks to Steven Meanwell for the construction and planting of the Buffer Zone, this was done as part of his Eagle Scout Badge requirement.

Any questions regarding the Buffer Zone or if we can provide additional information please contact the Parks and Recreation Office at 267-6020.

Walleye Stocking Continues

The second year of Walleye stocking in Lake Pocotopaug was complete on Thursday October 31, 2002. The town purchased over 7,000 Walleye again this year. The Town Council has made a resolution to DEP Fisheries that the legal size limit be increased to 20 inches. The current statewide limit is 15 inches; increasing the limit size will allow the Walleye to grow for an additional 2 to 3 years putting predation pressure on perch and other pan fish. The reason for Walleye stocking is to reduce the pan fish and perch populations. The pan fish and perch eat zooplankton and zooplankton is beneficial in that it eats algae.

Lawn Fertilizer Practices in Reducing Phosphorus in Runoff Water

What do the numbers mean on your fertilizer bag? For example a fertilizer with 30-3-3 means the following the first (#) 30 represents Nitrogen %, the second (#) 3 represents Phosphorus % and the last (#) 3 represents Potassium %. It is important before you use fertilizers to have your soil tested to determine the appropriate amount of Phosphorus to use on your lawn. You can have your soil tested at the University of Connecticut Soil Test Lab (www.canr.uconn.edu/plsci/stlab.html). This will guide you in applying the recommended amounts of limestone and fertilizer. If you cannot obtain a fertilizer with no Phosphorus (the second #), use a fertilizer that contains a low amount. Sometimes it is difficult to buy fertilizer that does not contain phosphorus. Many stores that sell fertilizer however can order fertilizer that contains no phosphorus if you ask for it.

Cardinal Rules of Fertilization

The two cardinal rules of fertilization are: 1) calibrate your spreader, and 2) apply fertilizer only where it is needed.

You should calibrate your spreader to ensure that you are applying the correct amount of fertilizer. Follow the manufacturer's directions for calibration of your spreader. Calibration for application of the correct amount of fertilizer will also ensure the correct application rate.

Applying fertilizer only where it is needed means only to the turfgrass and not onto impervious surfaces. Like sidewalks and driveways. Often it is impossible to spread fertilizer with a spinner spreader and not apply some to impervious surfaces. When this happens, make sure to sweep the fertilizer onto the lawn, or use a leaf blower, to blow the fertilizer onto the lawn.

Town working with UCONN Extension Service on "Save Your Lake Program"

The town of East Hampton in cooperation with the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service is working on an Action Plan to reduce phosphorus inputs to Lake Pocotopaug from the residential environment. Nine tasks have been identified in the action plan they include;

- 1. Create ad-hoc advisory committee**
- 2. Understand phosphorus dynamics on land and in water**
- 3. Raise general awareness**
- 4. Create a cadre of knowledgeable local residents**
- 5. Create a sustainable landscape demonstration site**
- 6. Presentations about the sustainable landscape and water quality protection related to Lake Pocotopaug**
- 7. Involve retail and landscape service enterprises in the program**
- 8. Improve usability of UCONN soil test reports for lake area residents.**
- 9. Ascertain success of program.**

Lake News and Notes Newsletter is published periodically to provide helpful information on protecting water quality on Lake Pocotopaug. We welcome your comments and suggestions please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 267-6020. Newsletter is edited by Richard Norkun, Ruth Plummer and David Putnam.