

# **Lake Pocotopaug News and Notes**

## **Winter 2004-2005**

### **Tenth Edition**

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### **Walleye Stocking Continues**

In October, the Town of East Hampton continued the Walleye stocking program with the purchase and release of 7500 Fingerlings. This is the fourth year of the stocking program with approximately 30,000 Walleye released into Lake Pocotopaug. Reports from local anglers are encouraging, with Walleye being caught in the 18-22 inch range. Please remember to release all Walleye less than 20 inches. The stocking of Walleye aids in improving water quality as Walleye feed on Yellow Perch. The Yellow Perch eat Zooplankton; Zooplankton is needed because they eat algae.

### **Year Round Fertilization Recommendations**

If applying fertilizer to your lawn the following helpful hints are important:

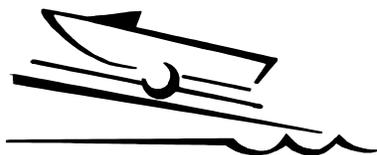
- 1. The use of Lime as an alternative to fertilizer is highly recommended, Lime helps to bind unused or stored Phosphorous in the soil thus preventing it from running into the watershed.***
2. If you do fertilize have a soil test done to determine the appropriate amount of fertilizer to use. For further information on soil testing you can contact the UCONN Soil Test Lab at [www.canr.uconn.edu/plsci/stlab.html](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/plsci/stlab.html).
3. Use a slow release fertilizer.
4. Calibrate your spreader before spreading.
5. Clean any excess fertilizer off impervious surfaces such as sidewalks, driveways and roads.
6. Do not over fertilize.
7. Do not use fertilizers right next to shoreline.



*As of this printing the East Hampton Town Council is researching and in discussions regarding a possible ban on fertilizers in the watershed area of Lake Pocotopaug.*

### **Boat Inspections for Invasive Weeds**

Studies show that boaters who do not clean their boat when moving between lakes transplant invasive weeds. A State Law now requires that boats and trailers be clean and free of weeds when entering or leaving the lake via the public road system. Violations are subject to a fine of \$100.00 per plant. It is recommended that you wash down your boat (preferably on land) with water only and let it dry for 48 hours before launching again.



# *Sears Park Update*

## **Pavilion Update**

Construction of the Sears Park Pavilion has commenced. The new Pavilion will have the same look as the old Pavilion. Post and Beam Homes, Inc. of East Hampton is the contractor. As part of their Centennial Celebration, the East Hampton Rotary Club pledged monies for significant upgrades to the new facility. We are looking forward to hosting programs and facility rentals again beginning in the spring of 2005. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding in getting this structure re-built.

## **East Hampton Lions Club Picnic Shelter**

The East Hampton Lions Club donated and constructed a 20' x 40' picnic shelter situated in the north section of Sears Park. Saturday, July 24, 2004 Dedication Ceremonies took place with entertainment by the Bristol Old Time Fiddlers and refreshments provided by the Lions. The Picnic Shelter is a great asset to the park for many generations to come. To reserve the Picnic Shelter at no fee please contact the Parks and Recreation Office.



## **Boat Launch Improvements**

Preliminary design plans on the Sears Park boat launch are in the works. Planned improvements include designated parking areas, widening of the entrance/exit, a new gate, a dock for loading, and better traffic flow patterns. Over \$15,000.00 has been raised so far through fundraisers, donations and boat sticker fees. The "Friends of Lake Pocotopaug" donated \$9,000.00 to this project and the Boat Launch Improvement Committee raised over \$3,000.00 with two dinner and movie fundraisers. We have also instituted a Corporate/Individual Sponsorship Program. The names of contributing individuals and corporations sponsors will be posted on the Kiosk in Sears Park and are recognized in our program brochure.

## **Sears Park Expansion**

In November, the town purchased land directly adjacent to Sears Park, adding an additional 60 feet of waterfront to the north. Sears Park now has over 800 feet of waterfront. We invite residents to Sears Park to enjoy our educational sites that include a native buffer zone located next to the boat launch and a sustainable landscaping area located in the turn around of the driveway.

***"It Starts in Parks – Healthy Lifestyles – Livable Communities"***

*For more information or past copies contact  
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