

E-NEWSLETTER

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DRAINPIPE STUDY MAPPING NEW FAIRFIELD

Over the past few weeks, the Town of New Fairfield in conjunction with the Candlewood Lake Authority, has taken the initiative to map the road drainage pipes entering Candlewood Lake along the New Fairfield shoreline. This study was conducted in the winter because the lower water levels expose many drainage pipes that are otherwise submerged and also makes shoreline foot travel possible. Candlewood Lake receives around 75% of it's water from the watershed surrounding the lake (the balance is pumped in), and 46% of Candlewood Lake's watershed lies within New Fairfield town lines. Water from the watershed can be seen entering the Lake as streams and also from the many drainpipes that send road runoff directly into Candlewood Lake.

The quality and volume of water entering the lake through these drainage pipes is of importance. As development of the land within the watershed increases, more roads, driveways and other impervious surfaces will be built thereby increasing the amount of runoff that can't soak into the ground. That road and (see "Drainpipes" pg. 3)



SAFE BOATING COURSE OFFERED

The Candlewood Lake Authority Marine Patrol has partnered with the Danbury Elks Lodge #120 to offer Connecticut's boater education program to the public on Saturday, February 28th from 8:30-4:30.

The course will be held at the Danbury Elk's Lodge, 346 Main Street in Danbury and will qualify a person for the combination Safe Boating/Certificate of Personal Watercraft upon completion of the course.

Registration is \$20 per person in advance. Lunch will be available for purchase or bring your own.

Please contact the CLA at 860-354-6928 to for more information and to register.



UNDERSTANDING THE DRAWDOWNS

RESEARCHING VARIABLES IN WINTER DRAWDOWNS

CANDLEWOOD LAKE PROTECTION TIP

PLANT NATIVE VEGETATION

Candlewood Lake’s winter drawdowns are conducted in an effort to help control the invasive Eurasian milfoil problem on the Lake, but what makes for an effective drawdown and what guidelines should be followed to help ensure we see the maximum benefit from those drawdowns?

Alex Messerle, a journalist for the Citizen News, worked with the CLA and compiled information related to the drawdowns. Data regarding the timing, duration and depth of the drawdowns, as well as air temperature and precipitation data was gathered. In addition, Alex researched the factors that can affect whether or not a drawdown is successful, such as the exposure of the milfoil and root crown to an extended period of freezing temperatures and dry weather conditions.

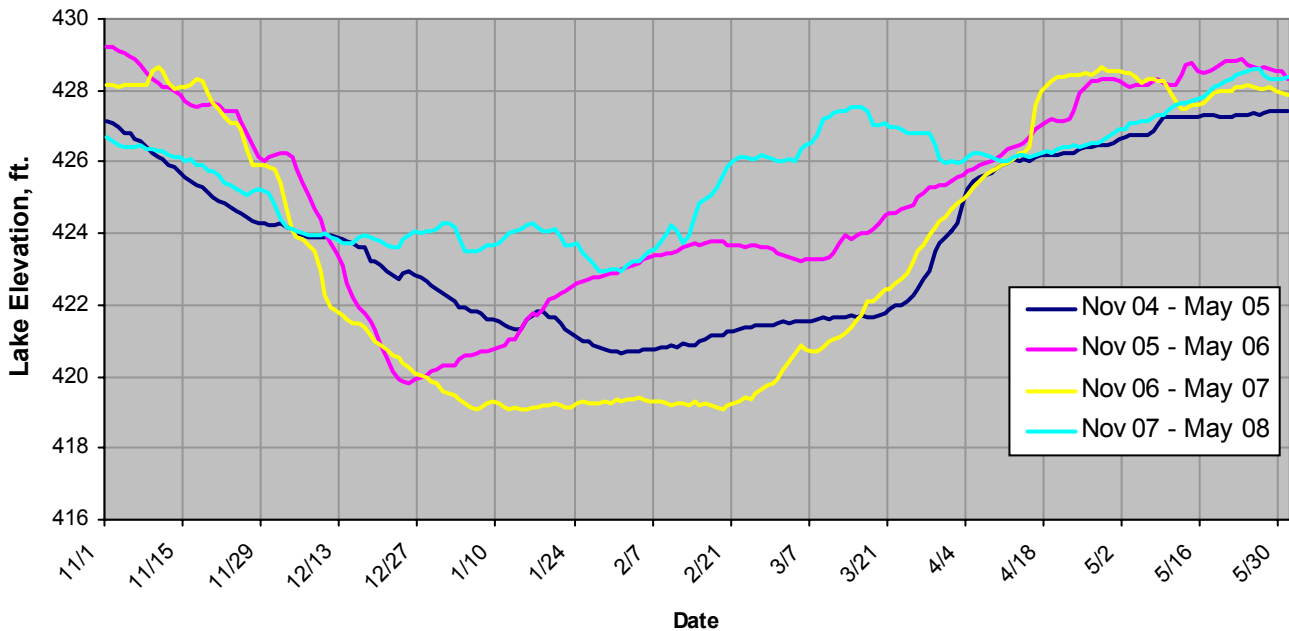
Through historic Lake elevation data provided by First Light Power Resources, it can be seen that since 1985 when winter drawdowns began, the timing and duration that the water remained down has varied. Temperature and precipitation data over the years shows trends that suggest a period towards the end of January that is most likely to produce freezing temperatures and little precipitation, to help kill the exposed milfoil.

This research is preliminary in nature, but it is hoped that it will begin to help us to understand what can be done to ensure the drawdown has the best chance possible to be effective in our winter weather conditions here.



Native trees, shrubs and other ground cover are naturally suited to flourish in here. They can tolerate the weather, require little additional water and are better able to resist disease. That translates into less watering and less need for pesticide applications some of which could wash into the Lake after rain events.

Candlewood Lake Elevation



The above chart shows the Lake’s elevation from November through early May the past four years.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION ADDRESSING THE LAKE'S RECREATIONAL PRESSURES



Representative Mary Ann Carson of the 108th District has proposed a bill that empowers CT DEP, in consultation with the towns bordering Candlewood Lake, to make recommendations for a maximum boat size and maximum motor size to be permitted on the Lake.

Candlewood Lake is a popular lake with many different types of users: powerboaters, fishermen, water-skiers and kayakers to name some. With so many people using the lake, there can not only be conflict between user groups but also between the users and shoreline residents.

Candlewood can see a lot of boat traffic. In August 2008 the CLA counted 5,677 resident vessels moored on Candlewood Lake. Additional boating access to the lake is provided for the public through the two State ramps, five municipal ramps as well as other community and private ramps. Several scientific models estimate Candlewood's safe in-use boat threshold to be 450 vessels. Flyover photo data shows that the average of the six flyovers done on weekends in 2008 averaged above that 450 boat threshold.

With so many users of the Lake's limited space, overcrowding and as a result safety, have become a concern of many. The CLA's Executive Director, Larry Marsicano, recently testified to the Environment Committee on this topic. A report of that testimony will be available on our website.

DRAINPIPES

(continued from pg. 1) impervious surface runoff can carry with it oil and other automobile fluid leaks, sand, salt and other sediment left on our roads as well as fertilizers and pesticides that wash off of lawns, onto streets and into drains during rain storms. While walking the now exposed lakebed near the shore, obvious examples of erosion were observed (pg. 1 photo). Lakebed erosion, especially during the winter and spring when Candlewood Lake's water levels are lower, is a concern of the drawdown.

Each pipe was noted for its size and material of construction and a photo of each pipe was taken with a GPS enabled camera. Those photos with the corresponding data points have been uploaded to a GIS system that shows a map of the Lake with each pipe marked by a point which is linked to the corresponding drainpipe photo and database.

PROJECT CLEAR

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



Each year at the end of June we rely on the generosity of volunteers to help us transport students on the water with their boats and by car to locations throughout the watershed, in order to conduct their field work. We greatly appreciate the assistance of any volunteers with Project CLEAR. Please call the CLA at 860-354-6928 to volunteer.

LAKE PROTECTION SEMINAR

On Saturday, March 7th from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, at the New Fairfield Senior Center, the Northwest Conservation District's soil scientist Sean Hayden and landscape architect Lisa Turoczi will demonstrate the ability of soil and plants to cleanse storm-water runoff through use of rain gardens & other landscaping techniques.

For more info call the CLA at 860-354-6928.

DELEGATE ROSTER

Brookfield

Frank Cioffi
Glenn Hofsess-Treasurer
Susan Murphy

Danbury

Sally Conroy
Gary Dufel
Ed Siergiej

New Fairfield

Patrick Callahan-Chair
Brewster Kemble
Richard Stroh

New Milford

Robert Guendelsberger
Harold Mayer
Mark Toussaint-Secretary

Sherman

Howie Berger-V.Chair
Charles Reppenhagen
Phyllis Schaer

Candlewood Lake Authority

PO Box 37
Sherman, CT 06784
Phone: 860-354-6928
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candlewoodlakeauthority.org

Boating Emergencies (DEP)
860-424-3333

Lake Level: 888-41-RIVER

CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

*Dedicated To Public Safety & Preserving and
Protecting Candlewood Lake*

In 1972 the Candlewood Lake Authority (CLA) was formed under State Statutes by Ordinance of the five lake municipalities: Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford and Sherman. At the time, its primary function was providing public safety and administrative support for the marine patrol, which was enforcing boating regulations under the authority of a State of Connecticut law enforcement agency.



Candlewood Lake Authority Marine Patrol

In the early 1980's local communities saw that the rise in pollutants, algae blooms, invasive Eurasian watermilfoil and the subsequent decline in water quality was an equally important lake-related issue that needed to be addressed.

Since that time the CLA has not only provided for the safety of the boating public but has also served to protect the ecological assets of Candlewood Lake and its water quality.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Candlewood Lake Authority provides lake, shoreline and watershed management to foster the preservation and enhancement of recreational, economic, scenic, public safety and environmental values of the Lake for the City of Danbury and the Towns of Brookfield, New Fairfield, New Milford and Sherman in cooperation with the State of Connecticut and Northeast Utilities.