

Presentation to RLWSA

Saturday June 25, 2011

About 5 years ago, I became concerned with the discussions at Rogers Lake Authority meetings about using herbicides in the lake to control weeds. Not only do I oppose the use of poisons in my drinking water, but some residents were labeling any plants in the lake “weeds” – including both milfoil – an invasive – as well as water lilies – essential to filtering the lake and promoting fish habitat.

I formed a group, under the Board of RLWSA, to oppose this effort.

But I could see that the behavior of humans helped to create this problem, and this includes what happens from lawn fertilizers and herbicides, sand draining into the lake from beaches, using non-native plants, and accumulating trash...creating a perfectly hospitable environment for all the wrong things.

So if man created the problems, perhaps there were also man-made solutions that could be tried.

Out of this has come a project of which there are two parts, but the goal of both is

1. To protect Rogers Lake – OL’s aquifer -- from drainage, pollution and abuse
2. To create a model for homeowners of L and OL within this watershed area.

Part one is RLWSA properties of the two main swimming beaches -- Installing simple barrier plantings at Devitt Loop and edging between grass and sand at Osceola

Part 2 is OL town property -- Hains Park – where we will establish barrier plantings plus a rain garden, separate sandy area from park/playscape, create signage that state regulations as well as educate people about the purpose and importance of the plantings, and ensure that the area is properly maintained – on a year-round basis. This is designed to discourage geese from invading the park, and to encourage people to properly use the park.

It has brought about some great collaborations:

Board of Directors, Rogers Lake West Shores Association

Board of Directors of Rogers Lake Authority

Old Lyme Conservation Commission

Lyme/Old Lyme Rowing Association

Master Gardeners Program

Juliana Barrett, UCONN C.L.E.A.R.

Girl Scouts

Wendy Flynn, CT DEP – educational seminars to certify volunteers to ___???

Jerry Wylie, Lyme

The collaboration with the Rowers has produced:

Rowers helping to move the riparian mats at Hains Park

And

1. Rowers available for Pulling Parties –the rowers will be available to lakeside homeowners to for a “Pulling Party”. Rowers will hand-pull invasives or even water lilies from homeowners’ waterfront properties. Sign up by providing your name and email address. We will contact you by email re: dates. If beyond our ability, we will lay down riparian mats and rotate to a new spot after 30 days.
2. Rowers hosting an open house and invite residents. Again, write your name and email address. The date is the weekend of August 13.

I will be emailing you about these opportunities, and keep you updated on the progress.

We will also be hosting a brief seminar on how to create rain gardens and barrier plantings to help utilize run off from rain.

So my recommendations for us are:

1. DO NOT feed the geese!
2. Establish barrier plantings or a rain garden – come and learn how!
3. Don’t use herbicides or pesticides – especially because most of our properties drain directly into Rogers Lake – our drinking water!
4. Pick up your dog’s poop! – It adds nitrogen to the lake -- which helps plants grow – in the water!
5. And to the Board of Directors -- Don’t add more sand to the beaches! It only fills in the lake and again, fosters plant growth.

Thank you.--

Maureen Plumleigh

Rogers Lake West Shores Association's
Committee for the Health of Rogers Lake

rogerslakehealth@gmail.com