



# The Amston Laker

## A Note From Our President

*Hi neighbors,*

*By my account this will be my 54th season at the lake. Back in the mid-60s my aunt and uncle bought a cottage here and my family would visit them just about every weekend. I have fond memories as a young boy of days filled with family and friends and everyone having fun.*

*Some 30 years ago, my wife and I also had the fortunate opportunity to join this community and jumped at the chance. Over the years it has been a great source of joy for our family and friends – and this season we welcome the 5th generation of our family to the lake with the birth of our granddaughter.*

*Why am I sharing this with all of you? Recently as I strolled around the lake, I noticed not much has changed in the past 54 years. How can this be, you ask? It's because I'm talking about the character of the lake. Whether it's my family or yours, we are all connected to Amston Lake – and whether you enjoy sunsets, swimming, or just taking a walk, it's the character of the lake that makes it so unforgettable.*

*So whatever number season you are starting this year, take a moment or two and acknowledge what draws you to this community. I hope you get a chance to create your own memories with those you care about the most.*

*Be safe and smart,*

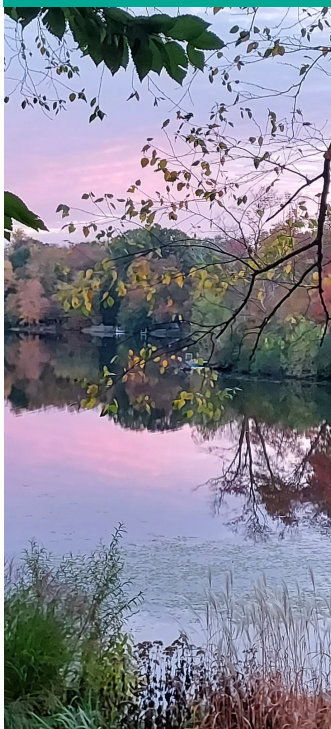
**Frank Hoisl, President**

*Amston Lake District Board of Directors*

*Frank Hoisl with his mom,  
little brother, and cousin,  
in front of the Amston fire  
truck, mid-60s*



**A big thank you to all volunteers who keep things running around here!** We can always use more volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact an ALD Board member, using the “contact us” feature on the ALD website [www.amstonlake.org](http://www.amstonlake.org). If you're interested in volunteering for social events here at the lake, check out the ALA website, [amstonlakeassociation.com](http://amstonlakeassociation.com).



## Our Amston Lake Legacy

*By Jeff Arpin, Amston Lake Health Committee Chair*

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful resource at our disposal! Amston Lake is a beautiful, clean body of water. It takes all of us to keep it that way for our use, and for future generations. It takes a commitment to lake health, consideration for the ways in which we enjoy the lake, and a long-term plan.

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on the Amston Lake Health Committee. You need not have an advanced degree in environmental science, biology or chemistry. You may have inherited your family parcel and enjoyed lake life for decades, or you may be a new resident who is just starting to enjoy all the lake has to offer. The only prerequisite is that you love this pristine body of water and have a desire to think 'long term' to maintain our paradise.

Please take a look at all the information the committee has compiled under the Lake Health tab on the Amston Lake website. Contact us to ask some questions, share any concerns, or join us at the clubhouse on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

## An Invasive Invasion?

*By Al Fichtel*

We have heard it for years – we must be diligent in the oversight of our treasured lake. We must continue our efforts to take every step possible to prevent what we all thought was almost impossible – in other words, we **MUST** stop the introduction of a non-native plant into our lake. Many have tried...Most have failed.

For many years our diligence has indeed paid off, as we have been able to fend off the dreaded lake “monsters” for more years than most. However, in June, 2022, I had the unfortunate experience of crossing paths with one of the “beasts” itself out near our sunken island – **Eurasian watermilfoil!**

There, I said it! Milfoil, hydrilla, water chestnut, oh my! Just three of the scariest, destructive, and way too many invasive plants that have been introduced to this country over the years.

As I stared into the face of the beast, I immediately knew what I was seeing. This looked different – like nothing I had ever seen in OUR LAKE! How dare you show up here? We inspect every trailer coming into our lake. We ask, beg, and plead for residents to pay special attention to their canoes' and kayaks' cleanliness to make sure there are not even *fragments* of a non-native plant in or on them.

There is absolutely no way of knowing exactly how the monster made it into the crystal-clear waters of Amston Lake – a boat, a trailer, a bird, or any number of animals. Your board of directors has taken every step possible to prevent, and in this case, remove the beast from **your** lake! But one thing is for sure. We **MUST** come together as one, and remain vigilant in our never-ending battle to protect our most precious asset. Pay attention to what you see and if you see something, say something. If it looks out of place, it probably is! It is up to every one of us!





## Responsible Fishing

Many of us enjoy fishing on Amston Lake. We try to keep the lake clean, so the fish can thrive. And many residents practice catch-and-release, which enables us to enjoy fishing without depleting the supply of bass and other game fish in the lake. But there are some things we need to keep in mind when fishing. First, try not to leave fishing line and tackle in the trees and on the shore when you are finished. These create a danger for people and animals. If you snag a tree or bush, don't just cut the line and move on. Please be courteous, and remove the line, hook, sinker, and lure, even if it takes a little work. Second, if you plan to catch and release, consider whether you might use a smaller or barbless hook, so there is less damage done to the fish. In fact, ALD ordinance 2008.6(e) – District Waters, indicates that “artificial barbless lures and hooks ... should be used.” And lastly, be aware that the use of lead sinkers can be dangerous to fish as well as birds and other animals. Lead fragments are deadly when ingested by birds, and discarded sinkers slowly leach lead into the water, which is then swallowed by fish that are food to our beautiful eagles and ospreys. Sinkers made of alternate materials are readily available. Thanks for being a responsible fisherman!



## Amston Lake Access Passes

Registration is underway for this year's lake access passes (car & beach passes and boat stickers). Residents are encouraged to register online @ [www.amstonlake.org](http://www.amstonlake.org). Support will be available at the pass distribution dates at the clubhouse for those who need assistance registering online.

**Pre-registration is required** to allow us time to verify property ownership and up-to-date tax status. This allows us to get the packets of passes ready ahead of time to avoid long lines at the clubhouse.

Following are the remaining dates for pickup of the pre-registered passes at the clubhouse:

- Saturday, May 27, 10 a.m. – noon
- Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m. – noon
- Friday, June 23, 4 – 6 p.m.

**Contact ALD board member Karen Patterson at [pattersonk113@gmail.com](mailto:pattersonk113@gmail.com) with questions or for more information.**

## Boat Lighting

Have you ever looked out at the lake after dark and wondered why there are different colored lights on the pontoon boats? Those red, white and green colored lights are specific signals that tell us which direction the boat is headed. For safety reasons, CT law requires all boats to be equipped with lights when operating between sunset and sunrise, and during daylight times of reduced visibility. For kayaks and canoes, this can just be a single bright white flashlight. But for motorized boats, colored lights are required. The red light is on the port (left) side of the bow (front), and the green light is on the starboard (right) side of the bow. The white light is in the aft (rear) of the boat. So, for example, if you see a red light and not the green light, you know the boat is headed to the left. If you see both the red and green lights, you know the boat is headed toward you. To learn more, pick up a free copy of the [Connecticut Boater's Guide](#), published by the DEEP.

## Beaches and ROWs Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. What's the easiest way to access the lake if I have mobility problems?

A. Main Beach and Lollipop Beach are relatively flat properties that have parking available. They also have accessible porta-potties during the season (mid-April through mid-October). These properties are the easiest to access for those with mobility issues.

### Q. Why are dogs not allowed on beaches and ROWs April 1 – Sept 30?

A. Amston Lake residents pay taxes in order to maintain ALD properties for their enjoyment. Because dogs can sometimes be unpredictable or noisy, and may defecate in areas where people gather, dogs are prohibited on all ALD property, including our beaches and ROWs, per ALD ordinances during the summer season, specifically from April 1 through September 30. Dogs are allowed October 1 – March 31, and residents who bring their dogs to ALD property are required to pick up after their dog, to keep feces from entering the watershed and to be considerate of neighbors.

### Q. Who maintains the beaches and ROWs?

A. The Beaches and ROWs Committee is a group of your neighbors who volunteer to coordinate maintenance and repairs at the beaches and rights of way. We contract some services like regular mowing, raking of the beaches, removal of leaves, and maintenance of boat racks. But we are always looking for volunteers to serve as the liaison for a particular beach/ROW, or to participate in spring and fall cleanup days.

### Q. Is there a limit on the number of boats I can store on the racks at the beaches or ROWs?

A. No, there is no set limit. However, out of consideration for your neighbors, you should limit your boats stored on ALD properties to only those which you regularly use. It is suggested that if your ROW boat racks are quite full, that you store any additional boats (more than two) on another ROW that has ample space. Boats can be stored on ALD properties from April 1 through October 30, and must be removed for the winter each year by November 1.

### Q. How can I get more involved?

A. We encourage all residents to help keep our beaches and ROWs clean by taking out anything you bring in and by picking up any litter you might see, before it goes in the lake. To volunteer for the Beaches and ROWs Committee, or for other questions, contact:

Karen Patterson at  
[pattersonk113@gmail.com](mailto:pattersonk113@gmail.com) or  
860-604-7696 or

Teri Nixon at [alterinix@charter.net](mailto:alterinix@charter.net) or  
860-918-0664.

### WARNING!

Amston Lake District is a private, residents only community. All vehicles and watercraft must display CURRENT district parking passes and boating permits. A description of your vehicle/ watercraft has been noted. Multiple offenses may result in fines and or vehicle towing/watercraft removal at the owner's expense.

For more information visit  
[www.amstonlake.org](http://www.amstonlake.org)

The ALD reserves the right to remove watercraft that does not have a valid sticker. You are encouraged to note the make, model, and serial number of your watercraft, and keep the information in a safe place. Safeguarding this information is necessary to identify your property if stolen. It is recommended that residents take steps to secure watercraft to racks. The ALD is not responsible for theft or damage to watercraft on District property.



# Amston Lake Association (ALA)

.... All things FUN!

John Matra, President

Dear Neighbors,

Welcome to ALA's 2023/2024 season! My hope is that this finds you well.

With COVID-19 in the rearview mirror, the ALA has moved past the pandemic and returned to a sense of normalcy. I want to extend a special thank you to the member households that joined the ALA and to the Amston Lake District (ALD) for continued support through a difficult time. The ALD's support and partnership allowed us to keep the clubhouse open over the winter, enabling the ALA to provide social opportunities for residents including Saturday Yoga, Wednesday Coffees, Santa Visit, Holiday Boutique, Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner and Wine Tasting, Game Night, and Book Club.

We have been busy planning activities to make for an exciting season, and we have already scheduled the following events:

Lake Day	Chocolate Bingo	Snowbird Dinner	Food Trucks
Tiki Night	July 4th Parade	Yoga Fest	Movie Nights
Speaker Series	Paella Dinner	Oktoberfest	

.... With more activities and events to be added throughout the year!

Our association meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, March through November – members are encouraged to participate in person at the clubhouse or via Zoom.

Please visit our website [www.amstonlakeassociation.com](http://www.amstonlakeassociation.com) to purchase merchandise, register for events, view the calendar of activities, reserve the clubhouse, or to volunteer.

We encourage you to get involved in our community events and initiatives, and to take advantage of all that Amston Lake has to offer. Whether you are a long-time member or new to the ALA, we welcome you and look forward to working together to make this year the best one yet!



## Attention Dog Owners

### Helping Rover be a Good Neighbor

In a community where homes are relatively close together, it's even more important to keep your pets from becoming a nuisance to your neighbors. Excessive barking can be disturbing to neighbors trying to enjoy a relaxing afternoon at the lake or those trying to work from home. And remember, sound travels across the water – even your neighbors on the other side of the lake can hear your dog barking! Please be considerate of other residents, and do not leave your pet unattended. And remember, per our ordinances, pets are not allowed on the beaches and ROWs April 1 – September 30.

### Dog Poo Etiquette 101

Pick up after your dog when taking him/her for a walk, whether on ALD property or on the property of your neighbors. Even in your own yard, it's a good practice to pick up the poo, for the health of the lake and our watershed. Dog waste is a contaminant that should be disposed of in the trash.



**2023 Boat/trailer  
Inspectors on call  
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.:  
(when available):**

Dave Arnold 860-228-1944

Jim Delisle 860-707-6512

Al Fichtel 860-338-4300

Carl Wool 860-334-9754

Marge Arnold 860-228-1944

## Protect Our Lake From Invasive Species

For the safety of our lake, the Amston Lake District requires that all boats/trailers be inspected.

- Boat launching off trailers is strictly **prohibited** from private property. All boats launched from trailers must first be inspected at the Main Beach boat launch area to check for the presence of invasive weeds (see list of inspectors or visit [www.amstonlake.org](http://www.amstonlake.org) for more details).
- If you or your tenants or guests bring any boat from any other body of water, you must first either clean it thoroughly or dry out your boat, trailer, and fishing gear for a minimum of five days to prevent foreign species contamination by invasive weeds. This is known as the “*Clean, Drain & Dry*” protocol.

### Short-term Rentals

Short-term rentals (STRs) have been a growing concern recently in our small community. If you rent out your cottage for short terms, (i.e., a few days, a week, a month), the ALD recommends that you provide your neighbors with your contact information, just in case anything unfortunate occurs. We also recommend that you provide your renters with a copy of the ALD Handbook, which includes the ALD ordinances and Best Lake Practices. You might consider providing the link to the documents online when you finalize your rental agreement. Let's all work together to keep this community the enjoyable place that it is. Your neighbors will appreciate your consideration.



## Lebanon Roads

*By Brandon Pelegano, ALD Vice President*

Unlike the poem “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost, our private Lebanon roads do not quite fit that bill – and even though a more appropriate title might read “The Roads Less Traveled,” they are traveled on nonetheless and therefore are very important to us as a District.

This article will hopefully give you some perspective into what we have done in years past and what we hope to do in the years to come. As many of you already know, the District owns 16 private roads in Lebanon that need our attention year after year. This could be in the form of pothole repair, regrading, compacting, or culvert cleaning, etc. Regardless of what the roads need, the costs add up over time and although it may seem like our efforts do not always last as long as we would like, we need to keep them current so that those of us driving on these roads do so without issue and can enjoy smooth sailing....uh, driving.

In the spring of 2022, Andrews Street, Bush Road and Scanlon Terrace were fine-graded, properly sloped for drainage, and then compacted by Reliable Paving – followed by three inches of millings applied through a road paver and then compacted with an 8-ton roller. A laser transit was used on Scanlon Terrace to provide the best possible pitch towards the wooded area to prevent water runoff that was plaguing residents.

To address the remaining private roads, we have been employing a contractor on a yearly basis to travel our roads with machinery to smooth out potholes, grade where needed, and driving a vibrating roller compactor over each road.

In an effort to have longer-lasting repairs, we looked into paving and milling the remaining roads and quickly realized the issues that would follow as well as the extraordinary cost. For example, if we were to pave our steeper roads, we would be faced with additional stormwater runoff entering our lake at a higher rate, carrying with it salt, oils, and dirt, while also creating additional runoff negatively impacting neighboring homes – unless of course we were to bear the expense of also installing proper drainage curbing and catch basins. Also worth mentioning is that along with paving comes sanding and salting each and every time the weather hits the freezing point, which again would just add to the cost of our yearly expenses as well as possible contaminants entering our lake.

We did, however, recognize the need to have longer lasting repairs – so we are now heading in the direction of adding more material to our roads to make them more substantial and able to withstand the elements better than they have recently. As you may have noticed, many of our roads appear to be dirt, which washes out very easily during heavy rain events or during winter frost/thaw cycles. Our contractor suggested we slowly start identifying roads that he can regrade, add material to and compact for a more permanent fix. Our plan is to use that approach to repair Manion Lane, Ryan Terrace and Kelly’s Corner this coming summer. The remaining roads will also be attended to by running the same machinery over them to smooth out the potholes and regrade, followed by compaction. Our goal is to keep the budget roughly the same year after year and fix one or two roads, depending on funds left over. (Due to the low snow accumulation this year, we have the funds to focus on the three roads mentioned above.)

With that, we hope you appreciate the efforts and time taken to bring our roads to where they are today and that you understand we are doing this in the best interest of the Lebanon residents.

If you have any suggestions, comments or concerns we welcome you to attend the next District meeting. Thank you and happy sailing!

### Police & Security

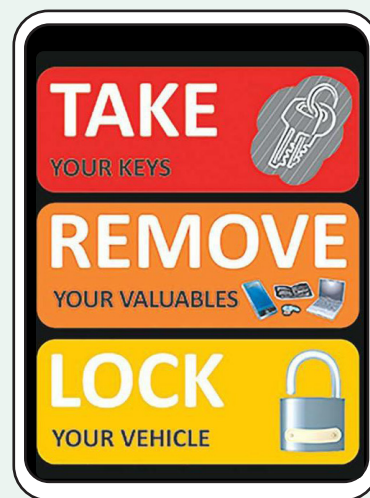
We continue to work with the resident troopers in Hebron, Lebanon and Colchester to provide random patrols. Property owners are encouraged to report suspicious activity to the police immediately. **DO NOT CONFRONT ANYONE!** We also recommend that property owners lock their vehicle doors and keep valuables out of plain sight.

**Emergency calls:**  
911

**Lebanon Resident Trooper:**  
860-642-7730

**Hebron Resident Trooper:**  
860-228-3710

**Troop K (Colchester):**  
860-465-5400



### Public Safety

For the safety and well-being of all in our community, we urge all property owners to clearly display their property address. Time is a critical factor for emergency services. Every minute lost to inadequately marked homes can make the difference between life and death, and damage or total destruction. It could save your life, or the life of someone you love! Property owners can purchase reflective address markers for \$15 from either the Hebron Fire Department or the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. Each marker displays the property address on both sides with reflective lettering and is suitable for attachment to mailboxes, trees, and posts. Remember, *If They Can't Find You... They Can't Help You!*

### Fireworks:

Whether it's the Fourth of July, or just any summer night – fireworks are a hot-button issue at Amston Lake. Strong evidence exists that fireworks may negatively affect the water quality and aquatic life within lakes, and indications are that shallower waterbodies such as ours are more vulnerable to accumulation of fireworks chemicals. Additionally, we live in a very small community, where you can sit on the shore and hear someone talking in the middle of the lake (don't ask me how I know this) – and the thunderous noise of fireworks has a profound effect on our pets, our wildlife, and our friends and neighbors with PTSD. Fireworks are not allowed by law in CT for use by non-professional, non-licensed users, and our ALD ordinances specifically prohibit fireworks on any ALD property. Please be considerate AND follow the laws.

### Thanks to our contributors

Jeff Arpin  
Liz Bowen  
Al Fichtel  
Frank Hoisl  
John Matra  
Karen Patterson  
Brandon Pelegano  
Jean Waleszczyk

**If you haven't been receiving our periodic email blasts please go to our website [www.amstonlake.org](http://www.amstonlake.org) and sign up. Don't miss another informative update!**