



ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALLS TO ACTION

May 21, 2023

ANNUAL MEETING of “Save the Lakes” - Join with others across the state!

- **Tomorrow, May 22nd, 6:30 PM**, Johnston Memorial Park 1583 Hartford Avenue, Johnson, RI
- Agenda is attached and, as you will see, holds the promise of new information and exciting opportunities ahead for our freshwater bodies.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SAND DAM RESERVOIR ASSOCIATION - Mark your calendars!

- **Wednesday, June 21st, 6:30 PM** - meet & greet,; business meeting to follow; Glocester Senior Center
- Join with your neighbors to learn about your lake, its successes, problems & needs to help preserve our beautiful lake.

SDRA's CRYSTAL LAKE FUNDRAISER - A Great Success!

- Final figures being processed, but results expected to be impressive, likely meeting or exceeding last year's \$12,000 profit!
- Great appreciation to:
 - **The Black Tie Affair Band** who donated their time
 - **Chepachet Village Wine & Spirits/Kevin Kitson** who donated wines to accompany each course of the meal, as well as valued Silent Auction Items
 - **Nearly 50 Businesses**, primarily from Glocester & Smithfield, that contributed to the Silent Auction
 - Many **SDRA Members & Friends who donated** to the Silent Auction
 - **All who attended** and made our success possible
 - The **SDRA Board members** who devoted lots of time & energy to conduct this important fundraiser

Trash Program Stewardship Program, “2-weeks-at-a-time” Program: Now underway - see attached & sign up please!

Boat Greeter Program: needs your support; see attached and sign up please - to deter the spread of milfoil!



“SAVE THE LAKES” ANNUAL MEETING

May 22, 2023 - 6:30 PM

Johnston Memorial Park, 1583 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI

Saving Our Lakes: Great Challenges, Expectations, Opportunities

AGENDA

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS: *Judy Colaluca, President, Save the Lakes* (5 mins.)

LAKE VOICES: *Janice Baker, President, Sand Dam Reservoir Association* (5 mins.)

PROGRESS, CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAKES: Panel Discussion with DEM Staff

Terry Gray, Director, RI Dept. of Environmental Management

Sue Kiernan, Deputy Director, Water Resources

Christine Dudley, Deputy Director, Fish & Wildlife

Katie DeGoosh, Principal Environmental Scientist

PROGRESS ON LAKE MANAGEMENT (10 minutes)

- DEM Perspective on Lakes
- Including Lakes in the DEM Strategic Plan
- Creation of a Lakes Program/Person
- Plans to Expand Financial Assistance (details later in meeting)

PROGRAM PLANS & UPDATES (20 mins.)

- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):
 - Hand pulling water chestnut
 - Technical assistance to advise groups
 - Managing Large AIS source populations
 - Prevention, Awareness, and Outreach
- Cyanobacteria aka Blue-green Algae Blooms
- Heightened Safety Regulations/PFD

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAKES (20 Minutes)

- Technical and Financial Assistance:
 - Lake management planning assistance
 - Bay and Watersheds Restoration Fund RFP in 2023, aka The Green Bond
 - Runoff - 319 Non-point RFP in 2023
- Stewardship:
 - Feedback on How to Best Relay Stewardship Information
 - Outreach Contact List and listserv

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS (15-30 mins.)

NEXT STEPS: *Judy Colaluca* (5 mins.)

TRASH PROGRAM

Participate in Trash Cleanup: **VOLUNTEER** for our successful "2-weeks-at-a-time" Program!

*(For parking area outside the Transfer Station & area across from the Transfer Station:
Wilmarth Rd. to the NW corner of the Lake)*

Each volunteer or volunteer family is asked to sign on for half month increments.

DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2023

June 1-15 _____	June 16-30 _____
July 1-15 _____	July 16-31 _____
Aug. 1-15 _____	Aug. 16-31 _____
Sept. 1-15 _____	Sept. 16-30 _____
Oct. 1-15 _____	Oct. 16-31 _____
Nov. 1-15 _____	Nov. 16-30 _____
Dec. 1-15 _____	Dec. 16-30 _____

DATES FOR FIRST 3 MONTHS OF 2024

Jan. 1-15 _____	Jan. 16-31 _____
Feb. 1-14 _____	Feb. 15-29 _____
Mar. 1-15 _____	Mar. 16-31 _____

Please send the block of time you are volunteering for to:

BOAT GREETER PROGRAM

SDRA's *Boat Greeter Program* is one of the "tools in our shed" - focused on preventing entry of aquatic invasive species, such as the dreaded milfoil, into our lake.

Scheduling:

- Cited below is the draft schedule up to this point; there may be other opportunities, including consideration of attempting to have a “Boat Greeter Morning” some favorable weather day, most likely a Saturday morning, during the summer when individual boaters come to the ramp to launch their boats.
- Please volunteer to become a part of this rewarding team effort. *Many hands make light work!*
Contact Judy at colalucajudy@gmail.com or 401-486-8414.

Date	Time	Name of Visiting Association	# of Boats	Volunteers
June 1	5-9 pm	Thursday Night League	12	
July 1	6-11 am	Hook & Ladder Fishing	6	
July 29	5-10 pm	Independent Bass Anglers	20	
Aug. 19	6 am-1 pm	Quinebaug Valley Bass Anglers	10	

How it works:

- A schedule for the boating groups that come to our lake for a fishing tournament is obtained.
- Judy heads a team of volunteers to greet the boats, arriving ½ hour prior to their start time.
- Permission is sought to inspect their boats, including the motors & trailers & possibly the well area searching for fragments or any tell-tale signs that milfoil is present.

What to expect:

- A favorable response from the visiting boaters - it is rare to be turned down
- About an hour at the site, the public launch ramp on Sand Dam Rd
- **On-site training to:**
 - work with the boaters: always a friendly approach - their cooperation is voluntary and we have no authority
 - training to identify milfoil; Judy is knowledgeable about other species as well and, if you are doing the inspection, can always be called over for an additional look at a potential problem

THANK YOU for considering joining this team.

It takes many of us, working together, to keep our lake healthy!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ALL LAKEOWNERS

- **SPRING PLANTINGS TO HELP OUR LAKE:** Solitude has put together a wonderful article describing native New England plants ideal for establishing or strengthening buffer zones along our properties. Buffers minimize unhealthy runoff into our lakes that nurtures aquatic invasive species. **Check out this article for guidance with your Spring planting:**

[Beneficial Buffers: Native Plants For Ponds & Lakes in New England](#)

- **EYES ON THE LAKE:** This is everyone's job! Be on the lookout for these invasive species and report any findings to Janice (neverneverlandjb@gmail.com). Early awareness is important!

- **Milfoil**



- **Bladderwort**



- **Water chestnut**



- **Phragmites**



- **Cattails**



(not invasive, but need to be thinned out)

Link to a DEM fact sheet containing photos & descriptive information for all invasive plants found in RI Lakes:

<https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/programs/benviron/water/quality/surfwq/pdfs/invasive-species-found-in-ri-lakes.pdf>