Lantern Hill Valley Alliance

LANTERN HILL VALLEY ALLIANCE
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Water Quality Update Spring 2026:

The LHVA water quality team is preparing for the 2026 water sampling season. Curious about the water quality of our lakes and streams? Did you know that the water quality in Long Pond and Bush Pond was excellent in 2025? While each test provides a snapshot in time, and heavy rainfall can cause temporary impacts, the results in both lakes and the downstream brooks are very positive overall. So, why do we want to still conduct these tests? Because monitoring trends is essential to understanding the full picture of your waterbodies' health. Interested in learning more about how you can participate in the 2026 season?

From spring to fall, LHVA volunteers monitor lakes using a *Secchi disc* and temperature measurements, submitting this data to CT DEEP for the *Connecticut Lake Watch* program. This helps track algae and cyanobacterial blooms, which increase as waters warm and summers dry.

LHVA volunteers collaborate with the Alliance for the Mystic River Watershed to collect water samples for bacterial (E.coli) and chemical analysis (dissolved oxygen, nitrates, pH, temperature, and salinity). Some of the bacterial samples are processed at the URI Watershed Watch Lab, and others at the Alliance BacLab in Old Mystic. Understanding what is happening in the headwaters and in the brooks flowing south is crucial, as they can impact the health and well-being of all life within the Mystic River and Long Island Sound.

Volunteers are welcome for either project:) Want to learn more about these opportunities to do citizen science? We'd love to have you join the team! Give us a shout to learn more about how you can help!

Send us an email at *info@thelhva.org*. We look forward to hearing from you!

Bob Graham, Chair, Water Quality Committee

PS: some pictures below from last year's season…

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Water sample collecting happens rain or shine on Long and Bush Ponds, Whitford, Williams, and Haleys Brooks.









WQT at the BacLab in action, processing water samples to detect high levels of E.coli bacteria



