Lantern Hill Valley Alliance

Donate to the Management of Aquatic Invasive Species

The LHVA Board invites everyone to help protect our lakes from invasive aquatic plants or weeds. Due to community concerns about increasing weed growth and the risk that Hydrilla will worsen the problem, the Board is launching a project to develop an invasive plant management plan. We have hired a certified lakes and watershed manager to analyze Long and Bush Ponds and develop a lakes management plan starting in June.

We've all experienced the pile of "weeds" on the shoreline, tangled with motors and paddles, making swimming uncomfortable and intimidating. These "weeds" have grown significantly from 2020 to 2024. They are not native plants that have overgrown; instead, they are invasive non-native species that are primarily introduced and spread through human activity. These "weeds" displace our native plants, which are crucial for maintaining healthy lakes. As these invasive plants spread in CT lakes like Long Pond and Bush Pond, they overwhelm native species and deprive the waters and wildlife of vital nutrients.

Although this project will take time, discussions with other lake groups indicate that it will ultimately benefit Long and Bush Ponds. We have successfully hired Hillary Kenyon, a certified lake and watershed manager of ***Applied Watershed Sciences (AWS),*** after learning that the LHVA received a $10,000 grant from the ***Connecticut DEEP Aquatic Invasive Species Fund.*** This grant will support Ms. Kenyon's first year working for us, during which she will conduct detailed lake plant surveys, including a Natural Diversity Database survey of rare aquatic species, analyze plant and water chemistry data, and assist us in developing a comprehensive lakes management plan. While this is only the beginning of a multi-year effort, we are eager to start and grateful for your support, which is crucial for our success in protecting these lakes.

The LHVA Board recently received several generous donations to support the development of a management plan for invasive aquatic plants. Among these is a $1,000 contribution from a California couple, Dan and Marygail, who are friends of Betsy and Bob Graham.

"They treasure their visits to Long Pond and have visited here many times over the years," said Betsy, LHVA president.

Bob, LHVA treasurer, mentioned that the couple wants to ensure the LHVA is prepared to fight hydrilla if the invasive weed ever appears in Long Pond and/or Bush Pond. You can also support our efforts at ***TheLHVA.org***

The LHVA Board values your support. While seeking grants and town partnerships, this project also depends on community connections—residents, friends, neighbors, members, donors, and supporters—who value and cherish Long Pond and Bush Pond. All donations will be used to cover the costs of hiring a lake manager and remediation expenses.

Our website includes a dedicated donation page to help fund our fight against invasive plants in our lakes. We are committed to this cause - please consider donating what you can! To donate today, you can do so online at ***TheLHVA.org*** or by sending a check payable to Lantern Hill Valley Alliance. Be sure to note 'AIS Control' on the check, and *mail it to Robert Graham, Treasurer, LHVA, 72A Long Pond Rd S, Ledyard, CT 06339.*

As President, on behalf of the LHVA Board, we extend our gratitude to you for your support, Betsy Graham.

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