



January 2023

What's New at Ashford Lake?

Greetings to all Ashford Lake property owners! This is the annual update of lake activities and information.

Join Us for ALPOA Community Events!

Watch for emails from ALPOA and notices on the website, Facebook and bulletin boards for more information on upcoming events!

Winter Fest: Dependent upon ice conditions

Spring Clean Up: May

Garden Tour and Plant Swap: June

Boat Parade: July 4th

Please feel free to suggest any new events or help chair an event.

Guidance for the Blue-green Algae (Cyanobacteria)

Blue-green algae occur naturally in lakes and ponds. In ordinary circumstances, cyanobacteria cause no apparent harm. However, warmer water temperatures and high nutrient concentrations (nitrogen and phosphorus are found in wastewater runoff and fertilizers) may induce a rapid increase in their abundance. This response is commonly called a "bloom". Blue-green algae biomass can contain a mix of toxins, including skin irritants and potent liver toxins. The route of direct exposure to toxins from Blue-green algae may be via ingestion, breathing or contact with skin.

Therefore, we will be posting signs when we suspect a bloom. The signs will strongly advise no swimming for you and your pets. Moderate caution should also be taken for any boat activity. As algae blooms do not occur in groundwater, drinking water wells in the vicinity are not at risk of contamination. Surveillance of the lake will continue during the summer months, and we will send samples to the state labs for confirmation should we suspect a bloom.

Email List

We are accumulating a list of members' email addresses so that all members can be reached quickly for important ALPOA information or for an emergency. If we don't have your email address, please consider sending it to Don Judson at treasurer@alpoa.org.

Sources and Contacts for ALPOA Information

- alpoa.org

The website is the primary source of ALPOA information. You will find seasonal notes, upcoming events, the 2023 budget, ALPOA Annual and Monthly Board Meeting minutes, bylaws, covenants and links to town websites and resources.

- board@alpoa.org

Contact Board members for information.

- Ashford Lake Property Owners Community Facebook Page

Find information about upcoming events.

Members Helping Members Group

The new year brings a Members Helping Members Group.

Some examples of ways to help out are seasonal yard maintenance, picking up someone's mail, checking on a house while the owner is away, cleaning services, cooking meals, rides to an appointment, or food shopping. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to Judy Campbell @ jac@homebuilders.net or 860-377-5029 for more details.

Aquatic Invasive Species Survey

Dr. Jason Seacat of Western New England University is still seeking participants from around Ashford Lake and the ALPOA community to complete a brief survey on lake residents and aquatic invasive species. Your participation in this study is greatly appreciated and will help provide valuable information on this important issue. If you have not yet participated, but would like to, please e-mail Dr. Seacat at jason.seacat@wne.edu or call him at 860-212-2217 to request a survey. The survey takes about 12 minutes to complete and your answers will remain completely confidential. Thank you.



Our community includes many families who have young children. We also have lots of walkers and joggers.



Please report any suspicious activity or use of beaches by non-ALPOA residents to the Connecticut State Police Troup C.

(800) 318-7633 or (860) 896-3200

Community Reminders

ALPOA Boat Stickers

Owners need to attach ALPOA stickers to all their boats to properly identify them. Contact Denise Pillion for stickers.

ALPOA Beach Parking Passes

Please attach your ALPOA Beach Parking Pass to your mirror when you park at either beach. The passes from last year will continue to be used in 2023. Remember, ALPOA property owners need to accompany guests when using Sunset and East Beaches.

Canada Geese

ALPOA continues to renew the permit to destroy Canada Geese eggs. Watch for geese nesting in the spring and notify the Board if a nest is found.

Pick Up After Your Dog

Remember to pick up your pup's poop when the two of you are out for your walk. Let's keep our roads and swales clean.

Fishing

Ashford Lake is a catch and release lake.

Boat Information

In order to prevent invasive plants from being brought into our lake, it is best to use your boats only in Ashford Lake. If you use your boats in another waterway, please be sure to wash them off with soap and water before putting them back in the lake. Inviting guests to bring boats to the lake is strongly discouraged.

Ice Safety Information

Please go to the Property Owners menu at alpoa.org and review the Ice Safety Information in the Community Watch & Safety section.

Mail Safety

A reminder to check your mailboxes daily or have someone check if you are away. There have been instances on the lake where the mail has been removed from mailboxes by unknown persons and discarded.

Thank You to All Our Volunteers

We have many great volunteers who help out with projects around the lake! The mowing and cleaning of the swales is especially appreciated. The more work done by volunteers means our assessment dollars go further!

Short Term Rentals

The Town of Ashford Planning and Zoning Commission has instituted regulations governing short-term rentals. All ALPOA properties located in the Town of Ashford are bound by these regulations. Definitions of what constitutes a short-term rental and the conditions that apply can be found on the Town of Ashford website.

Eastford has no zoning and no such regulations. Because all ALPOA properties are subject to the same by-laws and covenants, in the interest of parity and uniformity, the Board of Directors is exploring the possibility of developing comparable short-term rental regulations for properties located in the Town of Eastford.

The Board has established a sub-committee to study the issue and will be seeking legal counsel to ascertain the extent of its authority to apply and enforce short-term rental regulations for Eastford properties and any associated liability. Property owners who wish to comment on this issue are encouraged to either email the Board at board@alpoa.org or attend the February 7, 2023 Board Zoom meeting.

ALPOA Board Meetings

Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. Please contact the Board at board@alpoa.org for the Zoom link. All property owners are welcome to attend.

Board Members

Tom Barry, President	860-208-4027
Jason Pufahl, Vice-President	860-420-9897
Don Judson, Treasurer	860-306-7117
Ann Milner, Secretary	860-884-5643
Paul Brown	860-753-0525
Judy Campbell	860-377-5029
Robin Clapp	508-802-3973
Nancy Conlan	860-428-2354
Lisa McAdam Donegan	860-429-0554
Sue Orcutt	860-817-5329
Denise Pillion	860-617-3642
Brent Raymond	860-944-3809

IF YOU SEE IT-REPORT IT