



The Amston Laker

Spring
2012

www.amstonlake.org

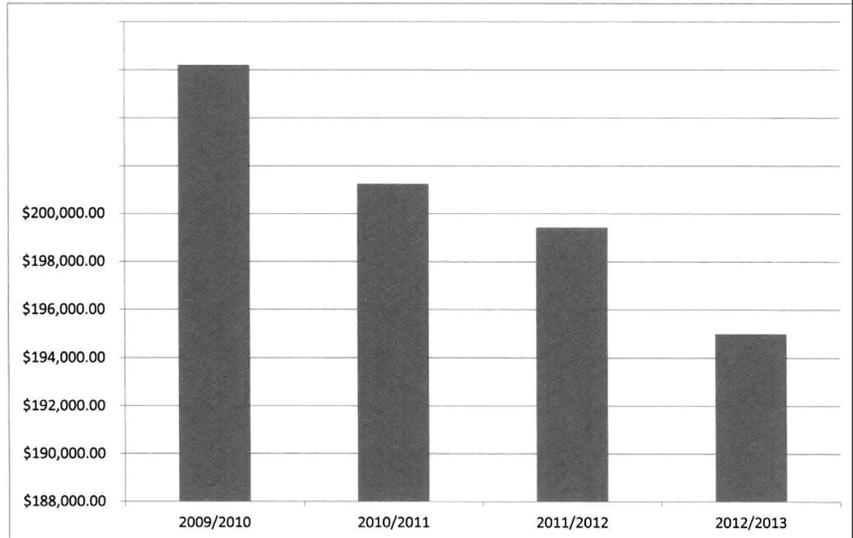
Residents Vote for 2012-2013 Budget

Dave O'Brien
President, ALD Board

On May 19, 2012 the Amston Lake Residents voted to approve a \$195,000. budget for the new fiscal year starting on July 1st. Over the last several years the budget has been reduced.

AMSTON LAKE DISTRICT BUDGET TRENDS

ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
\$ 206,204.00	\$ 201,240.00	\$ 199,420.00	\$ 195,000.00



Main Dam Update

By Dave Moorcroft

At the May 2011 Annual Meeting, a budget was approved which included \$60,000 to repair the main dam. Leakage under the spillway has eroded the substrate leaving voids and subsequent cracking of the spillway. Also, an old unused bypass valve still remains in the dam. Failure of this valve could result in significant loss of water from the lake.

A design to eliminate these problems was prepared by a licensed professional engineer and a DEEP permit was applied for with the goal to complete work in October/November 2011. However, the permit was not received until early 2012.

At this point, we expect to accomplish the work in October/November 2012. We have a signed contract with a qualified vendor which is within our budget.

The 2011 budgeted money was not spent and was transferred to the dam account and is available to complete the project with no impact on this year's budget or taxes.

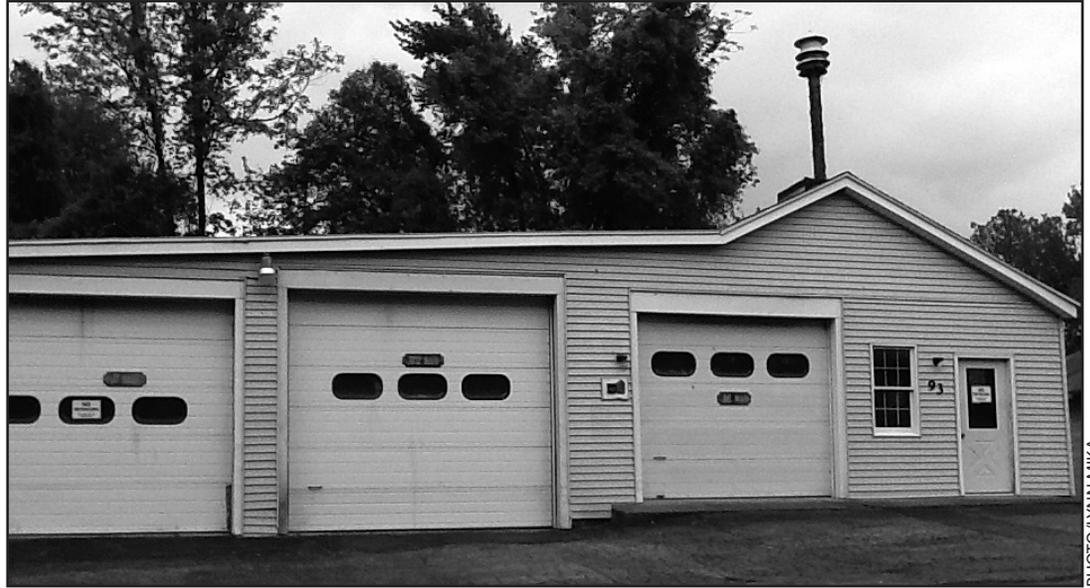


The Main Dam spillway erosion.

PHOTO/LYNN MIKA

Old Firehouse Land to Be Turned Over to Amston Lake District

At the April 27, 2012 Special District Meeting, the Amston Lake Residents voted to accept two land parcels from the Town of Hebron. The Amston Lake District will reimburse the Town of Hebron for up to \$45,000. to demolition the Old Firehouse building. After the Old Firehouse Building is razed, (target date is August 2012) the two land parcels will be deeded over to the Amston Lake District.



The Old Amston Lake Firehouse located on Deepwood Drive.

PHOTO/LYNN MIKA

ALA SOCIAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012

see www.amstonlake.org and click on the ALA button for more details.

++ June 2nd, July 7th and August 4th COMMUNITY TAG and CRAFT SALES on the Green (weather permitting)

June 9th 6-9:00pm, Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters Bluegrass Band

***June 16th 5-8:00pm, Free Membership Spaghetti Dinner*

July 4th AMSTON LAKE PARADE and BBQ

July 7th 8:30am, FREE-KID'S FISHING DERBY

***July 7th 5:00pm, ALA First Annual PIG ROAST Caribbean Night*

July 21st 7:00pm, ANNUAL SUNSET CRUISE NIGHT

***July 28th 5:00pm, ANNUAL AMSTON LAKE LOBSTER CLAM BAKE*

Aug 11th 12:00pm, AMSTON LAKE DAY, Live Music by COVER2COVER

Aug 25th 5:00pm, ALA ANNUAL MEETING and Potluck Dinner

Oct 31st 5-8:00pm, FREE KIDS HALLOWEEN PARTY

***Dec 31st 7:00pm-til, AMSTON LAKE NEW YEARS GALA*

++ \$10 per space; ALA members, \$5 per space. No reservations, bring your own tables. Weather permitting only - all 3 dates.

***Stars Denote- ALA Members Receive discount and Reservations are Required.*

*Visit our website for more details visit Amstonlake.org and click on the 'Amston Lake Association Social Events & Clubhouse' Button
President, Drew Gibson at 860-424-6646 or amstonlakeala@yahoo.com*

Vice Pres, Dan Reynolds at 609-408-7151 or danielreynolds1959@yahoo.com

Everyone has a unique skill set. We can use yours as an ALA volunteer at one of our events. Email amstonlakeala@yahoo.com and tell us about yourself or join "Amston Lake Assoc. - SOCIAL EVENTS & CLUBHOUSE" on Facebook.

Auto, Beach and Boat Pass Distribution Process for 2012

1. Passes are Free if picked up at the at the Community Center on:

Saturday, May 26 @ 8:30 to 11am
 Saturday, June 2 @ 8:30 to 11am
 Saturday, June 9 @ 8:30 to 11am
 Saturday, June 16 @ 8:30 to 11am
 Saturday, June 23 @ 8:30 to 11am
 Saturday, June 30 @ 8:30 to 11am
 Wednesday, July 4 @ 8:30 to 11am



2. Please bring identification: Licence, Tax Bill, Utility Bill, etc...

3. If you are a renter, you'll need a letter from your property owner

4. You will receive 2 auto passes, 2 beach passes and several boat passes

5. You must fill out a form stating your name, address, etc and list of boats

6. There is a \$25 replacement fee should you lose your pass and want a new one

7. Passes are free if you pick them up at the Community Center. If you want them mailed to you, there will be a \$5.00 S&H fee (Shipping and Handling). Please send a \$5.00 check made out to Amston Lake District:

Amston Lake Passes
 c/o Ray DeCormier
 P.O. Box 95
 Amston, CT. 06231

8. Upon registering you'll attain your passes, newsletter and beach & boat rules.

9. If you have any questions mail or email me at:

raydecormier@yahoo.com

Property owners are solely responsible for their passes.

Important Contact Info

Visit www.amstonlake.org for current Board Members List and email links

Boat / Trailer Inspectors

Boat launch hours are 7am to 9pm

Dave & Marge Arnold 228-1944
 Carl & Joanne Wool 228-1014
 Sherri-Ann Martin 537-2172

Lake Management

Dave O'Brien (acting lake health coordinator) 860-335-9148 (cell)

Tax Collector

Eileen Curtin
 11 Woodland Road
 Lebanon, CT
 860-537-4308 option 3 (Home)

Upcoming Amston Lake Tax Board 2012 Meeting Dates All at 7:00 pm at ALA Clubhouse

June 20

The board meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Clubhouse on Wood Acres Road.

July 18

August 15

Visitor Statements: If you are a resident and want to make a statement, you need to be present by 7:00pm because resident comments are the first issue on the agenda. Afterwards, only ALD issues are addressed.

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

BOATING SAFETY:

Be sure to keep a lifejacket on board your vessel for each occupant in the vessel. Small children and those who cannot swim should always wear a lifejacket. This also includes canoes and paddleboats!

Steer clear of swimming areas - your boat's propeller or rudder can easily injure a swimmer!

For Complete CT Boating laws visit <http://www.ct.gov/dep>

NOTICE:



FIREWORKS PROHIBITED FROM AMSTON LAKE PROPERTY

Fireworks are strictly prohibited from all Amston Lake District Owned property:

- Two beaches (Main and Lollipop)
- The rights-of-ways
- The Berglund Property (Green across from Main Beach).

All violators will be subject to arrest and tax district fines.

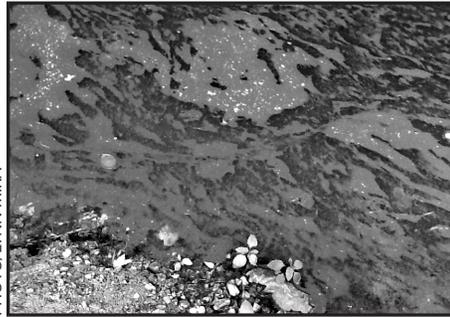
- ALD Board of Directors

Phosphorous and Algae

The ugly green and blue algae we see on some of the shores of our lake are the result of an overabundance of phosphorous in the lake waters and sediments. The only ways to stop the algae from growing is to stop phosphorous from leaching into the lake and to remove the sediments which are currently contributing to the problem.

If you use fertilizer, please only use ones with a “0” in the middle - ex: 24-0-10 mix. Better yet, don’t use any fertilizer at all! Your yard will still look great.

The sediments are expensive to remove and must be dredged with heavy construction equipment. The sediments are scooped out of the lake, left to dewater on the shore and then moved to a farm or elsewhere for fertilizer. This process costs quite a bit of



PHOTO/LYNN MIKA

Algae growth in cove near Main Dam on Ames Rd., taken May 23, 2012.

money – we dredged the Northeast Cove in Fall 2010 & Spring 2011 at a cost of \$17,000 and we are planning to dredge the Southeast and Southwest Coves soon at a cost estimated at \$45,000. The high costs of removing the sediments point to the

conclusion that we need to stop the sediments from entering the lake. We need better storm water control on both sides of the lake so that water is filtered and the sediments are removed prior to the water entering the lake. We need vortech units and plunge pools installed at the inlets to the lake with the worst sediment and phosphorous dumping to minimize and eventually eliminate the phosphorous from entering the lake from storm water.

If we can stop the phosphorous, we can stop the algae. All of us who are residents on the lake are responsible for behaving in ways that protect our lake and our property values. The following items are very important for all of us to practice:

1. Test your soil before you buy fertilizer. You may not need any. Or, buy a 24-0-10 mix, to ensure you are not adding phosphorous to the lake; nitrogen should be as low as possible too.
2. Do not apply pesticides to your yard or have lawn care companies treat your yard.
3. Do not cut down trees and shrubs unless they are dead. Plant more trees and shrubs and flowers, especially down by the edge of the lake. This filters water and creates a natural buffer between people and the lake.
4. Remove any unwanted impervious surfaces. If you have a driveway you don’t want or use, remove it and replace it with grass and

plantings or crushed stone. This allows rainwater to penetrate into the ground and not run off directly into the lake or an inlet into the lake.

5. Storm drain grates should not be used to discard of anything. The water which pours into the grates goes directly into the lake. Do not pile leaves or other vegetation along the sides of the storm drain. The rotting plant material contains phosphorous.

6. Build rain gardens to catch rainwater and allow the rain to soak into the ground.

The only ways to stop the algae from growing is to stop phosphorous from leaching into the lake and to remove the sediments which are currently contributing to the problem.

7. Pet waste is a serious source of both nitrogen and phosphorous. While we like to think of excrement as natural, it is not natural to have it piled near the water. Please clean up after your pets and dispose of excrement in the garbage so it is removed from our lake.

8. Petroleum products and anti-freeze are toxic. Do not do car maintenance in your yard. An accidental spill could cause serious damage to the water and vegetation.

9. Do not wash your car in your yard. The road dirt which accumulates on your car contains many particles of car brakes, dirt, oil, grime, etc and washing it off in your yard, sends it into the lake.

10. Sweep up sidewalks and driveways and place the sediments in a garbage bin – don’t hose them down.

11. All construction within the lake district must be properly permitted with the appropriate town and erosion control must be put in place prior to and during construction.

12. If your sewer connection has not yet been installed, remember to have your septic tank pumped out if it is full. Do not wait until the sewers are done if it needs to be done now. Overflow from septic systems can wash into the wetlands which feed the inlets to the lake. If you have washing machines or other appliances which use water, all water should be going into a septic system or sewer system. Water should not be flowing freely out into your yard.

If we all follow the above guidelines and we work on improving our stormwater systems with the towns of Hebron and Lebanon, we will continue to see our water quality improve and the phosphorous will be reduced or at stabilized and the algae will diminish. ■

Town of Lebanon Water Pollution Control Authority

FAQ for Lebanon Low Pressure Sewer Project - Dated 5/18/12

1. What is the WPCA? The Lebanon Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) was formed by the Town of Lebanon in 2009, and is responsible for all aspects of planning, designing, constructing and operating the Amston Lake Sewer System. The Authority is currently made up of seven members from the Town of Lebanon, two of whom are Amston Lake District residents.

2. Where will the wastewater go for treatment and disposal? The Amston Lake sewer system will collect the wastewater from the individual homes and cottages in the Lebanon Amston Lake Sewer District and transport it to the existing sanitary sewer manhole on Deepwood Drive at the Lebanon/Hebron town line. From there, the sewage goes through various gravity pipes and pump stations in Hebron and Colchester eventually discharges to the East Hampton - Colchester Joint Facility located in East Hampton.

3. What type of sewer system is being installed? The sewer system is a low pressure sewer (LPS) system. The LPS system uses small diameter (1-1/4 inch to 4-inch) pipes and grinder pumps for each home. The grinder pumps are installed to provide the pressure to pump the wastewater to the existing sewer manhole.

The rest of the article is located at [Amstonlake.org](http://amstonlake.org) in the Projects Tab:

http://amstonlake.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=63&Itemid=63

**DON'T
FLUSH IT!**

**Do not put (diaper
wipes and handi-
wipes) into the
sewer system –
it clogs the sewer
grinder pumps.**

*(Per the Hebron
WPCA.)*

Dock slips still available

The docks will be available for rental from end of May 2012 to beginning of Oct 2012. The cost will be \$100 per slip for the 2012 season. One slip allowed per Amston Lake resident address.

Maximum dimensions for boats allowed is 6' wide and 14'6" long. All requests after the lottery drawing (April 18) must be received at the ALD P.O. Box via U.S. Mail.

Requests after the lottery drawing will be fulfilled in the order they are received according to postmark date. Sorry, no email requests or phone call requests, please.

Once your request is received and accepted, you will be sent a contract to sign which is to be mailed in with your rental fee.

The ALD Docks Committee reserves the right to not be responsible for requests lost in the mail. For questions please email amstondocks@yahoo.com or call J.D. Wilcox at 860-329-4496.

Amston Lake Dock Request 2012 Season:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Lake Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Email: _____

Type of boat: _____

Approximate dimensions:

Length _____ Width _____

Handicapped? yes () no ()

(you may be asked to provide copy of current Handicap permit)

Desired Location: (Tick to choose)

Lollipop Beach: ()

Main Beach: ()

Mail to:

Amston Lake District - Docks

PO Box 95

Amston, CT 06231

BEACH RULES

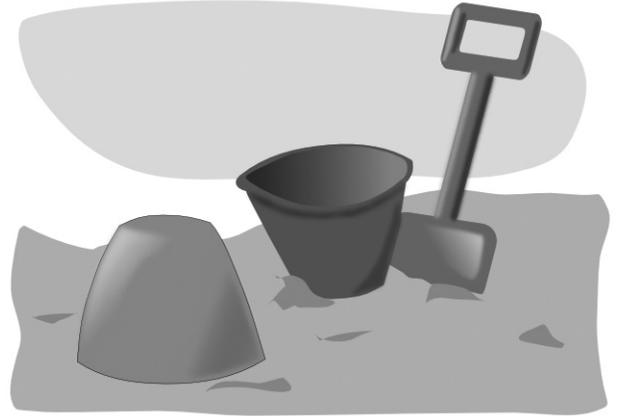
(a) No person may enter or use any beach owned by the District except:

- (1) in a safe and sanitary manner which does not interfere with the enjoyment or well-being of others;
- (2) with a current, valid, Board-approved lake use pass (or as a guest of a person who is present with a pass) which is displayed as required or presented upon request. Persons present on a beach in violation of this section are trespassing.

(b) The following are prohibited on any beach owned or maintained by the District and in District Waters:

- (1) children age 12 and under unless accompanied by a responsible adult;
- (2) littering, and glass containers;
- (3) pets between May 1 and September 30;
- (4) open fires, fireworks, charcoal and gas grills and stoves without the written approval of the Board; and
- (5) vehicles and devices powered by combustion engines except in emergencies, for the handicapped, or with permission of the Board. This includes all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles and power augers.
- (6) fireworks

(c) Between Memorial Day weekend and the Labor Day weekend, the parking lots at the Main beach and Lollipop beach are open and the gates unlocked between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.



Boat Launching – Protect Our Lake

By David Arnold

You may have heard in the news about an alga now being found in the CT, (Farmington River), which is being called “Rock Snot” because of its looks and texture. This slimy alga smothers aquatic plants and can make fishing and swimming a most unpleasant experience. It clings to most things such as boat hulls, trailers, and wading shoes. It is generally spread by fishermen, canoeists, and kayakers. This species which is very invasive, was first confirmed in the Northeast in 2007, and it has now spread to trout streams in New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia.

Please help prevent Rock Snot as well as other invasive plant species from entering our lake by utilizing these precautions: Air dry (no rain) your fishing gear, shoes, boat, and trailer for at least 72 hours, or use a 2% bleach solution to sterilize your equipment. When trailer launching your boat, call the boat/trailer inspectors whose names and phone numbers are listed at the boat launch gate (and on our website, under lake government). This service is free to residents, and the inspectors are paid by the district. If you would like to be an inspector please call Dave Arnold at 860-228-1944. ■

Another Hitchhiker: Eurasian Milfoil

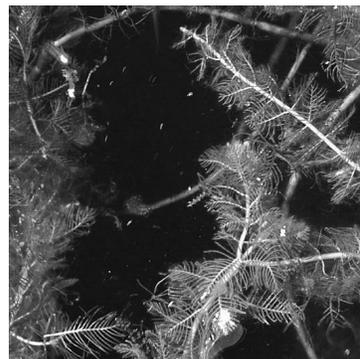


Image Citation: Barry Rice, sarracenia.com, Bugwood.org. From <http://www.forestryimages.org>

Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment. Remove and discard all aquatic plants and animals you may have picked up while on the water.

Don't dump your bait bucket or release live bait! Avoid introducing unwanted plants and animals. Unless your bait was obtained on site, dispose of it in a suitable trash container.

Do not transport fish, other animals or plants between water bodies. Release caught fish, other animals and plants only into the waters from which they came from.

Source: www.ct.gov/dep

Volunteering is not fun, but it could be!

By Ray A. DeCormier, Ph.D.

ALD Treasurer - raydecormier@yahoo.com

By Ray A. DeCormier

One resident once said to me, “Why should I volunteer? I don’t do anything unless I get paid!” Of course I was taken back especially when I have seen so many nice people do their part to make our lake beautiful. So I say to that (selfish) resident, I feel sorry for you because you don’t understand the rewards of giving instead of only taking.

I know it takes time to give back to your community, but don’t you feel uncomfortable for not reciprocating to your neighbors who give their time. Now, this resident said, “I give, it’s called taxes!” My response, especially as it relates to the Amston Lake District is that your tax money is not only used wisely, but truthfully it is not nearly enough to cover the true cost of running our lake. If we had to pay everyone who does things for us at full market cost, your tax expense might well be twice what it is now. It is the volunteers who actually keep our taxes low.

So you ask, “What can I do as a volunteer?”

Let me make a few suggestions.

1. If you see someone throwing garbage on ALD property, ask him/her if they would please pick it up, bring it home and throw it in the garbage.

2. If you see a “Non-Resident” using our lake, get some identifying information such as a license plate and let us know. We’ll make sure they understand that Amston Lake is a private lake supported by our residents.

3. We have limited security person(s) to patrol the area, so let them know if something is not right.

4. If you see someone with a dog messing up the beaches, give them a sign that dogs are not allowed on the beaches during the summer season.

5. Be our eyes and ears to help us keep intruders, trespassers, burglars, troublemakers and delinquents from destroying our property.

6. And, if you’d like to actually help directly, contact any ALD member and ask, “What can I do to help?” The fun part is that you’ll meet new people, make new friends and you’ll develop a stronger appreciation towards your community.



PHOTO/LYNN MIKA

Volunteers work on winterization, and de-winterization of the docks.

In closing, I need to acknowledge some of the many people who help us. I know I can’t acknowledge everyone and to those I miss, please know I did not leave you out purposefully. First, our President David O’Brien has done an outstanding job in leading the way for the the Fire House lot purchase, Lebanon Sewer System and the Vortex Filter projects. David and Sherri Martin volun-

***The fun part is that you’ll meet new people,
make new friends and you’ll develop a stronger
appreciation towards your community.***

teer to test our water and make sure our environment is clean. David Moorcroft spent an inordinant amount of time negotiating the Dam repair job to start in October. We must thank Bret Harlow for his tremendous contributions to beach repair, dock installation, brush elimination and varous other tasks and projects. Let’s thank Drew Gibson for ALIA leadership, Lynn Mika for the newsletter, John Laferrier for security, David Arnold for boat inspection process, David Dederer for signage and carpentry work, Claire and Lou Lenti for all their help overseeing ROW’s. I could go on, but I am running out of space. Have a nice summer! ■

AMSTON LAKE BOATING RULES AND ORDINANCES

Boats. All boats must be launched, landed, operated, stored, and moored safely and never in prohibited areas. If you bring a boat from any other body of water, you must first either clean it thoroughly or dry it out for 3 days to prevent foreign species contamination by invasive weeds. Boat launching off trailers is prohibited from private property. All boats which are launched from trailers must be inspected first at the main beach boat launch area to check for the presence of invasive weeds. You may wish to call the boat inspectors in advance to assure that someone is available. Their names and numbers are posted on the District web site, (amstonlake.org). The District may remove and dispose of boats that are abandoned, unregistered, or improperly stored. The operation of any combustion powered motorized vehicle on the lake is prohibited. Exceptions: Fire Department rescue, property maintenance, and other special situations with permission from the Board.

2008.8 – Boats.

(a) Persons who use or store boats in the District are responsible for them at all times, including monitoring the boat itself and protecting all people, property, and animals from them.

(b) No boat powered by a combustion engine or which fails to display a current, valid, Board-approved boat pass is permitted anywhere in the District. Except in emergencies, no boat is permitted in District Waters unless it: (1) complies with all State and Town regulations and registration requirements; (2) carries an approved flotation device for each occupant; and (3) has been dry for at least 72 hours or thoroughly cleaned after use in any other body of water so as to prevent the introduction of foreign plant, animal, or microbial species.

(c) No person may launch, operate, or land any boat closer than 12 feet from swimmers or waders. The sails of any boat on District Lands must be down except while launching and landing.

(d) No boat may be stored, moored, or left unattended anywhere within the District except between April 1 and November 1 and unless they are adequately secured. Boats can be stored: (1) on the shore of Lollipop Beach at least 25 feet away from the beach and swimming areas; (2) catamarans only on the first

15 feet extending from the shore into the grass area at the south end of the Main Beach; (3) at the sides of rights-of-way so as not to present an obstruction and are at least 10 feet inland of the shore; or (4) properly moored so as not to obstruct the swimming areas or adjacent properties.

(e) Any abandoned, unregistered, improperly-stored, or nui-



PHOTO/LYN MIKA

sance boats on or obstructing any District Lands or District Waters, and any boat which otherwise violates any rule or ordinance of the District, may be removed at the Board's discretion at the owner's expense. If the owner does not pay that expense and retrieve the boat within 10 days of the Board's written instruction to do so, or if the owner is unknown, the District may dispose of the boat without further notice to the owner or liability to the District.

(f) No person may moor, store, or operate on District Lands or District Waters any boat which the Board determines is unsafe as to its location, construction, or condition or otherwise adversely affects the lake or other residents. The Board may remove and dispose of the boat at the expense of any person who fails to comply with a directive to do so, without further notice to the owner or liability to the District.

Additional Rules:

1. No Gasoline or Electric Jet ski boats are allowed in the lake. ■