

Gardner Lake Authority  
270 Hartford Road  
Salem, CT 06420

## 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

**Mission Statement:** *The Gardner Lake Authority is established with the Towns of Bozrah, Montville and Salem to govern the body of water known as Gardner Lake. The Authority shall act as agent for the Town, cooperating with the State Boating Commission in the enforcement of boating laws on Gardner Lake. The Authority shall also control and abate algae and aquatic weeds, and study and make recommendations concerning water management.*

For the past 35 years, the Gardner Lake Authority (GLA) has been committed to the soundness and safety of our treasured resource. 2011 saw the opening of the new bridge at the dam and surrounding improvements. The drawdown level ranged between three and four feet. In early spring when the dam was closed we saw a speedy recovery of water levels. GLA began a study of the Gardner Brook Watershed and noted the tributaries feeding into the lake for the purposes of water quality monitoring.

Following are highlighted activities that occurred this season:

- **Water Quality:** Dr. Robert Kortmann of Ecosystem Consulting Services, Inc. in Coventry, CT was hired to perform water quality testing. In an effort to reduce costs, GLA received sampling bottles and collected stormwater runoff samples which were provided to Dr. Kortmann for analysis as part of this year's study. Initial steps were taken to begin data collection sharing between GLA, campgrounds and CT DEEP.
- **Safety Patrol:** GLA worked with the Montville Water Patrol on scheduling and reporting procedures. Reports were submitted monthly throughout the season. The year-end figures reported were: 100 safety inspections, 21 infractions, 66 warnings and 10 assists. A noted safety item of importance is that kayakers wearing their personal floatation devices (pdfs) reduces risk. CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) sent their patrol boat several times to assist with patrolling.
- **Marker Permits:** Three applications for Swim Area Marker Permits and one application for a Speed Zone Marker Permit were submitted as part of the DEEP process. All four were approved by GLA.
- **Partnership:** The GLA mission is enhanced through partnership with town leadership from the three towns bordering the lake and their support staff, DEEP, Montville Police Department, the Friends of Gardner Lake, an active citizen volunteer group; and our local representatives.
- **Drawdown:** The 2010-11 drawdown invoice, in the amount of \$1,648.46, was paid to the State of CT. Jointly, GLA and town leaders submitted a request to DEEP to perform the 2011-12 drawdown. Confirmation has been received.
- **Boater Safety Course:** At the start of summer, GLA sponsored a class, which was held at the Gardner Lake Fire Department in Salem. 110 people signed up, 92 attended the classes, and 89 took the exam – all passed. A donation of \$840 was made to the Fire Department.
- **Training:** Several members attended and received citizen certification at a DEEP Invasive Investigators Training Program.
- **Financial Responsibility:** With funds provided by the three towns, GLA is responsible for paying expenses pertinent to the sound management of Gardner Lake. Discussion has been initiated through correspondence between the office of DEEP Commissioner Daniel Esty, local representatives and town leaders raising concerns about cost responsibility and other issues. This platform will continue into the upcoming season.

The Gardner Lake Authority meets on the second Thursday of each month from March to November. No meetings are held from December to February. Location of meetings is on a rotating basis, beginning in March in Bozrah, April in Montville, May in Salem, and the pattern repeats. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the 7:00 p.m. meetings. Please check with your local town clerk for postings of meeting places or for meeting minutes on file.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gardner Lake Authority

Members:           Bozrah: Henry Granger, Vice Chair; Jim McArdle, Chair; Scott Soderberg  
                          Montville: Edward Socha, William Wrobel, Kate Johnson, Secretary  
                          Salem: Robert Neddo, Russ Smith, Treasurer; Lou Allen

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