

HIDDEN LAKE WILDLIFE

What's in, on, and around our lake?

Spring 2022



**Protect Our Aquatic Life!
Keep Our Lake Healthy!
And Our Wildlife Happy!**

Did you know?

Native plants **beautify** our lake...



Swamp **Milkweed** is a lovely, large perennial that gets stunning bunches of pink/purple flowers almost all summer long. This plant loves wet soils, normally found along streams, in wetlands, and wet meadows. While it loves wet soil, it is worth noting it can handle drought once established, and will tolerate clay soils and is very deer resistant. The single most important thing about this plant is its wildlife value. It is an absolutely crucial plant for Monarch and Queen butterflies, and is invaluable to native bees, hummingbirds, and all butterflies as a nectar source. If you want butterflies galore, this is the plant for you! In the fall, it gets a very interesting seed pod, offering interesting winter interest. The pods are commonly used in dried flower decorating. These plants look especially lovely as a grouped/naturalized planting.

Did you know?

Native plants **nourish** our lake..



Buttonbush is more than just a roadside and wetland shrub. Every part of this native plant is used by pollinators, which makes it a great choice for wildlife reclamation. Hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees are attracted to the plant's flowers. Buttonbush's seeds offer food for wetland-dwelling birds, and its leaves provide shelter for ducks, anhingas, and other native birds.

Did you know?

Native plants **cleanse** our lake...



Clethra is useful as a single specimen in the ornamental garden. It is equally as attractive when planted as a grouping, a hedge, a foundation planting or as part of a naturalized landscape. Thriving in swampy woodlands and along lakeshores, it works well as a filter and/or to control erosion. It provides nectar for hummingbirds, bees and butterflies in the summer and seeds for birds in the winter. Deer and other four-footed pests appear not to have any interest in this plant.

What can you do?

Planting native plants around the lake can help filter our water, support pollinators, and beautify our environment. Town and Country Nurseries on Route 154 in Haddam has an ample selection of native plants.

Also, be sure to limit pesticides that may damage native plants or contaminate lake water!

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Did you know?

Invasive plants **crowd** our lake fronts...



Multiflora rose is extremely prolific and can form dense thickets, excluding native plant species. This non-native invasive rose invades open woodlands, forest edges, early succession pastures and fields. It also invades fence rows, right-of-ways, roadsides, and margins of swamps and marshes.

What can you do?

HLA requires boat stickers for all boats on the lake. This policy is specifically designed to keep "hitchhikers" of invasive species from being carried into our lake from boats in other waterbodies. Please wash your boat thoroughly if you have placed it in another waterbody.

Did you know?

Invasive plants **threaten** our lake...

Hydrilla (*hydrilla verticillata*) is an invasive aquatic species that was first identified in the Connecticut River in 2016. Three years later, the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station (CAES) surveyed the Connecticut River reporting at least 774 acres of hydrilla.

Hydrilla can outcompete native species and, as a result, replace habitat for sensitive species, including migratory fish. In recent years, thick mats of hydrilla have crowded out boaters and those who come to recreate on the Connecticut River. Marinas and municipalities have reported that they can no longer access boat slips and docks due to the severity of the hydrilla infestations, limiting business opportunity.

Because hydrilla spreads through fragmentation, when paddlers, boaters and wildlife become entangled in hydrilla, they can spread the plant to other areas downriver. Additionally, when boaters move from one waterbody to another waterbody, hydrilla fragments can remain in or on the vessel and be introduced to new waterbodies.

Did you know?

Invasive plants **choke** our lake fronts...



Yellow Flag Iris is a fast-growing and fast-spreading invasive plant that can outcompete other wetland plants, forming almost impenetrable thickets, in much the same way as cat-tails (*Typha*) do. Individuals reproduce from several dozen to several hundred rooted rosettes and flowering shoots connected by durable rhizomes.



Hydrilla

CITATIONS

- <https://www.directnativeplants.com/product/swamp-milkweed/>
- <https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/plant-directory/iris-pseudacorus/>
- <https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/clethra-alnifolia-a-versatile-native-plant-in-the-landscape/>
- <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/trees-and-shrubs/shrubs/buttonbush.html>
- https://nyis.info/invasive_species/multiflora-rose/
- <https://www.ctriver.org/get-involved/stopping-an-invasive-species-water-chestnut-2/hydrilla-in-the-ct-river-watershed/>

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