

How the Lake Waramaug Task Force Brought the Lake Back from the Brink

Monday, May 16, 2022 at 6:30pm on Zoom

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Boat Teaching on Lake Waramaug.

Program Description:

Historically, Lake Waramaug was a clean, clear lake, but the lake started to exhibit signs of real distress beginning in the 1950's and continued worsening throughout the 1970s and into the early 1980s. The lake's eutrophication (the gradual dying of a lake) was accelerating dramatically and something needed to be done as persistent toxic algae blooms, hazardous to human health were becoming a continuous problem. Recreational activities on the lake were curtailed, real estate values were falling and the future of the lake did not look promising. Uncontrolled run-off from farms, septic systems, lawns, houses and roads in the lake's watershed area produced phosphorus levels that soared to over 30 parts per million.

In response to this critical situation, the Lake Waramaug Task Force was founded in 1975 by a group of concerned lake residents. Through the dedicated efforts of volunteers, the Task Force raised substantial funds from federal, state and private sources to support cutting-edge scientific research in limnology (the study of lakes). There are many water-quality projects and programs that the Task Force has been developing and implementing over the past four decades, and Mr. Hayden will present a photo-rich tour through all that the Task Force does for Lake Waramaug

and its watershed. Their work that has achieved nothing short of spectacular results as evidenced by the lake's recovery. **The Lake Waramaug Task Force and The Lake Waramaug Association are sponsors for the program.**



Sean Hayden

About the Lecturer: Sean Hayden has served as the Executive Director of the Lake Waramaug Task Force for four years and has over 30 years of experience in Environmental Conservation, and in depth knowledge of the ecology and history of Lake Waramaug. Prior to joining the Task Force, Sean spent 18 years as Executive Director and Soil Scientist at the Northwest Conservation District (NCD). During his tenure at NCD Sean worked side by side with the 34 towns and residents of Northwest CT, including the Task Force, to conserve natural resources by using sustainable development strategies. He is an expert in Low Impact Development (LID), and a certified Soil Scientist, Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineator and Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control. He has worked with multiple wetlands and zoning commissions to revise municipal regulations, watershed planning, sediment and erosion control and storm-water quality management plans. Prior to working at NCD, Sean spent 3 years as an Agro-Forester with the Peace Corps in Kenya. Sean graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BS in Renewable Natural Resource Management & Engineering. He and his wife, Rose Guimaraes, live in Torrington and are avid "outdoors-people."