

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

The lake has experienced dramatic changes in recent years and especially in 2020, with unprecedented COVID-influenced recreational pressures and the discovery of the first zebra mussels in the lake.

Candlewood Lake Authority's 2021 Response:

- Increased patrol shifts, extended night coverage, prioritized areas of concern and deployed new patrol boat.
- Launched the new Lake Steward invasive species boat inspection program.
- Changed strategies to ensure 2021 was safer and more enjoyable for the users and residents of the lake.
- New website and focus on social media and outreach to expand CLA communication efforts.

For the latest news from Candlewood Lake, be sure to subscribe to our eNewsletters. Please support our work to preserve and protect Candlewood Lake through conservation, education and public safety with a gift to our Annual Appeal.

Your generosity ensures our continued success in meeting the needs of Candlewood Lake. Thank you!



Mark Howarth, Executive Director



Marianne Gaffey, Chairman of the CLA Board

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief of Marine Enforcement | **Nick Mellas**

CLA Public Safety Committee Co-Chairs | **Bill Licht, Joe Wodarski**

**A professional marine patrol that is
proactive and responsive.**

- First *aluminum purpose-built patrol vessel* launched and added to our fleet. This new vessel was made possible through the generosity of FirstLight as well as the five municipalities, our business partners and donations from friends like you. Look for our second Silver Ships patrol vessel to arrive in 2022!
- *Appointed a new Patrol Chief*, Nick Mellas, who recently served as assistant chief.
- *Added more Patrol shifts* and extended other *shifts later into the night* - our new vessel logged over 600 hours in its first season!
- *Increased use of our Marine Patrol PWCs* at busy gathering spots.
- Voluntary *safety inspections offered* at public boat launches during peak periods.
- Marine Patrol *increased contacts with the public by nearly 50%* to improve education & safety awareness.



LAKE ECOLOGY

Director of Ecology & Environmental Education | **J. Neil Stalter**
CLA Watershed Committee Chair | **Steve Kluge**

Protecting Candlewood through responsible lake management projects and research.

- New Lake Steward Program is the CLA's *first-ever paid invasive species boat inspection program for Candlewood Lake*. Funded by a grant from the CT DEEP, boaters at the seven major public launches were offered voluntary boat inspections for invasive species.
- *Doubled water quality sampling, analysis and data collection*, improving our ability to inform CLA's environmental management recommendations for the lake.
- Partnered with Western Connecticut State University for *zebra mussel DNA analysis of water samples*, searching for direct evidence that they are reproducing.



OUTREACH

CLA Administrator | **Jeannine Usher**
CLA Public Awareness Committee Chair | **Joan Archer**

Providing important information to more people for a better and safer lake.

- A *redesigned and upgraded website* attracted 15,800 visitors looking for information on Candlewood Lake.
- Our *Facebook and Instagram followers have grown by double-digit percentages*. Follow and share CLA news on social media!
- *Hosted first CLA webinars* to inform and interact with audience about zebra mussels and Candlewood's water quality.

KEEPING COUNT...

1,269 Interactions with the public by the CLA Marine Patrol

659 Boats inspected for invasive species before entering the lake by CLA Lake Stewards

1,612 New subscribers to our Facebook and Instagram pages

83 Hazard, Speed & Navigation buoys deployed, maintained and retrieved by the CLA

30 Cubic yards of trash collected at the Lake Clean Up

1,913 Subscribers to our eNewsletters

We thank all of the stakeholders who support our mission to preserve and protect Candlewood Lake. Your contributions make a difference!

Please consider a gift to the Candlewood Lake Authority.



Candlewood Lake Authority Board of Delegates

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