



Spring 2026

Friends of Lake Quannapowitt

"Preserving and enhancing the waters of Lake Quannapowitt and its surrounding lands"

Letter from our President

Dear Members & Friends,

I am wrapping up my first year as President of FOLQ and I am happy to tell you the FOLQ remains a vibrant organization, committed to our mission to *"promote public awareness and provide long-term protection and enhancement of Lake Q and its surrounding lands."*



Bill Boodry

Our ongoing efforts of Environmental Stewardship, Public Education, Community Engagement, and Advocacy are continually on display. Examples are twice-annual lake cleanups with Galvin middle school students, beautification of areas with plantings and invasive plant removals, continuous measurement of water quality levels, education via this newsletter, The Wakefield Daily Item, our annual dinner and breakfast, social media, and maintaining continuous visibility within the community via participation in the Farmers Market, WCNA Festival by the Lake, Wakefield Town Day, and WCAT Movies by the Lake where FOLQ sponsors a learn to fish activity. This is a partial list of our continuous efforts and accomplishments.

In 2025, we established a permanent FOLQ fund with The Scholarship Foundation (TSF) which will provide an annual scholarship(s) to students studying environmental subjects. more on the scholarship in a separate article in this newsletter.

In closing, I want to thank our dedicated Board of Directors. In our many events and our various committees, the entire team is active and enthusiastic in their support of FOLQ.

Sincerely,

Bill Boodry, President



Annual Dinner - May 21

Please join us at our **Annual Meeting and Presentation at Bear Hill Golf Club** in Stoneham on **Thursday, May 21**. A dinner and a business meeting will be followed by an educational presentation and discussion. The presentation will be given by Wakefield's Town Engineer Bill Renault.

Bill will discuss some of the Town's recent and upcoming initiatives to improve the water quality within the Lake.

Meeting Agenda:

- 5:30 - Cash Bar/Social Hour
- 6:15 - Buffet Dinner, \$35 pp
- 7:00 - Business Meeting
- 7:15 - Presentation by Bill Renault



There is no charge if you are only attending the speaker presentation at 7:15.

Please make dinner reservations at <https://givebutter.com/2026folqdinner>, or by capturing the QR code above with your smartphone.

We sincerely hope you can join us for an educational and informative evening. Your attendance helps us achieve our mission of educating and informing the public about the protection and enhancement of Lake Quannapowitt and its surrounding environment.



Membership Dues are Due!

Help FOLQ by **becoming a member in 2026**. Dues annually are **\$25** and **\$35** for single or family memberships respectively. A commercial membership is **\$150**. Here's how to pay:

Capture the QR code to the right on your smartphone and complete your membership and payment information, or visit our website at <https://folq.org/join>.



FOLQ Volunteer Spotlight: David Miller

David began volunteering for FOLQ in 2022, and it was clear from the start that he would be a valuable addition to our community. With a PhD in chemical engineering and a genuine passion for protecting Lake Quannapowitt, David quickly brought both expertise and enthusiasm to our work.

David is an associate board member and an active member of the Water Quality Committee, where he has helped lead the revitalized testing program launched in 2023. Under his guidance, the committee monitors nutrient levels (nitrogen and phosphorus), cyanobacteria and toxins, water clarity, and other critical indicators.

Whether he's out on the lake collecting samples in his waders, ensuring water quality results are accurately shared with the Town and Board of Health, or supporting presentations to the board, David's dedication is evident. He has strengthened the program by incorporating drone technology, conducting watershed assessments, attending professional conferences, and investing in personal equipment to support sampling efforts.

FOLQ is deeply grateful for David's time, energy, and commitment. His passion and hands-on approach continue to make a meaningful difference in our shared mission to protect and improve the health of Lake Quannapowitt.



Upcoming FOLQ Events

Lake Quannapowitt Art Show

May 1 - May 2, **Albion Cultural Exchange**, 9 Albion St., Wakefield
FOLQ is hosting an art show featuring artwork of Lake Quannapowitt and its surrounding natural lands. Theme: Celebrating the Natural Beauty of Our Lake.

Annual Meeting and Dinner

May 21, **Bear Hill Golf Club**, 2 North St., Stoneham
FOLQ invites all community members to join us at our Annual Meeting and Presentation. Guests will enjoy dinner and participate in a short business meeting, followed by an educational presentation by Wakefield's Town Engineer Bill Renault.

Festival by the Lake

June 14, **Wakefield Lower Common**
FOLQ is happy to once again participate at the Festival by the Lake, an annual event hosted by the Wakefield Center Neighborhood Association (WCNA). Come for the many crafters, artists, local organizations, live music, and great food.

Learn to Fish

July 16, **Wakefield Lower Common**
Save the date! July 16, 2026 FOLQ is thrilled to once again partner with MassWildlife to host a "Learn to Fish" event for ages 5 and up. This free, family friendly fishing class will occur before the beginning of that night's Movie by the Lake.

FOLQ at Town Day on the Common

September 26, **Wakefield Lower Common**
Stop by the FOLQ table at Town Day on the Lower Common. See the work we do, learn about the latest happenings around the lake, and check out volunteer opportunities with FOLQ.



3rd Annual Learn to Fish Event at the Lake: July 16

FOLQ will once again hold a free "Learn to Fish" event on Thursday, July 16 before the start of that night's "Movie by the Lake." Priority registration will be given to anyone on FOLQ's email list. "Learn to Fish" is led by educators from MassWildlife's Angler Education Program. All equipment is provided (you're also welcome to bring your own) and attendees will learn the basics, from casting out, to baiting up, to what to do once you've caught a fish! This is NOT exclusively a kid's program. It is a program for people of all ages who want to learn how to fish. Children 15 or younger must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is limited to 50 people. We hope to see you there!

Interested in participating? In June, FOLQ will send an email to anyone on our email list with registration information. To join FOLQ's email list, send a message to mail@folq.org.

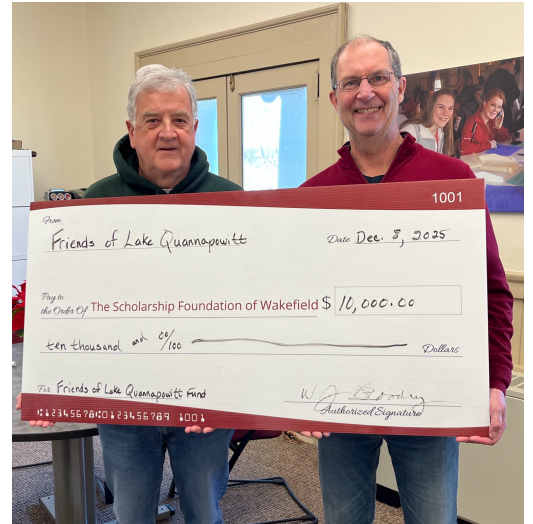


FOLQ Establishes TSF Scholarship

In December 2025, the FOLQ Board of Directors voted to establish a scholarship with The Scholarship Foundation of Wakefield for a student(s) with a preference for a student studying environmental science. TSF Wakefield, formerly the Citizens Scholarship Foundation (est. 1960), is a precious town resource, providing hundreds of scholarships annually, representing over 600 named funds. The first FOLQ scholarship will be awarded in June 2026.

Contributions to the FOLQ fund can be made to www.tsfofwakefield.org/donate. Mention FOLQ.

The Scholarship Foundation of Wakefield is a 501(c)3, non-profit community organization dedicated to empowering local students in their pursuit of higher education by offering financial need support. Beyond our commitment to students, we proudly administer and manage scholarship funds that have been established by community members to commemorate individuals, families, businesses, and organizations.



Galvin Lake Cleanup

Twice yearly, FOLQ joins forces with Galvin Middle School 5th and 6th grader students and adult volunteers to clean up the lake's shoreline along the south end of the Lake, from the Lower Common to Hall Park. Students and volunteers meet at the bandstand on the Lower Common to where they are greeted by FOLQ Board of Director members and are directed to areas around the lake to perform cleanup efforts around the shore and park areas of Lake Quannapowitt. The students collect dozens of bags of trash and debris. Students have found everything from candy wrappers and water bottles, a collection of tiny terracotta pots, and even a whole coconut! The list of interesting finds is endless!



Leeila Given, FOLQ Board member and former President, indicates that this collaboration with Galvin Students dates back over 25 years.

This biannual event is coordinated with Cindy Fitzpatrick, Science teacher at Galvin Middle School and former Friends of Lake Quannapowitt 2016 Gertrude Spaulding Award winner. The cleanup always has a great turnout. FOLQ is forever grateful to Cindy for her work to make this a successful event.

Lastly, FOLQ and the community thanks the Galvin students for helping to keep our lake shore pristine!

Bricks by the Lake Celebrates 20 Years 🎉

2026 marks the 20th anniversary of "Bricks by the Lake". In 2004, FOLQ sparked an initiative to redesign Col. Connelly Park — essentially a continuation of earlier efforts to open up the whole head of the lake to public view upon entering the town from the north. Because fiscal restraint was predominant in town politics at the time, FOLQ committed to raising the funds without any impact on the town budget. A combination of public and private grants, donations from FOLQ and other community sources went a long way toward the financial goal. All the elements of town government got on board with the park project. A formal "town committee" was appointed to work through the design and financial elements. FOLQ was designated as the long-term "administrator" of the engraved brick project, in coordination with town officials. Proceeds would be maximized by using FOLQ volunteer skills and labor.

Current FOLQ Board members Leeila Given and Karen Faler were instrumental in the funding and construction, coordinating with Town and State officials for the redesign of Col. Connelly Park which included the Bricks by the Lake.

In the design work, the Col. Connelly Park Committee considered several values: enlarging the panorama potential of the lake with maximum simplicity; maintaining a playground area for young children; continuing to honor the park's namesake (Col. Edward Connelly) with its flagpole; and inserting an area for engraved brick donations consistent with those elements. This resulted in the current octagonal brick plaza around the flagpole.



While initially eyed as a revenue generator, "Bricks by the Lake" has evolved over the years into something much more than a practical tool. It has become an amazing loom, weaving a community fabric with memorable strands of life's joys, sorrows, and even humor and puzzles. On your next walk around the lake, explore the first 20 years of little messages woven into this ever-growing "community table cloth" located at Col. Connelly Park.

Applications for Bricks by the Lake donations can be found on our website at FOLQ.org. 100% of the proceeds from brick donations are reserved for lakeside park betterments.