

A great opportunity has just come our way!

One of the many benefits of the Lake Quality Improvement Committee (LQIC) developing solid relationships with other organizations, agencies and people (through external stakeholder meetings such as we had in January 2015, outreach by LQIC, etc.) is that opportunities sometimes come our way.

We are very fortunate that starting this week, the Wesleyan University Environmental Geochemistry class will use Lake Hayward for a fall semester class project! Reasons for Lake Hayward's selection are that we provide an interesting subject for the students, we are organized and have our act together in dealing with lake ecology and related issues, we will enthusiastically interact with the students and we are close enough to Middletown to make us accessible for the students. Past classes have looked at the water chemistry and sediment histories of Lake Beseck, Job's Pond, and the Middletown North End landfill (methane and CO₂ degassing)

To provide some information on what the students are expected to do ... following is an excerpt from one of Professor Tim Ku's emails ... "On the lake, the students may do a number of different things. Usually, the students take water column measurements (pH, DO, T, conductivity), collect and preserve water samples for cations, anions, chlorophyll, particulates (CNP), and some isotopic measurements, and collect sediment piston and freeze cores for a wide range of sediment analyses including organic C, organic N, nitrogen isotopes, Hg, trace metals, and mineralogy." Coming out of a meeting that LQIC had with Professor Ku and limnologist Rick Canavan (who worked on the Lake Hayward Watershed Management Plan outline) were several other possible topics around internal phosphorus loading and flux measurements. While much of their work is technical, as the above list of potential tasks suggests, having this information will provide significant historic and current data about the lake which will be of great benefit as we develop a lake and watershed management plan. This new information, coupled with existing historical data, will move us forward in understanding our lake and what should be done for its management going forward.

So, what this all boils down to is that **during the week of September 14th there will be 3 pontoon boats (the largest pontoon boat is Wesleyan's) on the lake for at least one afternoon with the Wesleyan students taking water samples and sediment core samples, which they will use to perform their analyses during the semester.** The students may return later in the month to obtain further samples, again using one or more pontoon boats.

This is a special and unique opportunity for Lake Hayward and will provide us significantly enhanced data and geological history of our lake and the ground under it. Later in the semester the students will present their findings to the lake community. We will pass along the date, time and location when it becomes available.