

# Beer, fish-fry aim to hook donors

Quassy event to raise funds for weed plan

BY BILL BITTAR  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

MIDDLEBURY — Beer aficionados can sample more than two dozen craft beers at Quassy Amusement and Waterpark next month while combating an invasive weed problem at Lake Quassapaug.

The park is hosting the Subs & Such Beer Fest on May 2 to raise money for the Lake Quassapaug Association.

"We'll do a fish fry," said George Frantzis, co-owner of Quassy. "We'll serve fish and chips in keeping with a lake theme."

Nine craft breweries from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York and Texas will bring sample beers.

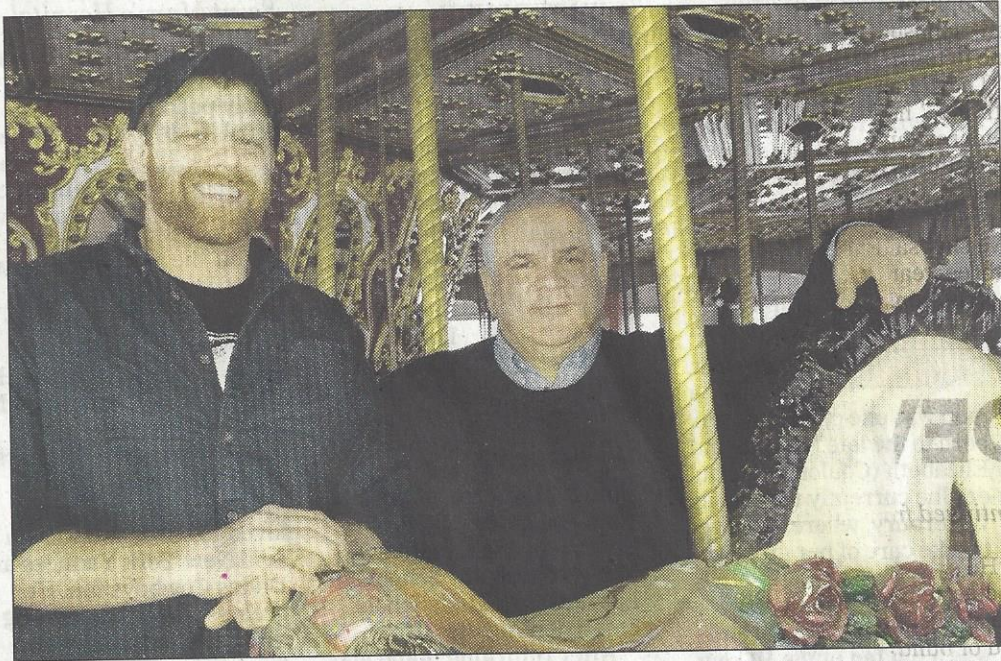
The event will run from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the field-side pavilion.

Frantzis, who is also president of the lake association, is a longtime Middlebury resident who grew up on the lake.

"We're getting a huge growth of invasive milfoil, weeds that are not native to the lake," he said Friday, "and it's ruining the ecological balance of the lake."

An expert recommended using herbicides to tackle the problem but that sparked a public outcry from residents concerned over the environmental impact chemicals may have.

"We all wanted to do the right thing," Frantzis said of



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Jason Sobocinski, left, part-owner of Black Hog Brewing Co., will be among the micro-brewers at the Subs & Such Beer Fest at Quassy Amusement & Waterpark on May 2. He's on the carousel with George Frantzis, co-owner of the park.

the association. "We came up with a three-year plan of what we think we can afford."

The plan involves hand-pulling and suction harvesting the weeds from the lake.

Frantzis said the association's goal is to raise \$40,000 a year, but the difficulty is it's not a one-time thing. He hopes to get Lake Quassapaug to the point where it just needs routine maintenance.

Online donations raised \$3,000 so far.

"This is the first event for fundraising, so we're excited about it and hope it's fruitful," Frantzis said. "I hope people will come and see how beautiful this lake is."

Online prices for tickets at [www.quassy.com](http://www.quassy.com) are \$36 for adults age 21 and older and \$26 for those under 21. Tick-

ets are \$40 on the day of the event.

Five dollars from each ticket will benefit the cleanup of Lake Quassapaug.

"There'll be prizes, games, live entertainment and giveaways in a festive atmosphere within the park," Frantzis said.

Those younger than 21 will receive an all-day ride pass and a food voucher for a hamburger or hotdog, fries and a drink.

Participating craft breweries include Harpoon, Yuengling, Duvig, City Steam, Black Hog, Shiner, Two Roads, Captain Lawrence and Broad Brook.

On Friday, Jason Sobocinski, part-owner of Black Hog Brewing Co. in Oxford, visited the park with Chris Charest, who does its brand

marketing.

Sobocinski started Black Hog with his brother Tom and their friend Tyler Jones. Jones worked at Portsmouth Brewery in New Hampshire until he and his wife moved back to Connecticut.

Black Hog is named after the Berkshire pig.

"It's the best pig to slow roast," Sobocinski said.

The brewery supports the Connecticut Farmland Trust and Sobocinski said the fundraiser for Lake Quassapaug ties in with Black Hog's environmental consciousness.

"Our beer is food-friendly," he said. "We do all ales and we're constantly looking to add new ingredients to match profiles of hops."

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