

LIMEKILN SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

"EVERY MEMBER MAKES A DIFFERENCE"

It never hurts to remind ourselves where we have come from, so that we can be certain where we are headed. As a member of Limekiln Swimming Association, you aren't just paying to swim for a couple of months, you are agreeing to become part of a community. We share a beautiful piece of property that only thrives if we work together to take care of it...for ourselves, each other, and future generations. You may have gotten a copy of this when you first joined, or read it on the web site, but here it is again. Welcome back to another great season!

A Brief History: "The Limekiln Swimming Association"

The history of Limekiln also known as "the Quarry" or "the Pit," goes back to a time before Redding had no country club or Topstone Park. The date was 1959. Most swimmers back then swam in pools or ponds in the area much like today. Occasionally some daring folks would venture into the local reservoirs to sneak a "dip." On hot lazy days a family from this area would have to travel to beaches on the Sound or up to Squantz Pond in Danbury just to cool off. The trip often became an all day affair. But, things were about to change.

A Redding resident named Ray Beaudry contacted a few people he heard of who were looking for a place to swim and he made them an offer. Mr. Beaudry had been mining gravel and lime on a leased property and there was a portion of that property he was finished with. Underground springs had filled in the pit he was working on and after he had carted in some sand for a beach he offered the swimming group the chance to rent the old quarry. The original members and families included: Grimes, Polseno, Attwoods, Williams, Lauterbachs, Snyders, and the Russels, or about 14 people in all. Each family agreed to pay Mr. Beaudry \$50.00 that first summer. This group grew and was eventually organized into the present-day Limekiln Swimming Association. The group's mission was to "assure the renters that they would have the quarry to swim in each year," according to Mrs. Grimes.

Mr. Beaudry's lease for the property eventually ran out and the members of Limekiln took advantage of a wonderful opportunity. On July 3rd, 1962, The Limekiln Swimming Association bought 10 acres, including the quarry, and the member-owned Limekiln was officially born.

Things haven't changed much since those early days. Filled with spring water, "the

Quarry” remains hidden in the woods and Surrounded by a natural park-like environment. You can See an egret, trout, turtles, and you can always catch a frog. Also, there are resident beavers in the nearby Simpaug Pond, which is owned by the Town of Bethel, and they continue to build their mud dams during the off-season. There's still one portable bathroom, but no running water or electricity.

Finally, when you meet a founding member, and you will, just say 'thank you. Just as in the past, every family must do their part. Active participation means you and your family, as current members of Limekiln have the responsibility to safeguard, nurture, protect, and most importantly, enjoy this great legacy.

Excerpts from “*Cooling off in Limestone Quarry*” - Alisha Dix @ Redding Pilot