The History of The Quarry
The history of Limekiln also known as “the Quarry”, goes back to a time before Redding had Topstone Park or a country club. The year was 1959. Most swimmers back then swam in pools or ponds. 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 to Squantz Pond in Danbury to cool off. The trip often was an all day affair. A Redding resident named Ray Beaudry contacted a few people who were looking for a place to swim and made them an offer. Mr. Beaudry had been mining gravel and lime on a leased property. There was a portion of that property not longer being mined because underground springs had filled it. He carted in some sand for a beach and offered the swimming group the chance to rent the old quarry. The original members included the Grimes, the Polsenos, the Attwoods, the Williams, the Lauterbachs, the Snyders, and the Russels, about 14 people total. Each family agreed to pay Mr. Beaudry $50.00 for that first summer. This group grew and was eventually organized into the present-day Limekiln Swimming Association. According to Mrs. Grimes, the group’s mission was to assure the renters that they would have the quarry to swim in each year.

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 established.

The property hasn’t changed much since those early days. Filled with spring water, the Quarry remains hidden in the woods and surrounded by a natural environment. You can see egrets, bass and sunfish, turtles, and you can always catch a frog. Nearby, there are resident beavers in the Simpaug Pond, which is owned by the Town of Bethel, and they continue to build their mud dams during the off-season. There is still no running water or electricity, but there is a portable bathroom.

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.