



**FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The FOVLAP Board met on Monday, March 8, 2021 and discussed the following:

Report from Oliver Pierson, Program Manager, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Lakes and Ponds Division:

- The DEC has filled the Aquatic Ecologist – Environmental Scientist position with [Peter Isles](#), who recently completed his Ph.D. at UVM, and will begin on April 26.
- The position for Lake Monitoring and Outreach Coordinator is currently being advertised for a May or June start date. This individual will coordinate the [Vermont Lay Monitoring Program](#) and will be involved in lake assessment.
- DEC expects to hire three summer interns from UVM's Environment and Natural Resources School and one fall ECO-AmeriCorps volunteer.
- The [Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid applications](#) are under review.
- Important newly identified problem affecting lakeshore property owners: Some owners are leaving their docks in through the winter and are keeping underwater bubblers going to keep the ice away from their docs. This [DEC lake encroachment](#) matter is not permitted under the [Public Trust Doctrine](#) and it can be a danger to lake users in the winter. Notices of violations have been sent to cease and desist by May 1.
- Sea lamprey treatment took place in Fall 2020 in several Lake Champlain tributaries. Very limited impacts on amphibian mud puppies was observed, so treatment appears to have had acceptable non-target impacts. New York is also treating their tributaries to Lake Champlain. This was a regional F&W project and has a lot of federal support. In line with sea lamprey control procedures and permit conditions, there will be no additional lamprey control actions in Vermont for another 3-4 years.

Cyanobacteria Spring Webinars: Jackie Sprague (FOVLAP Vice-President) announced that The [New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society](#) (NEC-NALMS) has announced a two-part webinar for this spring on Cyanobacteria. Part 1 will be on April 20 and part 2 on May 25. There is no charge for the webinar but you must register. You will find the flier with all of the registration details at the end of this summary.

FOVLAP Committee Reports

The **Lake Seminar** will take place on June 4 at Lake Morey but the **Events Committee** is also developing plans to make it virtual if COVID makes that necessary. The topic and speakers will be announced in the next few weeks.

The **Legislative Committee** is tracking water quality and lake and pond related legislation. Of interest is S.86 which will make a number of miscellaneous changes to vehicles and vessels, including extending the time that an out of state boat can be on the waters of Vermont from 30 days to 60 days without registering or paying a fee in Vermont.

The newly appointed **Ad Hoc Committee for Policy Development** has begun work on bringing together, drafting, and revising FOVLAP's policies and procedures.

FOVLAP Events: Lake Seminar June 4, 2021
Annual Meeting Sept. 9, 2021



On a lighter note ... "Ice stars" on our lakes & ponds

Have you—like me— ever looked out on your lake in the fall or spring when its surface ice is forming or melting to marvel and wonder what those strange stellate forms are? Here is what my naturalist friend had to say: *"This is a question that has puzzled and inspired many, at least back to Thoreau's investigations and writings ... Your photo, the seasonal timing of your observations, and positioning around the lake suggest that these late fall/early spring holes with their fractal radiations are what naturalists crudely refer to as "head bumps." During the shoulder seasons when ice is forming and/or thinning, resident and itinerant aquatic mammals will come to the surface for air by bumping their heads against the ice to breathe, and even to temporarily exit. Light head bumps can create fine radiating, shatter lines in the ice that then fill and expand to create these beautiful stary patterns. The freezing and thawing and snowing that follow enhance these stary patterns into layered universes of icy complexity. I have seen similar patterns develop when rocks or heavy blunt objects are thrown or fall onto the ice causing a round impact and shatter pattern from above that then wicks up water that further elaborates its radiation."* Here is where to go if you would like to know more: "[Lake Ice from a recreational perspective.](#)" Observing this is another of the many reasons why our Vermont lakes and ponds are so special and worth protecting ... as FOVLAP stives to do.



The New England Chapter of the
North American Lake Management Society

2021 Spring Webinar Series

Cyanobacteria: What You Need to Know

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 and Tuesday, May 25, 2021

10:30-12:00 AM Eastern

In celebration of Earth Day 2021 and to promote awareness and action about cyanobacteria blooms in our New England Lakes, the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society is hosting a two-part webinar series on "Cyanobacteria and What You Need to Know."

Please join us for one or hopefully both sessions of this two-part, free webinar series.

Part One will cover cyanobacteria biology, toxins and toxic impacts on wildlife, pets, and people.

Part Two focuses on monitoring of cyanobacteria and control options.

Both webinars will feature 30-minute presentations with time for questions and discussion.

Tuesday, April 20th from 10:30-12:00

Part One Presentations on Cyanobacteria Biology and Toxicity

• *Cyanobacteria biology and toxin formation*

Key aspects of cyanobacteria that make them competitive bloom formers, including N fixation, buoyancy, resting stages, and toxin production

Dr. Barry Rosen, Florida Gulf Coast University, FL

• *Cyanobacteria toxin impacts on people, pets, and wildlife*

Impacts of cyanobacteria on people, pets, and wildlife, current understanding of health risks from cyanobacteria, including known exposure routes, the role of toxins, and susceptible populations

Dr. Elizabeth Hilborn, USEPA, Office of Research and Development, NC

Tuesday, May 25th from 10:30am-12:00

Part Two Presentations on Cyanobacteria Monitoring and Control

• *Monitoring Approach to Identify and Quantify Cyanobacteria in Freshwater*

Various levels of monitoring from simple screening to detailed quantification, appropriate level of monitoring to meet goals and protocols for most effective monitoring

Mr. Hilary Snook, USEPA Region 1, MA

• *Control of Cyanobacteria*

Methods for directly removing or preventing blooms of cyanobacteria, watershed vs in-lake options, algaecides vs nutrient control, and relative costs of different approaches

Dr. Ken Wagner, Water Resource Services, Inc., MA

To Register for the Webinars:

Registration link for Part One - Cyanobacteria Biology and Toxicity Webinar:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/840558360791334157>

Registration link for Part Two - Cyanobacteria Monitoring and Control Webinar:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8175272886336926988>

Once you register using the links above, you will receive a confirmation email from NH Watershed Management, with the subject line of the name of the workshop you registered for, offered by the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society. That confirmation email will contain information on how to log into and/or call into the webinar on April 20 and/or May 25th. Please save that information so that you can use it to join the webinars.