

# Lake Seminar 2018

## Partners for Healthy Lakes: Exploring Science, Data, and Tools, Together

Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier

Hosted by the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds and the Vermont DEC Lakes and Ponds Program

### AGENDA

8:30 **Registration (and light refreshments)**

9:00 **Welcome** by Don Weaver, FOVLAP President

9:20 **Legislative and Department Updates** by Perry Thomas, DEC Lakes & Ponds Program Manager

9:40 **Lake Management Celebrations** by Amy Picotte, DEC Lakes & Ponds Program

*Lake Wise Gold Award recipients, the Bob Arnold Award, and other recognition for exemplary lake protection!*

10:00 **Break**

10:15 **Lakes 101** By Angela Shambaugh, DEC Lakes & Ponds

*This session will describe how a natural lake functions through an exploration of the interaction between biotic and abiotic factors within a lake, and how the lake is connected to its watershed.*

11:45 **Lunch (buy at cafeteria or bring your own)**

Opportunity to sit with groups for selected topics of conversation (facilitated by DEC staff)

1:15 **Workshops**

- **Track 1—A Deeper Dive into Lake Science –How are Vermont’s Lakes?** (Kellie Merrell, VT DEC Lakes and Ponds)  
This workshop dives into lake science to explore the status and trends of Vermont’s lakes over 40 years of data collection. The *Spring Phosphorus Program* within the DEC has been collecting water quality data since 1977 on inland lakes in Vermont. Soon after the ice goes out in the spring, most of Vermont’s inland lakes "turn over," fully mixing the water column. Phosphorus readings taken at this time indicate the amount of phosphorus a lake will have available for the growth of primary producers like phytoplankton, algae, and aquatic plants. Phosphorus data, in addition to many other water quality parameters collected during the Spring Phosphorus Program’s field work, have been assessed to explore changes over time. Learn about lake water quality trends across the state and about observations on your individual lake.
- **Track 2—Partnerships and Funding Opportunities** (Hilary Solomon, Poultney-Mettowee NRCO, Heather Johnson, Essex County NRCO, Kim Jensen, VT DEC)  
This workshop will provide information on forming partnerships to implement water quality improvement projects to protect and restore lakes and how to leverage Vermont-focused funding sources for those projects. Workshop participants will learn how to build upon existing data and assessments as resources for guiding implementation and how to look for projects eligible for funding within your own watershed.
- **Track 3—Data and Tools for Lake Protection** (Mark Mitchell, VT DEC Lakes and Ponds)  
Bring your laptop or tablet to this hands-on workshop where you can explore the multiple tools and datasets (including the Vermont Lake Score Card) that are available to help inform and plan restoration and conservation actions in your watershed. Participants will use the "Model my Watershed" tool to identify potential projects to improve lake water quality. The tool can delineate a lake watershed anywhere in the U.S. and simulate the impacts of best management practice installation scenarios.

3:30p **Wrap-up**, evaluations, and door prizes.