



NEWSLETTER

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. • P.O.Box 421, Waterbury, VT 05676

WINTER 2004-2005

NUMBER 4

Governor Douglas Opens 3rd Annual Meeting

President Jackie Sprague convened the 3rd annual meeting of The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP), at Vermont Technical College, Randolph, Vermont on July 26, 2004. She then introduced Vermont Governor Jim Douglas.

As the keynote speaker, Governor Douglas addressed 54 delegates representing 26 Vermont lake and pond associations. He personally thanked the delegates for their dedication as volunteers committed to maintaining the quality of the water and the environs at the lakes and ponds where they live and/or spend the summer. The governor referred to his "Clean and Clear Water Action Plan" as an important step in ongoing water quality improvement efforts, starting with Lake Champlain. Governor Douglas and New York Governor Pataki have together targeted 2009, the quadricentennial of the arrival of Samuel de Champlain, as the target date for completion of cooperative clean-up efforts of Lake Champlain.

Lieutenant-Governor Brian Dubie followed Governor Douglas, again thanking the delegates for their work, and pointing out the outstanding view he gets of Vermont bodies of water as an airline pilot.

State Senator Ginny Lyons, chair of the Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee, spoke to the delegates of the importance of bringing

appropriate proposals to the legislature for consideration. She pointed out that FOVLAP, as an organization representing lakes and ponds throughout the state, could command more attention at the legislature level, than perhaps could individual associations.

Several individuals from the state Water Quality Division made presentations in their areas of expertise. Ginny Garrison

reviewed recent past and current legislative activity, focusing on the distribution of boat registration fees among various state governmental units. Prevailing opinion among FOVLAP members is that water quality efforts need increased financial support from the state, in view of spreading infestations of non-native plants and animals, e.g. Eurasian Watermilfoil, Hydrilla, Water Chestnuts, Zebra Mussels, etc. Amy Picotte gave a visual presentation and comments on her 12th year of involvement with water quality monitoring programs. Starting with 30 lakes twenty-six years ago, there are now 84 inland



Governor Jim Douglas

lakes that monitor water quality. Mike Hauser, specialist on aquatic nuisance species updated the group on available grants and efforts to control Zebra Mussels and other non-native aquatic nuisances. Ethan Swift, Watershed Coordinator, spoke on his work in the development of basin plans for various watersheds in the state. Susan Warren then gave a slide presentation of the Better Back Roads grant program, and what can be accomplished by associations that participate in it. Following this, Eric Palmer, Director of Fisheries, made a slide presentation on the history of native and non-native fish found in Vermont waters.

The meeting concluded with reports from individual lake and pond associations, and the handling of several routine FOVLAP business matters. All in attendance agreed on the usefulness of the session, with many items of interest to carry back to their own lake or pond. FOVLAP encourages any interested individuals or associations who have not benefited from these annual get-togethers, to join with us. You will find it very worthwhile!



Lieutenant Governor Brian Dubie

2004 Eurasian Milfoil/Lake Protection Seminar

The second annual Eurasian Milfoil and Lake Protection Seminar was held in Waterbury on June 25, 2004 with 82 people in attendance. People hailed from all regions of the state to learn more about the prevention and control of Eurasian Milfoil and Watersheds.

The day was divided into two concurrent sessions – one before lunch and one following. Representatives from lake Associations and the ANR were panelists and/or facilitators for

each session. Workshops were held on Spread Prevention and Control, Watershed Surveys and Planning and Watersheds: Making Things Happen.

The Opening Session for all participants focused on Aquatic Plant Management in Vermont and Why Watersheds? A variety of native plants and nuisance plants were available for attendees to identify and ask questions. People could also bring plants for identification.

Much discussion centered around cost of control and spread prevention of Aquatic Nuisances. It was suggested to offer a workshop on funding sources for the 2005 seminar. We encourage and appreciate your feedback and suggestions on this seminar. The 2005 seminar will be held on Friday, June 24. We are currently investigating holding it in Montpelier. Please send comments and suggestions to Jackie Sprague at jackie@sprague.org.

Update on the Vermont Lay Monitoring Program

The Vermont Lay Monitoring Program just completed its 26th sampling season! Lake residents from all walks of life volunteer to take weekly lake water quality samples. The LMP was established in 1979 and continues today with the same goals.

- to describe water quality conditions on each participating lake
- to establish a database on each lake to document future changes in water quality; and
- to educate and involve lake residents in lake protection.

The LMP samples a lake for total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a concentration, and water clarity. The results tell us how the lake is doing with respect to nutrient enrichment. Excessive nutrient enrichment from various land use sources results in algae blooms, reduced water clarity and increased nuisance native plant growth.

Lay monitoring can be the foundation of your lake protection efforts. To learn about your lake's participation in the program and to view data, visit the Lakes and Ponds Section website at www.vtwaterquality.org, and click on "Lakes and Ponds," then "Volunteer Monitoring." Contact Amy Picotte at 802-241-3777 to find out more about the program and how to participate.

Membership Benefits

- We are incorporated in the State of Vermont as a legal non-profit corporation, and we have an IRS designation as a 501c (3) tax-exempt organization.
- Our "main event" is our annual meeting, highlighted by speakers with professional backgrounds in such subjects as Invasive Aquatic Plants (Eurasian Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, e.g.), development of water front land to control erosion and nutrient run-off, boating rules & regulations, and other pertinent subjects as may be appropriate.
- We are members of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS), and the New England Chapter (NEC-NALMS). Our officers frequently attend national and local chapter meetings and provide information on items of national and area interest of our members.
- We monitor and speak to any proposed state legislation that we perceive to have a material effect on the interest of our members.
- We publish a newsletter to keep members informed of matters of interest throughout the year.
- We depend on and receive professional advice and counsel from the staff of the Water Quality Division, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. They attend our annual meeting and also meet with individual lake and pond associations, providing on-site guidance and advice. They are an integral part of our organization.

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL
MEETING

Monday July 25,
2005

Please send us your
updated list of Association
Officers and email contact.

2005 Membership Dues

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR FEDERATION
AND HELP PRESERVE VERMONT'S LAKES AND PONDS.

() \$25.00 Association Member () \$15.00 Individual Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Association: _____

Contact

Phone No.: _____ email: _____

() We would like to show our support with the following donation
\$ _____.

The Federation is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Your contribution is tax deductible in accordance with I.R.S. regulations.

*Checks payable to the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds
and mailed to our P.O. Box 421, Waterbury, VT 05676.*



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OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

Jackie Sprague, President (Lake Harvey)
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Reginald Lamb, Treasurer (Woodbury Lake)
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Lake Saint Catherine Sonar Report

During the course of this past Summer, Aquatic Control Technology, applied Sonar on five occasions to treat the Lake's milfoil infestation. The first treatment, a whole-Lake application, occurred on June 1, and four booster treatments were subsequently applied (the last of which was on August 24). The results to date are promising – as of the end of August, approximately 95% of the milfoil had disappeared, and the remainder was clearly in distress.

Our Sonar treatment was, and will continue to be, an expensive and labor-intensive project. The cost for 2004 alone (out of a five-year management plan) is expected to be

approximately \$270,000. Our Board of Trustees, and volunteers from the LSCA community, have contributed over 1,280 hours of their own time to date towards the program.

The funding of our \$270,000 in program expenses for 2004 has been (or will be) derived from the following sources: \$140,000 came from voluntary contributions from Lake property owners; \$27,000 will be provided by the State of Vermont; \$17,000 will be provided by the Town of Poultney; and the balance was funded through the Association's equipment replacement fund. While \$10,000 in funds had been requested from the Town of Wells, the proposed

contribution was voted down by the Wells residents.

There will be much work to be done over the next four years (including lake monitoring, plant surveys, volunteer training, non-chemical removal [such as hand pulling] of any milfoil plants that reemerge, and chemical spot treatment, if necessary). While the cost of the program over each of the remaining four years is expected to be less than in 2004, the expense will still be considerable. The Association is continuing to raise funds to pay for the associated costs and fees, including seeking government funding.

~ submitted by Phil Pope