THE FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS

NEWSLETTER

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

WINTER 2001-2002 NUMBER 1

State-wide Lakes & Ponds Protective Association Formed

After nearly 30 years of working to protect and improve the quality of Vermont's lakes and ponds, the Northern Vermont Lakes Federation, and the Southern Vermont Lakes Federation, on July 23rd, 2001, announced the formation of one, unified, state-wide organization, to be called the *Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds*. The Northern Federation was formed in 1972, and includes about 30 individual lake associations and representatives. The Southern Federation was organized a few years later and represents lakes in southern Vermont. Jackie Sprague, former president of the Northern Federation, was elected president of the new organization.

Peggy Igleheart, Vice President (Caspian Lake) and John Washburn, Director (Lake Parker).

Federation Officers and Directors (Standing L to R); Cliff Aikens, Director (Silver Lake), Dave Wood, Director (Salem Lakes), Jollie Parker, Director (Little Hosmer), Patricia Rockwell, Director (Shadow Lake), Tom Benoure, Director (Fairfield Pond), Len Pallotta, Director (Lake Eden), Bill Casey, Director (Lake Morey). (Seated L to R); Dick Simpson, Director (Willoughby Lake), Reginald Lamb, Treasurer (Woodbury Lake), Jackie Sprague, President (Lake Harvey), Jo Wright, Secretary (Lake Iroquois).

The need for a state-wide strong voice speaking out on issues of water quality is especially important today because of the continuing spread of non-native aquatic nuisances such as Eurasian Milfoil, Zebra Mussels, Water Chestnuts, etc, which presently have infested 57 Vermont lakes and ponds. The education of users of the lakes and ponds to slow down further infestation will be a top item on the agenda of the new Federation. With advice and counsel from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Water Quality Division, they will work on issues critical to the success of individual lake associations and their efforts to preserve water quality.

At the annual July meeting, the Federation will present and share information on water quality issues. There will also be ongoing year-round work to stay abreast of legislation relevant to the interest of Vermont lakes and ponds and to disseminate information to local units.

With this action to form one state-wide organization, Vermont joins most other states who have had such a group for many years. Volunteers are still the heart of these citizen groups. All lakes and ponds in the state, who are not currently members, and have concerns about water quality, are urged to add their voice so that collectively the new organization can bring an unified focus on the serious issues presently effecting Vermont lakes and ponds - and there are many. Use the newsletter coupon on page 3 or contact the *Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds* at PO Box 421, Waterbury, VT 05671.

The need for more state funding to control aquatic nuisances

State of Vermont funding for control of aquatic nuisances under the Motor Boat Registration Fees bill (Act 52, 1993) has averaged about $177,400 per year from 1994 to the present. However, while that figure has remained relatively constant, the number of Vermont lakes affected by aquatic nuisances during those same years has not. Rather, the number of Eurasian-milfoil infested lakes has grown from 37 in 1994 (the first year the Motor Boat Registration Fees funding took effect) to 53 as of the end of 2000; and the actual infestation level of many of those lakes has increased significantly as well. Furthermore, Vermont lakes are also threatened by two other aquatic nuisances: Zebra Mussel and Water Chestnut.

Inasmuch as controlling all forms of aquatic nuisances requires substantial amounts of money, the average of $177,400 needs to be increased considerably. This would be possible through the passage of House Bill 372. Introduced by Representative Helm in the first half of the current legislative biennium, H372 will come up for consideration during the 2002 legislative session.

H372 proposes to increase the Motor Boat Registration Fee by $5. With about 39,000 registration motor boats in the state, this would result in an additional $195,000 for aquatic nuisance control, which, of course, is very desirable. However, as the bill is presently written, the additional $195,000 could only be used for the control of Eurasian Milfoil; and this may not be as desirable. For while most lakes face difficult and constant battles with milfoil, restricting the funding to that aquatic nuisance alone would mean that "new monies" could not be used to combat either the Zebra Mussel or the Water Chestnut. And as we all know, any aquatic nuisance can strike any Vermont lake at any time.

Therefore, the Federation board, acting on the feelings expressed at the general membership at the July 23rd meeting, is asking that members write, phone or e-mail their legislators: 1) in definite support of H372, as additional funds are badly needed, but 2) asking that the bill be amended in the appropriate sections, and at the appropriate time, to allow for the control of all forms of aquatic nuisances.

A list of the legislators in your area, as well as their mailing addresses and/or telephone numbers, may be obtained by visiting the State of Vermont web site (www.leg.vt.state.us) or by calling the Sergeant At Arms' office at 1-800-322-5616.

From the Department of Environmental Conservation

The Lakes and Ponds Section of the VTDEC extends or sincere congratulations on the formation and initiation of the new state-wide VT Federation of Lakes and Ponds. We are sure that together you will be an effective voice on lake issues, and we look forward to working with you!

Many of you will be familiar with at least one of the Lakes and Ponds Section programs, but by way of introduction, here is an overview of the various programs and their contacts:

Lay Monitoring Program, Project WET (schools and teacher education), and *Out of the Blue* editor - Amy Picotte

Aquatic Nuisance Control (Eurasian milfoil, zebra mussels, water chestnuts, etc; spread prevention, monitoring, permitting and funding) - Ann Bove, Holly Crosson, Michael Hauser, and Tim Hunt

Aquatic Nuisance Control permits and grants-in-aid - Vicky Barney

Lake Champlain sampling and zebra mussels monitoring - Cathi Eliopoulos and Pete Stangel

Mecury monitoring, Lake Biocriteria Development, Lake Assessment - Neil Kamman and Kellie Merrell

Lakes and ponds Section Chief - Ginny Garrison

Lake watershed management and protection, VT Watershed Grants - Susan Warren

Lake Champlain management and State Limmologist - Eric Smeltzer

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Message from the President

Thank you, Vermont! The newly formed Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. has numerous people and organizations to thank for creating a state wide organization to support the quality and resources of Vermont lakes. Many lakes associations and people affiliated with them have volunteered time and energy to make FOVLAP a reality. The Department of Environmental Conservation, Water Quality Division has been a long time supporter for a state wide initiative. This endeavor could not have happened without everyone working toward a common goal - Vermont Lakes and Ponds.

There is a lot of work to do to make this organization one that is recognized by all lakes associations, legislators and the public as one to look at for assistance and one that can make a difference in funds available to fight aquatic nuisances. FOVLAP have lots of goals, and our future is bright. We want to have a voice in the legislature. We want the users of Vermont waters to be educated about the threats to Vermont waters and what we all can do to prevent additional threats. We want everyone to continue to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Vermont waters and realize that these are a gift to be protected and loved.

Our hope is that someday, this organization will have an office with paid personnel that can assist Vermonters and lake enthusiasts with questions and concerns about Vermont lakes.

Jackie Sprague,
President

Ginny Garrison, Vermont State Water Quality Division, Lakes and Ponds Management/Protection Section Chief speaking at the annual meeting. In the foreground is Ed Bloom, past Northern Federation President who faithfully attends every annual meeting.

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL MEETING
MONDAY JULY 22, 2002

VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

RANDOLPH, VERMONT

2002 Membership Dues

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

( ) ASSOCIATION MEMBER $25.00
( ) INDIVIDUAL MEMBER $15.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

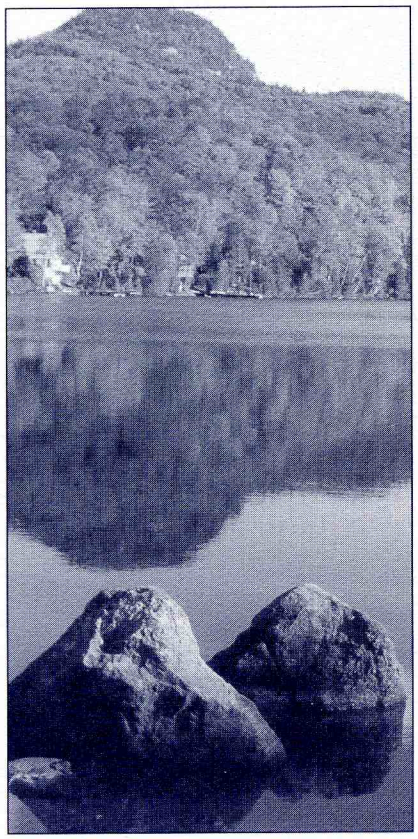
_____

PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____

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

CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS AND MAILED TO OUR P.O. BOX 421, WATERBURY, VT 05676.



Long Pond, Westmore, VT

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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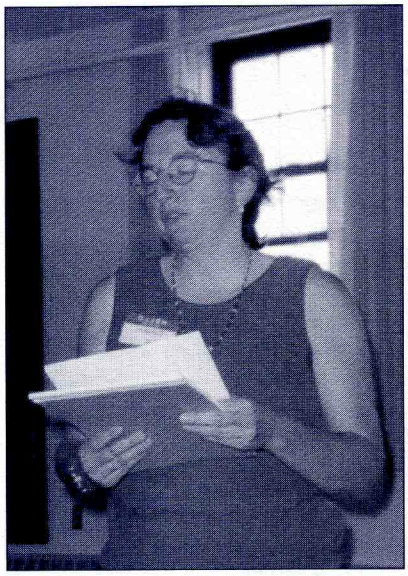
We are always available to work with you and your association on lake issues, and encourage you to call us anytime! All of the above people can be reached at 802-241-3777. Also check out our website at www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes for more information on our programs and staff. The section publishes a semi-annual newsletter, *Out of the Blue*; please give us a call if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

Best of luck in your work for Vermont lakes!

Susan Warren,
FOVLAP Liason



Susan Warren, representing the Water Quality Division-Department of Environmental Conservation, will be their liason with the Federation.

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