



NEWSLETTER

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

WINTER 2002-2003

NUMBER 2

30 Years In The Making

On July 23rd, the first Annual Meeting of the newly formed Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds was held at the Vermont Technical College in Randolph Vermont. This new organization is the consolidation of the formerly separate North and South organizations, which was first started with 6 lakes in the Northeast Kingdom *thirty years* ago by Carl Simpson of the Westmore Association.

Over 60 people attended this years meeting and they represented 26 organized Lake Associations and 6 individuals or members of lake groups. In addition to getting better acquainted, the various members of the

Federation were able to compare common problems and an agenda of interesting speakers made presentations of topical interest throughout the day.

The first speaker was State Representative Dave Brown of the Fish, Wildlife, and Water Resources Committee. He gave an update on recently passes legislative Bill H372. This bill provides for an additional \$254,000 for aquatic nuisance control through an increase in motorboat registration fees. Hard work by the Federation helped make the passage of this bill possible.

Another speaker, Ginny Garrison of the State Board of Water Resources told of additional monies through grants that are

available to all Vermont lakes. This years grants totaled \$437,882 which fell far short of the requested \$850,000. Thirty projects were approved for \$639,000 and with a shortfall of \$200,000 only a percentage of each request was filled. It should be noted that Ginny has been an active participant in every Annual Meeting since it's founding in 1972.

Ethan Swift of Willoughby Lake, State Watershed Basin Coordinator, gave a report on the progress on the plans underway to study each of Vermont's 17 watersheds.

Roger Thompson gave a detailed report on Vermont's new

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Attendees at this years July 23rd Annual Meeting in Randolph Vermont.

Federation Plays Important Role In Passage of Legislation

The relatively new Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds recently played an important role in the passage of legislation that will provide additional state grants for the control of aquatic nuisances in Vermont's lakes and ponds. A new \$5 surcharge will be added to the registration fee for motor boats under 16 feet in length, and a \$10 surcharge to all larger motor boats. This is expected to increase annual state funds available for aquatic nuisance control grants from the previous level of approximately \$177,000 to over \$300,000. Combining these state funds with available federal grant funds, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) expects to award nearly 30 aquatic nuisance control grants totaling over \$400,000 in the fiscal year that started July 1, 2002.

Foremost among the nuisances to be controlled are the

invasive plants, Eurasian Milfoil and Water Chestnut. Milfoil now affects 56 lakes and ponds to varying degrees statewide. These nuisance plants, along with Zebra Mussel, are continuing to spread to uninfested water bodies. Recreational boating is a major contributor to this spread. Grant funds support not only programs to control existing aquatic nuisances, but also programs designed to stop the spread of these nuisances to new waters. The legislation also enables the DEC's Water Quality Division to fund two positions from the basic motor boat registration fees. These positions are necessary to administer grant funds, as well as to provide technical assistance to towns and local lake/pond groups trying to control the aquatic nuisances.

Working with Representative David Brown, Chair of the House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and

Water Resources, Federation President Jackie Sprague asked that the original bill (House Bill 372), which targeted funds for Eurasian Milfoil control only, be expanded to include all such aquatic invasive species. In February, Ms. Sprague and Federation Board Member Tom Benoure testified before Rep. Brown's committee on various aspects and practical implications of the bill. A network of Federation Board and general members also communicated with individual legislators in both houses to explain the necessity for the increase in aquatic nuisance control funding, which has remained roughly the same since 1994. The legislation, which ultimately became part of House Bill 767, the Executive Branch Fees Bill, passed the House by a 109-22 margin on June 1, having passed the Senate only one day earlier.

Results From the Annual Meeting Survey From 24 Vermont Lakes and Ponds

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

AT FUTURE MEETINGS:

Need for professional inspection of lakes for aquatic nuisances, correction of old septic systems, effect of new septic law, new ways of milfoil control, access signs, web site development, videos on effect of aquatic nuisances on Vermont lakes, streamlining of aquatic nuisance control permit processes and legislative program for associations.

SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS:

Better back roads grant, various fund-raisers, boat parade, wash station, septic laws that are tougher than state laws, improved walking path around lake, LAKEfest, lake monitoring, fireworks, boater safety course, acquisition of land around lake for protection, loon nesting platforms, milfoil clean-up, sonar treatments for milfoil, and banning jetskis on lakes.

Strategic Planning

The board of directors of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds Inc. (FOVLAP) met in September to review our mission and begin the process of strategic planning. The first order of business was to review our mission statement. It was decided to revise the mission statement to "dedicated to the conservation, promotion, and development of environmental quality standards for Vermont lakes and ponds through communication with the local lake and pond organizations." A shorter version of the mission will remain on the Federation letterhead. The board members listed existing successful programs within the organization that we expect to continue. Using the Ten Elements of a Sustainable Organization, the board listed goals that would reflect each criteria. Once these were established the board members identified two specific goals for next year.

1. To increase the number of member lake and pond organizations through communication efforts.

STRATEGIES TO MEET THIS GOAL INCLUDE:

- Visiting lake associations meetings to promote Federation. We are asking all lake associations to let the Federation know when their meetings take place.
- Send out 1 page issue updates to associations throughout the summer.
- Put Federation news in *Out of the Blue*.
- Contact lake people by phone, to encourage attendance at annual meeting.
- Develop web site.
- Publish newsletter.
- Improve lake association contact accuracy.

2. Identify lake problems and issues for FOVLAP to address.

STRATEGIES TO MEET THIS GOAL INCLUDE:

- Hold joint meetings with VTDEC Lakes and Ponds section to learn and discuss issues. VTDEC would present an overview of programs to start process.
- Hold an informational and discussion seminar on Eurasian Milfoil Control with all lake associations, or lake groups, FOVLAP board and VTDEC.

3. Keep abreast of current legislative issues.

This was a wonderful opportunity to look at where we want to grow as an organization. Please let us know what you think. You may contact Jackie Sprague at 802-482-2885 or jackie@sprague.org

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY JULY 28, 2003

VERMONT
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
RANDOLPH, VERMONT

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

2003 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.

30 YEARS IN THE MAKING

(Continued from the cover)

Septic Bill S27 and Eric Hanson, Statewide Loon Coordinator, gave a slide program update on Vermont's loon population which this year has 38 nesting pairs.

The Annual Business meeting reported a healthy financial balance of \$2,964.00. As with every Annual Meeting, each lake gave a report on their successes and problems. Eurasian milfoil, jet skis, water quality, zoning and land use were all common problems. The following were reelected to another three-year term as

Directors of the Federation; Pat Rockwell (Shadow Lake), Tom Benoure (Fairfield Pond), and Len Pallotta (Lake Eden).

The Federation rededicated itself to continue its goal to raise people's consciousness about the water quality of our lakes and possible sources of pollution and to work closely with the state legislature to attain these goals. Recognizing that lakes and ponds are fragile ecosystems and once seriously harmed, can stay permanently harmed, members will continue to spread the word about the need to preserve these precious resources.



President Jackie Sprague leading the discussion at the Board of Directors strategic planning meeting.

A member of our board would like to attend your Annual Meeting. Please send us your 2003 Annual Meeting's date, time and place by mail or email to: jackie@sprague.org Thank You

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P.O. Box 421
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OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

Jackie Sprague, President (Lake Harvey)
Peggy Igleheart, Vice-President (Caspian Lake)
Reginald Lamb, Treasurer (Woodbury Lake)
Jo Wright, Secretary (Lake Iriquois)

DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERATION

Cliff Aikens (Silver Lake)
Tom Benoure (Fairfield Pond)
Bill Casey (Lake Morey)
Len Pallotta (Lake Eden)
Jollie Parker (Little Hosmer)
Patricia Rockwell (Shadow Lake)
Dick Simpson (Willoughby Lake)
John Washburn (Lake Parker)
Dave Wood (Salem Lakes)