THE FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS

NEWSLETTER

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

WINTER 2006-2007 NUMBER 6

Are You A V.I.P.?

by Leslie Matthews, VTDEC

Vermont **I**nvasive **P**atrollers is the new name for our expanding invasive species watchers program (formerly known as "ANS Watchers" or "Milfoil Watchers").

Early detection is vital to protecting Vermont's lakes from harmful invasive plants and animals. Monitoring lakes for invasives is fun! As a VIP, you'll learn about native aquatic plants and animals and their habitats, as well as potentially harmful invasive species. And you'll have a great excuse to get out regularly and enjoy every nook and cranny of your lake or pond all summer long!

What it takes to be a VIP:

- Participate in at least one basic VIP training workshop (optional advanced workshops may also be available based on interest).
- Sign a *Statement of Commitment* promising to document survey results in accordance with standardized procedures and report them to Vermont DEC.
- Conduct and submit at least two surveys during the summer for the presence of invasive plants or animals in your lake or pond.

If you're interested in becoming a VIP, please contact Leslie Matthews at 802-241-3798 or leslie.matthews@state.vt.us. We are in the process of compiling a list of interested individuals in preparation for planning 2007 training workshop locations and dates.

Jennifer Durham and Linda Boudette survey aquatic plant species in Lake Dunmore.

Attention College-Bound Students!

The Vermont Federation of Lakes & Ponds (FOVLAP) is pleased to offer a $500 scholarship for Vermont residents interested in studying and/or a career in aquatic environment, water resources education or limnology. It will be administered by Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (http://services.vsac.org/ilwwcm/connect/VSAC/). We encourage application by qualified individuals for this award. The first award will be for the 2007-2008 school year. Please contact VSAC at 802-654-3798 in the Burlington area, or toll-free at 888-253-4819. May 25th is the deadline for applications.

President's Corner ~ Jackie Sprague

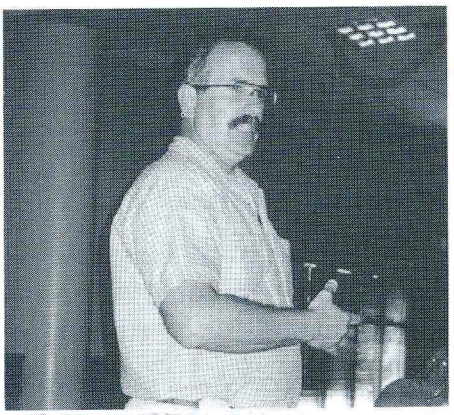
Naturally vegetated shores are an important element of a healthy lake, as a panel explained at the 2006 Federation annual meeting. A variety of issues were raised including the need to conserve shores near loon nests, the value of vegetation in enhancing the lake shallow water habitat, the role of shore vegetation in filtering runoff from uphill. In addition, Mary Durling of Lake Caspian described her replacement of a shoreline lawn to a native plant buffer. Other participants were Representative David Deen, Eric Hanson of the VT Loon Recovery Project, Kellie Merrill and Susan Warren DEC Lakes and Ponds Section, landowner Ray Richer of Joe's Pond.

Vermont has wetlands regulations but no shoreland regulations to minimally protect the shorelines. Lakeshore owners are encouraged to work closely with towns and state representatives to educate and share insight about the protection of shorelands, which in turn protects our water quality and lake ecosystem. Lake associations can also provide information and encourage owners to enhance the native vegetation along their shore.

Bill Casey and Tom Benoure have resigned from the board of directors of FOVLAP. It has been our privilege and pleasure to work with these two men. They both are recognized for their valuable and sustained support. They will be missed! The Federation is pleased to welcome new board members Jeannie Jenkins of Lake Paran in North Bennington, and Bill Fisk of Cedar Lake in Monkton.

Jackie Sprague introduces Rep. David Deen who spoke about shoreland protection at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

The Federation is pleased to announce that the 2006 Vermont State Legislature again decided to support the Federations outreach and organizational efforts with a grant of $2500. Thank you!



Annual meeting attendees were treated to beautiful wildlife photographs taken by Ray Richer of Joes Pond all on his shore property.

Federation to Make Plea to Legislature

By Dave Wood, FOVLAP

The directors of the Federation have asked its legislative committee to meet with chairpersons of the Senate and House Natural Resources Committees as well as the Committee on Institutions. The intended purpose is to convince the Vermont legislators through these chairpersons of the status of Vermont lakes and ponds on three levels:

1) We are losing the battle against the invasion of aquatic nuisances due to lack of funds;

2) The grant-in aid program has been under-funded since its inception by the legislature in 1977. The intent was to provide 75% of an approved projected budget. As you know the first year of a project was generally 59%, the second year 49% and the third year 39%. The decision makers at the Lakes and Ponds division are in an untenable position; they cannot continue to fund approved programs at the previous percentage and at the same time approve the number of new lake associations who wish to initiate a program; and

. . . continued on page 3

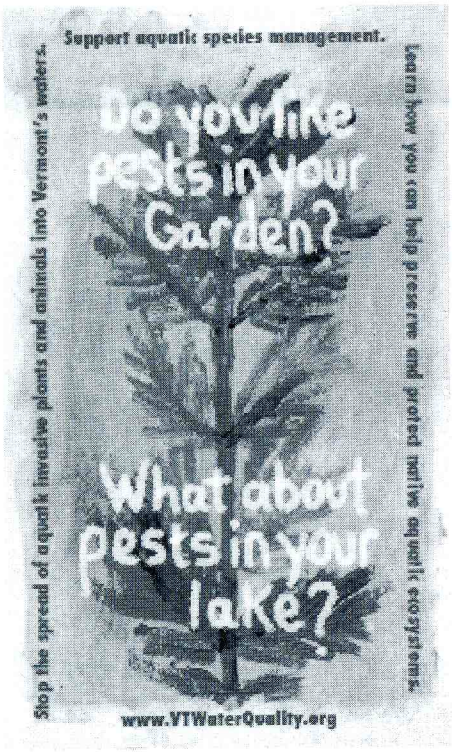
3) Make a case for increasing the funding through examples encountered by associations. The grant-in-aid program was designed to have 25% funded by local volunteers, and organizations, however as we know, most of the contributions have come from lake associations. The lack of state funding has placed a great burden on associations; volunteers are becoming increasingly more difficult to find and the cost of aquatic nuisance species removal by either chemical or various types of harvesters has become almost prohibitive.

Last January Ginny Garrison and Ann Bove of the Lakes and Ponds Section, at the request of the legislature, developed a 26-page report on the status and condition of Vermont Lakes and Ponds and delivered this report to above same committees. This is an excellent report you would find very informative and can be found at: http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes/docs/ans/lp_ansg-in-areport06.pdf

We have no illusions of providing new or better information but wish to make a presentation from a different perspective — one from lake property owners who are members of their lake association who volunteer and contribute funds and know what it is to inspect boats, hand pull Eurasian watermilfoil, work on fund raising activities and see the number of infested lakes increase each year. We encourage you to contact your legislators to bring this issue to their attention!

Help Stick-It To Aquatic Species!

The Aquatic Invasive Species Sticker Program is off and running!



- The AIS Sticker promotes awareness about invasive aquatic plants and animals that interfere with the recreational potential and ecological health of lakes and ponds in Vermont.
- Profits from sticker sales go directly into the Grants-In-Aid program that supports efforts to control existing infestations or prevent pests from spreading to new waterbodies (see below).
- Many thanks to the 70 vendors around the state who agreed to serve as sticker distributors last summer, including members of lakes and ponds associations, boating and sporting organizations and environmental groups, as well as local businesses and town offices.

We hope to hit the ground running at the start of the spring boating season. We need your help! If you would like to participate in marketing and/or selling stickers in 2007, please contact Leslie Matthews at 802-241-3798 or leslie.matthews@state.vt.us.

Congratulations and special thanks to Andy Dales and fellow members of the Greensboro Association (Lake Caspian) for topping the list this summer with 61 sticker sales!

$$$!

The *2007 Aquatic Nuisance Control Program Grant-in-Aid Guide* **and application** for municipalities to apply for funding for aquatic nuisance control is now available on line at: http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes/htm/lp_grantinaid.htm or by calling the VTDEC Water Quality Division at 802.241.3777.

Lake Paran, a Southern Vermont Gem

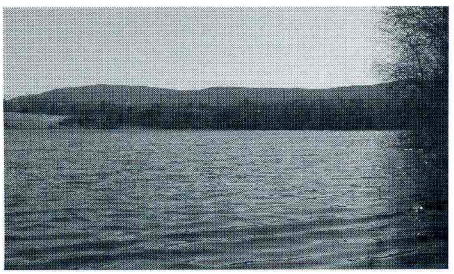
by Jeannie Jenkins

Lake Paran, considered by many to be the gem of southern Vermont, is a beautiful 35 acre lake located at the borders of three municipalities: the Village of North Bennington, and the towns of Bennington and Shaftsbury.

The lake and uplands continue to be an important natural area. The lake was created in 1850 after a dam was built to connect railroad lines in Bennington and North Bennington. Prior to this, the lake was a wetland of Paran Creek. The creek, which originates in South Shaftsbury, now flows through the lake and then follows Route 67A to the Walloomsac River. The lakeshore has remained undeveloped and in December 2004, a conservation easement for 55 acres including almost 3,000 feet of shoreline along Lake Paran and Paran Creek was established through the efforts of the Fund for North Bennington and the Vermont Land Trust.

Today, Lake Paran is an ideal area for recreation, nature study and entertainment. A nonprofit board, Paran Recreations, Inc., maintains a four acre tract including a beachfront for swimming and areas for picnicking.

Lifeguards are on duty every day. A large raft anchored in the lake makes a great destination for those who want to relax in the sun. In addition, visitors can attend the summer evening music series, rent canoes and participate in a variety of events ranging from clam and chicken bakes to a children's dock painting fundraiser. The state maintains a fishing access and boat launch for non-motorized watercraft on the south end of the lake and stocks the lake every spring. The development of trails from the Lake Paran beachfront area along the protected northern and eastern shorelines is currently underway. During the summer months, please call (802)442-2422 for more information about events at Lake Paran.



Lake Protection Series Launched

Want to educate your lake's residents about septic system maintenance? Preventing driveway erosion? Replanting the shoreline? A new series of publications from the Lakes and Ponds Section are now available as the Lake Protection Series. Thanks to funding provided by the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, a set of the Series in a 3-ring binder is available for each lake association or group in the state. This will allow an association to keep these materials together, add other material relevant to their lake and projects, and update their notebook as new topics become available.

Currently available in the Series:

- Introduction
- Only You Can Save Your Lake
- Go Wild: Plants and Plantings on Lakeshores
- Septic System Basics
- Preventing Driveway Erosion
- Conducting a Watershed Survey
- How to Manage a Successful Lake Association:
  - Starting and Running an Effective Lake Association
  - Funding Your Association's Good Work
- Connecting with Local Schools

Available as of June 2007:

- Conserving Lakeshores
- Lake Monitoring and Obtaining Water Quality Data

Contact Susan Warren (241-3794) about receiving a copy of the Lake Protection Series, or download them from www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes.htm (click on Lake and Watershed Protection).

REMINDER: *You do not want to miss!*

Lake Seminar

Friday ~ June 8, 2007 ~ Montpelier Elks Club

Annual Meeting

Monday ~ July 23, 2007 ~ Montpelier Elks Club

Why You Should Join the Federation!

Mission: to educate lakefront property owners and all others interested in the preservation and maintenance of Vermont's inland bodies of water.

1. The Federation works hard to be a catalyst for communication between Vermont's 80+ lake associations so we all can learn from each other.
2. We co-sponsor the popular Lake Seminar held annually in June featuring workshops on aquatic invasive species and lake protection.
3. We offer an informative Annual Meeting in July, highlighting speakers on diverse issues facing Vermont's lakes.
4. We monitor state legislation every winter in Montpelier and make sure the voice of lake associations is heard.
5. We publish a newsletter and maintain a website to share information and enhance communication.
6. We coordinate closely with the Lakes and Ponds Section of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

We are members of both the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society and NALMS itself to provide information of regional and national interest to our members.

2007 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: _____

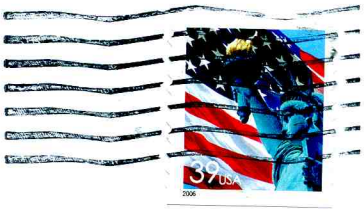
Contact Phone No.: _____ email: _____

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

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



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 421
Waterbury, VT 05676

Officers of the Federation
Jackie Spraque, President (Lake Harvey)
Dick Simpson, Vice-President (Willoughby Lake)
Reginald Lamb, Treasurer (Woodbury Lake)
Jo Wright, Secretary (Lake Iroquois)

Directors of the Federation
Cliff Aikens (Silver Lake)
Andy Dales (Caspian Lake)
Phil Pope (Lake St. Catherine)
Patricia Rockwell (Shadow Lake)
Jeannine Jenkins (Lake Paran)
John Washburn (Lake Parker)
Bill Fisk (Cedar Lake)
Dave Wood (Salem Lake)

Federation Website Up and Running!

Construction is over – we are in business at www.vtlakes.org! Check it out for all kinds of helpful information: meeting minutes; FOVLAP bylaws; lists of officers and directors with email addresses; links to state publications and information related to lake quality issues; and, as they say in car ads, "much more!". The mission of the Federation is to offer a forum for the education of, and exchange of information with all those interested in maintaining the high quality of Vermont's lakes and ponds. Send us your "roses or thorns" as to how we are doing so far. Email or snail mail any of us and we will respond quickly! How can we be even more useful? If you've attended the Lake Seminars or the Federation Annual Meeting tell us what you think and how we can make them better! Thanks - It's all there for you to use!