THE FEDERATION OF VERMONT LAKES AND PONDS

NEWSLETTER

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

SPRING 2008 NUMBER 9

Thirty Years and Counting!

By Amy Picotte, VTDEC

This summer the Vermont Lay Monitoring Program is celebrating 30 years of collecting lake data from more than 80 inland lakes and 35 Lake Champlain stations! The Vermont Lay Monitoring Program is the fourth oldest in the country and has been used as a model by many other states. Established in 1979, the LMP continues today with the same goals established 30 years ago: to describe water quality conditions on each lake participating in the program; to establish a database on each lake useful for documenting future changes in water quality; and to educate and involve lake residents in lake protection.

Under the LMP, a lake is sampled to measure its nutrient enrichment by monitoring the total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a concentration, and the water clarity. Excessive nutrients entering a lake are the most common cause of lake water quality problems.

Phosphorus is typically a limited nutrient in a lake system so when in excess, it accelerates the productivity (aging) of a lake. Phosphorus feeds aquatic plants, algae and other plankton (free floating, aquatic life), increasing a lake's productivity. Phosphorus may enter a lake from many sources; examples include, soil erosion from dirt roads or agricultural runoff such as horse manure.

Chlorophyll-a is the green pigment in plants and algae. The concentration of chlorophyll-a in a lake is used to describe the amount of algae occurring in the lake. Generally, lakes with high phosphorus concentrations will have increased algae growth.

Delores Mobilio of Sunrise Lake in Benson, VT shows off her Secchi disk technique!

Water clarity is measured by using a Secchi disk, an eight inch diameter, black and white painted disk. The disk is lowered into the lake by a rope, marked in meters, until it disappears from sight, at which point the depth of the rope is noted and the lake's transparency is measured. Generally, the more algae, the lower the water clarity.

People from all walks of life join the Lay Monitoring Program. Lay Monitors learn a lot about water quality while helping collect data that is used for making management decisions and shaping public policy for lake protection.

From all the lake users and the Water Quality Division, thank you all past and present Lay Monitors for 30 years of responsible lake protection work!

Appeal for Nominees for the Board of Directors

In our last newsletter you read that President Jackie Sprague and Treasurer Reggie Lamb will be retiring from their leadership roles in the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds this July, and that we are looking for nominees to carry on the momentum that they have established. We are also facing the loss of several members of our board of directors, and are in need of folks willing to serve on the board. If you believe in the goals and objectives of FOVLAP, we urge you to consider stepping forward and offering your time and talent. The need is urgent and we look forward to hearing from you if you are willing to take on a position where you can help guide FOVLAP as we move forward.

Please contact one of us with questions:

Jackie Sprague, President, 802-633-4994 or jackie@sprague.org

Andy Dales, Vice-President and chair of nominating committee, 802-533-7733 or g.dales@worldnet.att.net

Reginald Lamb, Treasurer, rdlamb@prodigy.net

Joanna Wright, Secretary, 802-985-3514 or wrights8@gmail.com

WATER QUALITY DIVISION HOLDS ACCESS AREA GREETER PROGRAM TRAINING WORKSHOP

Invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut and zebra mussels continue to threaten Vermont's waters. The good news is that the majority of Vermont's lakes and ponds remain free of invasive plant and animal infestations. And some species that could cause serious harm, such as the invasive aquatic plant Hydrilla and the invasive fish Asian carp, have yet to be introduced anywhere in the state.

While the threat of nearby infestations looms large, the methods for minimizing those threats are not complicated. That's where boat access greeter programs come in. Greeters assist boaters with inspections to ensure that invasive plants and animals aren't introduced into the lake. Just as importantly, they deliver educational messages about invasive species, the damage they can cause, and the importance of spread prevention.

Approximately 22 waterbodies around Vermont have access area greeter programs operated by lake associations and municipalities. In addition, the Lake Champlain Basin Program is expanding its Lake Champlain Boat Launch Stewardship program, launched last year, to include six paid greeters at boat accesses on the Vermont and New York sides of the Lake Champlain. During the summer of 2007, greeters at several Vermont lakes intercepted potential Eurasian watermilfoil fragments from entering uninfested waters. Most Vermont boat access greeter programs encounter only two or three boats in a season that are carrying an invasive species – some may go an entire season without seeing any. But it only takes one plant fragment or zebra mussel to start a new infestation with profound impact. And the importance of the information and educational materials greeters provide can't be underestimated. When few, if any, "contaminated" boats arrive at an access area, that means we're doing our job well!

By the time you receive this newsletter, Vermont DEC will have held its first annual Access Area Greeter Program Training Workshop. Topics covered include:

- Aquatic invasive species biology, threats to Vermont, and the importance of spread prevention
- Aquatic invasive species identification hands-on workshop
- Access area rules and regulations, baitfish regulations, and invasive species laws
- Tips on delivering invasive species educational messages and interacting with the public
- Boat inspection demonstration and role playing

The workshop is intended to provide training for those who will be staffing or supervising an access area greeter program, or those considering starting a new program. We hope to make this training workshop a regular event in the coming years, and encourage everyone operating or contemplating a greeter program to participate.

The Vermont Invasive Patrollers 2008 Summer Workshop Schedule

VIP trains lake volunteers to identify and search for invasive species in their lake. Participants learn about both plants and animals, as well as species already present in Vermont and those in nearby states. Several workshops have been scheduled for summer 2008.Workshops with "TBD" dates are being contemplated.

Location	Date
New England Lakes Conerence, Fairlee VT ~ Lake Morey	Friday, June 13
Benningotn, VT ~ Lake Paran	Saturday, June 21
Fairlee, VT ~ Lake Fairlee	Sunday, June 29
Hubbardton, VT ~ Lake Hortonia	Monday, July 7
Newport,VT ~ Lake Memphremagog	Thursday, July 17
Morrisville, VT ~ Lake Elmore	Friday, July 25
Brattleboro, VT	TBD
Calais, Vt ~ N. Montpelier Pond	TBD

If you are interested in attending one of these workshops, please visit the on-line registration form at www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes.htm and click on VIPs, or contact Leslie Matthews at leslie.matthews@state.vt.us or 802-241-3798. Also, you can contact Leslie to suggest another potential location for a workshop. A minimum of six registered participants is required for a workshop to be held.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds will hold its 7th annual meeting on Monday, July 28, 2008, at the Montpelier Elks Lodge. The meeting is from 8:30 – 3:30 with lunch provided.

Agenda items will include:

- Richard Langdon discussing how our native and non-native fishes got here: *Vermont Fishes- how long have they been here?*
- A panel discussion regarding buffer issues with Kellie Merrill from the ANR, and Milly Archer from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Not yet confirmed are a realtor, state representative and Maine DEC for their perspective.
- Legislative updates
- Your Lake Reports and News
- Board Nominations

See you there!

Jackie Sprague

APPEAL FOR NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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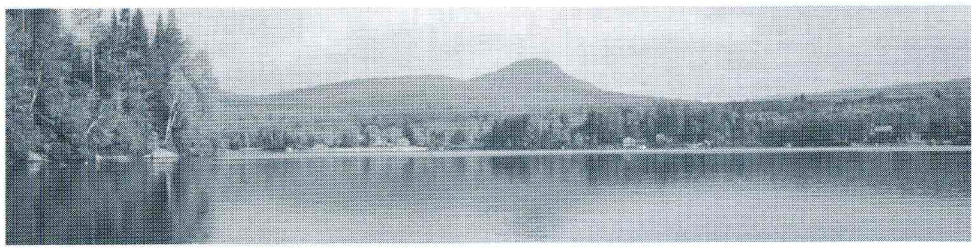

Annual Meeting Registration Form

RESERVATIONS FOR ANNUAL MEETING: JULY 28, 2008 MONTPELIER ELKS CLUB.

Name: _____ <<<<<Representative or Spokesperson

Name _____

Name _____

Lake _____

Name _____

Name _____

Annual Meeting Registration Fee (includes lunch) $15.00 each representative.

Checks payable to the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds and mail to:

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

OR

Reginald D. Lamb, 15 Cherokee Avenue, Essex Junction, VT 05452

Phone: 802-878-3731 or 456-7058 and leave a message.

E-mail: rdlamb@prodigy.net

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P.O. Box 421
Waterbury, VT 05676
www.vtlakes.org

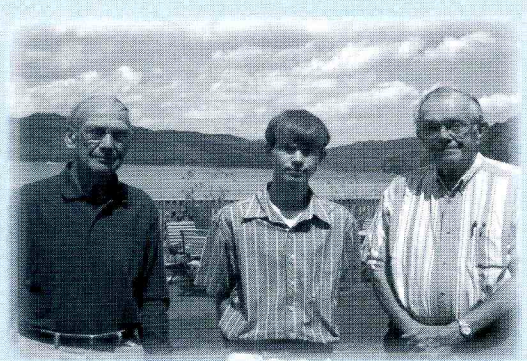
OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION
Jackie Spraque, President (Harveys Lake)
Andy Dales, Vice-President (Caspian Lake)
Reginald Lamb, Treasurer (Woodbury Lake)
Joanna Wright, Secretary (Lake Iroquois)

DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERATION
Cliff Aikens (Silver Lake)
Stewart Dittmeier (Lake St. Catherine)
Don Weaver (Lake Champlain)
Bill Fisk (Cedar Lake)
Don Hendrich (Lake Memphremagog)
Jeannie Jenkins (Lake Paran)
Patricia Rockwell (Shadow Lake)
Perry Thomas (Lake Eden)
Dave Wood (Salem Lake)

OUR FIRST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds is pleased to announce its first scholarship recipient. Nathan Moore from Wilmington, Vermont, received $500.00. Nathan attends Clarkson University and is majoring in Environmental Sciences. Nathan states; "The environment is something that I feel strongly about and I will work very hard to reverse the damage that is being done to it. I believe that this passion will make a career in Environmental Science less of a job and more of a way of life." The board of directors had the opportunity to meet Nathan at our retreat in August at the Lake Morey Inn and Resort. He joined us for lunch and a photo opportunity!

John Washburn initiated the idea of offering a scholarship. He researched the concept and contacted the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) to implement the process of advertising, collecting the applications and screening all the applications prior to our selection. Without the "behind the scenes" effort by John, the FOVLAP scholarship program would not have been initiated in 2007. Thanks, John!



Dave Wood, Nathan Moore and John Washburn