The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds Newsletter Fall 2015

Annual Meeting Highlights

by Jackie Sprague, FOVLAP President, and Perry Thomas, Lakes & Ponds Program Manager

The Annual Meeting of FOVLAP was kicked off by President Jackie Sprague at the Steak House in Barre at 9AM on Monday, July 27th. We were pleased to have Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Secretary Deb Markowitz give the keynote. She gave an update of the partnership between lake associations and ANR. She stated that lake associations have been important partners of the Agency of Natural Resources since the early days of Vermont's work to protect water quality. These partnerships proved especially valuable over the past four years, starting with the process of drafting the Act 138 Report, continuing through establishment of the Shoreland Protection Act and, most recently, behind the scenes in support of H. 35, now Act 64--the Vermont Clean Water Act. We are still just beginning the process of restoring and protecting Vermont's waterways. ANR anticipates partnerships becoming even more important as we move forward with the real work of addressing phosphorus and sediment loads in our streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

Pete LaFlamme, Watershed Management Division Director, then provided an overview of the Vermont Clean Water Act and Perry Thomas, Lakes & Ponds Program Manager, described the directives she was given when she accepted her new role. Essentially, the Lakes & Ponds Program is charged with integrating its work more fully with the work of other programs in the Watershed Management Division, while maintaining the integrity of ongoing efforts such as education about shoreland management (Lake Wise) and support of public access greeter programs.

Two key items at the annual business meeting were elections and approval of some bylaws changes. The bylaws revision clarified that every Vermont lake association and every Vermont lake without an association who are FOVLAP members have one vote on FOVLAP business matters, that business members and individual members do not have a vote. The revision also clarified director and officer elections. The following were elected for 2015-16:

Jackie Sprague, President
Bruce Durgin, Vice President
Bruce Barter, Treasurer
Roger Crouse, Bruce Tanner and Jamie Longtin as Directors.

(There was no person elected Secretary, but the directors, at their August 24th meeting, elected Mary Jo Teetor to that position). After an excellent buffet lunch served by the Steak House, we watched a video about a loon family and the birth of offspring, created and presented by Ray Richer of Joe's Pond. The day concluded with reports from representatives of lakes on the most pressing issue facing each lake. This prompted some wonderful off-line discussions as many attendees compared notes and potential solutions to lake problems.
A worthwhile day.

President's Corner

by Jackie Sprague

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds' board of directors are so excited to offer our first in a long time, fall newsletter! We are so fortunate to enjoy the beautiful fall colors and share with our many neighbors. Many thanks to our new director Roger Crouse from Lake Iroquois for offering to spear head the newsletter committee.

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds had a busy summer. Many exciting workshops and outreach projects have occurred due to Judy's grant writing successes. Shoreland technical assistance, plantings and a number of workshops have occurred around the state. The FOVLAP website was updated and has the capacity to accept credit cards for payment for seminars, annual meetings and perhaps a gift shop in the future. Many thanks to Don Weaver for overseeing this feat and Bruce Barter for his financial expertise. Vermont's hosting of the 2015 Conference of the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC NALMS) was a truly successful trial of on-line registration. Each New England state hosts this wonderful event where lake volunteers and scientists gather together to learn and share their experience of protecting the waters that we love. The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources co-hosted the event on May 29

and 30 at Burlington's Main Street Landing on the shore of beautiful Lake Champlain. The theme was *Celebrating the Natural and Cultural Values of out Lakes.* The participants hailed from all over New England and New York and enjoyed balmy May weather, took part in Paint and Sip, viewed green infrastructure in downtown Burlington and attended many workshops pertinent to their roles and lakes. Feedback from the other New England states indicated that "we will never be able to top Vermont."

Since 2008, FOVLAP has offered a $500.00 scholarship to a student enrolled in an environmental field of study. This was the brain child of John Washburn and has continued to be a rewarding approach to meet the future generation of lake stewards. With an anonymous contribution of an additional $500.00 FOVLAP offered two scholarships this year! Michaela Lombard from Enosburg Falls and Forrest Peront from Bethel are attending Middlebury College and Green Mountain College respectively.

The coming year will be a little less hectic without a New England Conference to host, but there will continue to be lots of activities. FOVLAP will be applying for grants to continue outreach and education regarding shoreline plantings and design. Our lake seminar is always filled with worthwhile workshops and networking. The annual meeting in July will keep us abreast of current statewide issues and sharing lake successes and challenges. We look forward to seeing you all.

Editor's Short Notes

by Roger Crouse, FOVLAP Board of Directors

With the help of board member Bruce Tanner, I assumed the creation of the FOVLAP newsletters. Communication is a hot-ticket item in my mind, so I hope you will see the newsletters as a step in the right direction.

Items To Note

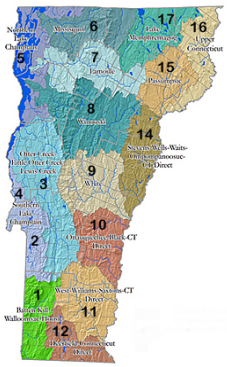
- Hard copies of this newsletter are being sent only to paid members of FOVLAP and lake associations. It is available on the FOVLAP website for all others. If you wish a hard copy, contact us at www.vermontlakes.org. This is another step for FOVLAP going green.
- We plan to publish answers to frequently asked questions of general interest. If you have a question, please send it in.
- FOVLAP always holds a seminar in early June, and we try to arrange a venue in central Vermont. If you have a location suggestion, let us know.
- For ease of communication with FOVLAP officers, directors and key contacts, see the names at the end of this newsletter. Email contact is through the FOVLAP website.
- If you would like a link on the FOVLAP website to your association's website, let us know.

What Does The New Clean Water Initiative Mean To Vermont Lakes?

by Perry Thomas, Lakes & Ponds Program Manager

If you are a member of a lake association or lake watershed association, you may wonder whether any lakes other than Lake Champlain will be affected by the new Vermont Clean Water Act (Act 64). Since much media coverage focuses on the Lake Champlain TMDL Implementation Plan, it is not surprising that other lake communities are asking the question, "What about us?" Certainly, Champlain's issues were a major driver of the legislative work that led to passage of Act 64. However, the new law does not just benefit Lake Champlain. It is about clean water for the ***entire*** state of Vermont.

Many of the Act's provisions are as relevant to Vermont's inland lakes as they are to Lake Champlain. The forthcoming rules that require management sediment and nutrient pollution from roads, developed land, agriculture, stream channels, and forestry activities will have important positive benefits for all lake watersheds. In addition, the Clean Water Initiative Program will direct funding to the highest priority projects as documented using monitoring and assessment data. If there is an important documented pollution source in a lake watershed, there should be funds to support design and restoration work to address that source.



The main vehicle for directing action to improve the state's water quality is the Tactical Basin Planning Process. (The state is broken into 15 basins – see map) Lakes & Ponds Program staff members are currently assessing statewide data and developing a procedure for more fully informing Tactical Basin Plans across Vermont.

For readers unfamiliar with Tactical Basin Planning, information is available on the VT-DEC Watershed Management Division's website at www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/planning.htm. If you have suggestions for improvements in the way lake issues are represented in your basin's plan, contact your local basin planner or send input to Perry Thomas, Lakes & Ponds Program Manager at perry.thomas@vermont.gov.

Model Project at Lake Iroquois

by Roger Crouse, VP, Lake Iroquois Association

The state fishing access at Lake Iroquois (Williston/Hinesburg) was closed from August 24-31 for major "remedial": work. The Fish and Wildlife department, led by Mike Wichrowski, coordinated a complete revamping of the boat launch. This entailed removing old concrete planks, smoothing out the lake bottom in the boat ramp area, installing new 2'x12' cement planks, and placing the old cement planks as a footing for a new dock.

Then 27 people converged at the access on Monday, August 31st to restore the shoreline bank south of the launch area. Volunteers included employees of the Agency of Natural Resources, members of the Lake Iroquois Association and other residents of Williston.

This day-long effort started with an overview discussion led by Brian Majka of GEI Consultants of Michigan. He discussed the installation process of sloping the land with a 2 to 1 pitch from the shore, installing biodegradable coconut fiber logs along the shore, then coconut fiber mesh on the sloping land behind the logs, and finally planting several plants. The end result would be a buffer that will not erode from lake water action. Brian mentioned during the discussion that an 18" wave has the same force as a 100mph wind! Sloping the land disperses the energy. After Brian's discussion, Amy Picotte, Lakeshore Manager, ANR/DEC, and Mike Wichrowski led the installation project under Brian's guidance. At the conclusion of the work, people installed a plastic barrier fence to keep dogs out of the area.

This was the first project of its kind in Vermont, thus a model project. Other Vermont lakes, and lake residents, should consider a similar installation. Contact either Amy (at amy.picotte@vermont.gov) or Bob Donnis (rdonnis@gmail.com), board member of the Lake Iroquois Association, for more information.

The Lake Iroquois Association thanks all involved in making this effort such a success.

Milfoil and a Needle in a Haystack

by Ann Bove, Aquatic Invasive Species Management, ANR/DEC

As part of my job managing aquatic invasive species, I recently traveled to Vermont's Northeast Kingdom for a site visit to Shadow Lake in the town of Glover. Shadow Lake is a beautiful, 210-acre oligotrophic waterbody with a Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife public boat launch, town swim beach, numerous seasonal and year-round homes, and an active lake association. This lake also supports many native aquatic plants and fish, loons, and, unfortunately, Eurasian watermilfoil.

Eurasian watermilfoil is not supposed to be in Shadow Lake or part of *any* Vermont aquatic ecosystem. Native to Europe, Asia and North Africa, this highly invasive aquatic plant was first believed introduced into the United States in 1942, possibly through the ornamental gardening or aquarium trade. Vermont's first population was found 20 years later in Lake Champlain's St. Albans Bay.

I made the two-hour trek bright and early from central Vermont, and was warmly welcomed by four Shadow Lake Association members. Since 2011, I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with these tremendously dedicated and generous individuals whose daily routines – summer, fall, winter, spring – now includes worrying about Eurasian watermilfoil and what this one plant species might do to change the lake they care so deeply about.

Eurasian watermilfoil is considered by many to be Vermont's aquatic invasive species "poster child." Prolific, not particularly picky about water temperature, sediment type or available nutrients, and highly effective at hitching a ride from one waterbody to another, this non-native invader, once introduced, is unlikely to be eradicated. It can grow and proliferate from roots, small or large stem pieces, and seeds. Dense Eurasian watermilfoil populations out-compete and eliminate beneficial native aquatic plants, reduce lake oxygen levels, increase lake water temperature, are of little value – food or habitat – to wildlife, and wreak havoc with recreational water enthusiasts. In a short time, this invasive aquatic plant can transform a Vermont waterbody into something unrecognizable, environmentally and recreationally.

Populations of Eurasian watermilfoil are known from 68 Vermont lakes and ponds – including, since 2011, Shadow Lake. Make note though: 79 percent of Vermont's lakes and ponds are *free* of this or another aquatic invasive species. Many individuals, lake and pond associations, municipalities and others dedicate countless hours in an effort to keep it this way.

Shortly after Eurasian watermilfoil was confirmed in Shadow Lake, the Association with support from the Town of Glover moved quickly to respond to this invasion; educating themselves and others, securing needed permits, acquiring needed funds, implementing needed control measures, and spreading the word far and wide to address this critical environmental issue. The Association also implements a public access greeter program and offers a staffed high pressure, hot water wash station free of charge to anyone wanting to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

On June 9, 2015, with the lake water temperature a brisk 60 degrees Fahrenheit, the Association's contracted scuba diver and I jumped into an area at the northern end of the lake known as "the cove". This is one of 20 sites where Eurasian watermilfoil was known, yet the only site known to have supported a substantial population. To control the

cove Eurasian watermilfoil population, on November 1, 2011, scuba divers installed and weighted down specially designed mats on the lake bottom to compress and block sunlight from covered watermilfoil plants. All mats were removed in 2014 after Eurasian watermilfoil was believed controlled underneath them. Our task on June 9 was to get in the water, and search for and remove any Eurasian watermilfoil plants not controlled by the mats.

In addition to the cove, we checked a number of other previously known Eurasian watermilfoil sites. These occurrences were fortunately found soon after establishment, a result of Association-initiated, regular searches. At these sites, scuba divers or snorkelers were able to remove both roots and stems of these plants by hand.

With both relief and a sense of accomplishment, the June 9, 2015 survey crew was pleased to find no Eurasian watermilfoil plants at any of the sites checked.

Is the Shadow Lake Association's work to control Eurasian watermilfoil a success? Absolutely. The quick response; successful fundraising; regular weekly, underwater searches; broad educational efforts; and tireless planning, commitment and dedication – with likely a number of sleepless nights – appears to have paid off, four, long years later. Is Eurasian watermilfoil eradicated from Shadow Lake? Time will tell.

For me, Eurasian watermilfoil control is analogous to a "needle in a haystack." Can one successfully search a lake's littoral zone – the zone where sunlight reaches the lake bottom and aquatic plants grow – to find and remove Eurasian watermilfoil plants before they expand from one to many? Can needed, effective management efforts be sustained well into the future? And how did Eurasian watermilfoil get introduced into Shadow Lake in the first place? Might it be reintroduced by the same or other pathways?

Based on what I've witnessed to date, the Shadow Lake Association may indeed be able to soon claim Eurasian watermilfoil controlled in Shadow Lake. If anyone can take on Eurasian watermilfoil and win, I'm betting these folks can.

Another Invasive Appears in VT

by Ann Bove, Aquatic Invasive Species Management, ANR/DEC
and Bethany Sargent, Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator, ANR/DEC

Lakes and Ponds Program staff recently confirmed the presence of starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) in a small cove on the southeast side of Lake Memphremagog in Newport. This non-native, invasive can develop large, dense stands, crowd out other aquatic plants, and can tolerate low- or high-nutrient conditions. Although it looks like a plant, it is technically classified as a macroalgae, an early ancestor of plants.

It was first observed in the cove by trained Vermont Invasive Patroller (VIP) Valerie Dillon, who brought it to the attention of Lakes and Ponds staff in late June during a VIP practice survey on Lake Memphremagog. A sample was collected at that time, but it did not have the specific, mature features needed to positively identify it. Lakes and Ponds staff returned in late August to collect additional samples, which allowed them to confirm its identity.

The Lake Memphremagog population is the first confirmed population of starry stonewort in a Vermont water body. Thought to be a native of Europe and western Asia, it was first reported in the St. Lawrence River in 1978 and is now found in inland lakes in many states including Massachusetts, Michigan, Indiana, and New York. The Lake Memphremagog find is the first confirmation of an aquatic invasive "plant" new to the state since variable-leaved watermilfoil was found in 2008 in Halls Lake in Newbury.

This new invasive species find highlights the important role volunteers play in keeping a watchful eye on their local water bodies. Through the VIP program, volunteers are trained to identify the aquatic invasive species that pose the greatest threat to Vermont lakes, to survey their favorite lake or pond (or section thereof) once or twice a summer, and to submit their surveys and any suspicious findings to Lakes and Ponds staff. VIP workshops are offered in June and early July, and staff-led practice surveys, in July, August, and September. Dillon mentioned that her participation in the VIP program inspired her to look a little more closely at the places she frequently paddles – we're grateful she did.

Staff will continue to determine the extent of the infestation and review management options for starry stonewort at this site. Remember, practicing and promoting Clean, Drain, and Dry (including a high pressure, hot water wash if available) will help prevent the transport of this and other aquatic invasive species.

A bit of silver lining to this invasive species find: during their return visit to the cove in August, Lakes and Ponds staff also observed great pond snails. These snails have only been collected three times in Vermont and are listed as a species of special concern. They can grow up to 7 cm, can live for several years, and have lungs, which allow them to be seen on the surface – how they were observed that day. They also prefer stagnant, slow moving water, such as that found in the cove. Although it's difficult to be certain, their presence may indicate one species that can tolerate this newly discovered, unwelcome macroalgae.

2015 Grants

by Judy Davis, FOVLAP Volunteer and former FOVLAP Board member

We worked on two grants that were active during 2015 – an F & W Watershed Grant, and a DEC Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) grant.

FOVLAP has received watershed grants from Vermont Fish and Wildlife for several years, and we have undertaken several projects, including the multi-year "Buffers for Blue Lakes" project. This year, FOVLAP's Watershed Grant was used for two projects associated with our Buffers for Blue Lakes theme. We supported a new version of our Blueberry Project, and we created a wonderful booklet of landscape designs that use native plants – which will be a great resource for lakeshore property owners. We also used this grant to make additional improvements to the vermontlakes.org website.

In 2015, as in previous years of the Blueberry Project, lake associations or lake volunteers recruited participants who were willing to add vegetation to their lake shores in order to protect the lake. These volunteers also scheduled a workshop, presented by FOVLAP staff, where participants would learn about the importance of lakeshore vegetation and pick up their blueberry plants. This year, lake volunteers took on the job of locating and purchasing the plants for the participants they recruited, rather than having grant staff do this. Two examples were notable. At Memphremagog, Gail Lynch and other lake association volunteers bought 60 blueberry plants from a local nursery and hosted the Healthy Shores-Healthy Lakes workshop presented by FOVLAP staff. At Lake Morey, Peggie Bissell and other volunteers researched new ideas for shoreland plants and made a buying trip to a supplier in Massachusetts – New England Wetland Plants. Each of the 17 participants in the Morey Lake project ordered 10 shrubs – Vaccinium corymbosum (Highbush Blueberry), Rhododendron viscosum (Swamp Azalea), or Spiraea latifolia (Meadowsweet). The Healthy Shores-Healthy Lakes workshops included distributing all of the plants. At Lake Morey, some plants went home by canoe. The Lake Morey Association shared the cost of the plants with users.

FOVLAP's ERP grant-funded project, "Lakescaping: Shoreland area restoration using the Lake Wise best practices for vegetation, pathways and steps**,"** is in its second and final year. The project offers landscape designs, plants or other materials, as well as installation services to lakeshore property owners who want to establish vegetated buffers and other lake-friendly best management practices at their lake shore property. The grant provides about $1,000.00 of design, plants and materials, and labor for each property, and the participant contributes $250.00. In 2014, we completed projects at 9 lakeshore locations. Plant survival was very high at all of our planting sites, and the waterbars and infiltration steps we installed are looking good. In 2015, we will complete 11 projects. Today, as I think about the possibility of snow showers for the weekend of October 17th, we are planting at our penultimate location and pondering whether to plant at the last property tomorrow, just before the cold weekend, or to wait until next week. We are hopeful that these late plantings will be successful!

Buffers for Blue Lakes - How To. What is a Buffer? Planning your blueberry buffer. Planting your blueberry buffer. Care of your blueberry buffer. Native plant lists. http://vermontlakes.org/lakescaping-2/resources/

A Guide to Healthy Lakes Using Lakeshore Landscaping. Design templates and easy-to-use planting plans. (A FOVLAP publication) http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes/docs/lp_VTlakescape.pdf#zoom=100

What Goes On Under The Ice?

by Art Brooks, FOVLAP Board of Directors

(Ed Note: A future edition of the newsletter will address the effect of the Spring season.)

As the days get shorter and the air temperature drops, the surface waters of our lakes also cool. As this happens, the surface waters become denser (heavier) and begin to sink, mixing with the water below. Eventually, the temperature and density difference between the surface and deeper water decreases to the point that the whole water column mixes top to bottom, aided by the energy of the wind at the surface. This is referred to the fall overturn or autumn mixing. During this period, oxygen is replenished throughout the water column and nutrients that may have accumulated near the bottom are mixed upward. If mixing occurs early and sunlight is still sufficient, a short lived, light limited, bloom of algae may occur.

Most lakes will mix and cool until the water reaches its maximum density (heaviest per unit volume) at 4C or 39F. Under these conditions, continued cooling will result in ice formation as water molecules begin to link together. This linking forms an open lattice of ice that floats at the surface, as does an ice cube in a long forgotten summer drink.

During the winter the temperature of the water just under the ice is at the freezing point (0° C, or 32° F). Water below the first few feet may actually be warmer, relatively speaking, and may be near 4°C, or 39° F. That temperature was determined back in the fall when the lakes first froze over and the wind could no longer mix the

water under the ice. Cold air temperatures contribute to thicker and thicker ice being formed, while snow that accumulates on top of the ice forms an insulating layer that reflects solar radiation and keeps the ice from melting on sunny days.

Lake Wise Program

by Amy Picotte, Lakeshore Manager, ANR/DEC

Humans are observational learners and what we see and hear happening along the lakeshore influences our own behavior. When people started to practice suburban landscaping practices along Vermont lakeshores, this style of land management quickly became the trend for shoreland development. However, science and intuition have proven that excessive clearing of vegetation along shorelands to replace it with lawns degrades shallow water habitat and water quality. The Lake Wise Program offers solutions for restoring the natural, wild areas along lakeshores to control stormwater runoff and protect sensitive lake habitat.

Lake Dunmore recipients of the Lake Wise Award

Lake Wise practices teach how to live along a shore in a lake friendly manner, protecting the very reasons why people are drawn to the lakeshore in the first place such as a lake's beauty, recreational opportunities, clean and healthy water, wildlife, and peacefulness. Partnering with local lake associations, shoreland owners, State Parks, and Fish and Wildlife, the Lake Wise Program aims to swift the predominate culture of shoreland landscaping of lawns to one of buffered shores that filter stormwater and protect wildlife habitat. Earning the Lake Wise Award and displaying the beautiful sign (logo designed by Vermont artist) draws attention to exemplary developed shores that offer enjoyment of and protection to the lake.

Below are a few program highlights.

- In June, more than 25 people attended the two Lake Wise Leader trainings, which sparked participation from Lake Memphremagog, the Long Point neighborhood in Charlotte, along Lake Champlain, Shadow Lake in Glover as well as from shoreland owners on other lakes. Shoreland owners from 15 lakes have participated in the Lake Wise Program as well as eight State Parks. Later this fall, this information will be shown on the Agency of Natural Resources Atlas (no shoreland owner names, just a visual presentation of the distribution of participation).
- Lake Wise continued to support the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds with their grant work to re-vegetate shorelands (see FOVLAP's grant work article in this newsletter issue – *a tremendously successful grant project because of Judy Davis's outstanding work*). These projects showcase a better way of landscaping the shoreland and help teach others these lake-friendly practices.
- The Fish and Wildlife Access area at Lake Iroquois became the first site where ANR staff became trained in bio-engineering practices (see related article in this newsletter).

Bio-engineering is a method to stabilize eroding shorelands that uses a mix of native plants, biodegradable materials, and sometimes rock. Over time, the root system of plants will grip and stabilize eroding banks better than any hard scape options while re-naturalizing the shore. For contractors and engineers, the tricky part of using these techniques is that they involve maintenance, especially the watering of the plants. Fortunately, members from the Lake Iroquois Association arranged for a watering schedule of the plants after the work was finished on Lake Iroquois. This project will continue to be assessed and visited next year.

Help spread the word to your local landscaper, contractor and site worker about the Natural Shoreland Erosion Control Certification trainings being offered in January, 2016. These trainings are mandated by Section 4 of the Shoreland Protection Act, with the objectives to demonstrate lake friendly landscaping techniques; connect landscapers, site workers and contractors with the tools and techniques needed to manage lakeshores in ways that protect water quality and habitat; and to communicate development rules under shoreland permitting programs.

Five trainings are currently scheduled throughout the state in partnership with the Northwoods Stewardship Center, the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the Lake Champlain Sea Grant at UVM, the Associated General Contractors of Vermont, and the Poultney Metowee Natural Resources Conservation District. Contractors, landscapers, permit specialists and lake watershed scientists will be teaching this course and covering shoreland best management practices from permits to native plants, green infrastructure, bio-engineering, landscaping materials and suppliers to road maintenance techniques. Participants in these trainings will be listed on the Agency of Natural Resources web

page as Certified Contractors in Shoreland Best Management Practices and will be given preference for work paid for by any Watershed Management Division grant contract.
Lakes are ecosystems connected to their shorelands. Natural, vegetated shores allow turtles, frogs and other animals to access the land to feed, rest and nest while also filtering out stormwater runoff and protecting water quality. For more information on the Lake Wise Program and solutions for restoring or protecting your shore, please contact Amy Picotte in the Lakes and Ponds Program at: Amy.Picotte@Vermont.Gov

Benefits of FOVLAP Membership

Your membership in The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds supports the following:

- An annual **Lake Seminar** where presentations by water resources professionals and lake association representatives enable participants to gain the knowledge and skills needed to manage invasive species infestations and protect Vermont's lakes and ponds from a wide variety of threats
- An **Annual Meeting** where lake associations from throughout Vermont share their experiences with the successes and challenges of lakeside living and lake management and protection efforts
- FOVLAP's ***Buffers for Blue Lakes*** **program** that assists landowners in planting lakeshore buffers
- **Coordination with *Lake Wise***, the VT Department of Environmental Conservation's program to promote lake-friendly property management techniques
- FOVLAP's booklet of design templates and easy-to-use planting plans, ***A Guide to Healthy Lakes Using Lakeshore Landscaping***, which is available on the Resources button of FOVLAP's website
- Regular monitoring of the Vermont Legislature and the distribution of **Legislative Updates** on bills of particular relevance to lakeshore property owners and lake water quality
- An informative website: http://vermontlakes.org that fosters communication among Vermont's 80+ lake associations
- ***Wise About Water: Knowledge in Action***, FOVLAP's blog to share news of how Vermont's lake and watershed associations translate knowledge into action
- A **yearly newsletter**, a **Facebook presence**, and an **email listserv**, all to inform and educate lakeshore and watershed property owners and others interested in the protection of Vermont's lakes and ponds
- **Student Scholarships**, awarded annually to college students pursuing a degree in an environmental field
- Membership on state and federal advisory groups regarding lake management and protection
- Affiliation with regional and national lake managers through the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC-NALMS) and NALMS

What our members have to say…

"Our Association joined FOVLAP as a conduit for information about best practices in water quality protection and to learn how other lake associations manage difficult issues. Challenges we've faced include protecting the lake from invasive species, managing our ever-growing Canada goose population, educating motorboat operators about safety, and addressing erosion control around new construction. All of these issues have been discussed at FOVLAP's Annual Meeting in recent years, and we've been able to report back to our Association members when we meet for our Annual Meeting in August." Lake Eden Association

"Our Association continues to maintain membership in FOVLAP to stay abreast of water-related information, activities, legislation, potential problems and proposed solutions that may impact lakes and ponds in our region. The seminars, meetings and website supported by FOVLAP are an invaluable resource for our Association and the State of Vermont." Westmore Association

"Our Association has been a long-standing member of FOVLAP to share information on common lake and town relationship issues. We share what we have learned dealing with invasive lake plants since the mid- seventies and we are a more informed lake community with the shared data of other lakes. As all lakes are part of a larger community, dealing with the Town Fathers is also a vital common platform of FOVLAP discussion." Lake Morey Protective Association

"I personally joined because of the support and scientifically robust information FOVLAP provides at its annual seminar and meeting." P.B.
To access a membership form for either an individual or lake association, go to www.vermontlakes.org, hover over "About Us," and click on "Membership."

FOVLAP Key Contacts

To contact an officer or director of FOVLAP, go to www.vermontlakes.org and click on "Contact Us." …

Officers:		**Directors:**
Jackie Sprague, President, Harvey's Lake		Art Brooks, Willoughby Lake
Bruce Durgin, Vice President, Lake Morey		Roger Crouse, Lake Iroquois
Mary Jo Teetor, Secretary, Lake St. Catherine		Andy Dales, Caspian Lake
Bruce Barter, Treasurer, Seymour Lake		Lori Fisher, Lake Champlain
		Jamie Longtin, Sunset/Sunrise/Perch
		Bruce Tanner, Willoughby Lake
		Beth Torpey, Lake Seymour
		Don Weaver, Northern Lake Champlain
One Open Position (fill remaining term for Mary Jo Teetor, now serving as an officer)		
ANR DEC: Amy Picotte, Amy.Picotte@vermont.gov Angela Shambaugh, Angela.Shambaugh@vermont.gov Ann Bove, Ann.Bove@vermont.gov		

Dedicated to the conservation, promotion and development of environmental quality standards for Vermont lakes and ponds

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