The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds Newsletter
Fall 2016

Annual Meeting Highlights
by Don Weaver, FOVLAP President

The July 25th Annual Meeting of FOVLAP, held at the Steak House in Barre, Vermont, was called to order by Jackie Sprague, President, at 9:00 am. Following the normal business, approval of the 2015 minutes, Treasurer's Report, election of officers and directors, the theme of the meeting, "Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) / Vermont Clean Water Fund", was presented by our keynote speaker, Kari Dolan, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Program Manager for CWIP. Act 64 (CWIP), was signed into law June 2015; the Clean Water Fund was created by Act 64, and together, the Act and the Fund cover the entire state of Vermont, including 7100 miles of rivers and streams and 812 lakes and ponds over 5 acres. It targets impaired waters and focuses on keeping clean waters clean.
The CWI Program can be viewed at: http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi

A panel discussion about "Clean Water", with the Agency of Agriculture, Transportation and Watershed Management Division gave presentations and answered questions from the audience. The day was rounded out with an update on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), followed by "Lake Reports" from the associations in attendance.

President's Corner
by Don Weaver, FOVLAP President

As newly elected president, thanks to all our lake associations for your vote of confidence. I thank Jackie Sprague for her outstanding leadership, countless number of hours spent moving FOVLAP in a forward direction, her willingness to remain on the board as a director and the countless hours of assistance provided to me this year. Bruce Tanner was elected treasurer. Thank you, Bruce Barter, for all your efforts as treasurer, these past four years. The newly elected directors are: Laurie Callahan, Brattleboro; Christine Cano, East Montpelier; Carol Bois, Wilmington and Tracey Shadday, Charleston. Welcome to the Board. Thank you, Art Brooks, for the many hours of service to FOVLAP over the years as a director. Best of all, Art and Bruce B. both plan to remain as Friends of FOVLAP helping wherever and whenever asked. Peggy Barter chaired our membership committee for several years and Ginny Garrison and Cindy Swanson, together posted the legislative updates to the website, Peggy and Ginny both plan to remain as Friends of FOVLAP. Cindy will be retiring from FOVLAP. Thank you, Cindy, for all your well spent time. We have two new Friends of FOVLAP this year, Cynthia Stevens and Bob Bois. Thanks to all the remaining board members,

and our DEC liaisons, Amy Picotte, Angela Shambaugh and Perry Thomas. FOVLAP could not accomplish its mission without the dedication of all these involved people.

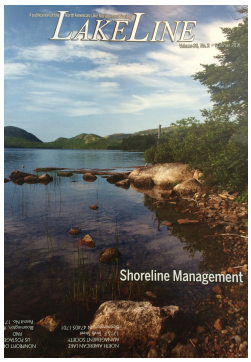
You can read more about our new directors and Friends of FOVLAP in the biography section below.

FOVLAP will continue its current planned programs: the Spring Lake Seminar in early June, the Annual Meeting July 24, 2017, at the Steak House in Barre, and our scholarship program. We are looking to expand our horizons with educational "OutReach" and by serving on the steering committee for the "2017 ECHO, Leahy Center Environmental Summit". Please check our website for upcoming events and information. http://vermontlakes.org.

Friends of FOVLAP

by Roger Crouse, FOVLAP Director

In The President's Corner, Don refers to "Friends of FOVLAP." The bylaws committee is working on a new paragraph under Article III (Membership) which would establish the term "Associate Member". Such a person would be one who has contributed significantly to FOVLAP and should be somehow recognized for time and effort and is willing to help FOVLAP in a significant fashion. Similarly, this person is, at the time, not eligible to be elected to the board (either due to term limits, having been on the board and not choosing to run again for a position, conflict due to employment or other reason). A proposed bylaw change to incorporate "associate" is expected to be up for a vote at our annual meeting next July.



FOVLAP's Buffers for Blue Lakes Project Featured in National Publication

by Perry Thomas, Program Manager Lakes & Ponds

This past summer, the North American Lake Management Society published an issue of LakeLine focused on "Shoreline Management." Buffers for Blue Lakes was included as an example of a partnership between lake associations and a state agency.

Judy Davis, Jeremy Deeds, and Perry Thomas told the story of how the project was developed and how it meshed with the DEC Lakes and Ponds Program's initiatives. The article concludes by pointing out that Vermont's new shoreland regulations apply only to new clearings and new construction. Buffers for Blue Lakes and its sister program, Lake Wise, continue to be critical resources for protecting Vermont's lakes.

For more information about voluntary shoreland restoration see http://vermontlakes.org/lakescaping-2/resources/ (Buffers for Blue Lakes) or http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise (LakeWise).

DEC Update

by Ann Bove, Environmental Scientist Lakes & Ponds

Below are recent updates from the Watershed Management Division and the Lakes and Ponds Program. You can get regular updates throughout the year by following our blog - https://vtwatershedblog.com/, and the DEC news webpage - http://dec.vermont.gov/news.

Perry Thomas is the new NALMS representative for the Northeast (Region 1). Congratulations, Perry!

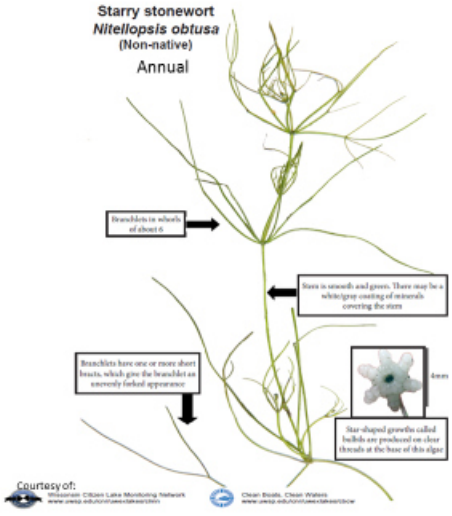
The Wetlands Program is undertaking rulemaking to upgrade four wetlands to Class 1 status, the highest protection afforded by the Vermont Wetland Rules. They are the Black Gum Swamps in Vernon, Dennis Pond Wetlands in Brunswick, Chickering Fen in Calais, and the Sandbar Wetlands on Lake Champlain. If you are aware of wetlands deserving Class 1 recognition, you can petition the Wetlands Program to make this designation.

The 2016 Shoreland Contractor Trainings were held in November. More than 130 folks attended, including contractors, engineers, consultants and homeowners. The Lakes and Ponds Program encourages homeowners making changes in the protected lakeshore zone to use certified contractors who have attended these trainings. Just a heads up to lake associations considering ERP funding for shoreland projects, the grants award process gives priority to projects using shoreland certified contractors.

The Vermont Clean Water Fund was established by Act 64 (Vermont's Clean Water Act) in 2015. The Fund will be financed until July 2018 by a surcharge on the property transfer tax on properties over $100,000. Over the last year, VT DEC has been holding public meetings and gathering information about other options for funding the state's clean water management activities. The last public meeting was held in mid-November. The DEC will now develop a report for the legislature, outlining their recommendations for funding into the future. Learn more about the process at http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/cwf
The Division continues to improve public notification about permitting activities. The Stormwater and Wastewater Programs have implemented a new tracking system and a notification listserve. To learn more, visit our public notice webpage and click on the link to those programs - http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/public-notices

Starry Stonewort Update

by Ann Bove, Environmental Scientist Lakes & Ponds



The second occurrence of starry stonewort, Nitellopsis obtusa, in a Vermont waterbody was confirmed in 207 acre Lake Derby, Derby, Vermont in September 2016. Starry stonewort is a non-native macroalgae with the ability to develop large, dense, thick stands. Spread is via fragments and star-shaped bulbils.
A researcher affiliated with the New York Botanical Gardens alerted the Lakes and Ponds Program to the Lake Derby starry stonewort find. The researcher is studying the genetics of this species and was in Vermont this fall collecting specimens. The population in Lake Derby is estimated at 29 acres and represents the second lake in Vermont known to support this species. A population of starry stonewort was confirmed in Lake Memphremagog in 2015.

Starry stonewort is known from two locations in Lake Memphremagog, 24-acre Scotts Cove on the eastern side of the lake and 470-acre South Bay at the southern end of the lake. 2016 density estimates are 23 and 46 acres respectively. Lake Derby is upstream from Lake Memphremagog. Additional waters in between the two water bodies were surveyed, as were 19 other Orleans County Lakes. No additional starry stonewort populations were found. Signs alerting the public to starry stonewort and promoting "Clean, Drain, Dry" have been posted. For additional information, please contact Ann Bove at ann.bove@vermont.gov

Starry Stonewart:

2017 ANC Grant-in-aid Grant Applications Available

by Ann Bove, Environmental Scientist Lakes & Ponds

The Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-aid grants program is now accepting applications for project year 2017, for projects addressing aquatic invasive and nuisance species. The applications are due no later than Wednesday, February 8, 2017.

These grants provide financial assistance to municipalities and agencies of the state for aquatic invasive and nuisance plant and animal management programs – control, spread prevention, and educational projects. Funding for Grant-in-aid Grants comes from a portion of annual revenues from state motorboat registration fees and often federal funds. For the 2017 program, an estimated $500,000 is available.

The 2017 application and instructions are available on line at: http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/aquatic-invasives/funding
You may also contact Ann Bove directly at 802.490.6120 to request an application or Josh Mulhollem at 802.490.6121.

Getting to Know You - Biographies

Enjoy getting to know our newest directors and Friends of FOVLAP.

Carol Bois, FOVLAP Director:

Since 1998, I've had my own environmental consulting practice in Framingham, Massachusetts, while spending as much time as possible at our place at Lake Raponda, in Wilmington, Vermont, with my husband Bob. I've managed hazardous waste site investigation and remediation projects for over 25 years. I am a Massachusetts Licensed Site Professional (LSP), which is a licensing program for engineers and scientists to oversee and conduct hazardous waste site cleanups in Massachusetts. I was the President of the Massachusetts LSP Association, and am still active in that organization. Prior to my consulting experience, I worked at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) in Worcester, Massachusetts. I have a B.A. in Biology from the University of Rochester and an M.P.H. (Environmental Health) from Boston University School of Medicine.

Having spent time in Wilmington for over 50 years, I truly appreciate our natural environment. Hurricane Irene's devastation in 2011 as a result of not only natural forces but also our "built environment" (fundamentally, stormwater runoff), hit home. I realized that we all can and should make changes, large or small, to improve the environment.

We have several success stories. While I was president of the Lake Raponda Association, we joined FOVLAP and we held two "Buffers for Blue Lakes" programs with Judy Davis. This year, Josh Mulhollem of VTDEC came to a Saturday meeting to speak about aquatic invasive species, which

we are lucky to have avoided so far. We are grateful for the connections that FOVLAP has given us to the Lakewise program. Jack Widness and Tom Laughlin of our group coordinated with Amy Picotte (VTDEC) to provide some of our homeowners with information on Best Management Practices so we can start to be smarter about how to adapt our lakefront properties and improve the lake's water quality. FOVLAP has "jump-started" our knowledge into the areas we care about for our lake, and we are so appreciative! (Visit us at raponda.org)

I'm indebted to Cindy Meyer of our Lake Raponda Association, who gave me a FOVLAP newsletter a few years ago and said " you might be interested in this organization."

Laurie Callahan, FOVLAP Director:
I live in Brattleboro, VT, and work as an aquatic biologist and VT Lay Monitoring Program volunteer doing Secchi disk monitoring on Sunset Lake and South Pond in Marlboro. I am also a volunteer for a regional river monitoring program.

Since receiving an M.S. degree about 15 years ago from UNH (biology, with focus on aquatic biology & limnology), my work has been centered on lakes and streams, typically as a contracted aquatic biologist and project coordinator, and mostly in partnership with non-profit groups.

Two jobs, between 2001-2007, had a significant influence on the direction of my work. Those positions were with Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) and Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP). Through those experiences I developed expertise in aquatic invasive species and native aquatic plant identification, and gained skills in volunteer training and management – as well as several other aspects of lake and watershed resource monitoring and protection.

My background has enabled me to develop and lead some very satisfying and beneficial projects. Two projects, of several, that I consider particularly successful are the following:

In 2004 I founded York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project (YCIASP) and continue to coordinate that project in southern Maine. YCIASP's activities augment the NH DES Weed Watch Program and ME VLMP's Invasive Plant Patrol Program. YCIASP's role is to boost the region's early detection and spread prevention training and capabilities.

In 2010 I was the "driving-force" to reactivate Southeastern Vermont Watershed Alliance's (SeVWA) Water Quality Monitoring Program. With assistance from SeVWA's directors, we accomplished that and I coordinated the program from 2010-2014. It is still going strong. I am currently a volunteer monitor, Stream Team Leader and Monitoring Program Committee member.

I look forward to contributing to FOVLAP 's mission and activities, and also hope to be instrumental in building stronger lake stewardship activities in southeastern VT.

Chris Cano, FOVLAP Director:
Shadow Lake, nestled in the hills of Glover, Vermont, is modest in size, at 210 acres and a depth of 139 feet; but it is known for its water clarity and its friendly, supportive lakeside community. I became a director of the Shadow Lake Association in 2012. My role has been to chair the milfoil committee, promote watershed awareness and, and with the 2003 advent of our hot water boat wash, to further boat wash outreach. I have attended many VTDEC-sponsored workshops, seminars and researched on my own to educate myself. In so doing, I have become Shadow Lake's resident specialist on Eurasian watermilfoil and other aquatic invasive species.

In 2011, when 10,000 square feet of milfoil was discovered in the lake, I spearheaded the team managing the eradication effort, helping to acquire the state permit and benthic barrier mats to contain and smother the largest concentration. In 2012, I began working several times a week to

hand pull the uncovered milfoil. Later, I enlisted another snorkel volunteer and directed a team for boat surface support while a professional SCUBA diver worked deeper sections. Twice a summer since 2012, I supervised the lake-wide surveys to search out milfoil. As a VIP, I have snorkeled the entire lake littoral zone in search of milfoil and other AIS, mapping the milfoil spread. By 2016, only a few small milfoil plants were found; our dedicated team has carefully monitored and successfully managed 22 sites around the lake.

While watching over Shadow, I also administer the shadowlakeassociation.org website, write for grants and work with the town to improve the lake watershed, lake roads, and erosion control measures to minimize storm water runoff. I also seek to educate and assist lake neighbors with BMP's for shoreland stabilization. Having summered beside northern Vermont lakes my entire life, enjoying resplendent swimming in clear water, my passion is collaborating with others to protect natural resources from degradation; contribute to the conservation of water quality and preserve wildlife habitat throughout Vermont.

Robert Bois, Friend of FOVLAP

I'm Bob Bois, recently retired from my position as the Environmental Officer and Conservation Commission agent for the town of Natick, MA. I live in Framingham, MA, though my wife Carol and I spend as much time as possible at our "home away from home" in Wilmington, Vermont, at Lake Raponda. Prior to my 16 years with Natick, I worked at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in the Boston and Worcester, MA, offices in a variety of positions, including directing the state component of Superfund hazardous waste sites and enforcing environmental regulations.

I have a B.A. in Biology from Merrimack College and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Tufts University. I am a Town Meeting member in Framingham, MA, where we live, as well as the chair of the Framingham Conservation Commission, chartered with protecting wetlands. In both my past working career and current activities, I have been involved with dealing with invasive aquatic species in Lake Cochituate, a 625-acre lake covering three towns, and am currently working on a pilot project to address a water chestnut infestation in the Sudbury River, a major drainage basin that flows through Framingham. In my capacities in the Conservation Commission work, I have had to deal with numerous stormwater issues as well as working with developers, contractors, homeowners, and towns to protect wetlands and water resources.

I was instrumental in adopting a stormwater protection regulation at the local level. I helped the local municipal water system obtain national recognition for environmental management systems program, and helped the town of Natick achieve its Green Community status and meet its "20% reduction in energy use" goal. I look forward to working with FOVLAP to improve the overall water quality of lakes and ponds in Vermont through stormwater protection.

Cynthia Stevens, Friend of FOVLAP:

Although I am a Connecticut resident, I'm spending more and more time at my cabin at Lake Seymour in Morgan, VT, since my retirement from college teaching, IBM and The Associated Press. My father and grandfather built a cottage on the lake before I was born and my family has enjoyed the pristine woods and water there ever since. The natural beauty and company of relatives keep me going back. I've become interested in FOVLAP through friends in the Seymour Lake Association and I look forward to learning more about the aquatic challenges in Vermont and sharing my experiences with water quality issues in Connecticut.

I had moved to a 200-year old farmhouse on Ball Pond in New Fairfield, CT in 1989. Accustomed to the pristine conditions of Seymour Lake in Morgan, I was alarmed to learn that the lake had weeds and that chemicals were being used to control them. A virtual civil war existed between the south end of the lake that used diquat and copper sulfate and those of us on the north end who were opposed. With no solution in sight, we asked the First Selectman to help us negotiate and she had

the foresight to establish the Ball Pond Advisory Committee in 1995. I have been the chairman of that group for all but two years ever since. We had tried using a harvester, which probably led to the introduction of milfoil, benthic barriers, and hand raking, all with limited success. After investigating the pros, cons, and costs of all known methods of weed control, we became the first public lake in Connecticut to employ sterile triploid grass carp to control Eurasian watermilfoil. It has been very successful despite the initial consternation of the fisheries experts at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Stories of carp running amok in southern lakes steered the state away from even considering carp, but lake residents launched such a concerted effort that the director of the agency couldn't say no. In the end, I believe the intervention of our state senator got us approval.

After the first five years of the study were completed, we began restocking a greatly reduced number almost every couple of years. Our experiment was so successful that BPAC was awarded a state grant to hire a statistician/limnologist to compute the data that we had conscientiously been collecting since the project began. Eight of us co-authored an article, "Seventeen years of Grass Carp: An Examination of Vegetation Management and Collateral Impacts in Ball Pond, New Fairfield, Connecticut", that has been accepted for publication in Lake and Reservoir Management, the journal of the North American Lake Management Society. It is expected to appear early in 2017.

Considering Ball Pond's experience, the largest lake in Connecticut, Candlewood , introduced 4,500 carp this year, and neighboring Squantz Pond will do so this spring.

Having tamed milfoil, BPAC is now intent on combatting native coon tail which the carp eat but not as eagerly.

With retirement comes more time spent at the cleanest lake I have come across, Seymour Lake. I look forward to sharing my experiences and learning from Vermont's lake managers.

DEC's Brown Bag Lectures

by Tracey Shadday, FOVLAP Director

Stay informed about Vermont's Clean Water Initiative by attending DEC's monthly Brown Bag Lectures. Each lecture is free and open to the public, either in person or online via webinar. Past topics included Accepted Management Practices for Logging (Sept.), Implementation of Teams for Clean Water (Oct.),
Long Term Funding of Water Improvements (Nov.) and this month's reviewed updates on stormwater regulations. Watch past lectures Brown Bag Lectures at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcE3IVErioHtVMqAeBLVDZQ. The 2017 schedule is at http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/outreach
Presentations are 11:00 am - noon in the Winooski Room at DEC, 1 National Life Drive, Main 2, Montpelier, (attendance requires a RSVP to anr.cleanwatervt@vermont.gov), or you can live-stream the lectures via Skype for Business. For more information, call Bethany at (802) 490-6131.

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Treasurer: Bruce Tanner (Lake Willoughby)

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Laurie Callahan (Sunset Lake/South Pond)
Roger Crouse (Lake Iroquois)
Jamie Longtin (Sunset/Sunrise/Perch)
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Dedicated to the conservation, promotion and development of environmental quality standards for Vermont lakes and ponds

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