The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds

Fall 2019 Newsletter

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The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds
Dedicated to the conservation, promotion and development of environmental quality standards for Vermont lakes and ponds.

Burlington To Host November Meeting of the North American Lake Management Society

By Cynthia Stevens, FOVLAP Board Member

The North American Lake Management Society chose Burlington to host its annual November conference this year in its effort to gather lake lovers in different locations around the United States and Canada. NALMS President-elect Perry Thomas will take over as president of the organization at the meeting.

NALMS President-elect Perry Thomas at her Kentucky farm.

Perry is the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's former Lakes and Ponds Program Manager where she supervised staff focused on protecting, maintaining, enhancing and restoring the health of more than 800 Vermont lakes and ponds. The Program provides outreach and education, monitoring and assessment, and regulatory programs.

Attendees of the NALMS conference November 11-15 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Burlington will have access to lake stewardship workshops, technical sessions, special events, field trips, and exhibits, depending upon their selected level of participation. Thanks to a generous contribution from the New England Chapter of NALMS, lake leaders can attend one day (either Monday or Tuesday) for $85 or both Monday and Tuesday sessions for $150. Registration can be accomplished at https://www.nalms.org/nalms2019/

When her husband Rick was offered a teaching post in Wendell Berry's farming program in Kentucky earlier this year, Perry was able to get a position working with river basins in Kentucky's Division of Water. Despite the distance, Rick remains on the faculty of Sterling College of Craftsbury, Vermont in sustainable agriculture, and now teaches draft animal management (oxen and mules). Rick and Perry purchased a farm where they raise sheep and chickens, but Perry says she'll be back often to Vermont where her family has had a home on Lake Eden since 1963.

"Watershed work is near and dear to my heart," Perry said recently in a phone interview. "I'm building on the skills and knowledge gained with the Watershed Management Division in Vermont."

In case you're not familiar with Wendell Berry, he farmed for four decades in Port Royal, Kentucky, and is an acclaimed environmentalist and activist who has written prolifically about the importance of humans working in nature harmoniously.

The Acting Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Lakes and Ponds Program Manager is Angela Shambaugh. Angela has over 33 years experience working on lake issues and is the Agency of Natural Resources' algae expert. She works collaboratively on cyanobacteria regionally and nationally. Angela was interviewed this summer on Vermont Public Radio about the state's lakes and ponds. To listen to the interview, click here.

cover photo: Shadow Lake, Glover (Photo by C. Cano)

Strategies to Reverse Rising Phosphorus Trends on Vermont's Clearest Lakes

By Peggy Barter, FOVLAP Auxiliary Board Member

Three scientists from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reported that phosphorous levels are rising in the state's oligotrophic lakes which typically have clear water and low levels of phosphorus and chlorophyll. In a presentation at FOVLAP's Annual Meeting in Berlin, the scientists maintained that while "Vermont is stewarding some of the clearest lakes in the nation," 91 percent of them show increasing trends of phosphorous, a nutrient that encourages plant and algal growth which in turn negatively impacts water quality.

Based on phosphorous data from the 1980s, DEC identified 23 lakes as oligotrophic with 21 of them now showing an increase in phosphorus. These DEC scientists say "community, commitment, and continuity "must be sustained over many years to reverse the trend.

The report was presented July 22 by Kellie Merrell, Ben Copans and Danielle Owczarski. Kellie is an environmental scientist who monitors, assesses trends and conditions in Vermont's lakes, collects samples and conducts special studies. Danielle and Ben are watershed coordinators who create and manage the basin plans for 6 of Vermont's 15 basins. The watershed communities participate in creating the plans which lead to actions to protect Vermont's surface waters.

DEC's Watershed Management Division's goal is to "protect Vermont's pristine or special waters by safeguarding these natural systems from deleterious change over the long term." The DEC scientists used Seymour Lake in Morgan to show what they have learned about assisting a lake community to reverse and stabilize a lake's phosphorus trend. During the past 15 years, they have supported efforts by that lake's community to reverse an increasing phosphorus trend observed in 2006. Now the data indicate that the phosphorus level has reversed to a lower level and has become stable at that level.

The DEC scientists recommend that lake communities wishing to improve the phosphorus trend in their lakes use the *Checklist of Lake Protective Actions* which can be found *here*.

As someone who has worked at Seymour Lake over the past 15 years to improve the phosphorus trends, I share here some of the actions that have been useful to us. Seymour Lake has participated in DEC's volunteer lay monitoring program since the program began in 1979 but was not doing any analysis of the data collected. Once we looked at the data, the Seymour Lake Association's (SLA) directors began to suspect a disturbing increase in phosphorus; in fact, the amount of phosphorus had doubled over a dozen or so years.

We first reached out to our local environmental organization, Northwoods Stewardship Center in East Charleston, which quickly put us in communication with the Lakes and Ponds Program of DEC. We soon became acquainted with Lakes and Ponds program manager Susan Warren, analyst Neil Kamman, scientist Kellie Merrell and local watershed coordinator Ben Copans, who together helped us develop a game plan to address increasing phosphorus levels in Seymour Lake. We highly recommend that any lake group find great leadership either through their watershed coordinator or through their local conservation district. Later we met and worked with lakeshore manager Amy Picotte who guided us first as Lake Monitor Program Manager and later as Lake Wise Manager. The goal of Lake Wise is to establish a culture of lakeshore landscaping proven to protect a lake.

Before our wakeup call to the increasing phosphorus trend, SLA thought it was doing well with its long-established Vermont Public Access Greeter Program as well as the Lay Monitoring Program. It took a while to bring most of the folks around the lake to accept that in order to protect the lake, we would

The Barter Family Tackles Japanese Knotweed

Bruce and Peggy Barter are well known around Seymour Lake for their years of dedication to its volunteer association as well as to the statewide Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP). The duo hit a new high this summer when their visiting family volunteered to tackle the invasive Japanese knotweed *(Fallopia japonica)* at the common boundary of three lakeshore properties owned by people who needed help, could provide tarps, and were willing to allow their land to serve as test properties. Several years ago, a volunteer cut the knotweed in that area so with regrowth, the Barter team was able to hand pull the plants then cover the area with two heavy-duty commercial tarps on most of the ground where knotweed was coming back.

The Barter team, from left to right: Riley, Cooper, and their dad, Andy Barter, with Granny Peggy (Photo by D . Weiselman)

Since there were not enough tarps for all 528 square feet of exposed dirt after the pulling, not all of it was covered as is desirable. The lake shore owners agreed to finish the required work. With the Barter's son and grandchildren doing the heavy part, they spent about four hours cleaning the duff off the tarps they did have, pulling the plants and then putting them back under the tarps which they then weighed down with donated heavy planks, so they didn't blow

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Phosphorus (continued from page 3)

need to increase our efforts throughout our watershed. However, once our awareness was raised by a presentation from Ben and three of his colleagues, the directors went to work.

First, the membership committee expanded its outreach to personally contact every lakeshore owner and to reach out to every landowner in the watershed by mailing SLA's two annual newsletters to all of them. These efforts doubled the association's membership. Meanwhile, the directors acted on the DEC's advice. Ben helped us apply for and earn a grant to do tributary sampling to help locate sources of additional phosphorus. In the following years, the SLA - with help from DEC Lakes and Ponds staff, and collaborations with Northwoods Stewardship Center, Memphremagog Watershed Association and our neighboring lakes - held many events to raise awareness of the problems and to meet those challenges with programs to support implementation efforts. The programs included:

- Lake community education events, such as a boat tour of the lake's perimeter, a lakeshore educational walk on five lake shore properties, two septic socials, two Vermont Invasive Patroller Workshops, a presentation about lake ecology and a lake shore forestry workshop.
- With the Conservation District, interactions with farmers on improved management practices.
- Grants to assist local landowners to address gully erosion.
- Applications for road improvement grants, both for private and dirt town roads.
- A Lake Wise Program, resulting in over 15% of our properties earning the Lake Wise Award, recognizing lake-friendly shoreland properties.
- Working with FOVLAP and local partners to assist lakeshore owners with restoring natural buffers, and addressing stormwater runoff and erosion issues on their properties.

SLA's current challenge is to continue to be proactive to maintain, or reduce even further, the lake's phosphorus level and to learn more about the impacts of climate change on our lakes.

Peggy Barter is the SLA's Water Quality chair.

Message from the President

By Don Weaver, FOVLAP President

The past year has been very successful for FOVLAP, as we heard from attendees at both the Lake Seminar last June at Lake Morey and our Annual Meeting in July at the Steak House in Barre. At the Annual Meeting, FOVLAP welcomed back Jackie Sprague of Harvey's Lake to the board as vice president and elected five new board members. Three people were elected for three-year terms: Susan Martin, Woodbury Lake; Pat Suozzi, Lake Iroquois; and Jay White, Northern Lake Champlain. Two people were elected for two-year unexpired terms: Jan Parsons, Harvey's Lake and John "Jack" Widnes, Lake Raponda.

A big round of applause erupted for our outgoing vice president, Tracey Shadday who represented both Seymour and Echo lakes. She served on the Executive Committee, the Events Committee, chaired the Membership Committee and posted our information on Facebook. Thank you, Tracey.

Next year we plan to schedule our seminar in early June and the Annual Meeting is booked for July 27, 2020 at the Steak House in Barre. The FOVLAP executive staff and Events Committee look forward to working with Emily Boedecker, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner.

Since Vermont passed Act 67 regarding aquatic nuisance control in 2017, FOVLAP has linked the theme of its events to it, building one on the other. The 2018 seminar was named "Partners for Healthy Lakes: Exploring Science, Data and tools together" and the 2019 seminar was entitled, "From Issues to Actions: Practicing State of the Art Lake Management." The last two annual meetings were headlined "Protecting Healthy Lakes."

A reminder: the 39th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) will be held in Burlington at the DoubleTree Hotel, November 11 – 15, 2019. The theme is "Watershed Moments, Harnessing Data, Science, and Local Knowledge to protect Lakes." For more information, go to https://www.nalms.org/nalms2019/ or check our web site, http://vermontlakes.org/news-events/activities/vermont-lakes-conference/

Lake Salem Battles Watermilfoil

By Roger Cartee, President Salem Lake Association

There is little doubt Vermont lake managers are in the battle to control Eurasian watermilfoil together. At 788-acre Lake Salem in Derby, our success is directly connected with the guidance we received from Christine Cano at Shadow Lake in Glover. Both lakes are located in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. After battling to keep milfoil out of Lake Salem for a dozen years, we were at a loss as to how to fight it when it first invaded our lake in 2017 but Christine reached out to help. She connected us with a diver, offered benthic barrier mats to suppress watermilfoil in the lake and gave us advice based on the success at Shadow Lake, now free of watermilfoil since 2018.

Salem Lake Association's watermilfoil manager, Ed Wells, along with his assistants, Ross Ogilvie and Dennis Bond, quickly surveyed the lake with our diver, Rob Patton. Throughout the summer of 2019, Rob pulled watermilfoil, marking watermilfoil locations with anchored buoys fashioned from colored pool noodles. All marked locations were identified with GPS and charted on a map by the crew.

Janet Cartee assists diver, Rob Patton, to install benthic barriers over a site of Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Salem last August. (Photo by R. Cartee)

We continue to search for new watermilfoil while putting down barriers to try and prevent more growth. We document the date, time, GPS location, amount found, whether watermilfoil was pulled by hand or barriers used, temperature, depth, and color of pool noodles. We work every weekend with donated pontoon boats and pilots using as many as three

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Knotweed (continued from page 4)

away**.** The Nature Conservancy indicates that they will rot if well covered; dead plants should not be composted.

That approach was taken because there hasn't been a good solution for immediately disposing of the

Japanese knotweed infestation https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/knotweed-japanese

unearthed knotweed; the local dump couldn't take it. Alternatively, if plastic bags are available, the cut plants can be bagged and allowed to rot for a year before disposal. Some experts recommend hanging up cut knotweed, as well as phragmites, to dry and burn later.

Last year an ECO-AmeriCorps intern was shared by Seymour Lake Association and the Northwoods Stewardship Center in East Charleston to map invasive species on properties around Seymour Lake, and found knotweed and phragmites the most prevalent. The organizations decided to use terrestrial invasive plant advice from The Nature Conservancy. The SLA initiated a trial volunteer terrestrial invasive plant control program to help neighbors physically or financially unable to control their invasive species, but the objective is for owners to be accountable for their own properties. The SLA hopes to have another ECO-AmeriCorps intern next summer to help refine its control program for knotweed, phragmites, purple loosestrife and invasive honeysuckle.

The description below is taken directly from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife website:

- Knotweed is a large herbaceous plant with smooth, hollow, and jointed stems making it look like bamboo. Stems are green and mottled during the growing season and turn a dark brown/red in the winter. It has broad, oval, dark-green leaves that are pointed at the tip. It also has small greenish-white flowers during the summer that trail down the stems that are followed by small, winged fruits later in the season. New growth looks like red asparagus.
- Knotweed causes many problems for native plants, insect populations, and waterways. Knotweed outcompetes and replaces native vegetation. This loss hurts insect populations which depend on native plants for food. As insect populations decline, fish, birds, and mammals that eat insects suffer as well. Rivers and streams also face an increased erosion risk from uncontrolled knotweed populations. The ground beneath dense growths of knotweed rarely supports other vegetation leaving the bare soil very susceptible to erosion. https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/landowner-resources/liep-invasive-species-program/terrestrial-invasive-plants/japanese-knotweed

A fact sheet published by The Nature Conservancy advises that stalks be cut at least once per month throughout the growing season. Use a scythe, loppers or even a lawn mower, depending on the ground surface. Repeat cuts for five years and do not replant until the knotweed is under control, the plants are much smaller, and have lost their vigor. Replant with good sized natives. Very important: it should not be composted. www.vtinvasives.org

Common reed infestation (Photo by A. Bove)

There are similarities in controlling common reed (*Phragmites australis)*, a tall, perennial grass

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Watermilfoil (continued from page 5)

divers and volunteers, who help with materials, recording information and keeping our search area clear of other boats.

The watermilfoil in Lake Salem is predominantly located at the southern end of the lake near the boat launch area, for now. Only a small handful of watermilfoil plants are at other spots in the lake. Our next task as winter approaches is to remove the anchored noodles before the ice locks them in and replace them with yellow staked markers below the surface. Since all watermilfoil locations are GPS marked, we will return in the spring and start again.

There are many individuals to thank, from our local volunteers for their numerous hours spent controlling watermilfoil, to state officials who have been so generous with their time and expertise. But our gratitude begins with one of our fellow lake managers, Christine Cano, who started us off on the right foot. Thankfully, we appear to be ahead of the watermilfoil growth and headed in the right direction toward success. Christine is a director of FOVLAP and a former director of the Shadow Lake Association. She spearheaded Shadow Lake's six-year successful watermilfoil control program as chair of the watermilfoil committee. Christine Cano can be contacted via the 'Contact Us' page on shadowlakeassociation.org

Zebra Mussels Confirmed in Lake Dunmore

In September, Lake Dunmore in Leicester became Vermont's 4th lake confirmed with the invasive aquatic animal, zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha)*. Read a report on the confirmation in VTDigger here.

(Photo by A. Benson, U.S. Geological Survey)

Tips to Increase Membership

By Tracey Shadday, FOVLAP Auxiliary Board Member

Those of us who are active in our lake associations are tasked with coming up with strategies that will gain membership so that we can educate and engage others in the work of improving or maintaining water quality. As management consultant Margaret J. Wheatley says, "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

While it is advisable to create a procedure to alert current members that their membership is up for renewal, it is important to keep a list of future members you would like to reach. Decisions will be made about who to recruit: lakeshore homeowners only? businesses? those vacationing on your lake? The next question will address how to reach these and communicate the mission of the association along with current projects that need their support. Another decision will involve what information to keep track of beyond normal contact information.

In 2013, Bruce Barter, FOVLAP's treasurer at the time, created a chart that tracked members each year. This information allowed our membership committee to learn who had fallen between the cracks either because they needed a reminder or an address update. Last year Echo Lake Protective Association in East Charleston created a new category of membership, the Friend of the Lake, after information about lake care was gathered in "Guest of the Lake" bags and given to renters along with an application to become a friend.

Many lake associations use e-mail, mail and newsletters to remind their constituents to renew. Seymour Lake Association began printing the list of paid members in their newsletter nine years ago. Salem Lakes Association did the same and increased membership from 63 to 112 (and still climbing). In addition to an increase in membership, Salem followed Seymour's lead and set their membership fee at $10.00 per year in order to solicit more donations. The strategy seems to be working, according to Andy Major, an association director.

All three lake associations mentioned in this article make door-to-door visits as part of their strategy. They have something in hand to give to their neighbors - an invitation to a picnic, the latest newsletter, a membership bag - so that conversation can naturally include current projects and needs. If a membership committee is large enough, the names of those to be visited can be divided to share the load.

What about you? Do you have questions about increasing your membership? Is there a success story to share? If so, please send them on to Tracey Shadday, traceyshadday@gmail.com, 813-404-2478. We'd love to hear from you.

Lobby or Advocate?

By Roger Crouse, FOVLAP Auxiliary Board Member

We all should be aware of FOVLAP's role when dealing with legislators and other public officials. The IRS states, "In general, no organization may qualify for section 501(c)(3) status if a substantial part of its activities is attempting to influence legislation (commonly known as lobbying)." The IRS statement goes on to say, "A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status."

The definition of 'lobbying' is "to seek to influence (a politician or public official) on an issue." It is OK to advocate for an issue. This is meant to show public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy. What's the difference? Lobbying involves attempts to influence specific legislation at the local, state, or federal level while advocacy is focused on educating about a specific issue. Thus, when representing FOVLAP (or any non-profit such as your lake association), it is OK to **advocate** - educate or show support - but not OK to **lobby** - attempt to sway positions.

Advocating Effectively for Our Lakes with the Vermont Legislature

FOVLAP PO Box 766, Montpelier, VT 05601 www.vermontlakes.org

- Prepare an outline or script for your conversation or testimony.
- Introduce yourself. Provide your name, where you live, and if you're a constituent. Mention that you are a member of _____lake association and FOVLAP.
- To speak on behalf of FOVLAP, the FOVLAP BOD must make a motion and conduct an ALL MEMBERS of FOVLAP vote to approve you to speak on FOVLAP's behalf.
- Even if you do not vote in Vermont, your vote still counts. Feel free to introduce yourself to your legislator as, "a property owner in your district."
- If you do not know the answer to a question, say so. You can offer to help find the answer from a reputable source.
- Be professional and polite.
- Be clear and concise.
- If you describe a problem, be ready to provide a solution.
- Offer yourself as a resource of information.
- Make an ask, e.g., please support/oppose…
- Always present the facts and avoid emotional responses.
- Vermont citizen legislators are volunteers, and their hours add up. Always say thank you.
- Many of us feel nervous the first time we speak to a state legislator. Practice your conversation or your testimony, and proofread your letter with a friend, family member or other FOVLAP member.

Who is my Legislator?

You can search for your legislator(s) in the General Assembly on the Vermont General Assembly's website. Click **here** to search by name or town.

How do I Track a Bill?

Go to **https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/search/2020**

You can search by :

- Bill or resolution number; for example, S.125 or H.345
- Act number; for example, 34
- keyword and/or sponsor: for example, water and/or Jane Doe

How Does a Bill Become Law in Vermont?

The Vermont General Assembly's website provides a simple graphic on how a bill becomes law in Vermont. Click **here.** The nine step process is:

1. Bill introduction/first reading.
2. Bill referral.
3. Committee consideration.
4. Second reading.
5. Third reading.
6. Other chamber consideration.
7. Committee of Conference.
8. Governor's signature.
9. Bill enactment

For more information, see the Clerk of the House's, "Vermont Legislative Process" **here**.

Writing to a State Legislator by Letter or Email

- Introduce yourself and explain why you are writing. Be sure to use your own words.
- If you are writing regarding a specific piece of legislation, include the title of the bill in the subject line. In the first sentence of two, state whether you want them to support or oppose that specific bill. For example, "I am writing to ask you to support Senate bill, S.123 because…" or "I am writing to ask you to oppose Senate bill, S.123 because…"
- Consider using a personal story to explain how a piece of legislation would affect you and how you think it will affect your community.
- It's always good practice to include research or data to support your position. However, be concise.
- Include your contact information—address, phone number, and email—and say thank you!

Calling a State Legislator

- Write down what you plan to say so you are ready when they, or their voicemail, pick up.
- Introduce yourself and explain the reason you are calling. For example, "Good afternoon Representative

_____, my name is _____ and I live in your district in the town of _____. I am calling in regard to _____. I would like you to support/oppose _____ because… (include data/facts, personal anecdotes or other relevant information to support your case).

- Legislators don't have offices or office phones. You are most likely calling them on their home phone or personal cell phone.
- Always be courteous and professional. Say thank you!

Testifying Before a State Legislative Committee

- Providing testimony does not have to be as scary as it may seem. Use the tips provided to prepare for your testimony.
- Testifying is a great way to show support when it matters. Legislators take into consideration how many individuals and groups turned out to testify on a bill.
- Any Vermont resident can testify in relation to bills in Legislative Committees. Meetings are recorded.
- Testimony must be made on your **individual** accomplishments, concerns and issues. Remember, to speak on FOVLAP's behalf, you would need the support of the full organization (a vote by members).
- If asked by a legislative committee if FOVLAP members agree with your testimony, you should respond that you represent your OWN personal viewpoints, or that of your own lake association.
- To find the schedules of Committee meetings, go to **https://legislature.vermont.gov/committee/meetings/2020**.
- Be aware that schedules may change, even at the last moment.
- Stay current on the date and time of public hearings and testimony by reviewing the Senate and House calendars:

  Senate: **https://legislature.vermont.gov/senate/service/2020/calendar**

  House: **https://legislature.vermont.gov/house/service/2020/calendar**

Procedures to Expect

- If you are testifying, review this handout, "Witness Information" provided by the Office of Legislative Council. Click **here**. The handout provides details on the number of copies of your written testimony to bring, submitting testimony electronically and testifying by telephone.
- On the day of the hearing/testimony arrive at least 15 minutes prior to when the meeting is scheduled to begin. Committees don't always stick to schedule and can move faster than expected or shown on the schedule.
- Listen to what is being said by other people to the committee. Avoid unnecessary redundancy, unless you want to place greater emphasis on something.
- To provide comments on a discussion, or another person's testimony, you must first be recognized to do so by the Committee Chair.
- Committee members always appreciate conciseness and brevity. Unless you are an expert in a certain subject and are asked to go into great detail, your testimony should not exceed 10 minutes.
- The committee chair will call you forward when it is your turn to speak.

Sample of Written Testimony

- "Good morning/afternoon Mr./Madame Chair and members of the committee."
- Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today.
- Introduce your self. "My name is _____ and I own a seasonal/year round residence on Lake/Pond _____ in _____, Vermont. I am currently a member of [lake association], chair of my lake association's_____ committee (if applicable), and a member of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP).
- Briefly explain what FOVLAP is:
  We are a statewide non-profit organization 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.
- Ask the Committee to support or oppose the bill.
- Tell a personal story, provide data, or other reasoning to support your position.
- End by thanking the Committee and say "I would be happy to take any questions."
- When there are no further questions, return to audience seating.

More Information

- During each Vermont General Assembly session, FOVLAP produces a summary of Vermont Legislative bills. Go to http://vermontlakes.org/legislativeupdates/ for **Legislative Bill Updates**.

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Knotweed (continued from page 6)

that can grow taller than 15 ft. This invasive is also known as common reed. Broad, pointed leaves arise from thick, vertical stalks. From July to October, dense, fluffy, gray or purple flower heads appear. However, since it is a grass, cutting several times during a season at the wrong times may increase stand density. This guide is published in a Nature Conservancy factsheet and lifted verbatim from https://www.vtinvasives.org/invasive/common-reed

- Hand-cut individual stems at the end of July when most of the plant's food reserves are in the aerial portion of the plant before the flowers produce seed. Plants should be cut below the lowest leaf, leaving a 6 inch or shorter stump. Hand-held cutters, gas-powered hedge trimmers and weed whackers with a circular blade are particularly efficient. You can also cut and mulch dead stems in winter to remove them and promote germination of other species. Repeat in second year and then every three to five years.
- Cut stems can be composted or allowed to decay in a dry area.
- Some patches may be too large to cut by hand, but repeated cutting of the perimeter of a stand can prevent vegetative expansion.
- Mow large stands of common reed annually between June and July to reduce plant vigor and stem density. Common reed will spread by seed or root pieces, so be sure to thoroughly clean all mowing equipment after its use to prevent the reed's spread.
- After cutting, lay a sheet of black plastic over the area. Use sandbags or bricks to secure the edges and keep covered for a year. Check for new growth around the plastic.

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FOVLAP Encourages Students to Join

Students aged 16 or older who are enrolled in an accredited educational institution are invited to become members of FOVLAP at a reduced membership rate of $13.00. This membership opportunity allows younger people to attend FOVLAP meetings, work on committees, and participate in other ways common to general membership. In so doing, FOVLAP seeks to expand awareness of its mission and work to our younger generation, and gives them the opportunity to share this awareness with peers, colleges and universities.

It also provides the opportunity for leadership development and hopes to encourage the next generation of FOVLAP members to go forward as active citizens by continuing FOVLAP efforts to preserve Vermont clean water quality. Such membership can lend itself well to resume building and, for students, service hours that could be recognized by their schools.

Those interested can contact Tracey Shadday, traceyshadday@gmail.com for more information.

Ally Nolan (center), daughter of Salem Lake Association's board member Diane Nolan (left), and a friend, at an Association general fundraiser coin drop that raised over $2,000. (Photo by R. Cartee)

RECYCLED PAPER