The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds

Spring 2020 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"

Vermont's Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection Program Has a New Program Manager

Oliver Pierson joined the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation as the Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection Program manager in early November 2019. He is a natural resources management and sustainable development professional with 20 years of experience working on water resources and conservation issues in Africa and in the United States. Mr. Pierson received a M.S. in Natural Resources Ecology and Management from Cornell University in 2003 and a B.S. in Geology and Environmental Studies from Yale University in 1996. In his master's thesis, Mr. Pierson studied how cattail wetlands on Lake Ontario improve water quality through the removal of dissolved and sediment bound contaminants, including phosphorus.

Vermont Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection manager, Oliver Pierson (Photo credit O. Pierson)

Prior to joining VTDEC, Mr. Pierson worked for a small federal government agency called the Millennium Challenge Corporation, where he managed water infrastructure projects in Tunisia, renewable energy and watershed management programs in Malawi, and wildlife conservation and ecotourism development programs in Namibia. Mr. Pierson has also worked for the USDA Forest Service International Programs, the United States Agency for International Development in Madagascar, the US Geological Survey Water Resources Office in Ithaca NY, and the US Peace Corps. He has published research on use of payments to protect ecosystem services, best practices for forest sector reform, and use of spatial analysis to assess land use change.

Mr. Pierson speaks fluent French and Malagasy, and in his spare time enjoys mountain biking, playing the French horn, and brewing beer. He lives in South Burlington with his wife Julie, who performs public health research at UVM, and his two children, Zachary (age 9) and Coralie (age 5).

On behalf of FOVLAP, welcome to Vermont Oliver!

cover photo: Lake Willoughby, Westmore (Photo credit B. Tanner)

Message from the President

By Don Weaver, FOVLAP President

FOVLAP started 2020 in high gear. Our events committee met with VTDEC the first full week of January, laying the groundwork for our June Lakes Seminar...and then the world changed. The annual Lakes Seminar is cancelled but we have a "Plan B." We hope to merge planned Seminar speakers and topics - on a "Watershed Approach" theme - into the Annual Meeting, our next big event. FOVLAP's Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2020 at "The Steak House" on the Barre Montpelier Road in Barre. Please check our web site at **www.Vermontlakes.org** for additional information.

The 39th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society was held the second week of November 2019 in Burlington at the Double Tree Hotel. The event was well attended, included the best of presenters, and a wealth of information was available for all (see article on page 5).

Our newsletter and legislative committees have been extremely busy this year meeting almost weekly. I believe it's a first that we have more articles for the newsletter than pages to place them on. This is a good thing and a great start for the fall newsletter. The legislative committee is developing new documents to support a more active voice in the Vermont Legislature process. The committee plans to have information available at the Lakes Seminar with a discussion to follow at the Annual Meeting. Some committee members attended legislative committee sessions and hearings to learn more about water-related "bills" that could become law. I want to thank the newsletter and legislative committee members for the countless hours they have devoted to our cause.

FOVLAP's Board welcomed the new Lakes and Ponds manager, Oliver Pierson last fall and has enjoyed his participation at board meetings and on calls. Oliver supports our mission and has a vast amount of information he is willing to share with the board and membership. Thank you, Oliver.

Susan Gallo, Maine Lakes (left) and FOVLAP Vice President, Jackie Sprague at NALMS (Photo credit A. Picotte)

In closing, I would like to remind all member lake associations of two matters to be acted on at the Annual Meeting. Foremost is the FOVLAP bylaw, Article III, voting representative: "*Each bona-fide Lake or Pond Association shall designate a single representative to vote on behalf of the Association and certify in writing that said member is authorized to vote the interest of said Association. Individual FOVLAP members shall not be eligible to designate a voting representative."* This important bylaw should be given thought prior to the Annual Meeting. I anticipate a discussion and vote regarding increased FOVLAP presence at the Vermont Legislature. If FOVLAP's Board is to represent your lake association, then your association must certify they back and support your decision.

The Board will also discuss the possibility of moving the date of the Annual Meeting from the 4th Monday of July to a date in early September. Please look for additional information in electronic mail via a "Mailchimp" notice.

***Note**: The location and format of the Annual Meeting on July 27, 2020 is dependent on the coronavirus situation. If a change becomes necessary, we will send updates through electronic mail via Mailchimp, and post changes on Facebook and the FOVLAP web site* **www.Vermontlakes.org**.

Upcoming Events

2020 Lake Seminar	~~June 5~~ CANCELLED	**2020 Public Access Greeter Trainings**	**TBD**
FOVLAP Annual Meeting Steak House Restaurant 1239 US-302, Barre	**July 27**	**2020 VIP Trainings**	**TBD**
		NALMS 2020 Symposium Minneapolis, MN	**Nov 16-20**

Legislative Committee Update

By Christine Cano, FOVLAP Board Member

Clean water is a shared resource, belonging to all Vermonters. The quality of our waters is an asset that supports our way of life, our environment, our property values, our health and safety, and our economy.

FOVLAP's legislative committee monitors state legislation annually, and posts and tracks bills on water quality and environmental related topics. The list of Senate and House introduced bills the committee is following during the 2020 Legislative session is long. A few examples are: S.69 - Wake boat regulation of use in state waters; S.221 - Regulatory transfer of the AIS program from DEC to DFW; H.50 - Use of expanded polystyrene foam in waters of the State; and, H.730 - Salt application to roads, best management practices for water quality.

Follow our legislative monitoring by signing up to receive automatic notices of newly posted bills on FOVLAP's 'Legislative Updates' web page. **http://vermontlakes.org/legislativeupdates/**

Any citizen or lake group is welcome at the statehouse to advocate and testify on their perspectives or that of their lake association. FOVLAP encourages our members to participate in the policy and law-making process.

Because FOVLAP is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), we choose to not engage in paid lobbying activity. However, we can and will advocate to help advance lake-friendly policy. Participating in the statehouse deliberative process and policy decision making is essential to support FOVLAP's mission and protect Vermont lakes and ponds. New to our website is the guide, '*Advocating Effectively for Our Lakes with the Vermont Legislature.*' Filled with useful tips on how to navigate the state legislature, advocate effectively, write to a state legislator and testify on a bill, this guide is available at. **http://vermontlakes.org/wp-content/uploads//FOVLAPLegislato-AdvocacyTips_3.pdf**. You can help advocate for the conservation and preservation of Vermont waterbodies we all love.

FOVLAP's legislative committee is currently working on developing an '*Advocacy and Action*' plan to lay the framework for outlining FOVLAP's legislative advocacy goals. As we champion our mission, we seek to collaborate on and help shape key bills before the legislation body, policy makers and state agencies rulemaking to support vibrant, clean and healthy Vermont lakes and ponds.

Lake Morey Foundation Preserves 150-acre Parcel Adjoining the Lake

By Bruce Durgin, FOVLAP Auxiliary Board Member

Over the past 5 years, a parcel of 150 acres at the southeast corner of Lake Morey, known as Morey Mountain**,** became available for purchase. This parcel is roughly a quarter of the surface area of Lake Morey, and with talk of land development and harvesting of massive hardwoods, local residents became concerned for potential watershed impacts and retention of the high water quality that we have enjoyed.

As a 501(c)(3), the Lake Morey Foundation has enjoyed a 35-year history of providing support for programs and activities that benefit Lake Morey, its

Lake Morey Mountain 150-acre parcel: aerial view (left) and lake view (right) (Photo credit B. Durgin)

(Continued on page 8)

Take Home Messages from 2019 NALMS

By Amy Picotte, VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Program

With the help of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, the 2019 North American Lakes Management Society held their week-long conference last November in Burlington, Vermont.

The Plenary Speaker, Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, presented on solutions for clean air, water and biodiversity. Considering that 95 percent of the natural world has been removed across the US, the solution seems simple: reduce lawn by half. Lawn has been planted in over 40 million acres and if homeowners reduced their lawn by half, then nature would do the rest to clean up pollution and support wildlife. Dr. Tallamy urged homeowners to plant **Keystone Native Species**.

As gardeners and stewards of our land, we have never been so empowered to help save biodiversity from extinction, and the need to do so has never been so great. All we need to do is plant native plants!

Dr. Douglas Tallamy 2019

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Youth and FOVLAP

By Tracey Shadday, FOVLAP Auxiliary Board Member

Organizations that wish to remain sustainable involve members of the younger generation who have interests that align with their mission and create a plan to develop youth leadership. Many youth wish to make positive contributions in their world, have the stimulation to engage their passion and feel valued for their contributions. All they need is the opportunity to work with others who are willing to value and invest in their learning.

Last year FOVLAP's board of directors discussed the benefits of creating a plan to involve interested youth in the work we do. We presented the proposal at the 2019 FOVLAP Annual Meeting. Our plan unfolds in three phases, each dependent upon the success of the former. Phase 1 adds a membership category for students older than age 16 and reduces the membership fee by 50% to $13. This phase was voted upon at the meeting and passed unanimously. It begins this year.

Engaging a youth in native aquatic plant identification in Lake Champlain (Photo credit R. Faesy)

Once students become members and connected to our activities, Phase 2 will be initiated. Interested individuals will be offered a one-year auxiliary position on the board of directors that allows them to work directly with board members and on any of its committees. Youth are NOT required to be a Vermont resident to participate. If the individual desires to continue to serve a second year they can be so nominated.

The experience of inviting youth to be active participants in leadership can eventually develop into a FOVLAP Youth Board, governed by their own bylaws. This 3rd phase would be generated if youth interest and involvement grow.

Youth engagement creates many benefits for both sides. Our organization thrives when we hear the fresh perspectives they offer. The number of constituents associated with each youth broadens our reach and expands awareness of environmental issues. In return, youth are offered the opportunity to partner with biologists and our large network of community partners and volunteers. They may receive service hours for volunteer work and connection with community leaders. Community service builds resumes, leads to internships and helps gain career awareness. Creating young active citizens is the best benefit of all.

In order to reach youth, we need every FOVLAP member to consider students they know who may be interested in the opportunity to become a member. Parents, high school guidance counselors, high school science teachers and scouting groups are just a few groups to advertise to. FOVLAP's board encourages you to do so.

If you have any questions or need more information, please send Tracey Shadday an email at traceyshadday@gmail.com.

Shorelands and Septic Systems

By Amy Picotte and Lindsay Miller, VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Program

Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules (WW Rules) govern residential septic systems and drinking water supply. The Shoreland Protection Act regulates the creation of new cleared area and new impervious surface within 250 feet of mean water level.

Understanding how these two permitting programs interact can help develop or redevelop an ecological shoreland property. (Being ecological is being economical, hence their shared root word of "eco," which means home.)

Advanced Onsite Septic Services uses drip line waste treatment to protect natural shorelands. (Photo credit J. Willey)

Below are *Frequently Asked Questions* to help prepare for a best fit septic system along shorelands.

If I'm just working on a replacement septic system, what permits will I need?

First, contact your Regional Wastewater Engineer to ask about a Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Permit. The installation and maintenance of state-approved wastewater systems and potable water supplies are exempt under the Shoreland Protection Act. However, additional development may need a Shoreland Protection Permit or Registration.

What is "cleared area" and what is an "impervious surface"?

"Cleared area" means an area where existing vegetative cover, soil, tree canopy or duff is permanently removed or altered. Grass lawn, landscaped areas, and beaches are all examples of cleared areas.

"Impervious surface" means those manmade surfaces - including paved and unpaved roads, parking areas, roofs, driveways, and walkways - from which precipitation runs off rather than infiltrates.

Does the area cleared for the installation and maintenance of a wastewater system count towards the overall "cleared area" on the parcel?

Simply answered, YES.

If a project requires both Shoreland Protection and Wastewater and Potable Water Supply permits, does it matter which one I get first?

There is no requirement to get one before the other. However, the size and type of wastewater system often drives where development can be sited on the parcel. It is beneficial to know this information prior to applying for a Shoreland Protection Permit.

I've been told that my leach field should only have grass on top of it, is this true?

It's important to minimize grass lawn as much as possible in the protected shoreland area, yet because of its shallow root structure, it doesn't threaten the piping used on top of a leach field. Ask your septic system licensed designer for alternatives to grass, like shallow rooted wildflowers, but if choosing grass for the leach field, make it multi-purpose and plan to use this cleared area also for light recreational activities, like yard games.

To maintain good function and prevent a failure that could impact water quality, avoid interfering with your wastewater system: know what can and cannot go down your drain, don't direct stormwater runoff to your leach field, and don't park directly on it to avoid compacting the area. Be sure to contact your Regional Wastewater Engineer for recommendations based on your specific system.

Lawn is considered "cleared area" and not vegetative cover. Compared to vegetative cover, lawn provides very little wildlife habitat, does not infiltrate as much stormwater runoff, and due to its shallow root system, is ineffective at gripping and stabilizing banks.

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(Shorelands and Septic Systems continued from page 6)

For questions about the Shoreland Protection Act, contact your Regional Shoreland Permit Analyst: **https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/permit/contact**

For questions about Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Systems, contact your Regional Wastewater Engineer: **https://dec.vermont.gov/water/contacts#Region**

SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW

Perhaps you have wondered how a lakeshore owner can sometimes clear land in a way that does not meet **Shoreland Protection Act** standards. The reason is under current law a wastewater or water supply system may be awarded water supply or wastewater (septic) permits that do not meet the Shoreland Protection Act standards. Use the contact information above for more clarification from VTDEC permit specialists.

Drip line wastewater treatment can follow the slope of the land and is not limited to a rectangular shape, as demonstrated here by Advanced Onsite Septic Services. (Photo credit J. Willey)

Protect Your Investment – Learn More About Being Lake Wise

By Amy Picotte, VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Program

Loving spring but thinking of summer? Planning now could free up the entire summer for swimming, walking, sailing, reading, bird watching, fishing and sleeping better. Why? Because, planning now to reduce your lawn and yard maintenance by planting native plants will allow more time for playing. Besides, native plants offer a **win-win solution** for property owners, wildlife, water quality and wellness!

Wellness studies show people are healthier when they spend time outdoors in natural settings, surrounded by native species. Nurturing native plants along shorelands protects property from storm damages; filters stormwater to protect water quality; and provides essential wildlife habitat, for example, songbirds. Sleeping well comes naturally along a living shoreland when health, property and lake are well protected.

Framed in views highlight the best of shoreland living! These Vermont lake properties have earned the Lake Wise Award and easily meet the Vegetation Protection Standards as part of the Shoreland Protection Act. (Photo credit A. Picotte)

(Lake Morey continued from page 4)

surroundings, and the community through its mission: protecting, preserving, and enhancing Lake Morey and its watershed and viewshed as an environmental, recreational and economic resource.

As a result, the Lake Morey Foundation Board of Directors proposed a specific campaign to purchase this property, and in turn, conserving this land to protect this portion of the watershed forever. In an inspiring grassroots effort, the Foundation raised more than $400,000 to acquire this parcel. Following the acquisition, the Foundation transferred the Morey Mountain parcel over to the Upper Valley Land Trust for perpetual stewardship.

Working with this excellent and well experienced Land Trust, we are proud to open Morey Mountain as a conservation property that will also afford light recreational opportunities for generations to come!

I look forward to discussing Morey Mountain with all FOVLAP Annual Meeting attendees on July 27th.

(2019 NALMS continued from page 5)

What Are Keystone Species

Oak Trees Are A Keystone Plant Across North America

Keystone species play a critical role in holding up entire ecosystems. If removed from the landscape, food webs collapse, like taking out the keystone in the Roman archway on the right. Keystone native plants, like the saguaro cactus, big blue stem prairie grass, and the red mangrove, as well as the native-to-Vermont trees, maple, oak, birch and cherry, provide vital sources of food and shelter to other species. Over thousands of years, 90 percent of plant-eating insects have evolved to feed on one or a few species of keystone native plants and without the host plant to support these specialized relationships, ecosystems fail. Along shorelands, insects drop from native plants into the lake, providing at least 40 percent of protein for freshwater fish. Including seed and grass eaters, 96 percent of birds depend on caterpillars to rear their young and keystone plants are the primary source of this baby bird food. For example, each pair of nesting chickadees needs to find 6,000-9,000 caterpillars to rear 1 brood of young over a 3 week period; keystone species are critical to support caterpillars.

The Concept of Keystone Native Plant Species in Lake Management

Reducing Lawn and Fixing The Problem

Today, across America, 79 percent of all plants are lawn, 16 percent are exotic plants, and less than 5 percent of native species remain. According to the 2012 US Environmental Protection Agency's National Lake Assessment, more than 50 percent of lakeshores are disturbed, meaning cleared of native species. Restoring keystone species fixes water quality problems by providing:

- shade to discourage algae blooms and keep water cool for aquatic life
- filter and treat pollution runoff
- stabilize banks with their network of roots
- provide a critical ecological corridor for wildlife and songbirds, and preserving lake ecosystems

To learn more about Native Plants and to look up local native plant species, visit the "native plant finder" hosted by The National Wildlife Federation at: **www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder**.

Watch the YouTube video of Dr. Tallamy's 2019 NALMS talk here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrRJm-yLsQ8

FOVLAP Annual Scholarship

By Jackie Sprague, FOVLAP Vice President

In 2007, John Washburn from Parker Pond and David Wood from Lake Salem suggested that FOVLAP offer an annual scholarship to a student who was interested in pursuing a career in Environmental Science with a focus on lakes and ponds. The board agreed that this would be important to the health of our beautiful lakes and ponds with generations to come. A committee was organized and discussion followed with how to get the word out and make a selection. FOVLAP chose VSAC (Vermont Students Assistance Corporation) which works with organizations and business to publicize their scholarships

This scholarship was created to encourage and support students who are seeking education beyond high school and are interested in pursuing environmental science studies. The eligibility includes:

- Attend an accredited school approved by the federal Title IV funding
- Seek a degree in environment studies (preference given to students seeing a degree in aquatic environmental studies such as watershed management, water resources education and limnology)
- Demonstrate academic achievement
- Demonstrate financial need
- Demonstrate community involvement and/or service

Each year FOVLAP offers a $500 scholarship to a deserving student who meets the eligibility requirements. The reviewing committee diligently works to select the best candidate for this token amount. Each year the scholarship recipient is invited to attend the Lake Seminar and Annual Meeting. If you know of a student who shares our passion for lakes and ponds, please have them contact VSAC at **www.vsac.org**. For more information, please contact FOVLAP.

Lake Raponda Association Develops a Watershed Management Plan

By Will Melton, President, Lake Raponda Association

Over much of its 99 year-long history, the Lake Raponda Association (LRA) has served as a social network for property owners around Lake Raponda's perimeter and as advocates for their interests. During the past ten years, a new environment-centered LRA mission has emerged, with an aggressive focus on the biological health of Lake Raponda and the preservation of its natural character. This transformation has been underway for more than a decade, thanks to several inspired leaders.

Lake Raponda (Photo credit J. Widness)

In 2019, LRA sought and received our first state-sponsored watershed grant. The grant, awarded by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, was modest in size -- $3,100 administered by the watershed officer of our conservation district in Windham County and had support from the Town of Wilmington leaders and the Town Manager, Scott Tucker. The grant's purpose was to fund a volunteer-led watershed assessment of Lake Raponda with oversight and training from state conservation professionals to establish a baseline of data to help measure progress in support of LRA's mission. Launched in May and completed October 1st, it included the following components:

1. Recruitment of volunteers: 31 individuals contributed 225 hours on the project.

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(Lake Raponda continued from page 9)

2. An attitudinal survey of lake stakeholders including landowners, volunteers, association members, and visitors to the lake's public beach and boat launch: 65 surveys completed.
3. An effectiveness audit of 48 culverts along the roads in our watershed.
4. Two "lake paddles," one to examine the significant sites where wetland and stormwater enter the lake, and a second event to train volunteers to:
    a) identify plants growing from the lake bottom or on the shoreline,
    b) understand the threat of invasive species, and
    c) acquire various skills to combat the threat.
5. A live wildlife demonstration staffed by the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. This kids-friendly program was intended, in part, to encourage lake-healthy instincts in the younger generation.
6. A training event designed to expand our small cadre of **iNaturalist** users working to create an inventory of plants and animals in our watershed.
7. The renewed impetus for our public access Greeter Program (started in 2017) and our Lake Wise award evaluations (began in 2016).

At the grant's conclusion, LRA leaders filed a detailed report and Windham County Conservation District's watershed manager, Cory Ross used our findings to draft the required Watershed Management Plan. During 2020, LRA trustees and members will work to secure members' approval of the plan and to implement those elements with broad support.

For more information about the LRA's Lake Raponda Watershed Management Plan and copies of grant documents (in pdf format), contact Will Melton at will.melton@mac.com.

What did we learn?

- ✓ Lake Raponda is a human-made waterbody of 121 acres. The lake is shallow (average depth < 12 feet), warm (for Vermont!).
- ✓ The Lake Raponda watershed, lying between highlands, is remarkably compact for a lake this size. The surrounding watershed comprises just 634 acres divided into 213 landowner parcels.
- ✓ The Vermont Lakes Scorecard lists the lake as "stressed" and the watershed as "moderately disturbed." We consider these to be mid-range scores that are encouraging—not too dire, but with plenty of room for improvement.
- ✓ Lake Raponda is a "seep" lake, fed not by tributaries but by springs and storm run-off. With no significant stream sources, our wetlands are crucial to the lake's water quality.
- ✓ Beyond volunteer hours logged, the number of "touches" -- impacts on individuals-- was much higher, a total of 185 who attended assessment events or completed surveys.
- ✓ Those who enjoy and live within the Lake Raponda watershed largely control its destiny.
- ✓ A band of committee volunteers can "move mountains."

Vermont Native Plant Resources to Help You Start to Protect Your Shore!

FOVLAP Lakescape Guide with Native Plant Lists
https://vermontlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/VTLakescapingBooklet.9.9.15.pdf
Lake Wise One Page Native Plant List
https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/lakes/Lakewise/docs/lp_VermontLakeWiseNativePlantList.pdf
Lake Wise List of Native Plant Suppliers
https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/lakes/docs/Native%20Plant%20Suppliers%20.pdf
Native Plant Finder
https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/About

Have you heard? Hydrilla has been found in the Connecticut River!

By Ann Bove, FOVLAP Auxiliary Board Member

The invasive aquatic plant, hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) has been dubbed the world's worst weed. Highly productive, tough to control with few effective management options, and possessing highly effective reproductive strategies, hydrilla is the invasive plant no one wants on their home turf, never mind in *their* favorite waterbody.

In 2016, hydrilla was confirmed in multiple sites in the Connecticut portion of the Connecticut River. The Connecticut River flows from north to south from Northern New Hampshire, along Vermont into Massachusetts and then Connecticut before ending at the Atlantic Ocean. A year later, a site in the Massachusetts portion of the river, near the Connecticut border was confirmed. Are Vermont and New Hampshire next?

To prevent further hydrilla spread, and contain and control existing populations, in 2018 the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel[1] (NEANS Panel) jumped in to help coordinate and communicate state efforts. The NEANS Panel, a federally appointed entity of the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force pursuant to the **Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990**, addresses issues and concerns relative to the freshwater and marine resources of its member states.

State and NEANS Panel-assisted hydrilla control and spread prevention efforts to date include: genetic testing of Connecticut River hydrilla samples that lead to results indicating the population in the river is a unique strain not known from another US location; the development of educational hydrilla tip strips (left) and 12x18inch access area signs; on-river technical assistance led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to share survey techniques and methods, software recommendations, and management approach and treatment options; the development of control strategies for confirmed hydrilla sites; and annual NEANS Panel member-coordinated Connecticut River surveys using the same agreed-to scientific methods.

NEANS Panel developed hydrilla tip strip.

"As with any invasive aquatic plant, the most effective and least costly strategy is always spread prevention," states Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program's Aquatic Invasive Species Management Coordinator and NEANS Panel member. Meg emphasizes, "Practicing **Clean, Drain, Dry** whenever recreating in water, as well as taking the initiative to keep an eye out for hydrilla and report suspected sightings will help ongoing efforts to slow – and maybe prevent - hydrilla's spread north."

For more information about hydrilla, visit the Nonindigenous Aquatic Species information resource for the United States Geological Survey: **https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=6**

[1] The NEANS Panel represents state (including Vermont), provincial and federal governments; academia; commercial and recreational fishing interests; recreational boaters; commercial shipping; power and water utilities; environmental organizations (including the Lake Champlain Basin Program); aquaculture; nursery and aquarium trades; tribal concerns; lake associations; and the bait industry.

Need to brush up on your aquatic plant ID skills?

MWA-sponsored Aquatic Plant ID Workshop
July 24-25, 2020
North Country Career Center, Newport
Visit **http://memphremagogwatershedassociation.com/events/**
for details and to register. Free to MWA members;$10 for non-members.

FOVLAP
PO Box 766
Montpelier, VT 05601

FOVLAP Awarded Lake Champlain Basin Program Education and Outreach Grant

By Emily Porter-Goff, FOVLAP Board Member

This winter FOVLAP applied for an Education and Outreach grant to help support our biannual newsletter and annual Lake Seminar program. We received word mid-February that our application for $4,524 had been granted!

Over the last few years, the costs of hosting the Lake Seminar and producing our newsletters has slowly but significantly increased. Newsletters are mailed to members at no cost and the Lake Seminar is currently offered at approximately 40% below actual cost of attending, to keep it accessible to all and well attended. However, after years of struggling to compensate for this cost difference, FOVLAP was faced with a difficult decision, find additional support for our programing, reducing programing, or members and conference attendees would face a dramatic increase in costs.

Thanks to the Lake Champlain Basin Program's Education and Outreach grant, FOVLAP is now fully supported to develop, print and distribute a spring and fall newsletter as well as plan and implement the annual Lake Seminar. We look forward to this new and exciting relationship with the Lake Champlain Basin Program and hope for this to be the beginning of a long partnership in working together for water quality education and protection for the Lake Champlain Basin and throughout Vermont.

This newsletter was funded by a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program in cooperation with New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

RECYCLED PAPER