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The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds

“To preserve and protect Vermont’s lakes, ponds and their watersheds for the benefit of this and future generations.”

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Need a good winter read?
Recommended by Christine Cano, FOVLAP Auxiliary Board Member

RIPPLE EFFECTS
How We’re Loving Our Lakes to Death
Ted J. Rulseh

“A marvelously thorough synopsis of the many daunting issues surrounding lake management. Rulseh utilizes case studies, interviews, and storytelling format to frame the issues, making the book an easy and pleasurable read. He also doesn’t leave reader wallowing in the problems, instead offering sage advice on the many ways we can turn our love of waters into positive actions to protect them. Highly recommended.”


For more information, click here.

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For more information, click here.
Welcome to the fall/winter edition of the FOVLAP newsletter! In this issue, we update you on our two big events of the summer and early fall, the Lake Seminar and the Annual Meeting, and on the many other activities and issues we have worked on this year.

The Lake Seminar focused on climate change and its effects on our lakes and ponds. We also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. While recognizing how much progress we have made in the last 50 years, speakers also discussed the new challenges a changing climate is bringing. You can view the recording of this event here.

At the Annual Meeting in September, we welcomed newly elected director, Kemper Pierce of Lake Morey to the board. We also welcomed two former directors back to the board, Roger Crouse and Tracey Shadday, and said farewell to retiring directors Kent Henderson and Christine Cano. In addition to the election of officers and directors the Annual Meeting included an update from Oliver Pierson, Director of the DEC Lakes and Ponds Program and presentations on dam safety and management of Eurasian watermilfoil. A very special moment during the meeting was the awarding of the Bob Arnold Award to Chrissie Cano, former FOVLAP director and current member of the FOVLAP Auxiliary Board. View the full recording here.

After many months of hard work on the part of the website committee, we unveiled the new FOVLAP website at the Annual Meeting. The new website is built to be the “go-to” site for our members seeking information on all types of lake issues. An exciting new feature is the membership module, which allows members – both individuals and associations – to manage their memberships right on the site, including paying dues and updating their contact information. Another feature that we are in the process of adding is a members only forum, allowing members to easily connect and share information. Watch your email for an announcement when this feature goes live. Learn more about the site on page 22.

Issues that we have been working on this year include the possible rules change to support the petition of several of our most pristine lakes and their watersheds to be reclassified as A(1) status. This reclassification would offer more state protection of these watersheds and of the water quality in these lakes.

We have also become aware of the continuing use of unencased Polystyrene (brand name: Styrofoam) under some floats and docks. This material degrades in the water into smaller and smaller beads, causing microplastic pollution in our lakes and streams. Wildlife also can ingest this material. The biggest problems have been seen in Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River but we have also heard of problems with this material on some inland lakes. We will keep you posted on this issue as we learn more.

We continue to monitor the wake boat petition as it moves through DEC’s administrative process. DEC has issued draft rules for wake sports. Public comments areinvited and a public meeting will be help on February 15, 2023. You can find all the details here. We continue to follow this issue and will provide information on it as it becomes available.

Perhaps the most pressing issue facing us this year is the reduction in funding for the Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) Grant-in-Aid program. We have addressed this in a commentary published in VTDigger in October and in an email circulated to our entire mailing list. We also ask that all of you reach out to your local legislators. Please feel free to share all of this material widely and use the information contained in them. We will continue to provide more information and to work to bring more attention to this issue in the coming months.

As 2023 begins, I want to thank you for all that you do. I continue to learn so much from the amazing and talented FOVLAP board and from so many of you who graciously take the time to talk or write, to attend not only FOVLAP meetings, but also the many other meetings addressing water quality issues and to speak out in defense of our lakes and ponds. Thank you all for your support of FOVLAP and most of all for all the work you do to protect our precious waters.
Alert! Aquatic Invasive Species Funding Takes a Dive
Pat Suozzi, FOVLAP President

Vermont’s lakes and ponds are facing a serious and growing threat from the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). While Vermont can still boast some of the cleanest and most pristine surface waters in the country, our public waters are under increasing pressure from the spread of AIS. In the summer of 2022, three lakes that formerly had no invasives, reported new infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil.

This is unfortunate news because these kinds of infestations are preventable. With a small amount of funding from the state’s Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) Grant-in-Aid program and a great deal of fundraising, volunteer lake associations around the state run greeter programs to inspect and clean boats entering and leaving lakes and educate boaters and all lake users about the problem of invasive species. These funds are also used to control and reduce already existing infestations, helping to prevent transport to other lakes. Yet for 2023, the state is cutting these funds by over 22%.

Greeter and control programs are vital to invasive species spread prevention. As the damage invasives can cause to an ecosystem has become more evident, more lake associations have developed greeter programs, looking to the state ANC Grant-in-Aid program for basic funding. Although the number of programs has grown, the ANC funds have been level funded for years at $450,000.

Now, when there is even greater pressure on our lakes from increased usage, when we should be creating more greeter programs, and when those already operating should increase their hours, the state is cutting the funds that support these programs to a mere $350,000 or less.

The amount of this cut may seem small in a multi-billion dollar budget but $100,000 can be the difference between clean water or an invasive infestation. While these funds were never truly adequate and volunteer lake associations have always been in the position of having to raise more funds, they still helped. They were often the seed that got a program off the ground.

Nevertheless, of the 196 Vermont lakes with public boat or fishing accesses, only approximately 32 have active greeter programs and of these only 4 have hot water boat wash stations to clean boats (the best way to ensure no invasives are transported). The reason for these low numbers is simple – inadequate funding.

The spread of AIS is a human caused problem, spread by moving boats and other gear from infested water bodies to non-infested water bodies. The best and most cost-effective defense against spread is prevention. Once a waterbody is infested, reducing and controlling the infestation to maintain the health of the lake and to avoid degraded water quality is extremely expensive, far more expensive than prevention. For example, diver-assisted suction harvesting to clear 1 acre of Eurasian watermilfoil can cost as much as $10,000 while running a greeter program for an entire summer season might cost $20,000 to $30,000.

Control and reduction of aquatic invasives is also part of prevention. The more that an infestation can be reduced, the less likely boats leaving that waterbody will carry the invasive to other water bodies. Yet the indications are that this funding cut will all but eliminate funds for control programs.

This is not a trivial matter, AIS, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, if left unchecked, can spread to form monocultures that will squeeze out the native plant species that are necessary to support native fish and other wildlife that

(Continued on page 5)
depend on a healthy lake ecosystem. Other types of invasives, such as zebra mussels can clog water intakes, make beaches unusable, and damage boat engines. Invasive species can cause poor water quality and can adversely affect human health.

We need funds not only for educational outreach and greeter programs to prevent infestations, but also to manage and control existing infestations so AIS is not carried from those lakes to non-infested lakes.

There is an economic cost, too. A dense infestation can lead to falling waterfront property values, meaning lower tax revenues for towns, as well as decreases in tourism, an important contributor to Vermont’s economy.

We are fortunate that many of our most beautiful and pristine lakes, such as Caspian, Maidstone, Seymour and Raponda still have no known invasives. However, without adequate funding, these and the other lakes and ponds still not infested are in real danger of infestation.

Now more than ever we need funding for AIS prevention and control to increase – not decrease!

**What to Know**

- **Vermont law requires AIS prevention:** In 1978, Vermont lawmakers recognized the critical threat posed by aquatic invasive species and passed Vermont’s Aquatic Nuisance Control law ([10 V.S.A. Chapter 50](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USC(code=50).html)). This law states: “It is the policy of the state of Vermont to prevent the infestation and proliferation of invasive species in the state that result in negative environmental impacts, including habitat loss and a reduction in native biodiversity along with adverse social and economic impacts and impacts to the public health and safety.” ([10 V.S.A. Chapter 50. §1451](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USC-code=50.ch50.1451/html))

- **The state’s General Fund provides only $25,000 for AIS prevention and control.**

- **DEC’s ANC funds are allocated from a portion of the Motorboat Registration fees (MBR).** A percentage of this is used for staff salaries for AIS prevention and permitting (due to lack of general fund support as noted above) with the remainder funding the ANC Grant-in-Aid program. For years, this program has been level funded and has typically consisted of $250,000 from the MBR fees, $100,000 from an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and $100,000/year from a one-time surplus.

- **2023 Reduction:** The one-time surplus is now depleted. Available funds for ANC grant awards are now reduced to $350,000 and possibly less.

- **Aquatic invasive species staffing** in the Lakes and Ponds Program was reduced to one person several years ago. Due to this reduction, the Program attempted to outsource the ANC Grant-in-Aid program but was unsuccessful. For now, this grant program stays within the Lakes Program.

- **Although the Lakes Program was approved to use an unfilled position to hire for AIS Program support,** a large percentage of the individual’s workload (Olin Reed started on January 3rd) is oversight of the ANC permit program.

- **The new norm for the ANC Grant-in-Aid grant program will, for the first time, not fund all complete application requests.** In the past, this program worked to ensure that all eligible programs received some funding.

What Can You Do About Decreasing State Funding for Aquatic Invasive Species?

Get involved!

- **Contact** your state representatives and senators by letter, email or telephone. Click here for legislative advocacy tips.

- **Join with FOVLAP to advocate** for adequate funding and support by joining the board, auxiliary board or one of our committees. Email us at vtlakesandponds@gmail.com

- **Promote** the importance of funding for AIS management in your lake community via social media, local meetings and one-on-one conversations.

- **Engage** others now and encourage them to advocate for funds to support this critical issue.
Now, funding decisions will be made on some yet undisclosed criteria, with the potential to leave some active programs unfunded.

- **The need:** In 2022 the ANC program with funds of only $450,000 received $1.2 million in requests for AIS prevention and control, meaning each applicant received only a tiny percentage of need and placing yet more burden on volunteers to raise the additional needed funds.
- Of the 800+ lakes and ponds in the state, only 34 have *greeter programs*, not all of which operate 7 days/week, and only 4 have high pressure, hot water boat washes.
- **What about the $50 million in the Clean Water Budget?** AIS prevention and control is NOT eligible for any of these funds.

Our volunteer lake associations bear the burden of the work of prevention and control of aquatic invasive species in the state’s public waters. Each year our volunteers raise hundreds of thousands of dollars and contribute thousands of hours of unpaid labor to implement a variety of programs to monitor, collect data, prevent the spread of invasives, protect our lakes and ponds from pollutants, and educate the public about best practices to protect our public waters. We do this willingly, but we cannot do it without a reasonable amount of funding and support from the state. The state’s ANC Grant-in-Aid funding cut suggests that the state is abrogating its responsibility to protect our public waters from aquatic invasive species.

### The 2022 Robert Arnold Award Goes to...

At the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds Annual Meeting on September 8, 2022, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation’s Lakes and Ponds Program Manager, Oliver Pierson presented the 2022 Robert Arnold Award to Christine Cano.

This award is offered by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources’ Lakes and Ponds Program to recognize individuals who exhibit devotion in the care and stewardship of their favorite Vermont lake on many facets of lake management and protection.

This lake protection award was initiated in 1998 in memory of Robert Arnold of Seymour Lake, Morgan, Vermont in recognition and appreciation of his many years of volunteer service to Seymour Lake as a Vermont Lay Monitor. His love and dedication to Seymour Lake serve as an inspiration to all who knew him.

All Robert Arnold Award recipients are recognized and thanked for their all-around devotion to the health and protection of Vermont Lakes.

Oliver noted, “The DEC is awarding Christine Cano with the Robert Arnold Award in recognition of her many years of volunteer work, both at Shadow Lake and with FOVLAP. Chrissie exemplifies Bob Arnold’s spirit not only by volunteering her time for safeguarding our lakes, but also in her friendly contact with numerous people to advocate for lake protection issues.”

Some of Christine’s protection efforts noted by Oliver follow:
- Vermont Invasive Patroller
- Lead Shadow Lake’s successful eradication of Eurasian watermilfoil
- Director of FOVLAP – thoughtful and ever attentive to detail for effective work for FOVLAP
Diving into the Weeds: 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species Updates

Ann Bove, FOVLAP Auxiliary Board Member

The majority of the information that follows is courtesy of Kim Jensen, VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Program and Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program

Take note! On January 13, 2023, Representatives Dolan of Waitsfield, Austin of Colchester, Bongartz of Manchester, Ode of Burlington, and Sims of Craftsbury introduced bill H.51, “This bill would require the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife to issue the Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Pass that owners or operators of motorboats and nonmotorized vessels would be required to annually obtain and affix to all motorboats and nonmotorized vessels operating in the waters of the State. Fees on the sale of Aquatic 14 Nuisance Prevention Passes would be deposited into a special fund to be used for aquatic nuisance control in the State.” You can read the full bill and track its progress in the legislature here.

The FOVLAP Board believes out-of-state motorboats accessing Vermont’s waterbodies should contribute to Vermont’s efforts to prevent and manage aquatic invasive species (AIS). Currently, out-of-state motorboat operators are only required to purchase a Vermont validation sticker after 60 days of use on Vermont public waters. FOVLAP will continue to track this bill, provide updates and let you know how you can engage others about the need for funds to support AIS management. Look for more information soon on the FOVLAP website.

EARLY DETECTION

Six new introductions of an AIS in a Vermont waterbody were confirmed in 2022: Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Eden (Eden), Half Moon Pond (Hubbardton), and Silver Lake (Leicester); and water chestnut in Lake Champlain near Isle LaMotte and in Gordon Bay at the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, and Arrowhead Mountain Lake (Milton).

A seventh species, American lotus (Nelumbo lutea) was confirmed for the first time in Vermont near the Brattleboro Retreat Meadows. The invasiveness of this native to southeastern North America species is yet to be determined. The AIS Program will work with partners and other agencies to understand how Nelumbo lutea may be designated in Vermont.

The non-native faucet snail (Bithynia tentaculata) was reported by the Town of Georgia Industrial Development Corpo-
ration at its water treatment plant. The Corporation requested state assistance to confirm the species and provide information on how to manage the species found clogging intake pipes, proliferating settling ponds and possibly leading to engine failures. Vermont’s AIS Program staff determined that any chemical or water chemistry manipulation applications are unlikely for pre-treatment or within the treatment plant infrastructure, and that manual removal is the best, though the costliest method. Because the plant is relatively old, it is expected that any new or potential treatment should be considered with a new plant upgrade. The AIS Program will continue to work with the treatment plant and alert them of any new technologies for management control.

Environmental DNA (eDNA) originates from cellular material shed by organisms (via skin, excrement, etc.) into aquatic or terrestrial environments. An eDNA partnership with Vermont’s AIS Program, the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), regional states and the University of New Hampshire on how eDNA may be used for early detection/rapid response measures for aquatic invasive animals continued in 2022. The Vermont study lakes are Bomoseen and Memphremagog. The Vermont component of the study is analyzing the distance a zebra mussel eDNA signal would be picked up from a known population. In Memphremagog in 2021, a zebra mussel population was found on the border of Quebec and Vermont in Quebec waters, and both eDNA sampling and physical surveys were conducted. While the eDNA analysis showed eDNA hits at all Quebec and Vermont locations and veligers in plankton-net tow samples, the results from the physical surveys have not yet been submitted. The partnership speculates that zebra mussels exist in the Vermont portion of Lake Memphremagog.

The Vermont Invasive Patroller for Animals (VIPA) Program was launched by Vermont’s AIS Program in 2022. A VIPA manual and field kits with animal sampling devices and an online submission form were developed, and a field workshop held. The program was well-received by interested citizens, especially those who are Vermont Invasive Patrollers for plants or VIPs.

LCBP partnered with Lake Champlain Sea Grant to support a two-year master’s student at University of Vermont to data gather and populate the Lake Champlain Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System that will mirror the Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System or GLANSIS. Project advisors include USGS and NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.

**SPREAD PREVENTION**

Of 33 Vermont Public Access Greeter Programs, 32 utilized the reporting app, Survey123 in 2022. The 33 programs reported findings of 31,052 boats that either launched or returned from Vermont bodies of water and intercepted 502 AIS.

LCBP continued to support the Lake Champlain Boat Launch Steward Program (akin to public access greeter programs) on Lake Champlain at high-risk public accesses in Vermont, northern New York, and Quebec. The following summarizes the data collected by Boat Launch Stewards in 2022:

- 13,210 surveys conducted for 14,014 watercraft
- 29,636 boater interactions
- 224 decontaminations using high pressure, hot water from three Vermont public accesses (up from 196 in 2021)
- 1,147 interceptions of aquatic organisms (252 on launch, 895 on retrieve) or 8.3%

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409 (66 launch, 343 retrieve) aquatic invasive species interceptions or 3.1%  
83% of boaters report taking one or more spread prevention actions  
LCBP and Vermont’s departments of Environmental Conservation and Fish and Wildlife are working together to figure out how to implement a fourth decontamination station on Lake Champlain.  
LCBP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partnered to support an AIS outreach specialist (a new position in 2022) who conducts outreach to stakeholders along the Champlain Canal corridor about the threats of aquatic invasive species movement through the Champlain Canal.  

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RAPID RESPONSE  
Lake Champlain AIS Rapid Response Task Force has been meeting regularly in response to the threat of round goby to Lake Champlain. Rapid response funds have been used to support early detection monitoring in the Champlain Canal. The Quebec Ministry of Environment has also been conducting early detection monitoring in the Richelieu River to the north. Round goby education and outreach materials are being developed and round goby sightings may be reported in Vermont and New York through iMap Invasives, an online GIS-based data management system.  

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Clean Boats Clean Waters  
Before Launching AND Before Leaving  
**Clean** off any mud, plants, and animals from boats, trailers, and equipment.  
**Drain** your boat and equipment away from the water.  
**Dry** anything that comes into contact with the water.  
**Never** release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.
CONTROL EFFORTS

Since 2019, at least 12 Vermont lakes have been permitted to use the Environmental Protection Agency registered herbicide, ProcellaCOR® to control Eurasian watermilfoil via a science based approach, including Lake Iroquois (Hinesburg, Williston, St. George) in 2021 (see photos below). Lake associations connected to these treated lakes report favorable watermilfoil control results. VTDEC provided the following in support of permitting for the use of this herbicide in waters of the state:

- March 16, 2022: VTDEC ProcellaCOR EC Toxicity review
- March 21, 2022: Vermont Department of Health Review of ProcellaCOR herbicide by the Vermont State Toxicologist
- April 2022, “...the Lakes & Ponds Program completed a statistical analysis of pre- and post-treatment aquatic plant survey data from water bodies that have been treated with the herbicide ProcellaCOR EC. This herbicide is permitted to target Eurasian watermilfoil only. In sum, aquatic plant survey data has shown that after a ProcellaCOR EC treatment, a statistically significant decrease of the lake-wide frequency of occurrence for Eurasian watermilfoil (target aquatic invasive species) and coontail (non-target native species) occurred. Over the same period, a statistically significant increase of the lake-wide frequency of occurrence for the beneficial native species Illinois pondweed and American eelgrass occurred.”
- October 2022: To clarify how herbicide permits are awarded, who VTDEC collaborates with in the process, and what treatments have been permitted over the last three years, VTDEC developed the following document, “VTDEC Permitting Aquatic Herbicide Projects in Vermont.”

Vermont’s AIS Program with contractors and partner organizations, effectively removed approximately 1,200 tons of water chestnut from 96 sites on Lake Champlain and 30 other water bodies in Vermont in 2022.

LCBP supported the Lake Champlain water chestnut management program on Lake Champlain through a grant to the VTDEC and through support of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge harvest efforts, boat launch steward harvest days, and support of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation efforts.

LCBP hosted U.S. Army Corps of Engineer staff from the NY District Office and Engineer Research and Development Center over the summer to review various watershed projects including the Champlain Canal barrier study project and the water chestnut management program.

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MONITORING EFFORTS

Annual surveys by Vermont’s AIS Program of *starry stonewort* (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) in Memphremagog (confirmed in 2015) and nearby Lake Derby (confirmed in 2016) demonstrated a dramatic downward trend in these populations since 2020. Program research found no substantial evidence due to water chemistry, environmental factors, or species thresholds to explain a decrease in the population at this time albeit much of the water chemistry data is lacking for these lakes. Ultimately, more detailed long-term monitoring and surveying of lakes Memphremagog and Derby is needed to come to more definitive conclusions.

Vermont’s AIS Program surveyed portions of the Connecticut River in September and October searching for *hydrilla*, surveying 309 points (on both the Vermont and New Hampshire sides of the river) using the rake toss method. No hydrilla was found. This work is part of a partnership effort coordinated by the Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel of which DEC and LCBP are members. This federally listed noxious weed was first discovered in the Connecticut River in 2016 (Hydrilla is only known from Massachusetts and Connecticut regions of the river at this time). For more information on managing hydrilla in the Connecticut River, click [here](#).

FUNDING FOR AIS MANAGEMENT

LCBP has many annual grant opportunities including aquatic invasive species spread prevention grants. The application for these grants closed in early November 2022. Expected awards are estimated at roughly $200,000. Eligible projects must be in the Lake Champlain basin.

LCBP has received $40 million over 5 years ($8 million per year) to support Infrastructure Bill projects. Some of these resources will support aquatic invasive species work. Details are under development.

In 2022, the Vermont ANC Grant-in-Aid grant program received requests for $1.2 million in funds. The Program was only able to award $467,245; these funds supported 54 projects on 31 water bodies:

- 25 greeter projects
- 23 management projects
- 3 early detection/rapid response survey projects
- 2 for grant administration
- 1 for aquatic nuisance species enforcement statewide

The ANC Grant-in-Aid grant program anticipates providing $350,000 in awards in 2023 - more than $100,000 less than 2022 or previous years. VTDEC Lakes Program staff will ensure priorities outlined in the aquatic nuisance control statutes are met, however at this time it is not clear how this reduced pot of funds will be prioritized for disbursement. Potentially $200,000 could be provided for greeter projects (roughly the same amount provided for greeter projects recently). Management projects may be competitive based grants or proportionate based award grants.

Look for the 2023 ANC Grant-in-Aid grant application Request for Proposals at the end of January as well as notice for a Bidder’s Applicant workshop to review the application forms and answer questions that applicants may have to follow the release of the Request for Proposals.

Can Vermont afford continued spread of aquatic invasive species in its lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and wetlands???
2022 Annual Meeting

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds’ virtual Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, September 8, 2022 from 9am to 3pm.

The meeting began with a welcome from President Pat Suozzi, and ANR Secretary Julie Moore. A short business meeting followed. FOVLAP celebrated 50th anniversary, honoring its founder, Carl G. Simpson and sharing a brief slide how of members, photos and accomplishments. Oliver Pierson, VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Program Manager, gave an update on the Program and announced the recipient of this year’s Robert Arnold Award - Christine Cano from Shadow Lake in Glover.

The afternoon included a panel discussion on Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) that focused on the science and history of EWM control with perspectives from different Vermont lakes. Misha Cetner (Lakes and Ponds Program) and Meg Modley (Lake Champlain Basin Program) gave an overview of management tools available and how the permitting process works. Shannon Kelly, representing Lake Iroquois, and David Johnson from Lake Dunmore, shared their experiences establishing buy-in, applying for needed permits and securing funds to control EWM over the past decades.

New dam safety standards have been the topic of conversations all over the state. An afternoon panel addressed the impacts of dam safety regulations on Vermont lakes. Ben Green, VTANR dam expert, shared the new dam safety regulations and what this means to dam owners (town, state and private), dam removal and its effects on the shoreline and water level, and the pros and cons of dam removal. Jamie Moray and Colleen Bloom from Curtis Pond in Calais presented their experience and issues associated with the Curtis Pond dam. Peter Fellows and Ron Rhodes presented a historical perspective on the dam situation and lessons learned at Lake Amherst in Plymouth.

2022 Vermont Lake Seminar: Vermont Lakes in a Changing Climate: From Issues to Actions

The 2022 Vermont Lake Seminar, co-sponsored by FOVLAP and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, was virtually held on Friday, June 3, from 9am to 3pm Entitled “Vermont Lakes in a Changing Climate: From Issues to Actions,” the seminar discussed the effects of the Clean Water Act, passed 50 years ago, and the new challenges facing Vermont lakes from the impacts of climate change.

Responding to the increase in the discharge of pollutants into U.S. surface waters, the Clean Water Act was passed in 1972. The Act established the basic structure for regulating discharges into surface waters and for regulating surface water standards resulting in improved surface water quality nationwide. Today’s challenges to water quality in Vermont’s lakes are complex, and many are amplified by the expected impacts from the changing climate. This seminar highlighted the Clean Water Act, explored the present climate-related challenges to water quality, and described actions that can mitigate the associated risks to our lakes.

Featured speakers included Dr. Steve Paulsen, Senior Research Ecologist, US Environmental Protection Agency; Jane Lazorchak, Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act Project Director; Dr. Mindy Morales, Assistant Professor, UVM Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources; Dr. Ken Wagner, President, Water Resources Services and former President of the North American Lake Management Society; and Eric Hansen, loon biologist, Ver-

(Continued on page 13)
We Need You!

The Board is looking for members interested in serving a term on the Board of Directors. The Board will have three one-year position openings beginning September 2023.

Participating on FOVLAP’s Board of Directors is an opportunity to get more involved, learn and work directly with a dynamic team of fellow lake and pond enthusiasts.

**FOVLAP**

**Director Responsibilities**

- Support and promote the mission and work of FOVLAP.
- Be an individual member in good standing of FOVLAP.
- Commit to attend the board meetings, the annual meeting and the annual lake seminar.
- Serve on one or more board committees.
- Adhere to FOVLAP policies and procedures.
- Ensure the continued viability, integrity and accountability of FOVLAP.

**Interested?**

Contact FOVLAP President, Pat Suozzi at pasuozzi@gmail.com

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mont Center for Ecostudies and recipient of the GMP-Zetterstrom Environmental Award for leading the recovery of the formerly endangered common loon in Vermont. Other speakers included Oliver Pierson VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Manager and Mark Mitchell, VTDEC Lay Monitoring Program and Lake Champlain Sea Grant researcher. The Seminar included time for questions and discussion with the speakers and attendees.

To view these presentations, click [here](#).

**Additional Events in 2022**

The FOVLAP Events Committee was busy this past year. The FOVLAP ad hoc Aquatic Invasive Species and Water Quality Committee asked FOVLAP to host additional events, shorter in length. A collaboration between these two committees made this happen!

Our successful first event, Funding for the Vermont AIS Greeter and Management Program took place virtually on January 12, 2022 with 67 participants. The prevention and management of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Vermont lakes reflect important shared goals between lake associations and conservation groups, as well as local governments, and state and federal agencies. Looking into the future, needs for funding are increasing, while some sources of funding are decreasing, at least in the near-term. FOVLAP organized this virtual meeting to discuss this situation from many perspectives, with the goal to inform stakeholders of ideas on how to bridge this looming funding gap. To view this presentation, click [here](#).

The second shorter event was held on April 6, 2022 with 47 participants and covered Early Identification of Aquatic Invasive Species: How to Launch, Grow and Nurture a Program. FOVLAP organized this virtual meeting to help organizations and individuals prepare to be trained or improve existing programs.

AIS, both plants and animals, are an ever-growing threat to all Vermont surface waters. Early identification of new invasives is critical so resources can be marshaled to mitigate spread. Well trained volunteers who commit to monitor a Vermont waterbody, may be the first to detect an invasive plant or animal, or other important changes to plant and animal life.

To view this presentation, click [here](#).

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation plans several trainings every summer to educate new volunteers for the Vermont Invasive Patroller Program for both plants and animal species. To learn more about these trainings, click [here](#) for plants and [here](#) for animals.

**For upcoming events, visit the FOVLAP website [here](#).**
Dear FOVLAP Members,

Thanks for providing me with this opportunity to provide a bit of information about DEC’s priorities when it comes to protecting, restoring and managing Vermont’s lakes and ponds. I was pleased to have the opportunity to introduce myself at your lake seminar this past June, and I want to recognize the outstanding work that FOVLAP members and individual lake association members do to improve water quality, habitat and recreational opportunities in our state’s lakes and ponds. As I mentioned in June, I greatly enjoy paddling across various Vermont ponds, and I am aware that the quality of these experiences is a result of the hard work of many volunteers such as yourselves.

DEC is working hard to achieve its mission to preserve, enhance, restore, and conserve Vermont’s natural resources and protect human health for the benefit of this and future generations, while also make good use of significant amounts of federal funding for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure that has come into Vermont in various COVID-19 pandemic relief bills passed by the U.S. Congress.

We are also striving to incorporate environmental justice principles into our daily work through the development and implementation of an EJ Policy and provide funding opportunities to Vermonter’s that support projects at the nexus of EJ priorities and achieving our mission, such as helping low-income Vermonters repair or replace their failed or inadequate on-site water or wastewater systems. It is also a top priority for me to support and retain our excellent staff, so that we are well-equipped to manage permitting demands and potential environmental impacts of all the new infrastructure constructed with COVID-19 relief funds.

Focusing a bit more specifically on surface water management in the state and issues that impact our lakes and ponds, here are some of the Department’s priorities for the coming year:

• With a temporary increase in our Clean Water Budget due to COVID-19 relief funding, we hope to make significant progress towards achieving the phosphorus loading reduction targets outlined in our “Total Maximum Daily Load” plans for Lake Champlain and Memphremagog; now is a great time to take advantage of these increased funds and submit project proposals to the various sources of clean water funding (see below).

• The Watershed Management Division will be engaged in various rulemaking efforts focusing on updating our wetland maps, establishing a new Anti-Degradation Policy to limit incremental lowering of water quality in lakes, rivers, and wetlands as a result of permitted activities, establishing a rule to regulate wake boats on certain lakes and ponds, and to clarify the requirements for herbicide treatments in public waters through our aquatic nuisance control program.

• Cyanobacteria blooms remain an issue in certain Vermont lakes and DEC continues to work to reduce external phosphorus loading (which fuels blooms) into these waters through implementation of Best Management Practices in the watershed, monitor water quality and bloom occurrence to better understand trends, and we are now exploring in-lake phosphorus inactivation treatments in certain lakes where external phosphorus sources have been reduced but internal phosphorus loading remains an issue.

• I am aware that our funding for aquatic nuisance control grants will decrease from $450,000 to $350,000 in 2023, and we continue to explore options for new funding sources in collaboration with federal partners and interested members of the Vermont Legislature.

• Shoreland Restoration work remains a priority for DEC, and we are supporting the development of Lake Watershed Action Plans across the state, helping shoreland restoration projects qualify for Clean Water Financing from our Clean Water Service Providers and Block Grant holders, and hope to improve our enforcement efforts and streamline how we issue citations for shoreland protection act violations.

• Finally, we hope to make progress in our efforts to amend statutory language regarding how we regulate

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Happy New Year to our Vermont lakes and ponds community. I hope that everyone had an excellent summer/fall, and that you were able to spend lots of time on our beloved lakes and ponds. From camping at Maidstone to waterskiing on Waterbury Reservoir to paddleboarding on Iroquois to sailing on Champlain to fishing on Bomoseen to birdwatching on Lake Fairlee, I was able to enjoy a range of designated uses that the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is charged with maintaining on our public waters. Besides all that fun stuff, the Lakes and Ponds Program had a super busy field season, and we continue to chip away at the different goals articulated in our Strategic Plan. Here are a few updates of interest to share:

- **Recruiting for ANC Permitting Specialist**: DEC recruited an Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) Permitting Specialist, who will eventually take the lead on reviewing and issuing ANC permit applications and support our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management and Prevention Program. Colin Reed fills the position vacated by Lindsay Miller, but the position has been reoriented to integrate all AIS and ANC activities under one section, led by Kim Jensen.

- **Clean Water Initiative Program Funding for Shoreland Restoration BMPs**: It has been encouraging to see a large number of shoreland restoration funding proposals submitted to DEC’s Block Grant holders under the Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) based on completed Lake Wise Assessments and Lake Watershed Action Plans. Lakes and Ponds staff typically weigh in on these proposals from technical and permitting needs perspectives, so please don’t hesitate to reach out to us if you have questions about the process or want input to your application. Just a reminder that the majority of CWIP funding will be managed either by block grant recipients managing water quality restoration formula grants or water quality enhancement funds, or Clean Water Service Providers (CWSPs) implementing projects to meet five-year phosphorus reduction targets for watersheds draining to Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog. Block grant recipients and CWSPs will have different pots of money for shoreland restoration projects / BMPs, including project identification (planning, assessment, and analytics to identify priority projects), project development, project design, and project implementation for shoreline restoration (phosphorus reduction through bank stabilization and restoring living shorelands) and shoreline runoff treatment (phosphorus runoff treatment through nature-based solutions) projects. See here for more info on funding opportunities.

- **Lake Reclassification Update**: DEC Commissioner John Beling informed the four lake communities that had submitted reclassification proposals that DEC would place our review of these petitions on hold until after the upcoming legislative session, to give us time to attempt to seek a legislative reform to the 1,000 gallon per day limitation on new septic systems in Class A Watersheds. DEC remains committed to reclassification (Continued on page 16)
of eligible high-quality waters, including the four lakes and ponds for which reclassification petitions were submitted in 2020 and will soon be working with relevant legislative committees to introduce our ideas for change to this statutory text. To ensure that these permits comply with the Vermont Water Quality Standards and do not lead to water quality deterioration, DEC is also working on an update to the Anti-Degradation Implementation Rule, promulgated in 2010, in a manner that would also enhance protections for high-quality waters. DEC initiated this rulemaking effort by the end of 2022 and will link this rulemaking with efforts to reform 10 VSA 1259(d) in the 2023 legislative session. The draft Anti-Degradation Implementation Rule is available for comments and DEC will hold a hearing to obtain formal public comment as part of the rulemaking process. Click here for more information.

- **Lake Assessment Tools:** The Lakes and Ponds Program has launched a new interactive format for the Lake Scorecards, which can be found here, along with our other principal online data visualization tools, including depth charts, land use maps based on high-resolution satellite imagery, and next generation lake assessment reports.

- **Aquatic Nuisance Control Permitting:** DEC recently published a document titled “Permitting Aquatic Herbicide Projects in Vermont” which clarified how herbicide permits are awarded, who we collaborate with in the process, and what treatments have been permitted over the last three years.

  On a related note, in December the Lake Bomoseen Association asked DEC to lift the “technical hold” status on their application to use an herbicide to control Eurasian watermilfoil. DEC is reviewing the application and will likely send some requests for technical corrections/clarifications to the applicant in the near future. A timeline for issuing a draft decision is not known at this time.

  Finally, DEC will soon begin rulemaking under the ANC Statute, a process that will be focused on better defining some of the terms used to guide permitting decisions, clarifying how DEC determines if a given proposed treatment is in the public good, and better defining permit application requirements and exclusions. A consultative stakeholder group was convened this month to identify rulemaking priorities and help develop a draft rule for the ANC statute, a process that will take most of 2023.

- **Wake Boat Petition:** DEC continues its review of the wake boat petition submitted in March 2022. DEC held two public meetings, seven bilateral meetings with affected recreational user groups, and received over 300 written comments. We have developed a draft rule concept that was recently shared with the public. A draft rule will be shared with the public at a final pre-rulemaking meeting, after which we hope to obtain the ANR Secretary’s approval to begin formal rulemaking. The concept of a draft rule aims to establish minimum depth and distance from shore requirements for use of wake boats on public waters in Vermont and address the increased risks of AIS spread from wake boats.

  **January 2023 Update:** The Department of Environmental Conservation will hold a meeting in Greensboro on February 15, 2023 to provide an update on the proposed draft rule in response to the petition received. Meeting information and relevant background information on the development of the proposed rule is available here.

- **Monitoring Update:** During the summer 2022 field season, lake monitoring teams completed an enormous amount of data collection and analysis through the Champlain Long Term Monitoring Program, the Lay Monitoring Program, and the inland lake assessment program. Of note is the deployment of high-frequency monitoring buoys on Lake Champlain at the mouth of the Lamoille River and in Lake Carmi; growth of the Lay Monitoring Program to over 90 sites in 2022; and participation in the 2022 EPA National Lake Assessment at eight randomly selected inland lakes in Vermont. Incidentally, the latest National Lake Assessment Report has been published, and it found that the nation continues to grow its proportion of eutrophic and hypereutrophic lakes, while losing its mesotrophic and oligotrophic ones. See our lakes monitoring website for more information about all these programs.

(Continued on page 17)
• Funding for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Efforts: I continue to view the issue of increased demand for the ANC Grant-in-Aid Program while the budget for this program is decreasing as an issue of critical concern, and perhaps where we can benefit the most from advocacy by FOVLAP and individual lake association members. The only piece of mixed news is that our efforts to move the Grant-in-Aid Program to a block grant model managed by a private service provider were unsuccessful, and therefore DEC will continue to manage these grants in 2023. The budget for these grants will be around $350,000 and the grant management administrative tasks will also continue to be carried out by Lakes and Ponds Program staff.

• Lake Watershed Action Plans (LWAPs): As I write this update in November 2022, Lake Watershed Action Plans are at various stages of completion at 10 sites around the state and completed plans are being implemented at 3 additional sites. Finally, DEC is about to launch Requests for Proposal to develop LWAPs at Big Pond (Woodbury), Halls Lake and Echo Lake (Charleston) and Seymour Lake. One of these RFPs may also include some funding for Lake Wise Assessments at Lake Rescue. See our LWAP Site for more information.

• Updated Shoreland Best Management Practice Documents: With funding from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, DEC contracted with Holly Greenleaf to revise and overhaul our Lake Wise BMP Documents, produce a bioengineering story map, and produce two videos about this work. See this website for all the results of this great work.

• Funding for Diagnostic Feasibility Studies for In-Lake Treatments: In response to severe and prolonged cyanobacteria blooms in Lake Carmi and Lake Morey in 2022, the Lakes and Ponds Program has obtained CWIP Funding, available in July of 2023, for diagnostic feasibility studies to assess whether in-lake treatments, such as aluminum sulfide, would be a viable mechanism to inactivate phosphorus contained in lake bottom sediments. This phosphorus is released into the water column during the summer months when the lakes stratify and there is no oxygen at depth, and in turn fuels these blooms. The study for Lake Carmi should begin on or around July 2023, while the Lake Morey community has decided to fund their own study, which is already underway, with the hope of obtaining DEC funding for a potential in-lake treatment in 2023 or 2024. In a similar effort, the annual allotment of Lakes in Crisis funds for Lake Carmi was increased from $50,000 to $140,000 to support aeration and water quality monitoring in 2023.

The Vermont Lake Wise Program

Alison Marchione, Vermont Lakes and Ponds Program

Vermont’s Lake Wise program began in 2013, shortly before the implementation of the Shoreland Protection Act, Vermont’s lakeshore development law. Before 2014, Vermont had no regulations of shoreland development, resulting in sprawling development of many of Vermont’s lake shores. According to the National Lake Assessment study, Vermont ranks lowest in the nation for shoreland disturbance. A disturbed shore can lead to all sorts of potential water quality issues, particularly when it comes to runoff, which can lead to high phosphorus levels in the lake, and both shoreland habitat and littoral habitat degradation.

The Lake Wise Program in Vermont aims to inform, teach and ultimately change previous lakeshore develop-

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ment practices into those that are more beneficial to the health of the lake. While the Shoreland Protection Act regulates any new shoreland development, development done before 2014 is grandfathered in. That means many houses are within 100 feet of the water and have no shoreline vegetation to speak of. Clearing land down to the water and replacing native, natural vegetation with hardscaped walls are the development practices of the past! The Lake Wise Program promotes vegetated shorelines and stormwater best management practices to control inputs of pollutants into the lake and provide healthy, native, vegetated habitat for all.

Through the Lake Wise Program, lake side properties can be assessed and receive technical guidance at no cost to the landowner. A Lake Wise assessor will evaluate the property in four categories—driveway, structures and septic, recreation area, and shoreland. If all four sections of the assessment are passed, the property receives a Lake Wise award indicating that the property is a model of lake friendly living.

Does your lake want to be the next Vermont Gold Standard Lake? Now is the time to get involved! Promote Lake Wise at your lake via your annual lake association meeting, newsletters, or social media. Contact alison.marchione@vermont.gov for details about how to get Lake Wise started at your lake. Already have a team in place? Find out what percentage of shoreland properties have been awarded Lake Wise Awards by using the Vermont Parcel Viewer to determine the number of properties around your lake and contact Alison to find the official number of Lake Wise awards. Set your goals and maybe your lake will be the fourth to achieve the gold standard! Will there be another Gold Lake in 2023? That’s up to you!

The Vermont Gold Lake Wise Award

The Gold Lake Wise Award is awarded to lake associations with 15% or more properties surrounding the lake awarded the distinction of Lake Wise. The 15% requirement is based on research that shows that 15% is the threshold at which a set population partakes in a similar action, creating a trend that others will follow. The Gold Lake Wise Award is an impressive achievement for a community! In 2017 Echo Lake in Charleston was the first Vermont lake to reach the 15% threshold and receive the award. It was followed closely by its neighbor Seymour Lake, which reached the goal a few weeks later. To date, these lakes now have 26 and 56 Lake Wise awards respectively.

Since 2017, no other lake in Vermont has reached this achievement until now. This summer Lake Iroquois, with an enormous effort on behalf of the Lake Iroquois Association and the lake community, received Gold Lake status! The official award will be presented at their Annual Meeting in 2023.

The Gold Lake Award was achieved just as Lake Iroquois undertakes a Lake Watershed Action Plan (LWAP). A LWAP is an assessment and planning tool used to identify the greatest threats to a lake ecosystem from the land uses within the watershed, including impacts on water quality and wildlife habitat. Even as Lake Iroquois receives this award for their stellar performance in the Lake Wise program there is still much to do there. The momentum for clean water and healthy lake habitat is growing and landowner involvement is critical to our success!

Through participation in Lake Wise, landowners learn about shoreland management and the benefits of natural shorelands. Lakeside landowners who have implemented the Lake Wise Best Management Practices begin to see their properties in a new light with a lens of habitat, biodiversity, and stormwater management. Collaboration between the shoreland community and lake associations is the key to unlocking our continued maintenance of water quality.
Lake Seymour received Gold Lake status in 2017, left to right: Chuck Nichols, Erik Lessing, Peggy Barter, Governor Phil Scott, Rhonda Shippee and Ron Kolar. (Photo: R. Hofmann)

Echo Lake received Gold Lake status in 2017, left to right: Perry Thomas and Heather Murphy, Lakes and Ponds Program with EPLA board members Patti Lennon, Larry Martin, Nancy Engels, Bill Mann and Keith Eckels. (Photo: T. Shadday)
Meet Vermont’s Newest Lake Shoreland Coordinator

Dear FOVLAP,

As I sit at my dining room table, which sometimes doubles as my office, and look out the sliding glass door at the gently falling snow and surrounding landscape, I allow myself a moment to reflect on the last seven months in my new job as the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Lakes and Ponds Lake Shoreland Coordinator.

My name is Alison Marchione. Many of you I may have met in my travels this summer but still more of you are hearing from me for the first time. I am a Vermont native, growing up in Brookfield and attending school in Randolph. I left Vermont to pursue my BA and MS in Environmental Science and Land Management. I came to DEC after seven years with a Land Conservation non-profit based out of Hanover, New Hampshire, and work along the Connecticut River Valley in both Vermont and New Hampshire. There I spent much of my time immersed in land management, education and outreach.

I started with DEC at the end of May 2022, already well into a busy field season. I have to say that I enjoyed every minute of the field work. Despite growing up in Vermont, there are still many corners of the state I have never been to. Now I can say from Great Averill Pond to Woodford Lake, Lake St. Catherine to Lake Fairlee and out to the Champlain Islands, I’ve visited a much wider swath of the state than ever before, and still there is more to see. I have met with lake associations, conservation districts, non-profits, and town governments and have had a firsthand experience seeing everyone work together for the improvement of our lakes.

I look forward to continuing this work through the winter and into next year’s field season. I hope to meet many more of you, visit your lake, and see what makes each spot so special to the people who love it. I am committed to helping landowners improve their properties for the health of the lakes that belong to each one of us.

Alison Marchione

Update on Vermont’s Climate Change Action Plan

Peggy Barter, FOVLAP Auxiliary Board Member

Vermont has worked steadily to implement needed actions to mitigate climate change impacts, but while the progress seems impressive, it is not moving quickly enough for some. On September 9, 2020, the Vermont Legislature passed the Vermont Global Solutions Act (VGSA) which created the Vermont Climate Council with their task being to create a Climate Action Plan. Both the Council and the Plan are now well established. See details about the Act here.

Since VGSA passed, Vermont completed a Vermont Climate Assessment which was released on November 9, 2021. Some main points of the assessment are that since 1900 Vermont's average annual temperature has increased nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit and precipitation is up 21%. Impacts are felt in farming (including apples and maple products), winter sports such as skiing, warming lake waters with thawing happening one to three days earlier per decade, and 2.4 more days of heavy rain than in the 1960s. With regard to water quality in Vermont’s lakes, this means increasing probability of algal blooms, reduced biodiversity and more runoff from heavy storms. More complete information is available here.

The Vermont Climate Council is an active group composed of scientists, industry and public sector leaders, state officials, and engaged citizens and was charged to develop a Climate Action Plan. The Climate action Plan was released on December 1, 2021. A summary of the plan is

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available here. And the full document - 274 pages - is available here.

The Council has been working steadily during 2022. On its website, one can view reports, minutes and a calendar of the meetings of the various subcommittees which include:

- Agriculture and Ecosystems
- Cross-sector Mitigation
- Just Transitions
- Rural Resilience and Adaptation
- Science and Data

All meetings of the Council and its subcommittees are open to the public and in addition public input is invited on the website via its public portal.

In 2022, there has also been Legislative action. On May 27, 2022 a bill to preserve and increase old growth forests in Vermont was passed. This law created a new subcategory in the Current Use Program. Increasing old growth forest allows for maintaining biodiversity and sequesters carbon. Bill 715 was passed by both the House and Senate, but then was vetoed by the governor with the legislature lacking the votes to overcome the veto. Statements by the governor and legislators indicate that a similar bill is likely to be introduced in 2023. Bill 715 attempted to address the need for clean heat standards.

FOVLAP Launches New Website
Jerremy Jones, FOVLAP Board Member

Back in January, we started the process to update the look, functionality, and content of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds website to better serve our mission and our members. Along with creating a new, updated look for the website, we also wanted to make it a destination for all the latest news, helpful information, and events associated with lakes and ponds in Vermont.

There is a new section called Protecting Lakes and Ponds that will contain helpful articles and resources related to water quality, shoreland protection, watersheds, and aquatic invasive species.

There is a Member Community area where members can maintain their profile, manage their membership, view the membership directory, and participate in a membership forum to discuss lake issues, and to share information.

The Events calendar will include FOVLAP events, and other lakes and ponds events throughout Vermont that may be of interest to our members.

The Latest News section contains three blogs: Lakes and Ponds News, Advocacy and Action, and Wise About Water – and they will keep you up-to-date on lakes and ponds related news and legislative updates.

The Our Work section contains pages for our mission, the listing of directors, committees, the bylaws, and board meeting summaries.

If you are a current member, your information was imported to create an account for you on the website. Information was sent to you on how to log into your account for the first time. Also, if you had previously subscribed to Wise About Water or Legislative Updates, you’ll need to re-subscribe using the subscription widget at the top of those pages.

We will continually add additional pages and functionality to the website, so please stop in often. After visiting the new site, if you have any comments, or suggestions for content that would be useful, please let us know – we’d love to hear your feedback. Just click the Contact button at the top of any page to send us a message.

Finally, thank you to the website committee for their hard work. The new site looks great and we will continue to work to make it a valuable resource for our members, and for everyone who cares about Vermont lakes and ponds.

Remembering Gardner Anders “Andy” Dales
Caspian Lake, Greensboro
1943-2022

Andy grew up as a summer resident in Greensboro, where he met the two biggest joys in his life, Judy Boyd and Caspian Lake. He became one of Caspian’s finest sailors and husband to his other love, Judy. The two traveled the world during his career with Exxon-Mobil, then retired to Greensboro in 2002. He jumped right into Caspian Lake protection efforts by taking over the Lay Monitoring and the Public Access Greeter programs’ responsibilities. He joined FOVLAP as a representative and later as a board member, serving us all for many years. As trusted steward of Caspian Lake, he will always be remembered for starting his annual reports to the Greensboro Association with the statement, “Due to the work of many, Caspian remains free of aquatic invasive species.” Big THANK YOUs go out to Andy Dales for his passion for our Caspian Lake and the state of Vermont.

Stew Arnold provided this remembrance. Stew is a past FOVLAP board member and is the current Caspian Lake volunteer lay monitor and greeter program manager, posts he has held since 2018.

A warm, pleasant person with an extraordinary love for history and interest in the preservation of Vermont lakes, Richard “Dick” Simpson will be greatly missed by those who knew him. Many Vermonters have their favorite lake, Dick’s was Willoughby, the summer gathering place for family.

As a 6th generation Vermonter, his love of the Green Mountain State nurtured a keen interest in history making him a sought-after lecturer, especially on Westmore history. He was an active member of the Orleans County Historical Society’s Board of Directors and was known for his in-depth knowledge of the Civil War. Dick offered lectures on many topics and could always be found in period costume at the Brownington Old Stone House Days.

Those affiliated with the Federation of Vermont Lakes & Ponds (FOVLAP), will remember his faithful attendance at Lake Seminars and Annual Meetings even after serving as a FOVLAP officer and director. His skill in design led to the creation of FOVLAP’s logo, UVM’s ceremonial mace and designs for hotels reflecting the culture of the city. Dick’s father Carl Simpson began the Federation of Northern Vermont’s Lakes and Ponds in 1972 and in so many ways, Dick continued his father’s legacy.

Many will miss Dick who passed away on December 15, 2022. His leadership over Vermont’s waterways and service through Willoughby’s lake association and FOVLAP will not be forgotten.

Long-term Water Quality Monitor Retires

After 30+ years of service to the State of Vermont and Lake Champlain, Pete Stangel has retired. Pete’s contribution to understanding the ecology and nutrient dynamics of the Lake Champlain Ecosystem are immense. He has also made meaningful contributions to many other monitoring efforts across the State of Vermont.

VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Manager, Oliver Pierson said, “I don’t think I have ever heard Pete say no to a request for assistance, and his knowledge, field skills, calm presence, and can-do attitude will be missed!”

From all of us at FOVLAP, congratulations on a well-deserved retirement, Pete. We hope you enjoy many hours of leisure time on Vermont’s lakes and rivers in the years ahead.
Happy New Year FOVLAP!

Wise About Water

Is there a young person you know who would welcome a membership in our organization?

In 2020, FOVLAP voted to add a membership category for students older than age 16 and reduce the membership fee by 50% to $13. Click here to give the gift of a FOVLAP student membership today and inspire future generations to protect lakes!

Did you get YOUR copy?

VTDEC’s bioengineering manual provides resources to successfully implement shoreland bioengineering practices to protect and restore Vermont’s shorelands. Available free on VTDEC’s website; click here!

FOVLAP Student Memberships

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds

Contact us!
PO Box 766
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www.vermontlakes.org

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