



NEWSLETTER

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. • P.O. Box 766, Montpelier, VT 05601

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NUMBER 15

Water Quality Efforts at Lake Carmi

By Peter Benevento, Lake Carmi Campers Association President & Franklin Watershed Committee Secretary

Lake Carmi is a 1402 acre lake in Franklin, VT near the Canadian border. The lake is nestled in hills surrounded by agriculture and residences that border either directly on the lake or in close proximity. Seasonal fishing camps which were the norm on the lake fifty years ago have largely given way to seasonal and in some cases full time homes. The lake Carmi Watershed is located within the Mississquoi River Basin Watershed that feeds into Lake Champlain.

Given the activity on and around the lake, water quality is always an issue. The Lake Carmi Campers Assoc., Inc. (LCCA) and the Franklin Watershed Committee, Inc. (FWC) work year round to secure funding and to promote practices to protect the waters of Lake Carmi. Each organization reaches out to the Lake Carmi community to engage its residents in sound shoreland, watershed and water quality activities.

The growth and spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil is a perennial problem. A mechanical weed harvester is the current primary means to control the milfoil. Last summer the LCCA in conjunction with the VT-DEC secured the efforts of lake shore owners to cultivate, harvest and plant milfoil eating weevils. This experiment required shoreline owners to cultivate the weevils in large fish tanks. The weevils were

extracted from the tanks and planted last August in a particularly dense patch of milfoil. Hopefully the milfoil will be less dense this summer. The LCCA continues to evaluate all chemical, biological, and mechanical means to control milfoil.

The LCCA participated in FOVLAP's Buffers for Blue Lakes program. Nearly all the land owners on one road bordering the lake attended FOVLAP's workshop. They also purchased and planted blueberry bushes

along their shorelines to curtail erosion. The LCCA provided a cost share for the plants purchased.

The Franklin Watershed Committee is very active in the VT-DEC Lake Wise Program and is committed to promoting best shoreline management practices. To date ten properties on the lake have been awarded the Lake Wise Certification. This summer additional

properties are scheduled for construction to make their shorelines more lake-friendly and to qualify them for the Lake Wise Certification. Two of the shorelines slated for renovation involve the removal of concrete walls to allow for the restoration of a natural shoreline. The Lake Wise projects at Lake Carmi are operating under an ERP Grant; however, all of the projects include an owner cost share.

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Summer at Lake Carmi—fishing, sunshine, and boating. (Image by Larry Myott.)

Water Quality Efforts at Lake Carmi (cont'd from page 1)

The FWC also operates an extensive water sampling program in cooperation with the VT-DEC Lay Monitoring Program and the LaRosa lab. Water samples are extracted from the lake and at nineteen additional points within the watershed. The latter includes the major tributaries to the lake. In February a meeting of all active lake partners including the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, VT Department of Agriculture, and the VT Agency of Natural Resources met to evaluate water sampling results and identify tributaries and areas contributing significant loads of phosphorous to the lake. Plans to reduce the phosphorous loading in these areas are being formulated.

Repairing and replacing major culverts around the lake have been a focal point in improving water quality. In cooperation with land owners, culverts have been replaced with proper headers and plunge pools. Last year a concrete culvert more than fifty years old was replaced in this manner.

Roads are also an issue. Proper grading and ditching are essential to maintaining water quality. A roads workshop sponsored by Northwest Regional Planning, the LCCA, and the FWC was held last September in Franklin. The workshop focused on solving road related erosion issues to protect water quality. Several roads around Lake Carmi were evaluated and a preliminary engineering report was prepared highlighting areas in need of correction. Preventing road erosion has become a major priority at the lake.

The efforts to improve water quality at Lake Carmi are constantly ongoing. Although progress at times may seem slow, the work must and will continue. Lake Carmi looks forward to working with FOVLAP and its partners in this regard. The conversation to improve the water quality of our lakes and ponds must be loud and clear and the projects never ending.

President's Corner – Jackie Sprague

Is it Spring yet? It has been a wild and crazy winter with “ice out” in December and then back again. Freezing temps, rain, and freezing temps again. Whew! I usually like winter but I am looking forward to spring. The FOVLAP community has been very busy with Shoreland Management bill activities: hearings, testimony, and clarification. Read more in this newsletter and on our website under legislative updates.

The board undertook the movement in the technology-driven world. Our website has been updated, there is now a Facebook page and a Twitter account. For some of us this is a bit of a stretch, but for others it is the way to share information quickly and access immediate news and updates. Thanks to Tracey Shadday and Judy Davis, the board was trained in the use of social media by Marketing Partners.

Judy and members from DEC have secured grants for the 2014 year to continue our educational outreach. I am sure our members are looking forward to continued growth in outreach possibilities!

The Lake Seminar is scheduled for Friday, June 6, at the Green Mountain Club in Waterbury. The Annual Meeting of FOVLAP is Monday, July 28, at the Steak House in Berlin. Keep checking www.vermontlakes.org for updated information. The New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC NALMS) conference is scheduled for June 13th & 14th at the University of Connecticut, on the Storrs campus. The theme of the 2014 conference is **Green Ideas for Blue Lakes** with a focus on what *homeowners can do for their lakes*.

The board of directors will be asking for a vote on a change to the bylaws. As we increase our membership and include businesses, we want to make sure that the bylaws reflected our current practice. The board also wanted members to understand how the voting procedure works. Please see the proposed bylaw changes (below).

I am looking forward to seeing you all this year!

Current Wording of Selected Bylaw Sections

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

Any bona-fide, active Lake or Pond Association, which is partially or completely within the Vermont borders, is eligible for membership. Lakes and Ponds with no Association may have one voting representative upon payment of Association dues. Any individual is eligible for Affiliated membership and will receive Federation benefits but not voting rights. Affiliates are eligible to serve and vote on the Board of Directors if elected by the membership.

DUES

The annual dues shall be fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors. Any Association, Represented Lake, or Affiliate may become a member upon payment of annual dues and shall continue as a member for succeeding years provided annual dues for each such succeeding year are paid on or before the Annual Meeting of such year.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

There are several categories of membership:

Individual Membership: A person is eligible for Individual membership, upon payments of dues. **One vote per Individual Member.**

Association Membership: Upon payment of dues, any active Lake, Pond, Watershed or Road Association (and other associations bordering a lake or pond, which is partially or completely within Vermont borders) is eligible for Association membership. Lakes and Ponds with no Association may have one voting representative upon payment of Association dues. Included in the Association category are Watershed, Road or Campers groups that are affiliated with a lake or pond. **One vote per Association membership.**

Business Membership: A business, in concert with the principles of FOVLAP, is welcome to join FOVLAP, upon payment of dues. **No voting rights** are accorded to a business membership, but a designated representative of a business member is eligible to serve on the Board of Directors if elected by membership and may vote as a Director on the Board of Directors. Business membership may include a table at Annual Meeting or logo in annual newsletter.

DUES

The annual dues shall be fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors. Any Association, Business, or Individual, as stated in Article III under Membership, may become a member upon payment of annual dues and shall continue as a member for succeeding years provided annual dues for each such succeeding year are paid on or before the Annual Meeting of such year.



*Photo on Left:
Ice out on Lake Eden.*

*Photo on Right:
The Wild Women of
Woodbury livened up our
long winter by creating
this ice sculpture beside
Woodbury Lake
(Sabin Pond).*

Photos by Perry Thomas.



What Goes On Under All The Ice?

By Art Brooks, FOVLAP Director

Record cold temperatures during the winter of 2013-14 have resulted in thick ice cover over most of Vermont's lakes and ponds. So what will happen when and if spring ever comes?

During winter, the temperature of water just under the ice is at or just above the freezing point (0° C, or 32° F). Water below the first few feet will actually be warmer, relatively speaking, and may be near 4° C, or 39° F. That temperature was determined back in the fall when the lakes first froze over and the wind could no longer mix the water under the ice. Prior to ice formation most lakes will mix and cool until the water reaches its maximum density (heaviest per unit volume) at 4° C. Below that temperature the density of water decreases and will "float" on the more dense water below. Under these conditions, continued cooling will result in ice formation. Cold air temperatures contribute to thicker and thicker ice being formed, while snow that accumulates on top of the ice forms an insulating layer that reflects solar radiation and keeps the ice from melting on sunny days.

As spring approaches and the sun gets higher in the sky the snow will melt exposing the ice to the sun's radiation. As the ice darkens, more and more radiation is absorbed and the ice begins to melt and break up. Sometimes the ice gets blown to shore like a bulldozer moving rocks and docks in its path. Other times, honeycomb, icicle-like, forms are created that get blown to shore where they pile up in beautiful crystalline formations that sparkle in the sunlight.

When the surface water temperature reaches the temperature of maximum density, it begins to sink and mix with the deeper waters of the lake. Once the water surface of the lake is exposed to the wind, additional mixing can take place and the phenomenon of spring overturn commences. During this time, deeper waters are brought to the surface carrying nutrients (N, P and Si) that were trapped at the bottom. The combination of increasing nutrient concentrations and more sunlight trigger a spring bloom of algae in the lakes that form the base of the food web, ultimately leading to fish and frying pans.

In shallow, organically-rich lakes the bottom waters may become depleted of oxygen under the ice resulting in winter fish kills. As mixing proceeds in the spring, oxygen from the atmosphere is mixed downward to restore conditions where fish and other organisms can survive.

Continued warming of the surface waters results in conditions more familiar to summer swimmers and fisher persons, when warm water at the surface overlies colder more dense water below. After such a long cold winter, let's hope this condition comes soon in 2014!



Two bubblers kept warmer water moving up from the depths and prevented ice formation in areas around the Northern Star of Lake Memphremagog, as the ice thickness reportedly reached 36" elsewhere on Memphremagog in March 2014. (Image by Perry Thomas.)

Buffers for Blue Lakes - A Successful 2013 Season!

By Judy Davis, FOVLAP Director

Over the course of summer 2013, FOVLAP's Fish and Wildlife Watershed Grant helped to fund Healthy Shoreland workshops at eight lakes and blueberry planting projects on over 40 lakeshore properties around Vermont. At each of the participating lakes, a group of volunteers or a group from the lake association advertised the project, recruited property owners, and organized a workshop and presentation—usually at one of the properties where blueberries would be planted.

The Healthy Shoreland workshop was developed by Jeremy Deeds, an aquatic biologist formerly with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. The workshop explores the connection between natural shoreland vegetation, shallow-water ecosystems, and overall lake health. In addition to attending the workshop presentation, participants in the Buffers for Blue Lakes project received four mature blueberry plants, soil amendments to provide the acid soil blueberries love, and a jar of Elmore Roots blueberry jam. Elmore Roots and Stuart LaPoint Nursery supplied our blueberry plants. As part of the workshop, participants learned the ins and outs of planting blueberry plants using FOVLAP's blueberry information packet and website resources.



The Watershed Grant subsidized both the Healthy Shoreland workshops and the blueberry plants and planting aids. In some cases, the participating lake association provided additional financial subsidies, so that property owners paid \$25 or \$50 to receive four blueberry plants, soil amendments and planting aids, as well as the workshop. Participants picked up their plants at the workshop. At some lakes, volunteers helped participants with their blueberry planting.

Shrubs such as blueberry plants are one type of natural vegetation that can be used to improve lakeshore vegetation. Healthy shoreland vegetation includes all the layers of a natural woodland: large and small trees, shrubs, flowers, groundcovers, and duff (the accumulation of decomposing plants on the ground). The more your shoreland resembles natural wooded shores, the healthier your lake will be.

For more information about the Buffers for Blue Lakes project, visit the FOVLAP website (vermontlakes.org/resources).

For more information about shoreland vegetation and healthy lakes, go to the Vermont Watershed Management website (watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes.htm) and the Vermont Lake Wise pages about Shoreland Best Management Practices (watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes/htm/lp_lakewise_standards_bmps.htm).

And finally, check out our new YouTube channel, featuring a video with underwater footage that illustrates the value of shoreland vegetation (<http://goo.gl/jXf5zH>).

Social Media

By Tracey Shadday, FOVLAP Secretary

You have likely heard the proverb “a picture is worth a thousand words”; there is no better place to see that in action, then on social media outlets such as Facebook. In a generation that has increasingly become hungry for smaller bytes of information delivered at lightening speed, folks of all ages are learning that important information is just a click away.

With grant funding from VT Fish and Wildlife, FOVLAP hired consultants from Marketing Partners to create a plan to make it easier to disseminate information and allow constituents to connect with one another. The plan involves enhancement of our website and use of social media strategies listed on the following page.

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Social Media (cont'd from page 5)

Facebook users who “like” the Vermont Lakes page will receive pictures, events and links in their newsfeed. Our hope is to spread the network of followers and friends who will respond to posts with thoughtful comments and opinions, share photos from your favorite lake or pond and follow links to current information. We want to post items that interest YOU. Let us know what you’re thinking by posting on the Vermont Lakes Facebook page or sending a comment (to fovlap@vermontlakes.org).

FOVLAP’s website stays up-to-date with legislative updates, blog entries, events and grant information. Users of social media are alerted and prompted to items of interest.

Stay up-to-date with FOVLAP

FOVLAP Website

Blog: Wise About Water: Knowledge into Action

Legislative Updates

<http://vermontlakes.org/>

FOVLAP on Facebook

www.facebook.com/VermontLakes

share photos & comments, find links to important news & events

216 likes

FOVLAP on Twitter

<http://twitter.com/VermontLakes>

(@VermontLakes)

12 followers

Flickr

share your photos

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/vermontlakesandponds>

Join the Google+ Circle

google’s version of Facebook

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/+VermontLakesOrg/posts>

13 followers

and Others

Vermont Lake Wise on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Vermont-Lake-Wise/639929836022365>

best practices for lake friendly management practices (this page is maintained by FOVLAP)

194 likes

flow: the official blog of the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservations’ Watershed Management Division

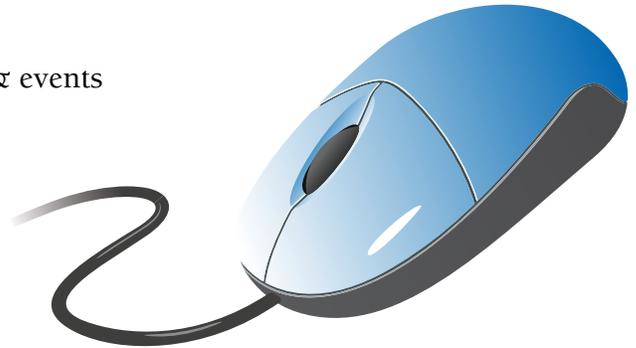
<http://vtwatershedblog.com>

Blue Lakes for the Green Mountain State

<https://www.facebook.com/BlueLakesForTheGreenMountainState>

advocacy for statewide standards for lakeshore development (independent of FOVLAP)

347 likes





Watersheds United Vermont

By Ann Ingerson, WUV Program Coordinator

A new organization, Watersheds United Vermont (WUV), formed officially in 2013 to empower, enable, and build the capacity of Vermont's watershed groups by fostering communication and collaboration between groups and with other partners. A group of 10 advisors works with one part-time coordinator to carry out WUV's mission.

WUV Background: For several decades, volunteers throughout Vermont have stepped forward to protect and enhance water quality and river health in their home watersheds. Many have formed formal watershed organizations that monitor water quality, educate the public about the importance of clean water and healthy waterways, work with landowners and municipalities to solve problems, and sponsor volunteer restoration projects. In the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, these groups often served as information hubs about appropriate flood response to preserve water quality and river channel integrity.

The local capacity and deep place-based knowledge represented by these groups will become increasingly important as extreme climate events happen with greater frequency. Even more important, education and outreach to schools and local-decision-makers, as well as meaningful local participation in statewide river basin planning and resulting implementation, will encourage proactive measures that reduce damage from future extreme events.

Unfortunately, dialogue between existing groups is limited, some areas in the state lack an organized watershed organization, and many groups struggle with limited capacity to identify and implement projects, let alone deal with large-scale flood emergencies. It became apparent to many that information sharing and collaboration among watershed groups would strengthen capacity in the individual groups. Collaboration could also provide a platform for raising the visibility of watershed and water quality issues on a state level. Based on input from several statewide meetings, a survey of watershed groups, and the collective energy of many individuals, Watersheds United was created.

Although our specific tasks will naturally evolve as we identify specific needs, our initial goals include:

- Build skills and capacity by sharing information and resources among existing watershed groups, including forming a state-wide list serve, calendar, and website resource for members;
- Offer workshops and form working groups to share best practices on topics of interest, such as effective education and outreach practices;
- Leverage resources to support under-resourced groups;
- Provide information and coordination for groups who want to participate in the policy-making process;
- Help link watershed associations with partners who can provide technical, financial, or other assistance and coordinate efforts to reduce redundancy.

Along with substantial volunteer time contributed by advisors and other organizers, WUV has received generous financial support in its first year from the Lintilhac Foundation, Vermont Community Foundation, and Ben and Jerry's Foundation.

WUV Contact Information: For information or to offer suggestions, please contact Ann Ingerson, Program Coordinator, Watersheds United Vermont (watershedsunited@gmail.com) or visit the new website (<http://watershedsunited.org>).

Editor's note: FOVLAP members interested in learning more about watershed management in their region can start by visiting the Department of Environmental Conservation's collection of Tactical Basin Plans at (<http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/planning.htm>).

Report from FOVLAP's Legislative Committee

By Ginny Garrison, Retired Section Chief of DEC Lakes & Ponds

Last spring we reported on the “shorelands protection bill” (H.526) that was introduced in the Vermont Legislature in January 2013. At that time the bill had passed the Vermont House of Representatives and was under consideration in the Senate. Over the summer a Lake Shoreland Protection Commission established by the Legislature held several public meetings around the state to provide information regarding current laws to protect water quality and to gather input regarding lake shoreland regulation. After reconvening this January, the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee significantly changed H.526 and the revised bill passed the Senate in early February. A conference committee composed of three Senators and three Representatives has been established to work out the differences between the two versions of the bill and develop a final version on which both the House and Senate will vote. As this newsletter goes to press the conference committee is beginning their work.

The version of the bill passed by the House was summarized in the spring 2013 newsletter. The following are highlights of the Senate's version of the bill.

How Would Regulation Work Under the Senate Bill?

A “protected shoreland area” would be established within 250 feet of the mean water level of lakes larger than 10 acres. An individual permit from the VT Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) would be required to create cleared area or impervious surface in a protected shoreland area except for specific exempted activities and registered projects (see below).

Registered Projects: The creation of no more than 100 square feet of impervious surface or cleared area within 100 feet of the lake (mean water level) would not require a permit provided that the property owner registers with ANR, the impervious or cleared area is located at least 25 feet from the lake, and vegetative cover in the protected shoreland area is managed according to certain lake shoreland vegetation protection standards (see below).

The creation of no more than 500 square feet of impervious surface, cleared area, or a combination thereof, would not require a permit provided that the property owner registers with ANR, the impervious surface/cleared area is at least 100 feet from the lake, the location for the impervious surface/cleared area has a slope of less than 20 percent, and after completion of the project no more than 20 percent of the protected shoreland area is impervious surface and no more than 40 percent of the protected shoreland area is cleared (including the area cleared to create impervious surface).

A person cannot use the registration process to create more than a total per parcel of 100 square feet of impervious surface/cleared area within 100 feet of the lake and 500 square feet of impervious surface/cleared area within the protected shoreland area that is at least 100 feet from the lake.

A registration would take effect 15 days after being filed with ANR unless ANR requests additional information or notifies the person that an individual permit is required. Registrations would be for an indefinite term, recorded in the town land records, and run with the land. There would be a \$100.00 registration fee.

Individual Permits: If the creation of cleared area or impervious surface in a protected shoreland area is not a registered project (see above) or an exempt activity (see below), an individual permit would be needed. ANR will be required to issue a permit if the proposed project met the standards set out in the bill for conforming or non-conforming parcels (see below). An issued permit may have permit conditions, including the authority to clear vegetative cover within three feet of both sides of a footpath within the protected shoreland area, no more often than two times a year, to allow access to the lake for maintenance or repair of recreational structures or for other ANR-approved activity. Permits would be for an indefinite term, recorded in the town land records, and run with the land. There would be a permit fee of \$125.00 plus 50 cents per square foot of impervious or cleared area constructed or created.



Permit Standards for Conforming Parcels

- (1) The cleared area/impervious surface generally must be located at least 100 feet from the mean water level of the lake.
- (2) The site must have a slope of less than 20 percent or the permit applicant must demonstrate that the site will have a stable slope with minimal erosion and minimal negative impact on water quality.
- (3) No more than 20 percent of the protected shoreland area of the parcel may consist of impervious surface; or the permit applicant must demonstrate that best management practices will be used to manage erosion due to stormwater runoff from the portion of impervious surface that exceeds 20 percent of the protected shoreland area.
- (4) No more than 40 percent of the protected shoreland area of the parcel may consist of cleared area, including area cleared to create impervious surface; or the permit applicant must demonstrate that best management practices will be used to provide erosion control, bank stability, and wildlife habitat functionally equivalent to having less than 40 percent of the shoreland protection area cleared.
- (5) Within 100 feet of the lake, vegetative cover must be managed according to certain lake shoreland vegetation protection standards (see below).

Permit Standards for Non-Conforming Parcels

On a parcel of land in existence on July 1, 2014, ANR may issue a permit to an applicant who complies with the following standards if the applicant can't meet the above standards due to parcel size; site characteristics or site limitations including the presence of highway or rights-of-way and soil type; or due to the setback requirements of a municipal bylaw adopted on or before July 1, 2014.

- (1) For a parcel on which there is no habitable structure, the cleared area/impervious surface must be as far as possible from the lake, and at a minimum no less than 25 feet from the lake.
- (2) For a parcel on which a habitable structure is located, the expansion of any portion of the structure within 100 feet of the lake must be on the side of the structure farthest from the lake, unless ANR determines that expansion on an alternate side will have a water quality impact equivalent to or less than expansion on the side farthest from the lake, and the structure is not expanded toward the lake.
- (3) Cleared area/impervious surface within the protected shoreland area must be located on a site with a slope of less than 20 percent or the permit applicant must demonstrate that the site will have a stable slope with minimal erosion and minimal negative impact on water quality.
- (4) No more than 20 percent of the protected shoreland area of the parcel may consist of impervious surface; or the permit applicant must demonstrate that best management practices will be used to manage erosion due to stormwater runoff from the portion of impervious surface that exceeds 20 percent of the protected shoreland area.
- (5) No more than 40 percent of the protected shoreland area of the parcel may consist of cleared area, including area cleared to create an impervious surface; or the permit applicant must demonstrate that best management practices will be used to provide erosion control, bank stability, and wildlife habitat functionally equivalent to having less than 40 percent of the protected shoreland area cleared.

A permit issued for a non-conforming parcel would not require compliance with the lake shoreland vegetation protection standards (see below).

Lake Shoreland Vegetation Protection Standards: Within 100 feet of the mean water level of the lake, cutting of trees would be allowed provided that a well-distributed stand of trees and “other natural vegetation” is maintained. Vegetation management that occurs within the protected shoreland area that is conducted according to the lake shoreland vegetation protection standards would not be counted toward the cleared area on a parcel.

A “well-distributed stand of trees adjacent to a lake” is defined as maintaining a minimum rating score of 12, in each 25-foot by 25-foot area within 100 feet of the lake, as determined by the following rating system.

(continued on page 10)



Legislative Committee (cont'd from page 9)

- Diameter of tree at 4-1/2 feet above ground level
- 2 inches to less than 4 inches: 1 point
- 4 inches to less than 8 inches: 2 points
- 8 inches to less than 12 inches: 4 points
- 12 inches or greater: 8 points

The following would govern in applying this point system:

- 25-foot by 25-foot plots must be established within 100 feet of the lake for vegetation management purposes.
- Each successive plot must be adjacent to but not overlap a previous plot.
- Any plot not containing the required points must have no vegetative cover removed unless the removal is allowed by a registration or individual permit.
- Any plot containing the required points may have trees removed down to the minimum points allowed.
- Existing vegetation under three feet in height and other ground cover, including leaf litter and the forest duff layer, must not be cut, covered, or removed, except to provide for a footpath or as allowed by a registration or individual permit.
- Pruning of tree branches on the bottom one-third of a tree's height would be allowed.
- Removal of dead, diseased, or unsafe trees would be allowed regardless of points.

“Other natural vegetation” means retaining existing vegetation under three feet in height and other ground cover and retaining at least five saplings less than two inches in diameter at 4-1/2 feet above ground level for each 25-foot by 25-foot area. If five saplings do not exist, no woody stems less than two inches in diameter could be removed until five saplings have been planted or rooted in the plot.

Exemptions: Numerous activities outlined in the bill would not require a permit. Some of these exemptions are:

- Management of vegetative cover conducted in compliance with the lake shoreland vegetation protection standards (see above).
- Cutting or removal of no more than 250 square feet of the existing vegetation under three feet in height within 100 feet of the lake to allow for recreational use provided that the cutting occurs at least 25 feet from the lake and other ground cover, including leaf litter and the forest duff layer, is not removed.
- Maintenance, but not enlargement, of lawns, gardens, landscaped areas, and beaches in existence as of July 1, 2014.
- Creation of one footpath per parcel no wider than six feet that provides access to the lake. A footpath includes stairs, landings, or platforms within the authorized six-foot width.
- Construction within the footprint of an existing (on July 1, 2014) impervious surface as long as there is no net increase in the amount of impervious surface on a parcel.
- Certain silvicultural activities, and certain agricultural activities on land in agricultural production on July 1, 2014.
- Maintenance, repair, and replacement of transportation infrastructure by the state or town; and maintenance, repair, and replacement of private roads provided the road is managed according to the water quality requirements of the Agency of Transportation town road and bridge standards.
- When a parcel is intersected by a public highway, cleared area or impervious surface created on the portion of the parcel across the highway from the lake.
- Wastewater systems, potable water supplies, stormwater discharges and stormwater treatment facilities or practices, permitted by ANR.
- Railroad activities within federal jurisdiction; certain utility projects and utility lines; projects that have received an Act 250 permit; projects in designated downtowns and village centers; and certain urban and industrial redevelopment projects.
- Removal of vegetation to reduce mosquito breeding habitat when there is a public health hazard and the clearing is approved by ANR.

Activities that do not require a permit do not require compliance with the lake shoreland vegetation protection standards (unless specified in the exemption).

Transition: A permit or registration for the creation of impervious surface/cleared area within a protected shoreland area would not be required for a project for which (1) all necessary State, local, or federal permits have been obtained prior to the effective date of the bill or (2) a complete application for all applicable local, State, and federal permits has been submitted by the effective date of the bill, provided that substantial construction commences within two years of the date on which all the permits become final.

Municipal Delegation: ANR may delegate its permitting authority to a municipality if the municipality has adopted a bylaw/ordinance regulating the creation of impervious surface or cleared area in a protected shoreland area and the bylaw/ordinance is at least as stringent as the state shoreland standards, upon a determination by ANR that it is functionally equivalent. Delegation would be accomplished through an agreement between ANR and the municipality.

Other Requirements: The requirements of the new law would be in addition to existing municipal bylaws. All ANR lands within protected shoreland areas would be managed in accordance with the shoreland protection requirements unless this would be inconsistent with federal requirements for the parcel.

ANR would be required to conduct ongoing education and outreach to assist Vermonters with understanding and complying with the requirements of the law, including the publication of a Citizen's Guide to Shoreland Protection that includes easily understood instructions on the requirements of the law, how to apply for a permit or registration, and the activities exempt from the law.

ANR would also be required to submit a report to the Legislature regarding the number of lake shoreland protection registrations and permits issued, the fees collected, and the cost to ANR of implementing the Lake Shoreland Protection Program.

The full text of H.526 as it was amended and passed by the Senate is available for review here: <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2014/bills/Senate/H-526C.pdf>

REMINDER: *You do not want to miss!*

Lake Seminar

Friday ~ June 6, 2014

Green Mountain Club, Waterbury

Annual Meeting

Monday ~ July 28, 2014 ~ The Steak House

at 1239 US Route 302 – Berlin (Barre-Montpelier Road)

Check the FOVLAP website (www.vermontlakes.org)

for more details about all of the events listed above.





NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 766
Montpelier, VT 05601

OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

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Andy Dales, Director (Caspian Lake)
Judy Davis, Director (Little Hosmer Pond)
Lori Fisher, Director (Lake Champlain)
Don Hendrich, Director (Lake Memphremagog)
Julie Moore, Director (Stone Environmental)
Dick Simpson, Director (Lake Willoughby)
Beth Torpey, Director (Lakes Seymour & Willoughby)



During the past year, FOVLAP held a series of buffer-planting workshops at locations ranging from Tinmouth Pond in the south to Lake Carmi in the north.

For more information about Buffers for Blue Waters, see page 5 of this newsletter or visit <http://vermontlakes.org/lakescaping/>.