



# NEWSLETTER

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. • P.O.Box 421, Waterbury, VT 05676

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## Tips on Replanting a Lake Shoreline

(adapted from *Out of the Blue – the VTDEC Water Quality Division's newsletter*)

The importance of natural shoreline vegetation along lakeshores cannot be over-stated. Leafy cover provides shoreline stability and wildlife habitat, and offers scenic and privacy benefits. It also is a source of woody and leaf debris to the lake that benefits lake ecology.

Property owners of any size lot, small and large, can increase the amount of vegetation to add some of the above benefits. Below are some practical suggestions for improving the lakeshore area.

- Narrow your access to the lake or dock, and plant shrubs and trees along the remaining bank. This type of woody strip on the bank can prevent erosion and avoid the need for a retaining wall.
- If an existing retaining wall is failing, consider replacing it with a vegetated bank instead. A drawing of a simple design from the publication "Replacing Old Walls with New Banks" is available from the VT Water Quality Division's Lakes and Ponds Section (802-241-3777).
- Identify areas of lawn along the shore for planting patches of trees and shrubs. Do not mow under the plantings, rather let them develop a duff (decomposing vegetation) and groundcover layer. The wider the band of natural vegetation along the shore, the more runoff filtering benefit.
- Prune trees and shrubs to make openings through which to see the lake.
- Plant native species already found in your region of Vermont.
- Plant "replacement" trees and shrubs before the current ones get old and start falling down.
- If trees, branches or leaves fall in the lake, leave them there if possible. (They provide important habitat for fish and smaller lake life.) If you can, identify part of the in-lake area off your property

that can "go wild" adjacent to the area you use for swimming and boating access.



### Four Options for Obtaining Native Plants:

1. The easy way – stop mowing and see what grows in. Then prune out species you do not want and encourage those you do.
2. Transplant from farther uphill on your property. This approach ensures you use plants that are hardy to the area. Transplant in spring before budding out begins, or late fall after leaf fall. Smaller plants are more likely to survive than larger ones.
3. Contact your Natural Resources Conservation District for springtime plant sale information and vegetation management tips. Many Districts offer native trees and shrubs at very low prices during a springtime plant sale. The plants are usually "bare root" which means they must be planted immediately and watered for several weeks. Visit the website [www.vacd.org](http://www.vacd.org) for locations of District offices.
4. Purchase plants from a local nursery. Potted plants, while more expensive, start out larger and have a higher survival rate. "Sources of Native Plant Material in Vermont," a listing of nurseries that carry native stock is available at [www.vtwaterquality.org](http://www.vtwaterquality.org) under the Wetlands Section or

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## President's Corner – Perry Thomas

During this quiet time when ice and snow make travel difficult, directors and friends of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) work in several corners of the state and from Florida to Wisconsin to continue to build on the significant achievements of former FOVLAP President Jackie Sprague and all those members of the Board of Directors who have supported FOVLAP before us.

New directors Art Brooks, Nancy Darrah, Ginny Garrison, John Larrabee, and Treasurer Judy Davis joined the FOVLAP Board last summer. Reggie Lamb, Past-Treasurer, graciously agreed to serve as a director through this year, and Jo Wright and Andy Dales continue to serve FOVLAP as Secretary and Vice-President, respectively. We are grateful to directors Cliff Aikens, Bill Fisk, Don Weaver, and Dave Wood for providing much-needed continuity during this time of transition and to Leslie Matthews and Susan Warren for their active involvement as liaisons between FOVLAP and the VT Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) Lakes and Ponds Section.

Our Legislative Affairs, Membership Development, and Public Relations Committees have been busy tracking legislation, checking membership lists, and establishing a new domain for our website. We look forward to a good summer as we anticipate continuing our education activities, growing the organization, expanding our web presence, and (if all goes well in the legislature) providing support to the VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Section as they implement new aquatic nuisance legislation.

We continue to seek individuals who would like to contribute to FOVLAP's mission of conservation through promotion and development of environmental quality standards for Vermont's lakes and ponds. If you would like to serve, please contact me (epethomas@gmail.com or 802-586-9670) or talk to me at the upcoming **Lakes Seminar on Friday, June 5th** in Shelburne at the Shelburne Town Offices (mark your calendar!).

Also mark your calendar for FOVLAP's **Annual Meeting on Monday, July 27th**. Details on both these meetings will be posted on our website (www.vermontlakes.org) and distributed through our Yahoo listserve. If you have not yet signed up to receive FOVLAP's electronic updates through the Yahoo listserve, we urge you to do so by contacting Leslie Matthews (leslie.matthews@state.vt.us). **Please plan to join us on July 27th and bring along others interested in supporting our mission.** Thank you!

### FOVLAP Receives Vermont Watershed Grant

*by Judy Davis*

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds has received a \$ 4,890 Vermont Watershed Grant to improve the effectiveness of the existing lakeshore protection outreach actions of FOVLAP and the VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Program. The grant will support FOVLAP's efforts to: (1) enhance our web site; (2) develop effective, socially positive messages that will encourage lake property owners to establish vegetated buffer strips to reduce lake pollution and improve water quality; and (3) develop a process to deliver VTDEC *Lake Protection Series* materials to lakeshore owners when land is purchased or when a municipal permitting process is initiated - delivering the information landowners need when they need it.

Lakeshore owners have the unique ability to prevent pollutants and sediment from running into lakes by letting native plants and trees grow in a buffer strip along the shore. Buffer strips, like wetlands, are crucial components of water quality and ecosystem protection. When lakeshore owners act, everyone benefits. Clean water and healthy ecosystems reduce costs for drinking water systems and enhance recreational opportunities. The project will develop and test social marketing messages to identify the best ways to reach lakeshore owners and encourage them to act. Vermont Watershed Grant awards were made in February and the project will start in April. Volunteer committees from FOVLAP's Board and other volunteers will work with external consultants and with staff of the VTDEC Lakes and Ponds Section on the project. Anyone interested in volunteering for this project should contact Perry Thomas at epethomas@gmail.com.

## News from the VTDEC

by Susan Warren

The arrival of a new invasive aquatic plant in Vermont, variable-leaf watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), was recently confirmed in Halls Lake, an 84-acre lake in the town of Newbury. VTDEC staff deployed rapid response initiatives shortly after receiving genetic confirmation of the plant's identity, thanks to Dr. Ryan Thum of Grand Valley State University in Michigan. An underwater search of areas of the lake where *M. heterophyllum* might grow confirmed that the plant appeared limited to one area of the lake. Using a curtain to contain any floating stem fragments, a crew removed plants by hand over a five-day period. Public notification followed. *M. heterophyllum* appears contained for now. The Lakes and Ponds Section is preparing surveillance, spread prevention and control measures for this summer to prevent further spread of this aggressive plant within Halls Lake and to other waters in Vermont.

*Didymosphenia geminata* (aka "rock snot" or "didymo") was confirmed in a fourth Vermont water, the Mad River, in July 2008. Significant blooms were detected along several miles of the river. Didymo blooms in the White River were monitored regularly during the 2008 field season. One area that experienced a significant bloom in 2007 experienced only a minor bloom in 2008. Blooms in other areas were extensive at times but fluctuated considerably. One tributary to the White River also experienced a significant bloom, and cells were detected (without active bloom) far upstream of areas with active bloom.

In 2007 and 2008 Vermont participated in the National Lakes Survey, an effort of USEPA to characterize the condition of lakes across the country. This winter, VTDEC's own Neil Kamman is on temporary assignment to EPA, charged with coordinating the analysis and presentation of the national data. Watch for presentation of the results this summer!

*Editor's Note: Ginny Garrison retired as Chief of the VTDEC Water Quality Division's Lakes and Ponds Section in July 2008 after more than 34 years with the Division. FOVLAP congratulates Susan Warren, the new Section Chief, and wishes her well!*



### STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

## Join in the Discussion!

by Leslie Matthews

FOVLAP has a new email discussion group and everyone is invited to join in! The email group (also known as a listserv or an electronic mailing list) provides an easy way to keep in touch with other lake association folks in Vermont. You can use this message group to announce events of interest to other group members and to communicate with other members about lake issues important to you and your lake association.

The email discussion group [VT\\_Lakes\\_and\\_Ponds@yahoo.com](mailto:VT_Lakes_and_Ponds@yahoo.com) is hosted by Yahoo! to ensure a convenient and secure online environment. FOVLAP member Retta Dunlap and Leslie Matthews from the VTDEC moderate the group discussion.

Joining is easy and free: just send an email to Leslie ([leslie.matthews@state.vt.us](mailto:leslie.matthews@state.vt.us)) and she'll send you instructions on how to sign up.

Stay informed, learn about what others are doing, and put in your "two cents." Join FOVLAP's email discussion group today!

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## Tips on Replanting a Lake Shoreline conf'd.

by calling 802-241-3770. This publication also includes a listing of appropriate native plants.

Neighbor groups or lake associations are invited to contact the Lakes and Ponds Section to schedule a “shore walk.” These walks can offer shoreland management tips and discussion of possible ways to increase the leafy growth along the shore. Please call Susan Warren at 802-241-3794, or visit the Water Quality Division’s Lakes and Ponds web page [www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes.htm](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes.htm) for copies of handouts on shoreland management.

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## WANTED: Your Lake Association Contacts!

*by John Larrabee*

FOVLAP’s Membership Committee is busy developing a database of current contacts for lake and pond associations. The five committee members started with an outdated VTDEC database and each member has a “slice” of the list to update. Anyone with any lake association contact names, addresses, emails, or telephone numbers, please send them to John Larrabee at [johnbl53@yahoo.com](mailto:johnbl53@yahoo.com). Once a database has been developed, the committee hopes to launch a FOVLAP membership campaign in the spring. With the database, a new electronic membership application form and a new, improved website to keep members informed, the committee will have the updated tools to attract new and maintain current membership. The campaign will focus on FOVLAP’s mission, goals and accomplishments. If you aren’t already a FOVLAP member, please join! We are the only statewide voice in Vermont representing the interests and concerns of lake associations.



## Happenings at the State House

*by Ginny Garrison*

FOVLAP’s Legislative Committee is watching what’s going on in the Vermont Legislature this winter and keeping members informed through FOVLAP’s new email discussion group (see Join in the Discussion! in this newsletter). As of mid-March, more than 550 bills have been introduced into the Legislature. Thirteen of these may be of interest to FOVLAP members, namely H.015, H.117, H.128, H.259, H.323, H.324, H.345, H.410, H.412, H.419, S.061, S.091, and S.102. Two bills of specific interest to FOVLAP’s membership have been introduced. Bill number H.015 is a comprehensive bill concerning aquatic nuisance management in Vermont. Key elements of the proposed legislation include the establishment of a program within the Agency of Natural Resources to rapidly respond when new aquatic invasive species are discovered in the state, and a new mandatory aquatic nuisance species sticker for non-motorized boats and for motorboats registered outside Vermont. The sticker program will provide urgently needed funds to support rapid response efforts, aquatic nuisance spread prevention programs, and other aquatic nuisance management programs conducted on the state and local level. FOVLAP’s President Perry Thomas and Director Ginny Garrison testified in January before the House Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee in support of the bill and FOVLAP will be closely monitoring the progress of this bill in the Legislature. Bill number H.323 seeks to establish 50-foot riparian buffer zones adjacent to the navigable waters of the state. Riparian buffers are critical to protect the water quality of Vermont’s lakes, and FOVLAP will request to testify and closely monitor the progress of this bill as well.

**REMINDER: *You do not want to miss!***

## **Lake Seminar**

Friday ~ June 5, 2009 ~ Shelburne Town Offices on Rte. 7

## **Annual Meeting**

Monday ~ July 27, 2009 ~ Location to be Announced

### **Why You Should Join the Federation!**

*Mission:* to educate lakefront property owners and all others interested in the preservation and maintenance of Vermont's inland bodies of water.

1. The Federation works hard to be a catalyst for communication between Vermont's 80+ lake associations so we all can learn from each other.
2. We co-sponsor the popular Lake Seminar held annually in June featuring workshops on aquatic invasive species and lake protection.
3. We offer an informative Annual Meeting in July, highlighting speakers on diverse issues facing Vermont's lakes.
4. We monitor state legislation every winter in Montpelier and make sure the voice of lake associations is heard.
5. We publish a newsletter and maintain a website to share information and enhance communication.
6. We coordinate closely with the Lakes and Ponds Section of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

We are members of both the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society and NALMS itself to provide information of regional and national interest to our members.

### **2009 Membership Dues**

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR FEDERATION AND HELP PRESERVE VERMONT'S LAKES AND PONDS.

( ) \$25.00 Association Member    ( ) \$15.00 Individual Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Association: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) We would like to show our support with the following additional donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

*The Federation is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible in accordance with I.R.S. regulations.*

*Checks payable to the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds  
and mailed to our P.O. Box 421, Waterbury, VT 05676.*

**Please send us your updated list of Association Officers and e-mail contact.**



## NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 421  
Waterbury, VT 05676

### OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

Perry Thomas, President (Lake Eden)  
Andy Dales, Vice-President (Caspian Lake)  
Judy Davis, Treasurer (Little Hosmer Pond)  
Joanna Wright, Secretary (Lake Iroquois)

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Art Brooks, Director (Lake Willoughby)  
Nancy Darrah, Director (Miles Pond)  
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Ginny Garrison, Director  
Reginald Lamb, Director (Woodbury Lake)  
John Larrabee, Director (Lake Morey)  
Don Weaver, Director (Lake Champlain)  
Dave Wood, Director (Lake Salem)

## Visit us on the Web!

*by Don Weaver*

The FOVLAP website is taking on a new look and dimension during the coming year, starting with a new domain name:

**[www.vermontlakes.org](http://www.vermontlakes.org)**

All the current information and links will remain on the website along with a new way to contact us by email: [fovlap@vermontlakes.org](mailto:fovlap@vermontlakes.org). Our plan is to make additional information and links of interest from other states, Vermont's lake associations, and other Vermont resources available on the site as well. We hope this new information will be useful to anyone seeking to learn more about Vermont's lakes. Please tell your friends about our website, include the above link in your lake association's newsletter, and check us out periodically for updates. We'll see you on the Web!