



NEWSLETTER

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

WINTER 2005-2006

NUMBER 5

4th Annual Meeting

The Elks Club in Montpelier provided an excellent new setting for the fourth annual meeting of The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. on July 25, 2005. In attendance were representatives from 25 lakes and ponds, as well as from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

The day was filled with timely talks and information sharing. A brief business meeting was followed by Roger Thompson's very helpful presentation on the current status of Vermont septic regulations. (Please see accompanying article which summarizes what was discussed.) Roger commented on ongoing approval of new innovative systems by the state, and encouraged all to check the website for updates and rules.



Roger Thompson of the VT Department of Environmental Conservation provided an update on the implementation of the new Indirect Discharge Rules (septic systems).



Len Pallotta was presented with a thank-you gift at the FOVLAP annual meeting in recognition of his many years of service on the Board of Directors. Good luck Len, we will miss your wise counsel and common sense at the meetings!

Lake reports were given by 25 lakes and ponds. They provided much good dialog and interaction among those attending the meeting. The reports will be made available in a folder, and Susan Warren will add this year's comments to her Compendium of VT Lake and Pond Association Projects, which has recently been updated to include 2004 reports. The major concerns and efforts of virtually all lake reports addressed the prevention and spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species, especially Eurasian watermilfoil. Countless amounts of volunteer time and money go into programs of varying size and scope. Many lakes expressed concerns about shoreline erosion resulting from development. Information about water quality, loon nesting, lake-wide meetings, potlucks, boat parades and other celebratory events were all shared.

Dr. Mary Watzin, Director of the UVM Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory, gave a very interesting and timely presentation on toxic blue-green algae, and members of the VT DEC Lakes and Ponds Division provided updates. Ginny Garrison reviewed legislative acts that impact Vermont lakes and ponds, including a new Aquatic Nuisance Control Sticker Program. Ann Bove gave an Invasive Plant and Animal Species Update (milfoil has been found in 59 lakes and ponds and 19 rivers).

The information sharing and discussions that happen as a result of our annual meetings make attendance valuable. We all come away strengthened with new knowledge and ideas, and we would like to encourage more lakes and ponds to join us for our fifth annual meeting on July 24, 2006.



Dr. Mary Watzin of the UVM School of Natural Resources presented an informative talk about blue-green algae in Lake Champlain at the FOVLAP annual meeting.

2004 Whole Lake Sonar Treatment

Lake St. Catherine, Lily Pond and Little Lake

In 2004 Lake St. Catherine (in the towns of Poultney and Wells and including Little Lake and Lily Pond) was treated with the herbicide Sonar A.S. to control a heavy lake-wide infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil. The Lake St. Catherine Association (Association/Permittee) and Aquatic Control Technology, Inc. (ACT, Inc. /Co-Permittee) received a permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation to use the aquatic herbicide as part of a five year plan involving both chemical and non-chemical measures.

The Association and ACT, Inc. proposed a five-year integrated management plan (IMP) combining the use of chemical and non-chemical methods to manage Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake St. Catherine, Lily Pond and Little Lake. The chemical component of the plan involved the use of Sonar A.S. in a whole-lake treatment in year one to reduce the watermilfoil population, followed if needed in years three or four by either a second whole-lake chemical treatment using Sonar A.S. or a spot/partial-lake chemical treatment using Renovate 3. The non-chemical components of the plan include handpulling and bottom barrier, proposed in all five years, and regular, ongoing watermilfoil searches, education, and volunteer training throughout the IMP.

Sonar A.S. is a selective systemic aquatic herbicide for management of aquatic vegetation

in fresh water ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. The herbicide's active ingredient, fluridone interferes with photosynthesis. Exposed Eurasian watermilfoil plants turn whitish and die after 30 to 90 days.

The effectiveness of a Sonar A.S. treatment is a function of maintaining an adequate concentration of fluridone for a sufficient exposure time. The initial application consisted of adding enough Sonar A.S. to the lakes to achieve a target in-lake concentration of 8 parts per billion (ppb) fluridone. Additional Sonar A.S. was added (booster treatments) when the fluridone concentration dropped by 2 to 4 ppb from 8 ppb. Fluridone concentration monitoring and the condition of the watermilfoil plants dictated the number and frequency of booster treatments.

The two primary non-chemical control strategies for scattered or small patches of watermilfoil growth are handpulling and bottom barrier installation. Larger infestations, areas greater than 0.5 acres in size, will be evaluated for spot/partial-lake chemical treatment during the IMP. Permits are required for proposed IMP control methods, bottom barrier installation and pesticide use. If follow-up chemical treatment is not allowed, the Association would explore mechanical harvesting and hydroraking as optional strategies to provide short-term relief for lake users.

The Association also proposed educational and volunteer training efforts to increase awareness of the control program and recruit volunteers to assist with the IMP, to reduce the likelihood that the lakes will be reinfested with watermilfoil. The Association publishes a newsletter twice a year and provides regular updates on the IMP in the newsletter. Signs were posted at all boat launching stations and the feasibility of installing boat washing stations was explored. The association was also responsible for water sampling at over twelve locations during 2004 to keep track of the fluridone concentration.

Implementation of the IMP is estimated to cost between \$308,520 and \$448,160, depending on factors such as the number of Sonar A.S. booster applications conducted, how effective the whole-lake treatment was, the extent to which non-chemical methods or spot/partial-lake chemical treatments are needed, etc.

It is recognized that management of watermilfoil will be an annual undertaking that needs to continue well beyond the five years. A diligent and sustained effort in the years proposed in the IMP and beyond will be required to prevent Lake St. Catherine, Lily Pond and Little Lake from becoming reinfested to the point where recreational uses and the ecology of the lakes are threatened.

Important Information about New Septic Regulations

There are important dates we all need to be aware of regarding the new septic systems and lake water systems, as presented by Roger Thompson (VTDEC) at the July 25th annual FOVLAP meeting:

1. We are in a transition period until July 1, 2007.
 - a. June 14, 2002 Ten acre exemption closed.
 - b. November 1, 2004. Unrestricted build-out period ended. Must meet improved lot status. New projects must meet rules.
 - c. July 1, 2007. All projects including replacement systems for single family residences must obtain a state permit unless the town has been delegated to locally administer the state program.
2. Existing systems after 2007 will not be required to make changes unless the system fails.
3. "Primitive camp" is defined as maximum 60 days occupancy per year with no more than 3 consecutive weeks, limited to no more interior plumbing than one sink. Composting or incinerating toilets are acceptable. These camps are not affected by new regulations unless use changes.
4. Seasonal camp conversions - if improved lot status existed as of November 1, 2004, no state permit is required to make the conversion to year round use, or to add bedrooms or replace the building, or to replace the water or wastewater systems, provided the work is done before July 1, 2007. Any conversion of use, or increase in design flow (bedrooms) after July 1, 2007, requires full compliance including a replacement area.
5. Lake Water systems - The Technical Advisory Committee is working on a design procedure for use of lake water. Probably will involve filtration and disinfection. Might require maintenance contract. The goal is something that could be used for both existing and new projects. However, if you fix a septic system under the new regulations you will not be required to change the water supply system.
6. Innovative systems - additional systems are being approved. The minimum site conditions remain the same.

You can find more information at the website:
<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/ww/Innovative>.

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL
MEETING
Monday
July 24, 2006
Montpelier Elks Club

Please send us your
updated list of Association
Officers and email contact.

2006 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.: _____ email: _____

We would like to show our support with the following 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.*



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Waterbury, VT 05676

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2005 Lakes Seminar

In June 2005 the third annual Lakes Seminar was held in Waterbury Vermont, hosted by the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds and the VT Department of Environmental Conservation. Increasing in popularity each year, the seminar allows people involved in lake projects to come together to share ideas, successes and advice. Two information tracks were offered this year: "Exotic Species" and "Shoreland Protection." Participants heard from lake associations involved in spread prevention activities and were able to bring in plants for identification. In addition, samples of exotic species found in nearby states were also available for inspection. Participants in the shoreland protection sessions learned about revegetation and conservation projects by diverse groups such as Natural Resource Conservation Districts and the VT River Conservancy. In addition, eco-lawn care and erosion control were discussed as well.

Watch for news of next year's seminar June 9, 2006!

FOVLAP Awarded State Grant

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) was recently awarded a \$2500 grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to educate those interested in maintaining the quality of Vermont lakes and ponds. Some of the items being considered but not necessarily limited to are: the expansion and additional financial support of the regularly published FOVLAP newsletter; a small scholarship to a Vermont high school student who has an interest in further study of water issues; and increased outreach to local lake associations.