



Letter From The President

By: Neal Mackey

Little did I know that when I volunteered to serve as a trustee for the LDFLA that I would be asked to serve as your President at the very first meeting (I guess that's Lake Dunmore democracy at work).

Kathy, my wife, Bogie, our chocolate lab and I are relative newcomers to the lake in comparison to many of the generational lake dwellers that inhabit this wonderful resource.

Growing up in Middlebury exposed me to the lake as a young boy and teenager, but my wife and my love affair with the lakes began in the summer of 1998 when we first rented a house on Dunmore after selling our residence in Middlebury. While looking and waiting for a

property to purchase on Lake Dunmore we also rented a house right next to Fern Lake.

The natural beauty of these lakes combined with the opportunities to swim & fish in, and skate, kayak, & ski on and bike around these lakes grabbed us both in a big way. Our 2 grown children Emily & Judd love the lake as well.

We purchased a year round residence in Mountain View in the spring of 2001. Our bond to the lake was further solidified in the spring of 2002 when we purchased Dunmore Acres on the Southeastern part of Dunmore. Now we are able to share our love of the lakes and all that comes with them with visitors from all over.

We are all blessed with these remarkable natural resources and have been given the opportunity and responsibility to act as stewards in order to preserve and protect them for future generations to come.

We all have many people to thank for the great and thoughtful work which has been done in the past to protect the lakes but we must all continue to be mindful and do our part to insure that they remain the wonderful gems they are today!

Feel free to call me with any thoughts or concerns you may have at 247-0157 or email me at neilmackey@c21jack.com.

Milfoil Report

By: Andrew Menkart

The LDFLA Milfoil Control Program completed another successful season on the lakes. Our four SCUBA certified crew members worked the fourteen week season surveying the lakes, hand pulling milfoil plants, and inspecting boats and trailers at state boat access area. This year's crew consisted of Jeff Powers, Tulley Mackey, Travis Smith, and Joe Carr.

The total number of plants pulled was 7895, which is up from 7550 plants last year, but a more important indicator than the total number of plants is the containment and eradication of infestation in specific areas. Since its inception the program has been very successful in limiting the spread of plant growth.

The success of this program has kept the lakes essentially clear of Milfoil.

This year the majority of the plants were pulled from about five areas.
 North Bay had 55% of the total plants pulled.
 Lagoon (small inlet just north of outlet of Sucker Brook) - 12%
 North Pond - 4%
 South Cove - 7%
 Cove Point - 3%

Areas that had large patches of milfoil growth in previous years have been greatly reduced and in some cases eliminated.

The big news this year was the discovery of Milfoil plants on Fern Lake in the area of the Leicester public boat access.

Fern Lake has been "Milfoil free" since 1996. The crew has continued to survey Fern Lake weekly since then but not found any reoccurrence until the first survey in early June of this year. They pulled a total of thirty-six plants. Growth did not spread beyond the boating access area, and we are confident that we removed all the plants. Our assumption is that the new growth rooted from plant fragments that were brought in on a boat or trailer.

Our completed report has been submitted to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and we expect to receive the remainder of our grant funds by the end of the year. We anticipate a similar

To Protect and enhance the natural vitality of Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake while preserving the recreational and lifestyle interests of the lake community.

Milfoil Report (cont.)

program next year and will be applying for state funds again.

We would like to thank Keewaydin Camps for their generous contribution of office and dock space, Cassella Waste Management for donation of a Porta-Potty, Central Vermont Public Service Corp for providing winter storage for the boats, the towns of

Leicester and Salisbury for their contribution of funds, and the town of Leicester and Donna Pidgeon for continuing to be the town liaison as required by the state. Thanks also to those who participated in the Shoreline Watch and helped survey the lakes for Milfoil plants. If anyone is interested in finding out more about

Milfoil, visit the LDFLA website or call Andrew Menkart.

We anticipate hiring some replacement employees for the program next year. If you know of anyone who may be interested please call Andrew Menkart at 802-247-4116.

Finance Committee

By: Luisa Volpi & Andrew Menkart

The LDFLA finances are in good shape at the end of the of the 2003 summer season. Our operating budget for the season ended with a net surplus of approximately \$900.00. Consistent with recent years our primary income has been membership dues and a grant from the Vermont Department of Environment Conservation for Milfoil Control. Our primary expense has been the Milfoil Program.

Membership dues income was \$17,505.00 from approximately 10 commercial and 329 private members on both lakes. This represents about 71.5% of the total lake front property owners and businesses. The total membership is down slightly from last year. Membership dues is of course the vital source of income, and we ask you to encourage your friends and neighbors to join. You do not

have to be a property owner to join the association. Local residents and visitors who enjoy the lakes can also join and support the association. Also some individuals and homeowners' associations on the lakes have made additional contributions, which are much appreciated.

The Milfoil Control Program budget for the season was \$45,203.00 which represents our "out of pocket" expenses plus the value of the donated services and volunteers time. Our direct expenses were approximately \$28,533.00. The Grant funds from the State of VT DEC is expected to be approximately \$22,600. We have received about half of the state funds so far and expect to receive the remainder by the end of the year. The towns of Leicester and Salisbury also make contributions to the Milfoil Control expense.

State funding for the Milfoil Control Program is allocated on an annual basis and there are no guarantees that we will continue to receive it. Factors such as competition from other lakes as well as tightening State budgets could reduce or eliminate the amount that we receive. At the direction of the Board of Trustees of the LDFLA we have put \$75,000 of LDFLA assets into a separate account earmarked for Milfoil Control. Our aim is to maintain a balance capable of funding the Milfoil Program for three plus years in the event of decreased State assistance.

One of our members, Harry Cornell, has generously agreed to do an informal independent audit of the LDFLA books. Harry is a retired CPA.

Legislative Report

By: Shawne Banfield

The first year of the 2003-2004 Vermont legislative session went from January 8 to May 30, 2003. Legislation introduced during the 2003 session will carry over to the 2004 session. The 2004 session will commence on January 6, 2004. Common to many other states, Vermont faced a budget shortfall last session. Debate over the 3.4 billion dollar budget for FY04, which is less than 1% higher than last year's budget, was made much easier with the news of an unexpected \$84 million from the federal government. This session's

financial picture is projected to be better; however the Douglas Administration remains cautious.

What appears below is a summary of legislation introduced last session as well as issues that the Association has prioritized. This session a whole host of new bills will be introduced and we will follow any with a potential impact.

Legislation introduced during 2003:

H.89 – Aquatic Nuisances, introduced by Representatives Rodgers of Glover, Baker of West Rutland,

Brown of Walden, Deen of Westminster, Larrabee of Danville, Larson of Burlington, Pillsbury of Brattleboro and Zuckerman of Burlington, proposes to direct the commissioner of environmental conservation to place a sign at access ramps on any bodies of water infected with an aquatic nuisance, and to develop educational materials about aquatic nuisances to be placed in appropriate fish and wildlife publications and included with motor boat registration mailings; and to increase the fine for transporting an aquatic nuisance from \$150.00 to

Legislative Report (cont.)

\$1,000.00.

H.225 – Milfoil Control, introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford, Amidon of Charlotte, Connell of Warren, Deen of Westminster, Fisher of Lincoln and Reese of Pomfret, proposes to allow the secretary of natural resources to develop a milfoil control sticker for sale for voluntary mounting on paddle craft. The stickers would be sold for \$20.00 each by persons eligible to sell fishing and hunting licenses, who would be entitled to keep \$1.00 and who would be required to deposit the other \$19.00 into a milfoil management account that the bill establishes within the fish and wildlife fund. Proceeds of the fund shall be expended by the secretary for milfoil control grants.

H.313 – Waterfront Protections, introduced by Representatives Deen of Westminster, Botzow of Pownal, Dostis of Waterbury, Miller of Shaftsbury, Nease of Johnson, Nuovo of Middlebury and Shand of Weathersfield, proposes to establish minimum waterfront protection standards that would apply to lands located within the protected waterfront, which is defined as being that area within 250 feet from the ordinary or mean high watermark of the navigable public waters of the state. The standards include provisions that prohibit certain activities within the protected waterfront.

H.317 – Personal Watercraft Restrictions, introduced by Representatives Deen of Westminster and Masland of Thetford, proposes to prohibit the operation of personal watercraft on bodies of water less than 600 acres.

H.347 – Regulations of Pesticides, introduced by Representative Pugh of South Burlington, proposes to empower municipalities to regulate the application of pesticides within their borders by establishing requirements that may include components relating to advance posting of outdoor

pesticide applications, other notification of pesticide applications, and the establishment of buffer zones around waters of the state, provided all municipal regulations are in compliance with, and at least as stringent as, state and federal laws.

S.58 – Pesticide Application, introduced by Senator Gossens of Addison County, Senator Condos of Chittenden County, Senator Ayer of Addison County and Senator Lyons of Chittenden County, proposes to empower municipalities to regulate the application of pesticides within their borders by establishing requirements that may include components relating to advance posting of outdoor pesticide applications, other notification of pesticide applications, and the establishment of buffer zones around waters of the state, provided all municipal regulations are in compliance with, and at least as stringent as, state and federal laws.

S.91 – Fertilizer Application, introduced by Senator Condos of Chittenden County, Senator Gossens of Addison County, Senator Lyons of Chittenden County and Senator Welch of Windsor County, proposes to limit the amount of granular fertilizer that may be applied per 1,000 square feet of turf for nonagricultural uses. It proposes to create exceptions to the prohibition if certain test results of the land are obtained during the first year of establishing turf, or if used under the direction of a person licensed, certified, or approved by an organization with an ongoing training program approved by the commissioner of agriculture, food and markets. It proposes to prohibit applying a fertilizer containing phosphorus to an impervious surface. It proposes to provide consumer information on prohibited uses and voluntary best management practices for fertilizers containing phosphorus, and in particular for residential sources of phosphorus in the urban landscape. Finally, it proposes to set a penalty of \$25.00 for noncompliance.

Association issue of priority:

Enhanced Law Enforcement on Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake – the association will continue its work to encourage the State of Vermont to prioritize boater safety as an important issue.

Political Outlook – 2004:

Governor James Douglas and Lt. Governor Brian Dubie both Republicans will run for re-election. Douglas and Dubie will most likely face Democratic contenders who will emphasize the importance of the Progressives staying out of the race so as not to split the vote as happened during the 2002 election.

All 150 House seats are up for re-election where the current split is 69D- 74R – 3I – 3P. At the present time, Democrats in the House seem less than adequately organized to launch an effective campaign to oust Republican Speaker Walter Freed. All 30 seats in the Senate are also up for re-election with the current split 19D – 11R. Senate Democrats are well positioned to maintain their strong majority at the present time.

New Logo

Warren Kimble has very graciously created a logo for use by the LDFLA. It is a wonderful scene that vividly captures the beauty and serenity of the lakes. Go to the web site to see it in full color. We plan on using the logo in all the various LDFLA publications such as the newsletter, website, and directory. Thank you Warren for your generous contribution!



In one of the thousand or so catalogs that enter my house each year there is a picture of a decorative plaque which states: *"If you're lucky enough to have a house by the water, you're lucky enough."* Amen, amen I say to that. Hardly a day goes by that I don't reflect upon my good fortune, and the good fortune of all of us who share the shores of Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake. And yet, there is still more for which we can be thankful. On Sunday, August 24th, the LD/FLA celebrated another wonderful annual picnic sponsored by Camp Keewaydin at its beautiful site on the north shore of Lake Dunmore. From where I stood on the porch of the dining hall that day welcoming guests, signing them in and handing out the "Lake Bingo" sheets, I could see the lake glittering as it always does in the late afternoon sunshine. Usually at that time of day, I'm listening to the birds busily go about their business. But on that day, from the porch at Camp Keewaydin, I could hear nothing but the incredible din – no, the roar – of conversation as association members worked to fill in their "Bingo" cards and meet new friends in the process.

It was a great trade off for me – the roar of conversation for the chirping of birds. It meant that people were enjoying themselves, meeting neighbors, and reveling in our blessings.

Over 125 people attended the picnic this year. Yes, we almost ran out of food; I got the last hot dog roll!! As one of the last people to enter the food line, the empty food bowls looked like the invading hordes had just passed through. We had beer, which seemed to be a big hit, and the music was nice and loud. Bob, the guitarist, even played some of the songs from the song sheet as well as a long list of "oldies but goodies". We sang and we clapped, and a few of us pretended like we were dancing without leaving the safety of our seats. Some brave souls had the courage to get up and do a little two step. We had prizes for the "Lake Bingo" game – some nominal, some very nice. Some people won the flower centerpieces. Everyone seemed to have fun. I had a blast!

There are lots of Thank You's to be handed out for the success of this year's picnic. First, of course, goes a

warm thank you to Camp Keewaydin for their continued generosity to and support of the Lake Association. The campers had just left for home the day before. Although exhausted from the long summer, the camp employees willingly and cheerfully gave their time and energy to make the picnic work. Can we ever thank them enough? A thanks also goes to Kampersville, Wood Ware, and Middlebury Bagel for each donating a gift certificate for the "Lake Bingo" game. They deserve our patronage for helping to make the game more enjoyable. One association member, Ed Mitcham, donated the services of the talented guitarist who entertained us for most of the evening. Ed's generosity and support of the LD/FLA is without match. Finally, special thanks goes to Liam and Jeff Powers for picking up and tending the beer – a job I willingly handed over to them. Thanks, everybody.

Finally, in mid-August the LD/FLA sponsored an educational evening in the form of a talk and slide presentation about loons by Eric Hansen of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, the Loon Project. Kampersville

Boating Safety

By: Andrew Menkart

There seems to be a consensus among the membership that the number of unsafe boating incidents has increased significantly in the past few years. Considerable discussion took place at the 2002 and 2003 Annual Meetings about the frequent disregard of many of the state boating regulations such as the 5 mph speed limit within 200' of shore, a dock, a float, or another boat. Boating laws on the lakes are enforced by the Vermont State Police and/or the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. The presence on the lakes of officers from either agency was minimal in the 2003 season. The membership put forth a motion at the 2003 annual meeting for the LD/FLA to attempt to encourage additional patrols and en-

forcement on the lakes for the 2003 season with authority to spend some association funds to accomplish the task. We have been in contact with the State Police and the Department of Fish and Wildlife and did not have much success in causing additional patrols for 2003. The problem is primarily a lack of available staff in both agencies. We are working to obtain commitments from both agencies to spend more time on the lakes in 2004 and encouraging them to enforce the boating laws by writing tickets and issuing citations as necessary. We are also investigating ways to promote safe boating through education and possibly some version of a "citizen patrol".

We encourage every member to obtain a copy of the Vermont boating laws and make it available to all guests and renters. They are available at any State Police barracks or online at:
<http://www.boat-ed.com/vt/handbook/>

Some highlights include:
Age Restrictions: Anyone born after January 1, 1974 must successfully complete an approved boating safety course prior to operating any motorized vessel. This online Basic Boating Safety Course meets this requirement.

Speed Limits: Within 200 feet of shore, dock, swim area, person in water and other vessels or anchor-

Boating Safety (cont.)

age, speed must be less than 5 miles per hour and must not create a wake.

Water Skiing: An observer (who is not the boat operator) is required.

The observer must be at least 12 years of age.

Boating While Intoxicated is a criminal offense punishable by fine, imprisonment and loss of privilege to operate.

Snorkeling & Diving: Motorized vessels must maintain a distance of at least 200 feet of a diver down flag. The diver down flag (red with white diagonal stripe) is required.

There was boating accident on Lake Dunmore on July 29th, 2003. Below is summary of the events as reported to us. The incident is described without the benefit of speaking with all parties involved.

A Brandon resident was motoring

slowly in her 1987 60HP outboard together with two passengers, 74 and 77 years old. They were near the west shore of Lake Dunmore, south end. She saw a motorboat with two tubers in the water and about four people on the boat preparing to take off towing the tubers. All the people on the tubing boat including the operator were apparently looking aft at the tubers. The boat accelerated directly towards her boat. She yelled and the boat swerved and hit her boat broadside in the forward area near the windshield. Her passengers were aft in her boat and she jumped aft as the oncoming boat rode up and over her boat smashing the windshield and continuing over her boat to the extent that its propeller hit her boat's shear in the forward area. The passengers of the boat towing the tubers were thrown off their boat and landed in the

water.

The Brandon resident called the Vermont State Police to report the accident but they would not send anyone out to take a report. She then called the Fish and Game Department and was able to file a report with them. As of November the Fish and Game Department reports that they will be issuing the operator of the tubing boat a citation for "careless and negligent" operation of a motor vessel.

Fortunately this incident did not result in injury to any of the parties involved, but serves as a reminder that operating a boat is potentially very dangerous. Make sure you and anyone operating your boat is fully competent in the operation of the vessel and completely familiar with the boating rules.

Water Quality Report

By: Liam Powers

This year the Milfoil Crew took 36 water test on Lake Dunmore and 9 on Fern Lake. The testing done this year concentrated on some of the higher readings we have seen in the past several years. Test site number 4 on Lake Dunmore tested above the States suitable swimming limit of 77 organisms of E. Coli per 100 ml of water. Leicester's health officer was notified of the high reading and a re-

sample took place a few weeks later. The retest had a low reading which was in the suitable swimming water range. The water test results can be seen on page 6 of this newsletter.

In addition to the water quality testing that the Association does; we also take part in the Vermont Lay Monitoring Program. Through our work with the Lay Monitoring Program and the water sampling tests we have per-

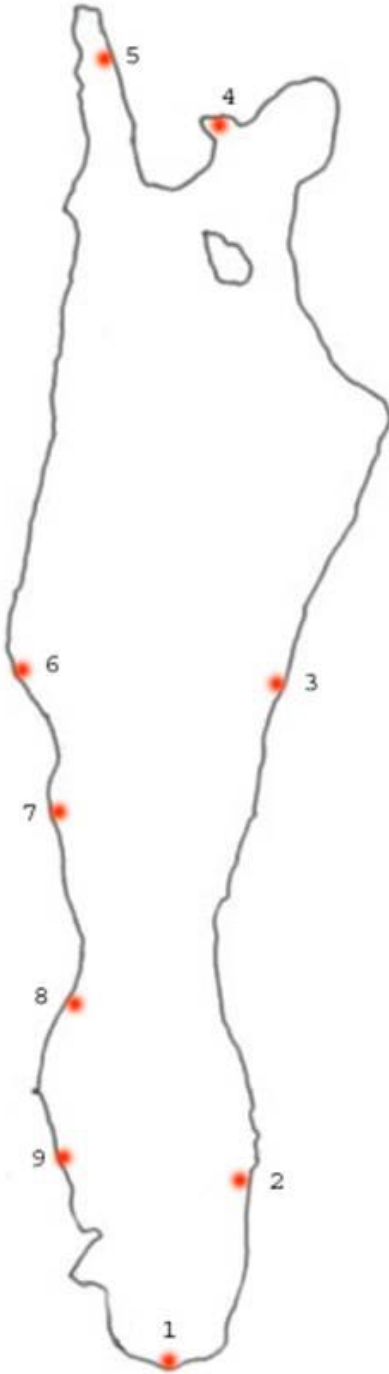
formed we can safely say that we continue to have clean safe Lakes.

For more water quality information please visit our web site at www.lakedunmorevt.com/ldfla/waterquality.

New Boat Ramp

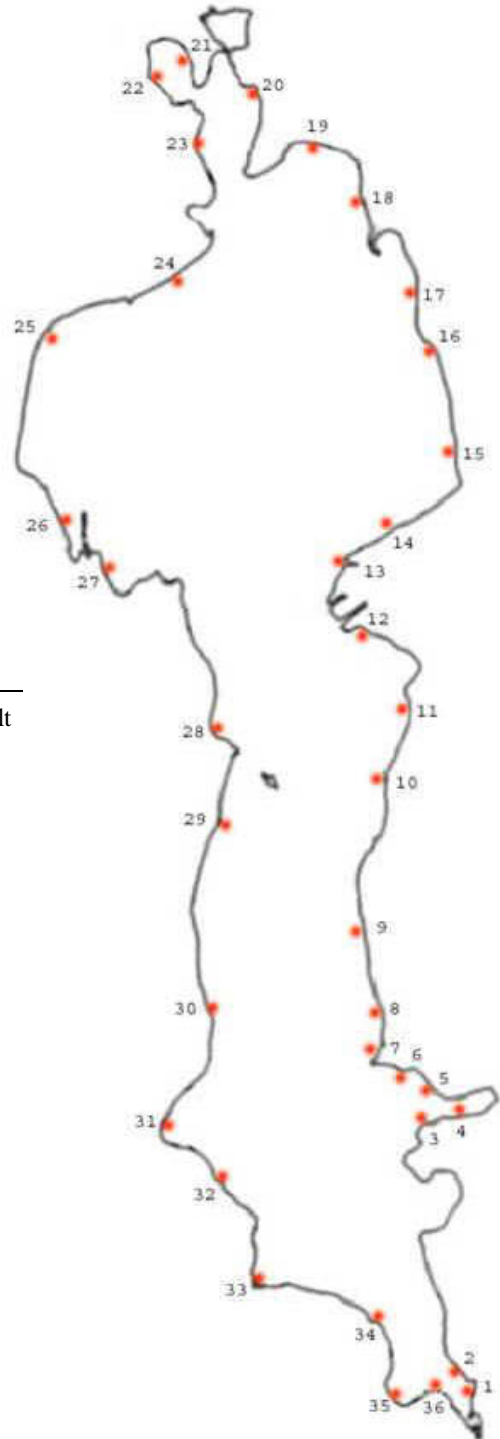
Contractors replaced the boat ramp at the State Boat Access on West Shore Road in September. They removed the existing concrete, re-graded the ramp, and installed five precast concrete slabs. The new ramp extends further offshore and eliminates the "hole" at the end of the ramp. The surface on the new slabs is a heavy diagonal raised ridge that should provide good traction.

2003 Water Testing Results



Fern Lake

Site	Result
1	16
2	9
3	8
4	8
5	16
6	19
7	24
8	10
9	3



Lake Dunmore

Site	Result	Site	Result
1	14	19	15
2	11	20	9
3	14	21	41
4	101	22	53
5	15	23	11
6	12	24	6
7	3	25	4
8	2	26	19
9	4	27	6
10	16	28	4
11	6	29	48
12	4	30	5
13	8	31	18
14	9	32	25
15	4	33	16
16	3	34	12
17	1	35	8
18	2	36	15

Membership

By: Lynne Peck

As the cold wind blows and snow begins to fall I reluctantly admit that summer 2003 is over! Although the lake is a lake for all seasons, summer is my favorite, and as we all settle in for a long Vermont winter we can reflect on the summer season past and prepare for the summer season to come.

In terms of association memberships our numbers are slightly down from 2002, coming in at a 71% participation rate. We had 329 private

memberships and 10 business memberships for 2003.

We solicit memberships from all property owners on both Fern Lake and Lake Dunmore. How many memberships are possible? Well I'm glad you asked. To date there are 139 lake front property owners and two businesses who chose not to participate this year.

Anyone is welcome to join our association. We will be sending out information in the spring of 2004.

Please make this our best season yet and support your lake's association.

Also, any member who has not yet received a directory, they are available at our annual meeting, our annual picnic, at Waterhouses, or I am happy to send you one. I also have maps for sale (they correspond with the directory) for \$10.00 each. You can contact me at (802) 545-2151.

A warm thanks to the 71% who supported us this year.

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