

Fall 2010



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Reflections from the Lakes

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

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Mark your calendars !

DUNMORE DIP ICE OUT

Deadline for
Submission of entries
is March 1, 2011

Entry form is included
in this newsletter and
available on our website.

Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association

P.O. Box 14 Salisbury, Vermont 05769

www.ldfla.com

Message from the President

by Paula Wilson

What a wonderful summer this was. Everyone I talked to agreed that this was the best summer they can remember. Enjoying life on our beautiful lakes with great weather and no mosquitoes just doesn't get any better. As I toured around the lakes this season, I was greatly encouraged by the number of property owners allowing Mother Nature to do her handiwork by allowing native plant life to grow along the shoreline. This is one of the most effective things one can do to improve the water and aesthetic qualities of our lakes. If the natural look just isn't your thing, consider growing your favorite flowers and shrubs instead.

Any plantings at the shoreline will help keep phosphorous out of the water. Phosphorous is what encourages aquatic plant growth in the water just as it does on land. Small areas of grass are OK too, as long as there are no pesticides or fertilizers applied near the shoreline that can seep into the lake. Ideally plantings of various root depths help maintain the health of the lakes. You will also notice an increase in water clarity when phosphorous levels entering the lake decrease.

The Board of Trustees has been working on many projects to ensure that we can enjoy the high quality of our lakes for years to come. We welcome any suggestions and ideas and currently have openings on our Board. Helping to preserve the clean water and abundant beauty of our beautiful lakes has been extremely rewarding for me. If you have a passion for Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake and have ever

entertained the idea of becoming more involved with the association and health of the lakes, I encourage you to come to one of our Board meetings and see if you would like to become a Trustee. If time constraints will limit your level of involvement, we have committees that could use your help. Of special importance to the Board is any technical/computer expertise, as well as legal or accounting skills. A sense of humor is preferred.

Thank you all for your continued support of membership dues, donations of money, goods, time and tee shirt orders. Next year the tee shirts will be adorned with artist and member Jean Somerset's loon with twin chicks. Hope you all enjoy a great winter, good health and good friends.

Until spring, respectfully yours,

Paula

Water Quality 2010

by Allen Wilson

Water quality testing was done by John Ebert and Paula Wilson this season. Five sites were selected in July and a different five selected for August. Each month four sites were tested on Dunmore and one site tested on Fern. As in all prior years, the tests passed with flying colors.

Even though we get positive results every year, it is always in the best interest of water quality to plant shrubs on water's edge, minimize sediment runoff and don't fertilize anywhere near the shoreline.

Financial Report

by Jay Michael

It's been a marvelous summer at the lakes (great weather and no mosquitoes) and the finances have progressed satisfactorily as well. We began 2010 with a "breakeven" budget of approximately \$61,500 in planned income and expenses. Like most plans, things can change along the way. In June the Board authorized up to an additional \$10,000 in milfoil expenditures (over the planned \$48,000 budget) if needed to meet the challenges of milfoil in both lakes. That money was needed and funded the use of a suction harvester, substantially improving the productivity of the entire milfoil crew. Fortunately, we also found some increased income. The silent auction, Dunmore Dip ice-out game, tee shirt sales, income tax refunds, and one-time sale of a boat generated an additional \$6,700 in unplanned income. Now, as I look toward the end of 2010, I expect we will again have a nearly balanced budget, with income and expenses of approximately \$69,000.

A preliminary budget for 2011 projects a small surplus with income of \$60,750 and expenses of \$58,000. This is hopefully possible thanks to ingenuity of the milfoil team and its plan to construct a suction harvester of our own. (See milfoil for more information.) The income plan takes advantage of the residential dues increase (a \$10 increase to \$55 thanks to the membership vote at the Annual Meeting) and anticipates continued success with projects like the auction, merchandise sales and the Dunmore Dip. For those able to contribute a little bit extra, your help is still needed as we continue to anticipate donations as part of our income stream.

Regarding our goal of becoming a "501c3" organization (a public charity in the eyes of the IRS), I am a bit embarrassed to say the filing is not done. It remains high on my list of "to-dos" and I have made progress. It's just not finished yet! But I remain committed to the application process and filing before the end of the year. By way of reminder, being recognized as a "501c3" is beneficial because (1) it enables us to apply for selected grants; (2) may enable the creation of an en-

dowment fund to support our lake preservation efforts in the longer run; and (3) makes your contributions to the Association tax deductible.

Thanks for your great participation as members and support for our fund raisers in 2010. I look forward to 2011 and continued work to diversify our sources of income to ensure adequate funds to protect the lakes.

Record Crowd at 2010 Membership Picnic

About 200 members and guests were at this year's picnic at Camp Keewaydin. That's about double last year's attendance. It also could be the highest attendance at any LDFLA picnic. At least no one on the Board could remember a picnic with a higher attendance total. We even ran out of name tags, and the cooking crew from Keewaydin, expecting about 100 attendees, did a great job in quickly and professionally putting more food on the fire. It's easy to overlook Keewaydin's role in making the picnic an annual success. Our picnic chairman, Ken Scupp, was new to the task, but you would never know it from the professional way Ken and his new friend, Abe Lincoln, performed.

LDFLA Membership

by Kate Williams

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Rosie Spahn for her work on membership for LDFLA during the past four years. On Rosie's watch the membership records were transferred from a manual system onto our database accessible from the LDFLA website. Rosie worked with Liam Powers on developing the website and the membership database, and she oversaw the distribution of access codes to dues paying members during 2010. She has also made my 'promotion' to membership trustee as painless as possible! Thank you Rosie for your dedication, hard work, and kindness.

During 2010 the LDFLA received 347 family and commercial dues payments. This is 72% of all lake property owners— an increase from 68% paying their dues in 2009. We also received a record number of donations in 2010 from both members and Friends—102 in all, ranging from \$5 to \$500. A hearty thanks to each and every one of you. All donations, no matter how large or how small, are valuable additions to our income and will assure the continuation of our vital work.

In addition, 78% of our dues pay-

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Abraham Lincoln impersonator entertains the crowd on a picture perfect day.

ing members opted to receive electronic communications from the LDFLA. This saves valuable resources in printing and mailing costs which can then be used for our other programs such as milfoil eradication. Please continue to email us at membership@ldfla.com with your questions and suggestions.

NOTE: If you cannot access your information on the website, email us at this address, I can send you a new password. Once you are in the system, you will want to change your password, and keep it in a safe place!

If you have questions or concerns regarding membership, the new membership web database, dock tags, directories or maps, please contact me at membership@ldfla.com or send a letter to LDFLA Membership, PO Box 14, Salisbury, VT 05769

Eurasian Milfoil Management

by Allen Wilson

It was a very busy, challenging, and productive summer. We attended new seminars, purchased a used pontoon boat as our main dive boat and subcontracted suction harvesting crews and equipment. We started surveying in early May, started harvesting the third week of May and had a full crew in the water the beginning of June. The crew this year was comprised of six full-time members, four of whom were returning. The crew was complemented by an army of volunteers who pulled and surveyed. The results of all of this effort yielded approximately 150 cubic yards of eurasian milfoil plants pulled this year as compared to 35 yards in 2009.

The very warm early spring fueled explosive growth and spread of milfoil. Lake Dunmore - particularly North Bridge Bay, North Cove, a spine 200' off shore from Brush's bay heading south approximately 1500' - and Fern Lake saw larger, more concentrated patches of milfoil than we have historically experienced. We applied for and received a permit to do suction harvesting from the State and used that procedure for the first time. We were

able to get the milfoil to manageable levels in both lakes but not until later in the summer. And had we not been able to use the suction harvester method, we probably would not have been able to get the plants to a level that could be controlled by the divers.

We are already in the process of preparing our plan of attack for 2011. One strategy we intend to implement is to modify our pontoon boat; this will allow us to convert it to a suction harvester when necessary. The subcontractors we used did a great job and I would highly recommend them. That being said there are two challenges associated with subcontracting for this service. The first is the cost and the second, and more important, is availability. It took two weeks to get site specific harvesting permits from the State but it took four to five weeks to get the subcontractors to our lakes due to their prior commitments.

A second strategy we hope to implement is to expand our boat access greeter and education program to four days per week starting June 23rd 2011. The expansion of this program is contingent upon receiving the award of a grant recently submitted to the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The grant application requests funding for staff to man the boat access areas, printing and distribution of educational materials, and the construction of two informational kiosks (one at each boat access area). The plan is to offer courtesy boat and trailer inspections Thursday-Sunday through Labor Day. We will post information about the spread of invasive species on the kiosks and hopefully mail similar information to property owners around our lakes to share with guests and tenants. Our focus has always been on controlling the milfoil that already populates our lakes. We want to expand that focus to include prevention of the introduction of other species into both lakes.

I and the crew want to thank all of the lake residents, the towns of Leicester and Salisbury, the State of Vermont, businesses and visitors that support our efforts to manage our milfoil program. Without the thousands of hours of volunteer time, financial support, and very generous in-kind services, we would not come close to being able to manage our milfoil challenge.

Would You Consider Becoming a LDFLA Trustee?

Who has the time? What skills can I offer? Volunteering is very nice, but what are the benefits? These, and others, are good questions that current Trustees have asked themselves. If you're even just thinking about joining the Board, you should know that we meet about five times during the year (only once in the winter) at each others' homes. After the meeting, we enjoy a light supper and some great conversations.

Friendships that will last many years are hatched right here. You will get to know some very interesting, and generous people from different backgrounds who are committed to preserving our precious lakes, and are respectful and receptive to new ideas and perspectives.

Each Trustee assumes interesting specific responsibilities, and most are not all-consuming. While you may not have the time to devote large blocks of time to the Association, there are a number of smaller roles in which you may contribute effectively. Your help is needed and will be appreciated.

Still on the fence? Why not explore the possibility with any current Trustee? If you are still unsure, why not attend a few of our meetings and "test the waters"?

Water Safety

by Kate Williams

Boating safety issues on Lake Dunmore this summer reported from the Fish and Game Wardens mainly consisted in distance violations—power boats too close to swimmers, other boats, diving buoys, or the shore when going faster than 5 mph, and life jacket violations. The Wardens are very sensitive to some boaters' feelings about being stopped for life jacket checks. They suggest that adults not choosing to wear their life jackets

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should display them prominently on the deck, which will enable law enforcement to verify from a distance, and thus not need to stop these boaters. More information on the State laws is available on the Vermont Dept of Public safety website at www.dps.state.vt.us/vtsp/index.html where both the Boating book can be found and an online Boating Safety course can be found.

As we look forward to another winter on both lakes, a reminder about winter safety is in order. It is NOT possible to post signs indicating when the ice is thick enough to be "safe". The reason for this is that **the ice is never completely safe**, due to underwater springs, snow cover, and other natural phenomena.

Insect Control

by Marion Bauer

As the new LDFLA representative to the Brandon Leicester Salisbury Insect Control Board, I wish we could take all the credit for the almost mosquito free summer but alas, nature deserves much of the credit, along with vigilant and prompt surveillance and remediation of hatch areas. The very dry summer (humidity doesn't count) and the ambient temperatures are a primary reason for the more comfortable season. But before we get too comfortable, let us remember that mosquito eggs can winter over and, it has been noted, that some eggs can last up to ten years before hatching.

Work continued throughout the summer with testing and monitoring. West Nile virus was found in nine areas and properly reported to the State. Although this virus affects more birds than people, it can be fatal. Therefore, spraying was done as needed. Additional spraying was completed in response to neighbors' calls to the District.

The mosquitoes that bother humans lay their eggs in standing water. It can be lake, swamp, puddle or any container with water in it. As we prepare for the winter, let us eliminate all possible areas where these pesky insects can propagate. The more we do, the better our chances are for a "bug-less" summer next year.

Statewide, a record 72 pairs of loons attempted to nest this summer with 57 pairs successful. 70 chicks have survived through August, including two here on Lake Dunmore. I have had sporadic reports of loons visiting Fern Lake, Silver Lake, and Mud Pond but no nesting has taken place there or any other nearby bodies of water.

It wasn't an easy spring for the loon family. The loons immediately took to the nesting platform we built so varying water levels wouldn't be a problem this year. However, they were often disturbed by kayakers and boaters who ignored the "Loon Nesting" signs and went up to, or onto, the island anyway. The variety of excuses we got basically added up to the fact that they felt the signs were for others, not them. Thank you to the vast majority of you who read the signs and paddled away.

The chicks left the nest within a few hours of hatching on June 22 and, as is normal, never went back. For the first month, the family took up residence in the cove east of the island and the chicks with one or both adults could always be found there. As expected, the parents had to chase away an occasional intruding loon. Otherwise, it was quiet.

A third adult spent much of the early summer in the cove just to the right as you come out of the fishing access and there was yet another in the area of North Cove. Unfortunately, in mid-August, a female in North Cove was found sick with a lung infection and ultimately had to be euthanized.

It was not from the family, and it is still unclear if a fishing line had any play in the matter. Other loons occasionally seen on the lake were likely visiting from neighboring lakes, or just passing through.

In early August, the male disappeared for about three weeks, and one chick separated from the female and other chick. Unusual behavior in both cases. The chick is doing fine and occasionally will rejoin the family for a day. The male returned for a couple weeks in late August and is now gone again. In

mid-August, when aggressive behavior between loons should have been ending, we saw an increased number of battles. The parent was chasing, or being chased by, intruders on a daily basis. We witnessed an attack on one of the chicks where it escaped by scrambling up on shore, something loons don't normally do. I think the hasty return by the adult was what ultimately saved the day.

It is mid-September as I write this and at 12 weeks of age, the chicks have gotten through what is historically the most dangerous part of their first summer. The occasional chase does not appear as intense as a few weeks ago, at least one chick has been practicing its takeoff runs, and those of us who keep watch are finally starting to relax. I still go out to try to get a picture or two any day the weather is not terrible and company is welcome to come along. My number is 802-352-9049

If you would like periodic e-mail updates on the status of the loons, please e-mail me at <korkuc@together.net> and ask to be added to the "loonatic" list. Call or e-mail me if you'd like to come out for the ride.

Thank you to all who helped keep watch this summer.



Keeping Our Roads Accessible for Emergency Vehicles

by Sue Potter

On May 26, of this year, a severe thunderstorm sent bolts of lightning to the ground in Lake Dunmore's South Cove. A neighbor's oak tree was hit by the lightning. Within a matter of minutes, an approximately 70 year old camp within a few feet of the tree was engulfed in fire. The fire was so intense and spread so rapidly neighbors were only able to save a boat that was tied up to the camp's dock. During the fire a 200 pound propane tank exploded, sending a tower of fire up to set several trees on fire. I, along with several neighbors, stood by helplessly and watched the camp and all its contents burn to rubble.

Calls to 911 were answered by the Brandon Fire Department. However, only an aging small tanker could get down our roads to the fire. Those roads are Isthmus Lane (Road A) and the side roads off of it which lead either to the northern end of Fern Lake or the southern end of Lake Dunmore.

The new larger fire trucks and their equipment had to sit on Route 53 (Lake Dunmore Road), unable to even make the first turn onto Isthmus. The firemen were literally running down long, pitch black, roads to reach the fire. Obviously, this was a difficult and dangerous situation for the firemen and limited their ability to reach the fire quickly. Due to the superb efforts of the fire department and the heavy rain the storm brought, the fire was contained to the camp. However, there were too many lucky breaks to be of any comfort to the neighbors and property owners on our roads. As a neighborhood, we resigned ourselves to improving the roads to the extent needed to allow emergency vehicles to get to us. We worked with the Town of Leicester and together we accomplished the necessary improvements to a town road and our private roads.

All the roads to both lakes need to be accessible to today's larger emergency vehicles and be clearly marked with their 911 numbers. And each camp's 911 number also should be prominently displayed. Minutes absolutely make a difference! Being prepared for emergency vehicles with accessible roads and clearly visible 911 signs is in the best interest of everyone in the community. If you are not certain your roads are accessible, talk with your town's Fire Department and your neighbors. Then do whatever you need to do to be certain you will not be waiting for emergency services when you most need them.

Silent Auction Results

by Lorraine Abramson

Many heartfelt thanks to the donors and bidders of our second annual Silent Auction. We had over 50 items offered and the interest among the attendees was strong. The net profit of the Silent Auction was \$2,672. From my perspective, that translates to literally thousands more dead milfoil plants. I like to visualize exactly how high the many sacks of pulled milfoil plants would stack.

Looking ahead to next year, we ask that you consider donating an item so this event will continue in its success to fund the Milfoil Control Project. We also encourage you to patronize the local businesses, which do not have a direct stake in our lakes but have supported us with their donated gift certificates. They include: American Flatbread, County Auto and Tire, Costello's Market, Woodward Gifts and Fine Furniture, Vermont Field Sports,

Fire and Ice Restaurant, Agway, Neshobe Golf Club, Cattails Restaurant, Patricia's Restaurant/Sully's Place, Café Provence, and Champlain Valley Motor Sports.

Finally, special thanks to Ken Scupp for securing hundreds of dollars worth of fine wines, peach rums and related gift items from his suppliers. Our single highest bid item was an authentic Mexican dinner complete with margaritas for 13 people donated by Paula and Allen Wilson. Thanks to the "cool 13" who played a big part increasing our profits!



Middlebury College Sailing Club on Lake Dunmore in September 2010

Government Affairs Committee

by Sue Potter

The Vermont State Legislature will begin its new biennial session in January of 2011. With it will come the introduction of new Bills, some of which may affect the use of our lakes and adjoining property. We, as a lake community, should continue to monitor these Bills and communicate with our State Legislators, in Addison County or elsewhere in the State, concerning our interest in them. As Bills are introduced, they will be displayed online at www.leg.state.vt.us. A complete listing, and the full text, of Bills signed into law during the 2009-2010 session is also available on this website.

The Town of Leicester's Planning Commission is currently in the process of reviewing and preparing updates to the Town Plan. The Planning Commission is actively seeking input, in the form of a survey of all Leicester citizens, whether year-round residents, seasonal property owners, or tenants. The survey may ultimately be used to make updates to the Town Plan and future changes to the Town's Zoning Regulations. You can contact the Zoning Administrator, Kate Briggs, at the Leicester Town Office 802-247-5961, for further information on how you can be involved in the process.

The Town of Salisbury's Interim Unified Development Regulations became permanent last May. These regulations can be viewed at <http://townofsalisbury.org>. The Town is also in the process of renewing its Town Plan and this information is also available on the website. If you are contemplating a project on the outside of your property, including an accessory outbuilding, or change in dock size, you should contact the Salisbury Zoning Administrator before beginning the project. The Salisbury Zoning Administrator is Mark Wilch and he can be reached at 802-352-9314.

DUNMORE DIP ICE OUT

by John Ebert

Many thanks again to all of you who played and promoted our first annual Dunmore Dip Ice Out game. And again, special thanks to last year's winner Rusty Kent for donating his winnings back to the LDFLA for support of our award-winning Milfoil program.

I hope you don't mind getting some emails from us to encourage playing and promoting the coming Dunmore Dip. Please forward our emails to friends and family you think will be interested.

We are setting our goal at 2500 guesses this year. Join the fun with your best guesses of when Lord Dunmore sees the bucket drop in the spring. Cost is \$1 per guess. See the entry form included with the Newsletter. To help us reach that goal, we are promoting the team idea again this year. Enter as a team and get 30 guesses for \$25 or 60 guesses for \$50 and split the winnings with the team!

We are also offering a special that is a great stocking stuffer for the holidays. If you purchase 25 guesses for \$20 before December 15, you can let your lucky recipients choose the dates and times they want. Send your check and the names of your recipients to LDFLA, P.O. Box 14, Salisbury, VT 05769.

The cut-off date for submitting guesses is March 1, 2011 for ALL entries.

Also, thanks to Jeannette Brush we have ice-out dates going back to 1997 for the area of the lake where Lord Dunmore waits to see the bucket plunging through the ice. These dates may--or may not--be helpful to you.

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 1997 | April 9 |
| 1998 | March 31 |
| 1999 | April 1 |
| 2000 | March 31 |
| 2001 | April 21 |
| 2002 | March 16 |
| 2003 | April 16 |
| 2004 | April 12 |
| 2005 | April 10 |
| 2006 | April 1 |
| 2007 | April 21 |
| 2008 | April 10 |
| 2009 | March 29 3:20 pm |
| 2010 | March 18 12:47 pm |

Our Dunmore Dip Ice-Out game is a WIN-WIN proposition. The Associa-



tion's WIN is additional money to fight Milfoil, while you get the chance to WIN some money!

If you have any questions, call John Ebert at 802-352-9392 or email him at j_ebert@hotmail.com

Sneak Preview of T-Shirts

Many thanks to Jean Somerset for the use of her artwork "Safe Haven" in our sales of next year's T-Shirts.



What's My 911 Address?

Your 911 address is the "locatable" address for emergency services and not necessarily your mailing address. If you don't know that address, you can either ask your Town Clerk or telephone the State's Enchanced 911 Board at 802-828-4911. Also, the website www.e911.vermont.gov may be helpful.

Trustee Contacts 2010-2011

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Ken Scupp, Social Chair (2013)
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Marion Bauer, Insect Control (2013)
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2536 Lake Dunmore Road, Salisbury
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(Year) indicates term expiration date

Beyond the Board LDFLA contacts:

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802-352-9392

Susan Patterson, *Oral History Project*
802-658-7496 or 802-247-8892

Linda Pitkin, *Oral History Project*
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