
◆ REFLECTIONS FROM THE LAKES ◆

Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association

P O Box 14, Salisbury, VT 05769

www.lakedunmorevt.com

Spring 2002

Letter From The Board of Trustees

Welcome back to another year on the Lakes. Hope your winter was well and prosperous. Our major emphasis continues to be on milfoil and future funding for the program. Jeff Wallin has included an article to update you on the current status of the program. Jeff will be giving a presentation at the annual meeting on the history of the milfoil program with maps documenting the progress of the program over the past 8 years. We invite you all to attend to see what your dues have helped attain.

At the last Trustees meeting, there was discussion to reduce the size of the board from 15 members to 12. The reasons for the change are to establish a more workable number of trustees and to ease the burden a bit on finding replacement Trustees. Our meetings are not particularly well attended and typically take place in the non-summer seasons.

A motion was made to modify Article III Section 1 of the Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association By-Laws which currently reads:

There shall be a Board of 15 Trustees. At each Annual Meeting there shall be an election of (5) five Trustees to replace those whose terms have expired. Each Trustee shall hold office for a term of three (3) years. A Trustee may be elected to no more than two (2) consecutive terms. This clause shall take effect with the class of 1998. A Trustee may be elected to no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

The proposed change would read:

There shall be a Board of 12 Trustees. At each Annual Meeting there shall be an election of (4) four Trustees to replace those whose terms have expired. Each Trustee shall hold office for a term of three (3) years. A Trustee may be elected to no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

This proposed by-law change will be presented to the membership for ratification at the annual meeting. If approved, it will take affect in fiscal year 2003.

The nominating committee invites anyone who would be willing to serve a three year term on the Board to submit their name and phone number to Liam Powers, Executive Secretary.

Dates to Remember

Annual Meeting—As mention earlier our Annual Meeting this year will be on July 8th at 7 p.m. at the Salisbury Congregational Church.

Keewaydin Picnic—Our get-together at the end of the summer will be on August 25th at Camp Keewaydin starting a 4:30p.m.

VSO Concert—We would also like to inform you of the Sheldon Museum Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) Concert & Fireworks Friday, June 28th 2002 at the Middlebury College Stadium. If it should rain the concert will be held at the Kenyon Arena. Gates open at 5:30 pm for picnic, concert at 8 pm.

Finance Committee

By: Tracy Holden

You'll see that the enclosed membership notice for 2002 reflects the dues increase voted for at the 2001 Annual Meeting. We thank you for your support of the increase. Unfortunately this year may be the first to reflect a significant cut-back in Milfoil Grant money, meaning the additional income will go directly toward the current years expenses.

I've included a letter from a member that I think is worth repeating.

July 12, 2001

Dear Tracy,

As a renter and a member of the association my family and I have enjoyed Lake Dunmore for five seasons and I hope for many more. I wish to compliment the assoc. for the excellent care of the lake.

The expanding milfoil campaign is greatly appreciated, so that we all can share the beautiful and clean lakes.

I feel that all who have an interest in the lakes-property owners, renters, commercial establishments, pleasure boater, swimmers, and fishermen should share the financial expense to maintain the on-going programs which keep the lakes safe, beautiful and a pleasure to enjoy.

I encourage all to join the Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association so that we can share the beautiful lakes for many more years.

Sincerely yours,

Edward H. Mitcham, Jr.

Milfoil

By Jeff Wallin

The Association's milfoil program presently has a crew of four lined up and ready to begin the first week in June. Patrick Hayden, Jeff Powers and Tully Mackey will be returning from last summer, and Travis Smith from Salisbury will be this year's newcomer. The Association's milfoil program has been successful at keeping milfoil at a manageable level that does not interfere with recreational activity. A large part of this success is due to the volunteer effort over the years which we still rely on to stay ahead of the milfoil problem. Please contact our milfoil crew to see how you can contribute to the program around your our lakefront property and have a good time doing it. You can contact the crew at our office by phoning 352-1013.

Funding has become a large problem this year in light of the Governor's severe budget cuts in this program. Though Legislature has approved another increase in motor boat registration earmarked for the nuisance aquatic control program, these funds will not be available until next year. It is likely that we will be receiving less than 50% of our costs budgeted for 2002. Even with the added registration money, the competition for the funds continues to increase as more and more programs like ours seek assistance. It is likely that within a few years we will be totally on our own. The Association has been successful in gaining financial support from both Leicester and Salisbury though this support is subject to annual voter approval. We appreciate the financial and volunteer support of our members in making our program a success and trust that this support will continue as we enter this era of fiscal constraint.

In April I was asked to address the *15th Annual National Conference on Enhancing the States' Lake Management Programs* in Chicago, sponsored by EPA and the Chicago Botanic Garden, with regard to a citizens' group ability to control a Eurasian milfoil infestation. The LDFLA Board of Trustees has asked me to present the same program at our annual meeting in July to provide our own membership with a historic overview and strategies of our program. If you are new to the lakes or unfamiliar with the intricacies of our program, please plan on attending the annual meeting on July 8th.

Water Quality

By: John Page

Re-testing of sites on the lakes in Leicester that showed initial unsatisfactory results were conducted by the "Milfoil" staff, with lab sampling paid for by the town of Leicester. These test results proved negative for pollution. Re-testing for investigation of unsatisfactory initial results for portions of lake Dunmore in Salisbury Township were not achieved as the Health Officer declined to support the undertaking. All these areas of initial unsatisfactory sampling will be tested in 2002.

The rationale for testing these locations being that tests over the past 4 years have been higher than other lake perimeter sites. Unsatisfactory test site results from early testing in 2001 persuade us to re-test those sites this year.

FERN- South End - 5 sites (water sample locations (wsl) 1, 3, 7, 8, 9)

DUNMORE- South End - 2 sites (wsl 91, 99)

South Cove - 3 sites (wsl 11, 12, 14)

Sandy Point - 1 site (wsl 32)

North End - 4 sites (wsl 50, 51, 61, 64)

Otherwise, as noted in our November report, water testing over the past few years show remarkably high quality water per the E.coli sampling and some of the sampling noted above should not be construed as response to "off the chart" test results. Re-testing will be undertaken in response to any poor results and we will once again urge that Salisbury support the effort as does Leicester.

Insect Control

By Dr. Ralph Carbo

Our past winter may leave us open to a questionable infestation of mosquitoes this summer, even though the Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen Mosquito Control Group (BLSG) has already been air larvasiding for the past week when possible. Airborne spraying encompasses an area from Salisbury to the Pittsford town line and into Goshen. The rest will depend on the flooding along Otter Creek. It also is important for everyone to drain any wet puddles around your area to kill larvae. The emergency plan to control the possibility of Encephalitis is still on the books. If anyone notes any sick or dead birds, DO NOT HANDLE THEM. Contact the Health Department or the BLSG Control Group emergency phone at service at 802-247-6779. This number will also have information for the public concerning that day's situation about spraying conditions in different areas. This should reduce the necessity for callbacks. You can still make arrangements for special events.

REMEMBER—YOUR SAFETY DEPENDS ON YOU

ATTENTION

The Lake Association and BLSG Mosquito Control inspect your lanes for your safety. Checking for width and turn-around for spray trucks, fire department trucks and rescue squad vehicles. It is in your best interest and safety for you and your neighbors to make sure your area is accessible.

PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING

1. Widen lane and cut low overhanging branches.
2. Keep all containers with standing water empty i.e. bird baths, pots, beached boats, canoes, and pot holes in the road.
3. Cut brush away from buildings.
4. Raise any low hanging wires.
5. Keep check on damp shaded areas.
6. Take all garbage and debris to your local dump.

Legislative Update on Milfoil Control Program Funding:

By Bill Shouldice

As the 2002 legislative session winds down it appears that motorboat registration fees will increase. Members of the Association Board of Trustees spent many hours in Montpelier this legislative session, working to access additional funding for our milfoil control program.

As you may remember from last session there was legislation introduced to increase motorboat registration fees for the purpose of providing additional grant money for Vermont lakes. It did not pass until the 2002 legislative session.

Unfortunately, Governor Howard Dean's budget reduced the technical services positions within the Agency of Natural Resources by \$200,000. Consequently, the bulk of the additional revenues raised by the increase in boat registration will be consumed funding the positions cut by the Governor.

Future funding of milfoil control programs continues to be in jeopardy, particularly as the need increases (too many lakes affected) and a limited amount of revenues being targeted toward this issue. Members of the Board emphasized the need to prioritize this program for the long term, rather than the band-aid approach that continues to be taken – the legislature cannot continue to expect motor boat registration fees alone to fund these programs. Even if all users of Vermont waters paid into the program (those who put the waters at risk and then benefit from the programs) there still would not be enough money to do an adequate job.

Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake continue to be recognized as having one of the most successful and effective programs in Vermont. Although we can expect to receive some funding through State grants from Montpelier, we should be prepared to pay a larger portion in the future.

ANNUAL
MEETING
JULY 8th
2002 7 p.m.

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Bill Shouldice

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Bill Shouldice, Chairperson

Maps & Membership

Debbie Wing, Chairperson,
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Water Safety

Kelly Churchill, Chairperson

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