

# Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association



## LDFLA Wins EPA Environmental Merit Award

**BIG NEWS!!!** The LDFLA together with the Town of Leicester have been awarded the EPA's Environmental Merit Award for the successful and environmentally sensitive control of Eurasian Milfoil on Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake.

The award was presented at a special Earth Day ceremony at Faneuil Hall in Boston on April 22. Jeff Wallin and Liam Powers accepted the awards for the LDFLA and the Town of Leicester. Jeff is former Vice President of the association and developed and ran the milfoil program for six years, as well as being Moderator for the town of Leicester. Liam is Secretary of the association and was a member of the Milfoil Crew for 5 years.

The award is in recognition for the "exceptional work and commitment to the environment" and for "outstanding work toward improving and preserving the quality of

our environment".

Milfoil control activity is taking place on lakes all over the country, but the EPA has recognized ours as a model program that has succeeded without the detrimental side effects of other methods currently utilized such as bottom barriers, mechanical harvesters, herbicides, and biological controls; all of which present real or potential adverse effects to the natural ecology of a lake.

The LDFLA milfoil control program utilizes a small team of well trained divers that map and survey the lakes and hand-pull individual milfoil plants to remove the plant and root without disturbing the lake bottom or native species. The success of this program has proven that a thorough and scientific hand-pulling program can control milfoil on a large and a small lake.

Members of the LDFLA can be proud of the recognition we have

achieved. The Town of Leicester is a joint recipient of the award because the state grant application is submitted through the Town of Leicester. The Town of Salisbury contributes equally to the program and deserves recognition also. Significant contributions are also made to the program by Camp Keewaydin, CVPS, and Cassella Waste Management.



Jeff Wallin and Liam Powers accepting the 2004 Environmental Merit Award in Boston.

## Letter From the President

By: Neil Mackey

Those hearty souls who live on the lakes year round survived another harsh winter. The ice was 24-36" thick which is pretty good barometer of how cold it was. Spring has arrived, the ice went out gently so hopefully everyone's docks remained intact. One of the more entertaining spring rituals is to watch the Middlebury College Crew Coach using his small watercraft as a battering ram in attempt to breakup the ice so the crew team can begin practice. Those who have witnessed this event question its value but he gets a 10 for effort.

Your elected Trustees have met three times and have been doing

good work as evidenced by the articles in this newsletter. Thank you to those trustees and all the other people who have served before. We all have one thing in common, **we love the lakes** and want to do whatever we can to preserve them for future generations to enjoy as well.

I'd like to acknowledge the current retiring Trustees who have given years of service to the association. Those retiring this year are Kelly Churchill, Dr. Ralph Carbo, and Ed Bird. Luisa Volpi has moved back to Massachusetts and was not able to complete her term. Luisa was our treasurer and Lynne Peck has volunteered to serve in

that capacity. Thank you Lynne.

We hope to accomplish a lot this year and to have fun doing it. More social events, higher membership participation, continued water safety education and enforcement, better communication and coordination about spraying efforts, and lastly, water quality control including our award winning milfoil protection program.

Please plan to attend the annual meeting at the Salisbury Congregational Church on July 5, at 7:00 pm. A door prize will be awarded to a lucky winner.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE LAKE

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 Control Program

By: Andrew Menkart

We are gearing up for another season of milfoil control on the lakes.

Our plan this year is similar to recent years. We are employing four full time divers working for fourteen weeks from May 24<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup> surveying the lakes and hand pulling plants using and combination of SCUBA and free diving. Our total budget for the program is \$49,345.50 which includes the value of in-kind donations and volunteer hours. We have received a commitment from the state for 43% of that amount through the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Aquatic Nuisance Control Program Grant-in-Aid Funding.

We are fortunate to have at least three of the four employees returning this season: Jeff Powers, Tulley Mackey, and Joe Carr. The Milfoil Crew will again be based from docks and an office at Camp

Songadeewin of Keewaydin. We expect to have the same phone number at the office as previous years: 352-1013.

## What can you do to help the program?

1) **Shoreline Watch Program** - Part of the funding that we get from the state is a result of the contribution of volunteer labor spent searching for milfoil. We call this our Shoreline Watch Program. In order to participate all you have to do is learn to identify Eurasian Milfoil and look for it from shore or from your boat. It is not difficult and does not require a specific commitment of time. You can search for milfoil while you are out boating or walking along the shoreline. We have literature that will help you learn to identify milfoil. Material will be available at the annual meeting, from the milfoil crew, or by calling me at 247-4116. We will have a time sheet at the end of the

season picnic where you can record your hours. If you don't attend the picnic you can call me or call the milfoil office.

2) **Boat Access Ramp Monitoring** - One of the methods of controlling milfoil growth on the lakes is to prevent new fragment of plants coming onto the lakes on boats and trailers. The Milfoil Crew staff have been monitoring the state boat ramp on busy weekends and inspecting trailers. This year we would like to solicit volunteers to attend the boat ramp on busy weekends. We will have a sign up sheet at the annual meeting and on the web site. A typical shift would be four hours, 8am to 12 noon, or 12 noon to 4pm. We will train you in the procedure. It might also be an enjoyable way to spend a day near the water and meet neighbors and visitors.

# Water Safety

By: Neil Mackey

One of the most often verbalized concerns of LDFLA members is related to boating safety issues, particularly on Lake Dunmore.

Lake usage continues to escalate each year and so does the need to step up the vigilance of our safety efforts. Last season there was only one serious boating accident but the number of near misses are becoming all too frequent. Last year's incident could easily have been far worse.

Andrew Menkart and I recently met with Dave Rowden, State Game Warden representing the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department for this region. The Fish and Wildlife Department together with the State Police share law enforcement jurisdiction on our lakes. Dave was very receptive to our concerns and has offered his assistance in targeting unsafe boating on the lakes. He will be issuing citations for unsafe boating incidents and has promised provide the maximum presence possible on the lakes, especially during the busy weekend hours. That being said, he has a limited staff and is responsible for a large area, his two deputies are part-time. He emphasized to us that any citi-

zen can report a violation to him and, if justified and properly documented, he will pursue it. He does not actually need to observe the incident as long as the reporting individual follows the steps outlined below **AND** is willing to stand behind the observation and appear at a hearing if necessary. The first and most obvious requirement is to know the Vermont State boating rules. Rule books are available for free at any State Police barracks, and they will also be available at the annual meeting.

Reporting requirements are as follows ("record" means write it down):

- Record the date, time, and location of incident.
- Record the description of the boat(s) and individuals to the best of your ability, including the boat name and/or registration number if possible.
- Record the nature incident in as much detail as possible including approximate speeds, distances, directions of travel, weather, etc.

Call Dave Rowden to report the incident. His home number is 247-3667, and his pager number is 388-4919. **DO NOT** confront any individual that you think is violating the boating laws.

Dave has graciously agreed to attend our annual meeting on July 5 starting at 7:00 pm at the Salisbury Congregational Church. He will speak briefly during the meeting and will be available for further questions after the meeting.



What appears below is a summary of legislation introduced last session, as well as, issues that the Association has prioritized. The legislation in **bold indicates** where there was some activity.

Legislation introduced during this biennium: 2003-2004:

**H.34 – Spotting water skiers with rear-view mirror**, introduced by Representatives Grad of Moretown, Brooks of Montpelier, Donahue of Northfield, Marron of Stowe, Masland of Thetford, Miller of Elmore and Tracy of Burlington, proposes to authorize an individual to operate a vessel which is towing a person on water skis, or similar apparatus, without another person in the vessel, provided the vessel is equipped with a wide-angle rearview mirror.

The House Transportation Committee held a hearing on H.34 in early March, Kelly Churchill and several others testified in support of the bill. The committee has taken no formal action on the bill. There is clearly serious concern over safety issues with this legislative proposal.

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 infested 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 \$1,000.00. There has been no activity on this piece of legislation.

**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.

The Senate passed this bill in mid-March; their version of the bill clarifies that activities of mosquito control districts shall not be regulated further through this process. The bill also expands municipal authority over pesticide use in a number of areas beyond that which was originally introduced. The bill was referred to the House Natural Resources Committee, where at this point it is unclear whether any further activity will occur.

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. There has been no activity on this piece of legislation.

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. There has been no activity on this piece of legislation.

**H.772 – Miscellaneous Fee Bill**, introduced by the House Ways & Means Committee, is intended to update fees assessed to the public across state government departments and agencies. The House Ways & Means Committee has included in their bill language that recommends the following. The House passed this bill and it is currently in the Senate where the Association will continue to monitor it closely.

- The Department of Fish & Wildlife to develop a schedule of fees for the use of state fish and wildlife lands; including charges for the use of access areas, landing areas, parking areas, roads, camping sites, buildings and other facilities and for other lands or waters within the jurisdiction of the Department of Fish & Wildlife
- The Department to establish fees for experimental activities in state fish and wild life lands
- Increases the permit fee for fishing tournaments from \$10.00 to \$50.00
- Adjusts the permit for aquatic nuisance control from \$200.00 to \$75.00
- Adjusts the motorboat registration fees:
  - Class A from \$15.00 to \$17.00
  - Class 1 from \$25.00 to \$28.00
  - Class 2 from \$50.00 to \$55.00
  - Class 3 from \$110.00 to \$121.00

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. There has been no activity on this piece of legislation.

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.

## Social Committee

By: Ruth Burgart

At the end of our first summer on Lake Dunmore, I was certain that no other season in Vermont could possibly be as beautiful. Autumn, however, taught me otherwise. I faced its conclusion with another melancholy over the finality of beauty. Winter, I thought, would be long and dreary with little or no color and less activity. Wrong again! Winter on the lake is a treat beyond imagination.

Alas, after this long and cold winter, the warm weather is almost upon us. It's time to think about gatherings at the lake and fun on the (thawed) water. The Social Committee is planning to expand our lecture series to two this summer – one in July and one in August. Scott Darling of the VT Fish and Wildlife Department will give the first lecture on "Bears in Vermont" on July 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the

Leicester Meeting House. Bring your bear stories and join Scott for an interesting presentation.

On Wednesday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m. at the Leicester Meeting House, Steve Costello from CVPS will do a presentation entitled "Raptor Recovery Program". Steve will show us the program sponsored, in part, by CVPS that has helped Bald Eagles and Osprey. Join us for an interesting evening.

In addition, we hope to sponsor a bird watching/wildflower hike at least once. Watch for posters and announcements that will give dates, times, and places for all events.

This year the LD/FLA picnic is planned for Sunday, August 29 at 5:00 p.m. Please note time change. This

event is for current, paid members of the Association. Kamp Keewaydin will again be our wonderful and generous host. We are planning a different "ice breaker" from the Lake Bingo of the last two years, with prizes and hopefully lots of laughs. We are looking for a person to play the piano for the sing-a-long after dinner. If you can volunteer your piano skills for about an hour, you will be richly rewarded with good will, praise and thanks, and we'll even throw in a free meal! So, don't be shy. Step right up and volunteer. To volunteer, contact me at [rburgart@rcn.com](mailto:rburgart@rcn.com), or through the LD/FLA web site, or by phone after July 1 at (802) 352-4773. Now don't forget to mark your calendars for lots of fun and friendship. Hope to see you there.

## Insect Control

By: Dr. Ralph Carbo

Last year, with early spraying of mosquito areas in the flooded lowlands the mosquito problem was minimal. Very little land spraying by truck was needed. The found dead birds were properly handled & checked by the Health Dept.

Minimal West Nile Disease was found in Vt. The BLSG Control Group (Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen) is already well equipped for this season (2004) with two trucks to care for both lakes. We will have a 2<sup>nd</sup> helicopter to increase spraying this season. An improved phone system is being installed so a daily dated message of prevailing conditions will be available. Plus the

ability to take & return all calls within a reasonable amount of time.

### ATTENTION

The Lake Association & BLSG Mosquito Control inspect your lanes for Your Safety.

We are checking for width & turn-around for spray trucks, fire dept. trucks & rescue squad vehicles.

It is in your best interest & safety for you and your neighbors for a good summer to check your areas throughout the Summer!

### CHECK THE FOLLOWING :

1. Widen Lanes and cut low overhanging branches.
2. Empty any containers of standing water: i.e. bird baths, pots, beached boats /canoes, and pot holes on your 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.

## Vacancies On The Board To Be Filled

By: Ellen Flight

According to the bylaws of the LDFLA a trustee may only serve for two consecutive terms. Thus we need to release three of our current trustees. They are; Ed Bird, Kelly Churchill, and Dr. Ralph Carbo. Our thanks to them for their years of volunteer service.

That leaves us with three vacancies. We would like to encourage any associa-

tion member who might be interested in serving on the board to come forward. We are specifically hoping to fill the committee positions that have been vacated. We need someone interested in "Water Safety" and "Mosquito Control".

The duties of the trustees are varied. The nominee needs to be available for board meetings throughout the year. We

generally meet in the fall, winter, spring, and twice in the summer.

We are a hard working dedicated group that welcomes new ideas and opinions. If you would like consideration please contact Ellen Flight ([ellen@keewayden.org](mailto:ellen@keewayden.org)), nominating chairperson or any current trustee

## Finance Committee

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Luisa Volpi has moved out of state and is unable to continue as treasurer. She expressed her thanks saying "I am sorry to be leaving the area but I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for allowing me to be part of the LDFLA board and treasurer." We offer our thanks to Luisa and wish her the best.

We were very fortunate to have Lynne Peck offer to assume the role of treasurer. She was quickly nominated and elected to the post by the board. Lynne has a strong

financial background and does the book-keeping for a local business. Lynne is currently on the board and serves as committee chairperson for Maps and Membership. Taking over as treasurer will allow her easier access to all the membership data. Liam Powers is helping with the transition and will make sure data gets moved properly from one computer to the next.

This issue of the newsletter contains your dues form. Please fill it out and send

it in as soon as you can. Our success depends on you.

Dock tags will be mailed out after we receive your dues. If you haven't received a directory they will be available at the annual meeting and at the end of season picnic.

## Water Quality

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By: John Page

The main objective of water quality (E. coli bacteria presence) sampling this year will be to focus on the areas of more intensive camp concentration. We will also re-sample some areas that have shown occasional higher than average test results historically (over the past 7 years). Keep in mind that overall, test results during that period have been really excellent.

The threshold of acceptable swimming quality water is considered by the Health Dept. to be 77 E coli/100 ml. Only very occasionally have such threshold results occurred over the past several years; and our practice is to re-test at such locations soon as possible following:

1. Contact with immediate adjacent landholders
2. Contact with (T) Leicester and (T)

Salisbury Health Officers; towns have historically been asked to provide the re-test sample kits for our milfoil crew.

This summer we have identified 33 test sites on Lake Dunmore and 8 locations of Fern Lake. These tests will follow our testing pattern of recent years.

## Membership

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By: Lynne Peck

Spring greetings to all! Are you ready for another great summer season on the Lake? I am truly looking forward it. The board has been busy preparing for another season, the quality of life on our Lakes is no accident. The milfoil crews will begin work soon and aerial spraying for mosquitoes is on the list. The mem-

bership committee is on a mission to have the best season yet. Can you help us? If you have supported us in the past we appreciate it and hope that you will do so again this year. If we missed you last year or maybe for many years we hope that this is the year you commit to helping us help us all. Your membership does mat-

ter, each and every one. As the chairperson of the membership committee I am available for questions or concerns, Lynne Peck [gpeck@together.net](mailto:gpeck@together.net).

## Our Mission To You

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### Mission:

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

### Strategy:

- Control of Eurasian Milfoil and other aquatic nuisance species
- Assist in the control and monitoring of mosquitoes
- Promote safe boating and responsible lake recreation

- Monitor water quality and the related watershed influences
- Represent the interests of the lakes and lake community to local, state and federal agencies
- Publish a lake community directory, newsletter, website and map

## Important Dates

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**Annual Meeting**  
**July 5, 2004, 7 p.m.**  
Salisbury Congregational Church

**Raptor Recovery Presentation**  
**August 11, 2004, 7 p.m.**  
Leicester Meeting House

**Bears In Vermont Presentation**  
**July 14, 2004 7 p.m.**  
Leicester Meeting House

**Annual Picnic**  
**August 29, 2004, 5 p.m.**  
Camp Keewaydin

## 2004 Trustees

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Neil Mackey  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2006)

Ed Bird  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2004)

Lynne Peck  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2005)

Andrew Menkart  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2005)

Shawn Banfield 802-223-1197  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2006)

Kelly Churchill  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2004)

Linda Rheaume  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2006)

John Page  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2004)

Dr Ralph Carbo  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2004)

Joyce Shultz  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2005)

Ellen Flight  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2006)

Ruth Burgart  
P O Box 14  
Salisbury, VT 05769  
(2004)

## 2004 Committees

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### President

Neil Mackey

### Legislative

Shawn Banfield, Chairperson

### Socials

Ruth Burgart, Chairperson

### Web Site

Liam Powers

### Vice President

Andrew Menkart

### Maps & Membership

Lynne Peck  
Ellen Flight  
Linda Rheaume

### Water Quality

John Page, Chairperson

### Nominating

Ellen Flight, Chairperson

### Finance

Lynne Peck, Chairperson  
Tracey Holden  
Bob Juneo

### Milfoil

Andrew Menkart, Chairperson

### Water Safety

Kelly Churchill, Chairperson  
Neil Mackey

### Secretary of Corporation

Ruth Burgart

### Insect Control

Ralph Carbo, Chairperson

### Zoning

Joyce Shultz

### Executive Secretary

Liam Powers

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To learn more about the Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association and see this newsletter in color, please visit our website at [www.LakeDunmoreVt.com](http://www.LakeDunmoreVt.com).