

Spring 2005

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

Good news... our grant application for the state funding of our ongoing Milfoil Control Program has again been approved by the VT Department of Environmental Conservation. We have been promised up to \$24,767.00 or 49% of our total budgeted cost for 2005 of \$50,545.00.

Our Milfoil Crew this year consists of two returning veterans and two new recruits. The crew chief this year will be Joe Carr who is returning for his third year with us. Joe lives in Brandon is a student at Community College of Vermont. Returning for his second year with the program is Sam Merrick. Sam lives in Brandon and is a student at Boston University. Our two new hires this year are Isaac Harris of Brandon and Colin Tompkins of Pittsford. Isaac is a student at the University

of Montana and will be getting his SCUBA certification in the beginning of the season. Colin will be starting at Northeastern University in the fall and already has his SCUBA certification.

As always, our volunteer Shoreline Watch is an important part of the program. Anyone can participate. All you have to do is know how to identify Eurasian Watermilfoil and look for it when you are on the lakes or on the shoreline. Your volunteer hours count towards our total budget and help us achieve the promised funds from the state. We have informational packets available that contain photos and descriptions to help identify Milfoil; we will also have samples on hand at the annual meeting and at the end of the season picnic. You can also call the milfoil office at 352-1013 for

assistance or training as well as to report any plants that you find.

Thanks to Camp Songadeewin of Keewaydin for our office and boat mooring space and for contributions from Cassella Waste Management and Central Vermont Public Service Corporation.

A final note on safety: when the crewmembers are in the water snorkeling or SCUBA diving they will display a DIVE FLAG (red flag with a white diagonal stripe) in a nearby boat or on a float in the water. All boat traffic MUST stay 200 feet away from that flag for the safety of the divers. Please make sure that you, and anyone that uses your boat, knows how to recognize a dive flag and understands the requirements.

Insect Control

By: Linda Pitkin

The Mosquito Control District Board of Directors has been busy over the winter establishing ways to improve the mosquito control service you receive. One new method is a joint project with LDFLA to develop a Road Captains program. We will also be coordinating with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Lake Dunmore-Fern Lake Planning Study which will be working with Leicester and Salisbury road foremen and area

first responders to define a "set of recommended road and access standards and policies" to improve access by mosquito spray trucks and emergency vehicles.

We're looking for at least one Road Captain for each Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake road who is responsible for checking the road every year. The Captains will be able to use the new set of standards to point out improvements property owners on their roads can make for the safety and com-

fort of their neighborhood. If you'd like an opportunity to know your neighbors better or if you've always wanted to make a dry run on a mosquito spray applicator truck, here's your chance! If interested in serving as a Road Captain for your road this summer, please contact me (Linda Pitkin) at pitkincottage@yahoo.com. I'm hoping to have an organizational meeting at our Dunmore camp sometime in late June.

Annual Meeting
July 11, 2005, 7 p.m.
Salisbury Congregational Church

Open House At Waterhouses
For LDFLA Members
June 27, 2005, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Annual Picnic
August 28, 2005, 5 p.m.
Camp Keewaydin

Letter From The President

By: Neil Mackey

Hello fellow Lake people. Another summer season is nearly here. Hopefully your schedules will allow you to spend lots of time enjoying the lake this year. Your board continues to work throughout the year in various ways to insure that the time you, your family

members, and friends share at, on and in the lake continues to be the same kind of enjoyable experiences that we all cherish and which enrich our lives in so many ways.

Our love for and use of the lakes take

on many forms. Respect for each others' usage of the lake in its many forms is appreciated and expected. Working together, yet respecting one another, will keep this lake the special place that it is.

New Board Members

By: Ellen Flight

This winter we sadly accepted the resignation of two of our hardworking and loyal Trustees. Thanks for all the great work you did for all of us on the lakes, Ruth Burgart and John Page. It was a pleasure to serve on the LDFLA Board with each of you.

The nominating committee is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to the Board of Trustees. Steve Kellogg was born in Vermont and graduated from UVM. He took his first job after graduation in the lake country of Minnesota – sometimes known as “Paul Bunyon Land.” It is there that he fell in love with living on a lake. After many happy years in Minnesota he and his family returned to

Vermont and started renting a place on Lake Dunmore. In 1984 he bought a place on Lake Dunmore where he currently lives year-round. Steve and his wife Elaine have three grown children, one grandchild, and one on the way. Steve is the President of Holden Insurance which has offices in Brandon, Middlebury and Rutland. He loves to return home in the evening and have the beauty of Dunmore and the mountain ease the pressures of the day and bring a sense of calm to him.

Paula Wilson moved to Vermont in 1979 and lives in Chittenden with her husband Allen, 4 cats, a dog, and 2 horses. Their daughter Erica is living in Baltimore and working for Johns Hop-

kins University. Paula is a lover of the outdoors, she is an avid equestrian and also enjoys hiking, water skiing, swimming, kayaking, snow skiing, and gardening. Lake Dunmore has been a major part of her life since the early 80s. The family started going to Branbury state park and then enjoyed many seasonal rentals until recently when they purchased the Rosen property on Kelsey Lane. She has a deep passion for the lake and the surrounding area and is looking forward to working with the board in whatever capacity necessary. Welcome to the Board, Paula and Steve!! Thanks to all who expressed interest in serving – we have you on our list and will be in touch when there are future openings on the Board.

Hosting An Event?

By: Lynda Rheume

The Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association is printing an information poster of summer events to be posted around the lakes. If you or your organization are planning an event that you feel lake residents and visitors to the area would

be interested in attending, please send the information to Lynda at LDFLA, PO Box 14 Salisbury, VT 05769. We reserve the right to edit information sent to us and to include only events that we feel will be of wide interest.

Some events to look forward to are the Annual 4th of July fireworks, The LDFLA Annual Meeting, and the Salisbury Music Series. Watch for the posters around the lakes.

My View of the Lake

By: Susan Patterson

Spring came early to our lakes this year. The ice disappeared the second week of April. Spring Peepers chorused in the wetlands and Spring Cleaners flocked to our camps. As I raked the stubborn leaves that fell after fall clean up and vacuumed up winter dust, I mused about the anticipated fun activities of the coming summer season on Lake Dunmore. Along with many planned events with family and friends, I hope to become better connected with lake neighbors and fellow Dunmore Dwellers.

One part of my musings concern “quality of life” issues on both lakes. Speaking only for myself, I admit I worry about noise pollution, especially from personal watercraft (i.e. “jet skis”), road cuts for new housing, mosquito abatement (i.e. getting the sprayer truck to come down my driveway), cutting too close to my neighbor’s dock when I water-ski (i.e. my guilt), late night carousing (sometimes my neighbor’s party; sometimes ours), getting my head cut off by speeding boats while swimming to the island

(even with a canoe escort), motorboats without lights at night, etc. There’s plenty to fret about! And maybe I’m just getting to be a grouchy older woman – a hypocritical one at that, because others may very well dislike my paddling “in their space” when I hug the shore in my kayak, or some other imposition I’m not even aware of.

So it occurred to me that I need to communicate better with my neighbors and other lake residents about all these issues – all the little “goings on” around

and on the lake that make up our quality of life experiences, as we share this aquatic treasure and its environs. The discussions I need to have could happen by stopping by other camps on our daily dog walks to chat about this and that, and “oh, by the way, we can’t hear each other talk on our porch when you folks are racing your jet ski up and down in front of our camp, even though

you are out in the middle of the lake and probably think the noise doesn’t carry that far.” And these discussions could happen at LDFLA group events, of which we need more, if these conversations are going to be effective.

So my 2005 lake resolution is to work toward conversing more with my neighbors and fostering more home-

owner events where more of us can share concerns and pleasures, to make sure that my fun doesn’t diminish someone else’s fun and visa versa. If you have quality of life issues focused on our lake community, I invite you to contact me, talk to your neighbors, and attend LDFLA gatherings and speak up. Just tell me gently, please, if I’m the culprit.

Water Quality Overview

By: Andrew Menkart

We are engaged in two areas of water quality testing on Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake.

The first is the sampling that we do for e-coli levels. We take water samples from a series of designated locations on both lakes in early July. We send those samples to a lab in Burlington for testing. The results are measured in counts of e-coli per 100mL of water and are compared to the level considered safe for swimming. We do this testing in July in an attempt to coincide with the highest level of lake occupancy. The results are published in the fall newsletter, and the results for the past four

years are posted on our website. We as an association pay for the lab testing of these samples. The samples are collected and driven to Burlington by the Milfoil Crew.

The second area of water sampling that we participate in is a statewide program called the Vermont Lay Monitoring Program. Through that program we take weekly samples that are evaluated for total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a concentration. In addition to the sample, we do a water clarity measurement. The water sample and clarity results are given to a representative from the State of VT DEC. The state compiles the

results of this data from lakes all over the state and they are posted online at www.vtwaterquality.org. There is no cost for our participation in this program. The samples and clarity measurements are taken by the Milfoil Crew.

Additionally, weekly water sampling for e-coli is done by the State at Brantbury State Park. In the past we have not had access to this data, but we will try to get it this year.

Water quality on both lakes has been consistently excellent over the years and has compared favorably with other lakes in the state.

Lake Area Planning Study In Progress

By: Andrew Menkart

The Leicester and Salisbury Planning Study as outlined in the fall newsletter is now underway. The study is funded by a grant from the State of Vermont and is focused on lake area issues such as parcel mapping, road conditions, emergency access, shoreline conditions, water quality, public feedback, etc. The results of the study will be for the benefit of the Planning Commissions of both towns, and will not produce any binding results. It should, however, provide an improved understanding of the existing condition of the roads, buildings, infrastructure, and natural conditions around the lakes, and will also provide valuable data con-

cerning lake area residents’ opinions through a survey and a public meeting.

The LDFLA is a partner in the study and will take a direct role in the evaluation of shoreline conditions and will assist in other aspects of the study.

A survey of property owners in the area near both lakes is being developed now. It is likely to include questions concerning a broad range of issues including recreation, environment, water quality, wildlife, noise, development, etc. Opinions on the use of jet-skis will also likely be included, and will comply with the motion passed at the LDFLA 2004 annual meeting that we

survey the membership on the use of jet-skis on Lake Dunmore.. The survey is expected to be mailed out in July, and we urge you to take a few minutes to complete the survey and mail it back as instructed.

The Steering Committee of the Planning Study in comprised of: Susan Patterson, Linda Pitkin, Donna Swington, Robert Ezerman, Max Petersen, Tony Clark, Peter Hare, and Andrew Menkart. Brandy Saxton from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission is coordinating the study. Donna Pidgeon, Leicester Town Clerk, is the town contact person for the study.

Membership

By: Lynne Peck

The membership committee is in the process of updating the directory, and this year we want to be sure that all

households who pay membership for the 2005 season will receive one. We will distribute dock tags and directories

at the annual meeting, annual party, and any other LDFLA gathering. Hand delivering the directories (and maps)

helps to save postage expense. If you are unable to pick up your directory, however, one will be mailed to you. Maps cannot be mailed, but you may contact Lynne Peck, head of membership, to arrange pick-up.

Our finances are in good order. A full report and budget will be presented at the annual meeting on July 11, 2005. We are a healthy organization, thanks to the continued support of our many members. Please pay your dues promptly. Your quick response will

allow us to serve the membership more effectively.

Please note that as your treasurer and chair person of the membership committee, I am here to help in any way possible.

Social Committee

Our lake association hosts two traditional events each summer. One is our Annual Meeting at the Salisbury Congregational Church, scheduled this year for Monday, July 11th starting with registration at 6:30. This is an important gathering to disseminate information and air concerns of the membership. The board wants to greatly increase the attendance to make the meeting both more effective and more fun for all. Especially this year, with a just-published directory, we want everyone to come pick up their dock tag and a new directory. Lake maps will be for sale for \$10 to members. You can

send in your dues ahead of time or pay at registration. During the annual meeting we will be giving away some very enticing door prizes including a \$150 gift certificate to Café Provence in Brandon, a new restaurant owned by a NECI chef with delicious culinary offerings in a new building, and soon opening a take-out bakery. And for the many golf enthusiasts in our membership, we will have a Neshobe gift certificate for 4 greens fees and cart – what a prize! And if that’s not enough, there will be homemade cookies offered before and after the meeting. Hope we have so many members at our

Annual Meeting this year that we run out of cookies!
Once again, Camp Keewaydin is hosting our end of the summer season dinner on Sunday, August 28th. We already have several more door prizes lined up for this event (a high quality sweatshirt from Brown’s Gift Shop in Brandon and a generous Dunmore Acres gift certificate) and are working on the entertainment for the evening. Put both these events on your summer calendar now.

By: Susan Patterson

Water Safety

Winter is over, ice is out and there are boats on the lake. During this 2005 boating season, we all need to abide “by the rules” which will significantly improve the safety for all while using this great beautiful resource. Once again, both representatives from Vermont Fish & Game and the Vermont State Police Recreational Boating Unit will be patrolling the lake. While 2004 was relatively incident free, complaints were received. These complaints primarily consisted of speeding boaters too close to shore and to other boats, tubing/skiing after sunset and into darkness, and having no spotter on board a

vessel while towing a tuber or skier.

Everyone should be aware of the fact that to legally operate a motorized vessel; anyone born after January 1, 1974 must possess a Boating Safety Certificate. Vermont recognizes those issued in other states. There are two ways to obtain this certification. One is by taking the course on line at <http://boat-ed.com/vt/>, and the other is by taking a one-day course.

The Boater Safety Course will be conducted at Lake Dunmore this year on Tuesday, June 28th, at Waterhouse’s, immediately next to the public boat

launch area on West Shore Road. This course is open to anyone over ten years of age. The hours are from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM, with a break for lunch. Space is limited and pre-registration is required by calling (802) 388-6311 (Century 21 Real Estate – Jack Associates) and leaving the name, address and phone number for the participant(s), by June 14th to facilitate the forwarding of material that must be read prior to the start of the course.

By: Tom Scanlon

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