

Spring 2008

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.

Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association



2008 Milfoil Control Program By: Andrew Menkart

The big news this year is the construction of a new cabin by Keewaydin Camps for use by the Milfoil Crew. Keewaydin's building crew tore down the old one in the fall and built a new cabin over the winter at the same location off Rustic Lane and West Shore Road in Salisbury. The cabin serves as headquarters for the crew's daily activities in the summer providing storage, office space, changing area, etc. It is a critical part of the program and we are extremely grateful to Keewaydin for providing a new building for our use.

Additionally a new program coordinator will take over this year to oversee the Milfoil Program. Long-time member and Indian Trail homeowner Rick Snyder has generously agreed to assume oversight of the program as I step down this season. Rick was appointed to the board over the winter to fill the seat left vacant by the departure of Shawn Shouldice Banfield. Rick spent some time with the crew last year and is quickly becoming familiar with the various tasks. I will continue to work together with him this summer to assure a smooth transition.

Our 2008 grant application for state funding of the Milfoil Control Program has been submitted, but as of the publication date we have not yet heard if it has been approved. The gross budgeted cost for 2008 is \$58,617.00. The State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Grant has usually been about 40% of our gross budgeted cost, and we are hoping to receive a similar amount this year.

The scope of the program will be

employ four young individuals for fourteen weeks this summer to locate and hand pull Eurasian Watermilfoil on both lakes.

The crew chief this year will be Collin Tompkins who is returning for his fourth year. Will Pitkin and Nate Biershank will both be returning for their second year. We are currently interviewing candidates to fill the one open slot.

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 along the shore. 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 802-352-1013 (June thru August) for assistance or training as well as to report any plants that you find. You can report your Shoreline Watch hours at the annual picnic in the end of August.

Thanks again to Camp Keewaydin for their valuable contribution of lakefront facilities. Thanks also for the contributions from the residents of the towns of Leicester and Salisbury, as well as from Cassella Waste Management and Central Vermont Public Service Corporation. Also a big thanks to Donna Pidgeon, former Leicester Town Clerk who helped us for many years as the official municipal liaison for the state grant.



Letter From the President By: Lynda Rheäume

Winter is a time when much of nature goes dormant, activities on the lakes slow down, ice fisherman, skaters, and cross country skiers replaces swimmers, snowmobiles replace boats, but the number of people enjoying these activities is much smaller than in the summer months.

The directors of the Lake Association have a lighter schedule over the winter months, but have been far from dormant in dealing with the needs of our lakes. This newsletter shares some of the activities we have been working on developing. John Ebert, from our Social Committee, has been planning a Loon Presentation with Eric Hanson; Paula Wilson has scheduled a plant exchange to take place July 12th during the Leicester Historical Flea Market; Boaters Safety Class has been planned under the direction of Tom Scanlon and Middlebury Recreation the end of June; Andrew Menkart has been interviewing to fill positions for our Milfoil Crew; and membership sign up forms are in the mail along with this newsletter.

Sadly, we accepted the resignation of Shawn Banfield, Legislative Committee. Shawn has started a new business, "Capital Connections, LLC," and is unable to give attention to the Lake Association at this time. We are fortunate to

have Rick Snyder fill the remaining year Shawn has, with her second term. Rick has shown interest in working with Andrew on the Milfoil Committee; a very important position within the Lake Association. We welcome Rick, and know his interest and expertise will continue to move our Milfoil Program forward. With Shawn's resignation, we do not have the same connection with the Vermont Legislature we have had in the past. Please take an active interest in learning about bills in the VT Legislation that will have an effect on our Lake regions. Two local legislators you could reach out to are Willem Jewett (representing Addison County) at wjewett@leg.state.vt.us, or Joe Acinapura (representing Brandon) at jacinapura@leg.state.vt.us

Three positions will open up for directors on the Lake Association. Neil Mackey, Nominating, would welcome the opportunity to speak with you regarding responsibilities, time commitment, and our needs, if you are interested in serving on the board. I joined the board the year after we moved to the lake, and have learned a lot about living in harmony with nature, met my neighbors, and have benefited from the commitment others have given for the betterment of our environment.

Andrew Menhart, Lynne Peck and Joyce Shultz are the three members who have

each served two, three year terms on our board of directors. The Association appreciates the talents each of these people has shared with the membership to keep our Association strong.

Watch for our annual Events Calendar to be published the end of June, in time to list all summer activities around the lake. If you have items of interest you would like listed, please call or email Lynda Rheäume with your dates and activity. We will try to list area events where space is available. Phone: 247-3771, evenings and weekends, or leave a message. Email:

lynrheäume@comcast.net

Some items already noted:

*Four Triathlons around the lake this year, to be held June 22, July 13, August 2 and 23rd.

*LDFLA Annual Meeting, Monday, July 7th – Registration and social at 6:30, Meeting 7:00 PM – Salisbury Congregation Church.

* Salisbury Congregational Church 4th of July Strawberry Shortcake Festival.

As always, we appreciate your interest, questions, and involvement in the Association activities whenever you are able to schedule time with us.

Membership By: Lynne Peck

The way I see it, winter turns to spring and life is good. Spring turns to summer and life is even better. Here we are ready to start the 2008 summer season. Dues notices are enclosed. We are asking for your financial support. Your voluntary contribution goes directly to the care and keeping of our lakes.

Many of you are quick to write a check. A fair number go above and beyond the suggested donation and give far more than asked. Then, there are those who give every now and then and yet another group who never respond. I realize now, after six years of soliciting, that not everyone is going to give, but it's the people

who sometimes give that I would like to address. Those who know me, know that I'm not afraid to speak up. I've asked a few folks why they don't always give, and I get an amazing variety of responses. I've heard some say that the State takes care of the lakes, and they didn't think we needed any money. I've had others say they don't give because they don't like a particular board member. In one case the board member they mentioned had long since retired, but that didn't seem to matter. I've had many who have said they forgot, or misplaced their dues notices. (We do send reminders.) I've had the empty promises - "the check is in the mail". Bottom line, they seem to think that they are

just one person, and if they don't give it's not really going to matter. So far from the truth! If everyone that reaps the benefits shares the burden, how much lighter the load will be for all. Each of us can make a difference. Please do your part to be a part of the solution. I do hope that Mother Nature will bless us with a blissful summer season. My thanks to the supporters that have made my time on the board a pleasure. If I can be of service in the short time I have left, please be sure to contact me with questions or concerns regarding membership, finance, directories, and or maps at lynnepeck@gmavt.net.

Chris Brush, Dowager of the Lake 1916-2007 By: Susan Patterson

When Chris Brush died in early December, the anchor of the east side of the lake passed from us. Although I was only on the fringe of this remarkable woman's family and circle of lake friends, I always knew I was very fortunate to "inherit" ties to her through the Philipsens, whose camp I bought and who were best friends with Chris and Don Brush, long time sailors and fishermen and lovers of Lake Dunmore. As soon as I met Chris, I knew she was a remarkable woman – feisty, capable, caring, adventuresome, strong, good looking and sporty to her dying day, and witty and literate to boot. I immediately took a shine to her and liked to stop by her house and just hang around, observing and chuckling and generally soaking up lake lore and learning life lessons.

Chris married into the Brush family who has lived at the entrance of Road J for about 80 years. Her husband's parents built the red farmhouse that faces Route 53. In 1946 Don, Sr. and Chris rebuilt a "winter house" further off the road and completely surrounded by many acres of wooded gullies and hillocks the family has kept natural and safe from development. The Brush camp, first built in 1927 is one of the most attractive compounds on the lake and in a special cove northeast of the island. The big house at the camp is rustic and homey and ship-

shape, all at the same time. Several generations of Brushes have been keen sailors and successful racers, both summer and winter sailing.

This past summer Chris, like many of us, was thrilled at the success of the loon pair in hatching and raising a little one. Loons were "her animal," and she had pictures and loon decoys decorating her homes. Chris must have felt an affinity to loons; like them she was distinctive and graceful and majestic – and also had a distinguishing voice and manner of speech. Many of her friends spoke at her memorial service, telling stories about

Chris and mimicking her voice saying "that is NOT the way we do it" or "we're having a crisis!"

All of the stories focused on Chris's vibrancy, intelligence, and joy of life. It is mainly thanks to Chris that Leicester has a fine elementary school. In the 50's she became head of the school board and convinced the voters to close five 1-room schoolhouses and build a central school in town. Her son Don said, "They weren't always quite ready for her all the time." But her eventual success demonstrates her drive and convincing arguments for her cause.

Of course lots of the stories centered on the lake. Chris was a great organizer and

was in charge of sailing meets, sporting events, and the move to camp each year. We heard about the famous Philipsen 1917 fire engine which the men and children loved to drive around on the inner roads and sometimes off the roads as well. At the beginning of hunting season, the women, led by Chris, provided pies and all kinds of foods, collected by the fire engine to be taken to camp. The fire engine would back up to Chris's open front door, backfiring into the house, while Chris railed at the crew in the cloud of smoke.

Chris was a lover of dogs but trained her puppies in three days with her rolled up newspaper. I only knew her last one – Amber – who died only a few months before Chris. In telling me about Amber's death, Chris said that the dog knew it was time to go and went to lie in her favorite flower bed. Chris was just as strong when her time came. As one of her friends said, "An oak has fallen in our community."

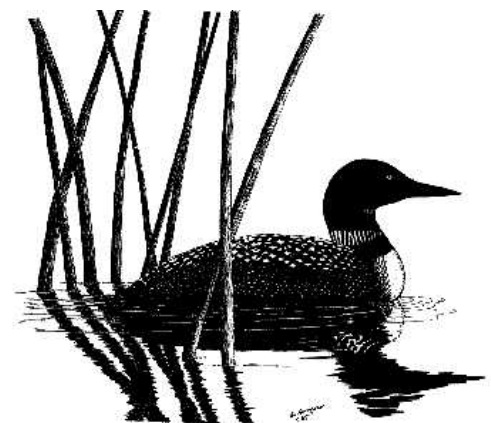
The most lasting and meaningful tribute we can give to Chris Brush is to carry on her love for Lake Dunmore in our enjoyment of its riches and our care for its environment. She'll be checking on us all.

Loons Nesting

Reminder, Loons Nesting on Lake Dunmore

- Stay clear of the island May-July.
- Watch loons from a distance.
- Boaters- add loons to your list of things to avoid and slow down for, along with swimmers, canoes, and kayaks.
- Anglers - please reel in when loons are nearby and diving. They will take live bait and lures. One loon died last year after ingesting a hook and line on Dunmore.
- Loons and people can co-exist, with a little help.

For more information about the loons, contact Eric Hanson at the Vermont Loon Recovery Project: (802) 586-8064 or ehason@vtecostudies.org or the Vermont Center for Ecostudies website www.vtecostudies.org



Water Safety By: Lynda Rheume

Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association will, again, this year, offer a BOATING SAFETY COURSE to be run in conjunction with the Middlebury Recreation Department and the American Legion Post 27. This daylong event will be held on Saturday, June 21st from 8:30 am to approximately 5:00 pm at the American Legion, 49 Wilson Road. A light lunch will be provided. The cost of the course is \$15 which must be paid at the time of registration. Class size is limited, and advance registration is required by Tuesday, June 17th. Registration is through the Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department, which can be contacted at (802) 388-8103. Those registering must be 12 years of age or older. Course cer-

tificates will be awarded upon successful completion of this one day course. Those born after January 1, 1974 are required by law to complete a certified boating safety course before operating a motorized vessel in Vermont and on most other state waters.

A Handbook on Vermont Boating Laws and Responsibilities is available through the Vermont State Police, at Kampersville or on line at www.boat-ed.com/vt/handbook. This book covers current boating laws such as minimum age for operating a motorboat or personal watercraft, and rules for towing a skier and creating a wake. Lake Dunmore gets very busy with all kinds of boats on beautiful summer days. Be sure to operate

your boat cautiously, watching out for kayaks, canoes and sailboats that can not change their course quickly, and that could be overturned by large wakes. Keep a sharp eye out for swimmers and wildlife that are enjoying the lake. We have spoken with the Vermont State Police and the Vermont Fish and Game Warden. The amount of time the officers are able to spend on the lakes will depend on availability of staff and monies. If you observe an infraction on our lakes, you are encouraged to get as much information you can about the vehicle (color, size, markings, number of people in the craft, time of day, infraction you observed) and report all information to the State Police. They will follow up.

Water Quality By: Paula Wilson

Greetings and welcome to spring. As promised, enclosed in this newsletter you will find an informational pamphlet put together to help educate our members and guests in regards to practices that will leave the least negative impact on our environment, and more specifically, Fern Lake and Lake Dunmore. Many of us already incorporate these practices in our everyday lives. Our aim is to reach out to those who may not know about, or may not think that these simple things are important enough to make a difference. We ask that you share this pamphlet with your renters and guests. Our objective is to educate our residents and visitors alike, and en-

courage all to act responsibly while they are enjoying our beautiful lakes. Please let me know if you would like additional copies.

Also, this summer on Saturday, July 12th, from 9am until 3pm, on the village green in Leicester, the LDFLA will be participating in a plant swap. The swap is part of our ongoing effort to encourage land owners to re-vegetate areas along the shoreline which have been stripped of a natural buffer. Any donations will be greatly appreciated, and can be dropped off at our table the morning of the event, or prior to the day of the event with myself, Lynda Rheume or Susan Patterson.

During the swap, we are going to be talking to people about the benefits associated with a natural buffer, and encouraging plantings of all types of native, non-invasive species. Low growing shrubs and plants that improve water quality and do not obstruct views are a nice addition to any property. The enclosed pamphlet has more information regarding the importance of maintaining a natural vegetated buffer.

Feel free to contact me with questions and suggestions.

See you at the swap.

4th of July Promo By: John Ebert

Step up to the plate and join us in the annual Lake Dunmore Boat Parade to celebrate July 4th!

We encourage you to decorate your boat and join the fun! We will be going around the lake in a counterclockwise direction, so your starboard side will be the one to pay attention to. We'll start at the mouth of North Cove at 2 p.m., and it will take about 1 hour to go around the

lake. Join us!

Judges will be recruited from Kampersville, unless we get some lake residents to volunteer. If you would like to be a judge call John or Cathy at 352-9392.



“Toon” Tuesday By: John Ebert

YOU'RE INVITED to join us any and every Tuesday. For what? “Toon Tues,” of course. We start in May. It's BYO (cocktails & food). As I wrote in the fall news letter, it has evolved into a potluck dinner that has become quite a wonderful culinary experience. So bring an appetite too! It has been fun for everyone to meet their neighbors and their neighbor's visitors. There is a “core”

group of about a dozen that participate every Tuesday, and we look forward to having new people join us, and, of course, those we see occasionally. We go out an hour before sunset, so the time changes with the length of the days. Don't have a pontoon boat? Come on out in any boat. Don't have a boat or just want to be picked up?

Call John Ebert at 352-9392 or Mike Korkus at 352-9049 two hours before sunset. Our raft ups last for about 1 ½ hrs. If we only have one boat load we cruise for that length of time.

Buffer Bill in the Legislature

A bill to establish state-wide vegetated buffers along lakes and streams is being worked on in the Vt House of Representatives Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee. The details of H.549 are constantly changing as of this writing, but here are a few features of the bill:

Natural vegetation would be preserved along lakeshores and streams for new construction (the exact width is currently under discussion, but everything from 15 feet to 100 feet has been discussed).

Existing uses would be grandfathered.

A natural vegetated buffer of sufficient width filters out sediment and phospho-

rus in runoff, thus protecting the lake. Other states have such buffer laws (New Hampshire, Maine, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, for example) all allow a path to the water, and some minor pruning to open up “keyhole” views.

You can check the latest version of H.549 (that the committee has voted on) at www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/billtext.cfm or call Catherine Russell from the Legislative Council at 802-828-2266 for details.

Article obtained from the winter 2007/2008 newsletter of

**THE FEDERATION OF VERMONT
LAKES AND PONDS**



Personnel Changes at the Leicester Town Offices By: Linda Pitkin

After many years of fine service, Donna Pigeon decided not to continue as Town Clerk/Treasurer. Her replacement is Kylee Rochon. Kylee has established new office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday -
8:00AM – 12:00PM

Thursday - 8:00AM – 1:00PM

Another change at the office is Andrew Peterson, the new Zoning Administrator. His hours are:

Thursday - 10:00AM – 1:00PM

His contact information is 802.989.0014 (cell) and LeicesterZoning@gmail.com (email).

Kylee and Andrew also have hours by appointment. Both can be reached at the Town Office by phone, 247-5961.

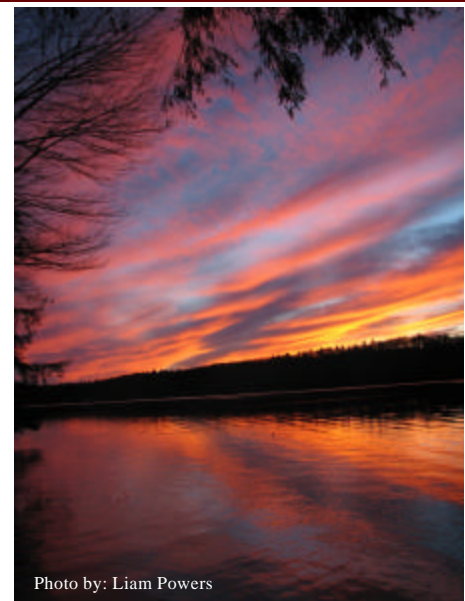


Photo by: Liam Powers

Why Put Up a Bat House? By: John Ebert

A single little brown bat can catch 1,200 mosquito-sized insects an hour! Bats are the primary predators of night flying insects and play a vital role in the delicate balance of nature. Despite this, more than 50% of the bat species in this country are declining or already endangered. By putting up a bat house, you can provide critical roosting sites for bats in your area and benefit from their insect eating abilities.

Bat houses are a great way to keep bats in your area after you evict them from your house. The chances of your bat house being occupied are greatly increased when you install one in conjunc-

tion with excluding bats from your house. Bat house should be installed the year before exclusion, but can go up as late as two to six weeks before exclusion is completed. Exclusions should not be done between early May and late August to avoid trapping flightless young inside your house.

Excerpted and summarized from *The Bat House Builder's Handbook*, 2001 printing, © 1993 by Bat Conservation International, Inc.

For a list of certified bat houses and manufacturers and bat house designs, go to www.batcon.org.



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Interested In Joining the Board?

Want to have fun, meet your neighbors and give back to the lake?

Join the Lake Association as a Director or Committee Member.

Fill out the form below and mail it to LDFLA, PO Box 14 Salisbury 05769

Or Email your interest to Lynrheume@comcast.net or cometovt@yahoo.com

Name _____

Summer Address _____ Summer Phone _____

Winter Address _____ Winter Phone _____