

Spring 2009

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.



Letter From the President

Greetings to all who live on the lakes and welcome back to our seasonal campers. My husband, Allen, and I can't move back soon enough. We usually are overly enthusiastic and move up when it is still too chilly and have to huddle around the wood stove more nights than not. It doesn't matter; life on the lake is better than life off the lake.

This spring we lost a dear friend of the lake and fellow trustee, Rick Snyder. He was only a trustee for a very short time, serving as the milfoil chairman. He did a wonderful job, and we all grew very fond of him in this short time. On his advice, we are beefing up the milfoil operation by adding two additional divers. We hope that this will insure that we keep the invasive species in check. This is an award winning program that is extremely successful in comparison to other programs around the country. Most of our neighboring lakes use chemicals or mowing techniques as their infestation levels are such, it is impossible to hand pick. As

most of you know, our program involves the hand pulling of plants and returning to check those sites for re-infestation.

My husband, Allen, and fellow board member, Kate Williams, have graciously agreed to fill in while we find a new milfoil chairperson. Former trustees and milfoil chairs, Jeff Wallin, who established the program, and Andrew Menkart, who succeeded him, are generously bringing their wealth of experience back to the program during the interim to assist Allen and Kate, as well. So you can rest assured that the program will go on with the same quality and focus on details as in the past.

Our board has been very busy as usual this off season with many new projects. Our aim, as always, is the enhancement of our beautiful lakes, and we rely on the support of our members. If you have let your membership lapse or have not become a member, please consider joining or rejoining our association. To all current mem-

bers, thank you for supporting us.

The new website is shaping up, and it is an easy way for you to access information regarding our programs, updates and calendar items. Please visit us at www.LDFLA.com for the latest news and for important updates between newsletters. The calendar page lists events around the lake and dates for our annual meeting and our member's picnic. The annual meeting is always the first Monday after the 4th of July. This year it falls on the 6th and will be held at the Salisbury Congregational Church at 7:00pm. Our newest member directory will be available at the meeting. The Annual Picnic, for members only, will take place Sunday, August 30th. Special thanks to Camp Keewaydin for generously offering their beautiful location and delicious food for us again this year.

By Paula Wilson

William "Rick" Snyder Memorial Fund

In honor of Rick Synder, LDFLA board member and great lover of Lake Dunmore, the board has established a memorial fund. Rick died suddenly at his home on Indian Trail in March of this year. Rick and his wife Dede had fulfilled their dream of becoming year-round lake residents in a new home attached to their camp only a couple of years before. Both of

them grew up spending summers on the lake and fell in love while sailing boats and water skiing and hanging out with the lake gang in the 50s and 60s. They were still very much in love with this community, the lake and each other.

Contributions may be sent to the board treasurer, Rosie Spahn, P.O. Box 14, Salisbury, VT

05769. Please include a note or mark your check (made out to LDFLA) for Snyder Memorial Fund. The board will take up consideration of a fitting use for the money at a meeting later this summer. Please contribute your thoughts and ideas to a board member.

By Susan Patterson

LDFLA Membership and Finance

The ice went out early this year on the two LDFLA lakes and the signs of spring – budding trees, robins, green grass are all around. With spring, the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association readies itself for the start of summer Milfoil Program, water quality testing, water safety courses and mosquito control. All of this to make each summer the best summer for the association's property owners, friends and honorees. We cannot hope to accomplish these goals without your voluntary financial support. Every week there is news of rising unemployment, housing foreclosures, and bankruptcy. There is also the 'making a difference' news at the end of the broadcasts. People are helping where they can during these uncertain

and difficult times. We are concerned about the State of Vermont cutting funds for our programs. Now, more than ever, we need your support. 70% of our property owners paid dues last year, and we are grateful for your support. If you are a new lake home owner, welcome! If you've previously paid dues, thank you! If you've donated more than the dues request, we salute you! If you haven't paid annual dues yet, please do! Help to keep our lakes pristine and clean. Make a difference.

Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association maps are available. The 11" by 34" map was created in 1999 using GPS technology and contains an authentic **Warren Kimble** print. Each new dues paying

member receives a map at no charge. All extra maps for dues paying members may be purchased for \$10. Non-paying members may purchase a map for \$50.00. Shipping and handling for maps that are mailed is \$5.00.

There will be a new 2009 directory printed this year to be distributed at the annual meeting on July 6th.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding membership, finance, dock tags, directories or maps, please contact me at (802) 352-9049 or rosie.ldfla@live.com.

By Rosie Spahn

Time to Reflect

During the last six years it has been my privilege to serve on the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association board. I realize how fortunate this Lake Association is to have such dedicated members come forward and work together to keep our valued natural resources healthy. During my time as a board member I have seen the committees become more actively aware of the current needs and observed them "stepping up to the plate" to follow

through for the association. Time and talent have been given freely.

My husband and I have been residents of Fern Lake for ten years this year. I have especially enjoyed meeting, speaking together, and working with my new neighbors from both lakes, whether it was at an annual meeting, at one of our special events or during last summer's flooding on Lake Dunmore. The interest that

homeowners, town leaders, and board members have exhibited has been renewing, rewarding and refreshing to my spirit. If you have an interest in becoming a volunteer, consider making a difference in your community by becoming part of this vital board.

By Lynda Rheume

The Social Side

"**Toon**" **Tuesday** became the **Monday** "**Mingle**" for a while last summer and sometimes the **Wednesday** "**Whatever**" because of the weather. You're still invited to join us. We start in May. It's still BYO. It has become quite the culinary experience, and we seem to maintain that "core" group of about a dozen of us that participate consistently with an ever increasing number of sporadic attendees. We go out an hour before sunset and come in before dark so the time changes as we move through the season. You don't have to have a pontoon boat to join us. Call John Ebert 352-9392 or Mike Korkuc at 352-9049 two hours before

sunset. The food is great, the company is wonderful, and the sunsets can be spectacular.

This will be Camp Keewaydin's 100th summer on the lake. Look for a big canoe flotilla on July 1st. And don't forget the 4th of July boat parade. Join us even if you don't want to decorate your boat. Parade starts at the mouth of North Cove at 2:00

We are looking for digital pictures from the lake to project at the annual meeting and possibly the annual picnic. Anything from people having fun, wildlife, sunsets, or even your pets enjoying the lake. If you have any pictures you would like to share,

with or with out comments, please call or email me. 352-9392
j_ebert@hotmail.com

Coming next spring....**THE DUN-MORE DIP**

Look for more information in Fall 2009 news letter.

By John Ebert

My View of the Lake

The cultural and social history of Lake Dunmore resides in great part in the rich history of extended families on the lake – extended horizontally through siblings, cousins, and in-laws; and extended vertically down family trees of several generations, growing ever down and out. My sociologist tendencies, my love of good people stories, and my outsider status (as a recent lake resident of only 17 summers or so) all combine to encourage me to want to question, learn about, and preserve the family lore and histories of life on our lakes.

And so I have been interviewing and writing up for our newsletter, articles about some remarkable individuals around the lake. But as I have been doing only two a year, my list of potential storytellers has grown rapidly, significant residents have passed away, and my desire to hear more and preserve more has grown exponentially. Last summer, I approached our LDFLA board with a proposal to start an Oral History Project. I was delighted to immediately find out that another board member, Linda Pitkin (with a life-long history on Dunmore) is just as interested in such a project, and that both of us had been thinking about taking some workshops at Vermont Folklife Center in Middlebury to learn proper methodology, interview skills,

and equipment specifics. Our board has totally supported our efforts, so after the benefit of two workshops over the winter, we are on the cusp of beginning our project.

The need for expediency as well as the depth and influence of these family groups was brought home to me recently at the memorial service for yet another much-loved and respected resident of our Indian Trail Community. Rick Snyder, of the wide-ranging Snyder - Dick family -- and by property and close friendship ties, the Bierschenk – Wing – Churchill clan -- died suddenly and way too young, yet his tremendous love and loyalty to Lake Dunmore lives on through his wife Dede and family, including cousins with camps on both sides of the lake. Rick was an effervescent personality, welcoming to every “newby” on our roads, helpful and involved in all lake endeavors. (An early snorkeler for milfoil many years ago, he currently oversaw and directed our LDFLA Milfoil Crew.) Rick was whom I thought I’d go to for my first oral history interview for his great stories and mother lode of information, and I knew he’d facilitate more interviews for me with family and friends.

Losing Rick just makes us want to get going quicker and do an even better job of

recording interviews with every lake dweller we can. We won’t be surprised to learn that others are doing similar endeavors; in fact Karen Rockow has worked with the Vermont Folklife Center to record some of the North Cove memories and stories of friends of her parents who started coming to Lake Dunmore from the metropolitan NYC area after World War II. We would like to learn about, cooperate, and share information with anyone else recording oral histories on Dunmore and Fern Lake.

We will have sign up sheets for interviews at both the Annual Meeting in July and at the end-of-summer social at Camp Keewaydin. But there’s no need to wait until then. Please contact Susan Patterson at 247-8892 or sdp@alumni.middlebury.edu, if you will be a part of our Oral History Project or know someone we should approach to interview. All participants will receive a CD of their interview and a great deal of appreciation and admiration.

By Susan Patterson

The Loons Are Back

Eric Hanson will present a program on Loons in Vermont at Branbury State Park on Saturday August. 15th at 2 pm. Also, For internet users, look for a totally revamped Loon site at www.vtecostudies.org.

We have had loon sightings and heard loon calls on Lake Dunmore as of April 22 this season.



Photo Taken By Mike Korkuc, Summer 2008

Legislative Report

The Vermont State Legislature has introduced several new bills, during its current session that could affect the lakes. The bills, as introduced, can be viewed at www.leg.state.vt.us. It is nearly impossible to summarize these bills so it is recommended that you take the time to look up the full content of the following bills which could be of interest to you, the LDFLA member.

H.015, to recode the existing aquatic nuisance control program under one statutory chapter.

H.074, to authorize programs for the funding of the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

H.117, to allow the use of lead sinkers for fishing in streams and rivers.

H.128, to provide that the public trust doctrine that applies to the navigable rivers, streams, brooks, and creeks of the state shall extend to the 10-year high-water

mark.

H.129, to provide a special exemption on non-rental residential property that is subject of a housing subsidy covenant.

H.260, to transfer jurisdiction over snowmobiles, motorboats, ATVs, and the activities related to them to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

H.323, to require, beginning July 1, 2014, the establishment of 50-foot buffer zones adjacent to the navigable waters of the state.

H.324, to authorize the Secretary of Natural Resources to make administrative determinations to classify certain wetlands.

H.348, to adopt the Interstate Pest Control Compact.

S.061, to require the Secretary of Natural Resources to issue a potable water supply and wastewater system permit for the conversion of a seasonal residence to year-round use if the residence and its potable

water supply and wastewater systems meet certain requirements.

S.091, to prohibit a person from operating a personal watercraft between sunset and sunrise. It prohibits the operator of a vessel from consuming alcohol or possessing an open container which contains an alcoholic beverage. It also clarifies law enforcement officers' authority to make arrests, regulate vessel traffic, and make reasonable orders to enforce the law.

At the February 11th meeting of the LDFLA Board, the Board voted unanimously to oppose Bill H.128 to provide for public access up to the 10-year high-water mark on navigable rivers, streams, and brooks, and creeks in the state. It was decided that this bill could affect property along Sucker Brook and could have the potential of expanding in the future.

By Sue Potter

Water Quality

This summer we will examine both Lakes' e-coli levels throughout the summer, rather than taking one "snapshot" at many locations on the same day. Following discussions with the State's Agency of Natural Resources and within the Board, the Board decided to implement a program to test e-coli levels every two weeks at the same four locations on Lake Dunmore and one on Fern Lake. This way we will be able to get a

handle on how a period of rain, an exceptionally cool spell, or a period of perfect weather, etc. affects water quality. Of course, should there be an occurrence similar to last year's flood, the Board can consider authorizing a "snapshot" test.

More on this at the Annual Meeting. See you there.

By Marty Lapidus



2009 Water Safety Class

This class has been scheduled for Saturday June 27.

Time:
8:30am to 4:30pm. Lunch is provided.

Place:
American Legion Hall in Middlebury

Pre-registration is required. Call the Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department at 388-8103 to register. The fee is \$15.00.

Many thanks go to Tom Scanlon for organizing this course for the boating commu-

nity again this year. It is a most worthwhile way to spend one Saturday a year. We encourage all lake dwellers or visitors to consider attending. Sign up early as participant numbers are limited.

By Kate Williams

Make sure to check out the Calendar Page on our web site for all the event listings around the lakes.

LDFLA's New Website

This past fall the board approved funding for a new web site. We had two goals in mind for elaborating our site. One, establish faster communication with our membership, and two, reduce the mailing costs and time that we currently face in sending information out to our members. The new site is being done in two phases. The first phase should be launched in the coming weeks. The new site will be easier to navigate and keep you well informed of what the LDFLA is doing and has to offer.

Phase two of the project will be incorporating our membership database. Members

will be able to login to the site and make dues payments online via credit card. We will also be offering all of our normal mailings available through email. We hope all of you will make the move to our electronic system to help the LDFLA become a "Greener" organization. We hope to have phase two completed in the coming months.

The site will also be managing an email distribution list. After the flooding of last summer, we feel that sending out urgent messages via email will keep you best informed during uncertain times.

If you do not have computer access or wish not to receive our information electronically, you need to do nothing. You will continue to get our mailings through the Postal Service. Please be certain to *clearly print* your current email address on your Membership Form so we can send updates when we go to our electronic system.

The web address will stay the same at www.ldfla.com. We hope you enjoy the new site!

By Liam Powers

Wanna be a "VIP"?

Or would you just like to be informed? Vermont Invasive Patrollers provide the first line of defense against harmful invasive species that can threaten the ecology and recreational potential of our lakes and rivers. VIPs receive training in how to identify and distinguish between native and invasive aquatic plants and animals. Each summer, VIPs monitor their local water bodies and report results to Vermont DEC. Newly detected invasive species can

be responded to immediately, before the new invaders can have a chance to become well established. We can request a local workshop if we have enough interested participants. A basic VIP training workshop takes about 4 hours and consists of a 2 hour indoor session with slide presentation and an introduction to native and invasive plant and animal identification. Then there is a 2 hour field session on the water. If this interests you **PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL**

ASAP

John Ebert 802-352-9392
j_ebert@hotmail.com

For more information, or to register for scheduled workshop ,visit www.vtwaterquality.org

By John Ebert



LDFLA Year End Members Picnic Sunday, August 30th At Keewaydin

Milfoil Control Program

Plans are well underway for this summer's program. Collin Thompkins, Nate Bierschenk, and Will Pitkin will be returning. We will be adding three more staff members to bring the team total to six. This is an increase over prior seasons which we believe is necessary due to the year over year plant increases that have been experienced. Our plan will also include assignment of specific areas to be monitored by our Shoreline Watch network of volunteers. The area needing ongoing monitoring will be identified in early June and we will be contacting those who may be interested helping shortly thereafter.

Our crew will be starting the first week of June and we plan to hit the ground

running. The dock has been installed, (thank you Lee and Camp Keewaydin Crew) the SCUBA equipment has been tested and certified, and the boats will be launched the last week of May. We want to be very aggressive early on to get to the plants before they really take hold.

We did have some disappointing news from the State. Our grant request increased as a result of adding two much needed positions but the support from the State decreased to just over half of what we received last year. Our funding from the State this year will be just over \$12,000 as compared to \$22,000 in support last year. As of the timing of this update I have not had the opportunity to talk to the State and plan to do so

in the very near future.

With the expansion of our crew, the returning staff and the support of the Shoreline Watch volunteers we will be well positioned to keep the Milfoil under control. If you are willing to help with this years Shoreline Watch monitoring program please email me your contact information at awilsonski@yahoo.com. It's fun and very important in helping the crews get to the plants before they have a chance to multiply.

By Allen Wilson

LDFLA Annual Meeting on Monday, July 6th at 7p.m

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