

Spring 2007

Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association



Letter From the President

By: Lynda Rheume

Winter on the lake is beautiful, and I enjoy watching ice fishermen, skaters and families playing hockey, but there is nothing like the feeling of when summer reaches Vermont. Swimming, kayaking, and boating, all welcome the seasonal campers back to the area. The last few years the lake association has taken on the project of creating an events calendar that is posted around the lake region. I hope you have seen the calendar in the past and perhaps scheduled a few activities based on the information on the calendar.

Early arrivers will want to know about Brandon Town Players Skit Night on June 22 and 23 at Otter Valley, and the VSO Pops Concert

on June 28 in Middlebury. July brings the boat parade around Lake Dunmore, always fun, sponsored by Kampersville, fire-works on the lake and in Brandon, the Brandon Town Parade and day long activities, guided tours of Shard Villa in Salisbury, Flea Market in Leicester, and Festival on the Green in Middlebury.

The calendar is just being compiled, so if you have an event that you would like posted, please email me at lynrheume@comcast.net. We reserve the right to edit or choose not to include the information if space is too limited.

While we are referring to our calendars, make sure you note our annual

meeting, which is always held the first Monday after the 4th of July. This year's date is July 9th, at Salisbury Congregational Church, registration beginning at 6:30. The meeting will be called to order at 7:00 PM. New member directories will be available at the meeting.

Welcome back! If you have questions or comments to share with the trustees of your Lake Association please contact anyone of us listed within this newsletter. With your input and help, we will continue to keep our lakes clean, safe and enjoyable for years to come. Thank you for choosing to be a part of this caring group of residents and homeowners.

Water Quality

By: Paula Wilson

As spring approaches, some of us have yard cleanup and sprucing up projects to accomplish. With that in mind, I would like to suggest some ways we can minimize negative impacts with regard to the water quality of our beautiful lake. The biggest influence on water quality in Vermont lakes is phosphorus. Phosphorus is a fertilizer promoting plant growth in lakes just as it does on land. Lakes can become over fertilized and will produce excess amounts of algae. Algae turns water green, reduces water transparency, depletes the oxygen supply and smells bad. Higher amounts of phosphorus run off developed land than undisturbed woodland. This phosphorus comes from eroded soil,

lawn fertilizers, road dust, clippings and yard debris, pet droppings, motor oil, septic system effluent and other sources. We can all help reduce the amounts of phosphorus entering the lake by reducing the amount of surface runoff by maintaining a buffer strip along lake shores, stream beds and road ditches. An undisturbed buffer strip of 100 feet is suggested with more on poor soils or steep slopes. This is not realistic for many of us. That being said, any amount of added native shrubs and trees will help protect the water quality of our lake. Leaving existing rocks, especially large rocks along the shore line, will also help by diffusing wave action. Care should be taken

so that leaves, branches, fertilizers or any other kind of organic matter do not enter the lake. It is always helpful to try and educate our neighbors in matters of water quality, as they may not know what's best for the lake.

As in previous years, we will continue to do our annual and weekly testing of water quality at various sites around the lake and will post the results on our web site. Happy planting, and as always, I welcome your questions and input.

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

Our 2007 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 is approved. The gross budgeted cost for 2007 is of \$55, 514.00. 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 consistent with recent years. We will 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 third year with us. New crew members so far will include Will Pitkin and Nate Bier Shank. Will has been getting his SCUBA certification over the winter, and Nate is already SCUBA certified. Returning crewmember Isaac Harris and Will Per-

rini will work in June only. Isaac has joined the Navy and is reporting to training in July, and Will Perrini will be working for Keewaydin Camps starting in late June.

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 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 to us at the annual picnic in the end of Au-

gust.

The milfoil program office and dock will again be located at Camp Songadeewin of Keewaydin, located off Rustic Lane and West Shore Road in Salisbury. Thanks again to Camp Keewaydin for their valuable contribution of lakefront facilities. Thanks also for the contributions from the towns of Leicester and Salisbury, as well as 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

At long last, mosquito control funding is being dealt with in the current state legislature. LDFLA board member Shawn Banfield provided the details of the various bills and budget information in her Legislative Report elsewhere in this newsletter, but I'd like to comment briefly on some of the implications for us. The state budget for the upcoming year passed with \$400,000 included for larviciding. This is a larger amount than has been available in the past and it is funded differently than before. The Senate and House bills are based on the current procedures the state has used with the two existing insect control districts. Although the details are still being worked out, it is certain that legislation similar to what is being discussed will be passed, as it is needed to allocate the budgeted funds to the different insect control districts. The legislation will also codify how new dis-

tricts are to be formed. As a pre-existing district, our BLSG district should not see any changes for now, although this may have some effect in the future if it's determined that a more regional approach (by county or ecosystem, for example) is desired. What is of especial interest right now is the reduction of state grants to a maximum of 75% instead of the 100% the district has received in the past, coupled with the provision allowing for up to 25% in in-kind services. All of BLSG's adulticide costs will be eligible as in-kind services, enabling the district to continue to receive 100% of the cost of larviciding. This assumes there is sufficient money in the LDFLA bank account, of course, and, while we should be set for the upcoming fiscal year, it is something we will have to watch carefully from year to year. However, with the new procedures soon to be in place, we are in better shape than

we have been in a long while.

Please take note of the names of the sponsoring senators and representatives Shawn mentioned in her report and thank them if you have the chance. I'd like to say a special thank-you to Representative Joe Acinapura who worked very hard for us in the Appropriations Committee to have the additional funding included in the final version of the budget that was passed. And, as always, I thank Jon Turmel for his commitment to seeing that the mosquito control job gets done right.

== **Mosquito Information Line: 247-6779** ==

Keep this number handy for the latest information about mosquito conditions and spraying schedules or to leave a message for the District Coordinator.

As I write this report the legislature is still in session; therefore, unless otherwise noted these issues are reported as I know them in mid-April.

Mosquito Control

Mosquito control funding for fiscal year 2008 has been budgeted at an amount of \$400,000. S.37 was introduced in the Senate, by Senators Ayer of Addison, Campbell of Windsor and Giard of Addison, to provide authority for any two or more municipalities to create a joint municipal survey committee. This passed the Senate. The House then amended the Senate bill so that there would be an evaluation of whether or not a more regional approach to the establishment of mosquito controls Districts makes sense. LDFLA continues to be concerned about the formation of additional MCD's who will compete for limited state resources to combat mosquitoes. But the bill also addresses how a MCD applies for a state assistance grant. These grants can provide for 75% or less of the overall needs and allows for in-kind services to total 25% in order to offset the MCD's program costs.

A companion bill, H.39 was also introduced by Representatives Jewett of Rip-ton, Acinapura of Brandon, Bray of New

Haven, Maier of Middlebury, Nuovo of Middlebury and Potter of Clarendon.

Regulation of State Waters

H.73, introduced by Representative David Deen, D-Westminster, is legislation that intends to regulate classified state waters and further regulate point source discharges into waters of the state. The bill passed the House on March 22, 2007. It is unclear whether further action will be taken on this legislation, but LDFLA will continue to monitor these types of initiatives.

Property Tax

The Vermont General Assembly passed legislation in the context of Act 68 that requires an annual adjustment be made to the state property tax rates in order to meet education spending needs. Currently, Vermont statute sets the residential rate at \$1.10/\$100 of property value and the commercial/non-residential rate at \$1.59/\$100 of property value. This session, legislators are poised to reduce the statewide residential property tax rate to 89-cents/\$100 and the commercial/non-residential rate to \$1.38/\$100.

It is unclear whether or not Governor Douglas' proposal to cap local school

spending at 3% will see final action.

The following bills have not received any formal action, but LDFLA will continue to monitor these types of initiatives: Municipal Waterfront Buffers - H.297 is legislation introduced by Representatives Bill Johnson, R-Canaan and David Deen, D-Westminster, which intends to require, effective July 1, 2012, that 15-foot of vegetative buffer zones must be established adjacent to public waters of the state. Placement of Water Skiing Courses - H.45 is a bill that proposes to require the natural resources board to adopt rules regarding the use of the public waters for water-skiing courses. Triathlons - H.57, introduced by Representatives Maier of Middlebury and Nuovo of Middlebury, is legislation that proposes to remove triathlons from the events required to obtain public safety approval. Discharges from Vessels - H.208 is a bill that proposes to clarify that rinse water from showers and sinks on board vessels operated on the waters of Vermont shall discharge to a holding tank and not to state waters. It was introduced by Representatives Keogh of Burlington, Cheney of Norwich, Fitzgerald of St. Albans City, Godin of Milton, Johnson of South Hero, Pillsbury of Brattleboro, Trombley of Grand Isle, Weston of Burlington and Wright of Burlington.

Nominations

By: Neil Mackey

Your board of trustees will have one position to fill at our annual meeting in July. Actually there are 2 other trustees' terms expiring, but the current members have agreed to serve another term. The board is most interested in finding a new board member who has an interest in serving as chair of our award winning milfoil program. This person ideally will live on the lake and has flexibility in their daily summer schedule to oversee our milfoil crew. Our current chair has one year remaining on his term and would provide the necessary training to the new trustee this summer. Please contact me if you have an interest or know of someone who might have an interest. The individual provides

a vital role to our membership. Keeping the lakes virtually free of milfoil is a key component to everyone's continued enjoyment of these bodies of water. I can be contacted by email at come-tovt@yahoo.com or call me at 388-9836 x234.

I sadly report that Point Counterpoint Music Camp has decided to close their doors. The closing will leave a big void to the concert series at the Salisbury Congo Church where the Camp Staff, all professional musicians, entertained so many lake dwellers for so many years with their wonderful chamber music concerts. The property is for sale and there is a group of individuals who would like to keep the camp going and are attempting to form a

non-profit organization to make this happen. If you know of anyone who might like to be involved please have them contact me at above contact info.

My View of the Lake

By: Susan Patterson

This March week I went to check on my Lake Dunmore camp, or more exactly, on the extended family of mice caught in the traps set all around the kitchen/eating area. Their stiff, little swollen carcasses seemed smaller than the last time I had been there, but I still couldn't look them in the eye, much less touch them. They will have to wait there, frozen in time and position, until true Spring in at least another month, when my husband will go with me to open up camp, and he, my strong, manly savior, will remove them from their traps to the compost leaf pile.

I don't blame the mice for risking life and limb to be inside my Dancing Pines camp. It's a haven for me as well, and I would consider it a blessing to draw my last breath there, perhaps lying on the porch daybed, still smelling the sweet water and hearing a haunting loon call, even as my other senses fade away. But it's not necessary to talk of end of life issues in considering how to make the most of time at the lakes. There are so many ways to be a part of the community of lake dwellers around Fern Lake and Lake Dunmore. As I was editing last Fall's newsletter, I learned about a boat flotilla that cruises Lake Dunmore from the west shore every Wednesday night,

picking up neighbors and adding new friends to the sunset mix. I can't wait to call for a pick-up and turn on a green light at the end of my dock? (Call John Ebert to be part of "Toon Tuesday".)

Since we all face the water, we sometimes fail to reach out on either side to get to know others on our road or lane. After spending a decade of summers at my camp, I still mostly played with friends from home who drive down from Burlington on nice days or come for weekends. I wondered how I could get to better know others who live near me - and get invited to some of the campfires and parties going on along my side of the lake which I'd spy on while canoeing by. My husband suggested I get onto the LDFL Association Board, but that seemed difficult, even though I faithfully attended the annual meeting and socials, since I didn't know members of the board. Then, I saw a notice in the LDFLA newsletter for people interested in serving to contact a board member. I did, and we found that my desires and the board's needs at that time were a match. During the last two years, I've felt much more a part of my lake community as I've gotten to know the very dedicated board members who contribute consid-

erably of their time, talents and skills to our organization and keeping our lakes healthy and safe. That energy always needs support and expansion, so once again, the board is asking for interested homeowners to contact our president or the head of any of our committees to express their interest. In fact, joining a committee is probably the best way to contribute while learning what the duties of a board member are and getting to know others who also care for and enjoy any lake job. This board is always looking for ways to be more inclusive of members and all our interests, while keeping our charge to preserve and improve the health of our lakes and their recreational opportunities paramount.

Does sharing our lakes include hosting wild mice that only wish to stay a bit warmer and fuller while lasting out the deep freeze of a Vermont winter? If they'd just stay out of our insulation, I might entertain the idea of embracing a larger view of our natural lakes community! Any of this winter's crop that have escaped my death traps, will soon feel the warmth of the sun through the porch French doors, and wiggle their little bodies out the same pinholes they found to come inside last fall. Then the place will be mine again!

Membership

By: Lynne Peck

Enclosed with this newsletter is your dues requests for 2007. We always appreciate the support we get and want to remind you that every membership counts. We rely on voluntary contributions to fund our on-going care of the lakes. Last year, we were able to purchase and donate two trucks to the Mosquito Control District. We have also been able to set aside money to ensure the continued success of

our award winning milfoil program. Milfoil and mosquitoes will be with us this year and many years to come, so please help us, help you, and become a member. **Special thanks to those who go above and beyond with contributions in excess of requested dues.**

We will be printing a new directory this spring that will correspond with the exist-

ing map. The directories will be distributed at the annual meeting. We still have maps available. Please contact Lynne Peck, lynnpeck@gmavt.net for maps and /or questions regarding membership or finance.

We are hoping for an increase in membership. Together we can make a difference, now and for the future. Thank you for your support and happy summer!

Dates to Remember

Annual Meeting
July 9, 2007, 7 p.m.
Salisbury Congregational Church

Boating Safety Course
June 23, 2007
Middlebury American Legion

Annual Picnic
August 26, 2007, 5 p.m.
Camp Keewaydin

Social Committee

By: Steve Kellogg

March came in like a lion and like the rest of us found it a great place to be. As of mid-April she's still here. It would appear that some people are getting ready for summer and all the wonderful social things the lake has to offer a little too soon. [see picture on right] Otherwise not much to report. The annual meeting will be held on July 9th at the Salisbury Congregational Church, and our annual picnic at Keewaydin on August 26th. We all look forward to seeing you again.



Water Safety

By: Tom Scanlon

Welcome back to the lake after the March (and April) winds and snow. Once again this year, the LDFLA is offering a one day Safe Boating Course to be instructed by the Vermont State Police Department. This year it is being run in conjunction with the Middlebury Recreation Department (802-388-8103). The course, for those 12 years of age or older, will be on Saturday, June 23rd from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM at the Middlebury American Legion located directly behind G. Stone Motors on Route 7 in Middlebury. There is a \$15 course fee, per person, which is due at the time of registration which is through the above indicated recreation department. A light lunch, and beverages will be made available. A registration form can be found at the Middlebury

website (www.middlebury.govoffice.com) and by going to Recreation Programs on the site index. This form, when completed, can be mailed back to the Middlebury Recreation Office at 94 Main Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753 with a check. Seating is limited, so don't delay. This is the only one day course being offered locally.

There was increased coverage on the lake last year by the Vermont State Police. Fish & Wildlife Wardens were often present and dealt with boating violations as well as their other duties. The most common boating violation is failure to have the proper personal flotation devices (PDF). Check in the Vermont Boating Handbook (available online at

<http://www.boat-ed.com/vt/handbook> or at Kampersville) for a complete description of the various classes of flotation devices required for boating on Vermont lakes. Also, check the Handbook for other current boating laws such as the minimum age for operating a motorboat or personal watercraft, rules for towing a skier, and creating a wake. Lake Dunmore gets busy with all kinds of boats on beautiful summer weekend days. Be sure to operate your boat cautiously and watch out for kayaks, canoes, and sailboats which cannot change course quickly and would be easily overturned by large wakes. And, most important, always watch the water carefully for swimmers. We want everyone enjoying our lakes to be safe.

4th of July Fireworks

By: Tim Tadlock

Greetings friends and neighbors! Camp Keewaydin would like to inform the public of a change in the presentation of the Lake Dunmore 4th of July fireworks. Due to rising safety concerns we have chosen to hire a professional pyrotechnic company. Their safety regulations have required us to move the point of ignition from Keewaydin (our boys camp) on the

northeast side of the lake, to Songadeewin (the girls camp) on the northwest side of the lake. The company has also asked us to inform the public that boats need to stay at least three hundred feet off shore from the ignition area. Please help us to meet these requests so we can continue to ensure a safe holiday for many years to come.



If you would like to contribute to our Fall newsletter, please email us at newsletter@lakedunmorevt.com or write to the LDFLA at P.O. Box 14, Salisbury, VT, 05769. Please let us know by September 15th, 2007 if you would care to contribute. Thank you!

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