

Spring 2016



## Reflections from the Lakes

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

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### Save the Date

**Annual  
Community  
Picnic**

**August 28 • 4-7 pm**  
*Songadeewin*

**Annual Meeting**  
**July 11th • 7:00 pm**  
*Salisbury*

*Congregational Church*

# Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association

PO Box 14 Salisbury, Vermont 05769

[www.ldfla.com](http://www.ldfla.com)

### Message from the President by Chip Paison

Hello members, property owners and friends of the lakes. I hope that you had a wonderful winter. I don't know about you, but I'm really, really, really looking forward to summer on the lake. I've already got my docks in the water!

This newsletter is chock full of articles about what your trustees and volunteers have been doing off-season to strengthen the association, and help us achieve our mission to protect and enhance the natural vitality of Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake. I am so proud to work with such a dedicated and talented group of people, who are so willing to go above and beyond in pursuit of projects and the related problem solving! I encourage you to read the entire newsletter, think about how you might want to get involved in our efforts and express your gratitude to those working on these projects.

As you know, this past fall and winter season was one of the mildest on record. This presented significant challenges in one of our primary fund raising events, the Dunmore Dip. The premature ice out resulted in low participation. Congrats to Mike Korkuc who most closely guessed when the ice-out would occur and won \$428. More importantly, Mike was awarded the Julie Nicholson Citizen Scientist of the year award by the Vermont Center for Eco-studies!

The mild autumn further exacerbated the already difficult challenge of controlling Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). The growth continued long into the fall after our harvesting ended on September 15th. Mother nature is not supporting our extraordinary efforts to try get to a status of managing milfoil growth, rather than always racing to catch up. As all members are aware, we're anxiously waiting to hear from the state Department of Environmental Conservation if our milfoil inhibiting herbicide permit will be issued for the lakes. Without this method to combine with our other efforts, we stand little chance of abating this noxious weed that is devastating our lakes.

Our other battle is Communications – how to best stay connected with all of you! In addition to these newsletters and emails on timely matters, which everyone enjoys, the committee has been working extremely hard this winter to implement a new website and member management system in time for the coming season. Read the article “Staying in touch with you” in this newsletter to see how you can become more connected to the community. Pay attention to the insert which accompanies the newsletter and follow the instructions on the sheet for becoming a member or renewing membership. Twenty-nine percent of our revenue to operate the LDFLA comes from member dues, so please join! Your membership is critically important to help us stave off the EWM infestation and enhance our lakes.

*continued on page 2*

## Message from the President

*continued from page 1*

You may be surprised (I was) to know that our Facebook page has been viewed favorably. Thanks primarily to Mike Korkuc for his regular posts with pictures from the community including Ashley Wolff, Kathy Dick, Rosie Spahn, and others. The Facebook page averages about 180 views per posting, the maximum was 1283, a photo of lightning strike last summer. This is a great format for sharing and exchanging information. I encourage you to explore and like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LDFLA.VT/>.

A highlight for me during the off-season is the increased involvement of our members in support the association. As an example, when you review the new website you'll see the fantastic work of the IT team – Jim Bosman, Joan Gamble, Jason Meyersburg, Mike Waggoner and me. I'd like to give a special shout-out to Jason Meyersburg who single handedly designed the website, saving us thousands of dollars. Further, we should acknowledge the tireless efforts of Jay Michael for his breadth of activities supporting the organization, now to include lake side weather updates (from a location adjacent to the start of the ski course)! I could go on and on with my overflowing gratitude to the multitude of people involved, instead, I encourage you to check out "Taking care of LDFLA business" article to get a sense of all the work done by volunteers.

As usual, there are some annual events you want to get in your calendar now:

The annual picnic tradition will be continued, as Songadeewin has invited the association back for the end of season event on August 28, 2016 from 4-7 PM! (You can read more about this in the social activities article.)

As usual, the annual meeting is the Monday after July 4th, this year July 11th, 7:00pm at Salisbury Congregational Church.

Thank you for reading and I hope you find many ways to engage in our wonderful lakes community. I'm looking forward to seeing you on, in or by the water this summer!

## Of Things Social by Marion Bauer

Spring has come to the Lakes so we are reviewing the social events enjoyed by so many last season and planning the events for this season. Last August, our friends and neighbors enjoyed the largest and most vibrant picnic so far. The later afternoon timeframe seemed to serve many well and we saw the most families with children present in many years. The First Annual Golf Outing was a hit and will be offered again this August. The night time photography class was a great success and another photography class is in the planning for this year.

Sarah Voigt and I met with Ellen Flight, Director of Camp Songadeewin of Keewaydin to set the date for the Picnic for this year. We will be their guests on **August 28, 2016 from 4-7 PM**. (Mark your calendars so you don't miss the fun!) Wonderful music, delicious hors d'oeuvres and grilled picnic fare await you. Adam LaPerle coordinates the liquid refreshments and Duncan Rollason heads up the band arrangements. We are grateful to the generous vendors who donated tasty treats or items for the silent auction last year and hope they will be so generous this year.

Matt Brush, Jed Malcolm and Jeff Benton are making the arrangements for the Second Annual Golf Outing. Those details will be made available on our website events page and Facebook as soon as they are set. The Outing was a great success last August at Neshobe Golf Course. We're making some exciting additions for the Outing this August to make it fun and appealing to an even wider audience. Stay tuned.

We will coordinate with the Salisbury Conservation Commission (SCC) again this year as we arrange for another Photography Course. We are pleased to announce that Jenny Juneo Mullen is the new liaison from LDFLA to the SCC so she will help us with this combined social event. Check the web site events or Facebook for the time, date and theme for this Photography course.

To add to our enjoyment this summer we have the calendar of Point Counterpoint Music Camp concerts, see below. Camp Director, Jenny Beck also asks if there are those in our community who might like to offer a bedroom/bath for a visiting musician in exchange for an intimate personalized concert for the host et al. If you have space, please call Jenny Beck at 267-886-5359 for further details.

As always, we welcome ideas and comments to better enrich your season on the lakes. Let us know of any creative thoughts you have!

### Point Counterpoint Concert Calendar

#### ***New Music on the Point Final Concerts at the Salisbury Congregational Church***

Friday, June 17, 7:30 PM

Saturday, June 18, 1:30 PM

#### ***Point Counter Point Final Concerts***

Friday, July 15, 7 P , Brandon Town Hall

Saturday, July 16, 1 PM, Salisbury Congregational Church

Friday, August 5, 7 PM, Brandon Baptist Church

Saturday, August 6, Salisbury Congregational Church

Saturday August 20, 1 PM, Salisbury Congregational Church

Saturday, August 27, 1 PM, Salisbury Congregational Church

#### ***Faculty Concerts***

Friday, July 8, 7:30 PM, Salisbury Congregational Church

Tuesday, July 26, 7:30 PM Middlebury Town Hall Theater

Friday, August 12, 7:30 PM, Salisbury Congregational Church

Friday, September 2, 7:30 Middlebury Congregational Church

## Meet Your Trustees

Greetings from your board of trustees! As you have seen in our newsletters, we have been introducing to you, a few at a time, the trustees you have elected or who have been appointed to lead this wonderful organization. We hope you enjoy getting to know all of us! We can tell you, we have enjoyed getting to know all of you through working with the LDFLA. This month, we formally introduce to you Jim Meyersburg, Brian Pray, and Peter Hare.

Please feel free to check our website where you will find bios and photographs of all current trustees, so you can put faces to names! Also, please feel free to contact any one of us at any time with questions, concerns, suggestions, and best of all offers to assist! All of our contact information can be found right here in this newsletter. We look forward to working with all of you!

### Pete Hare



Pete Hare is the current Executive Director of the Keewaydin Foundation. Keewaydin operates two summer camps on Lake Dunmore, Keewaydin Dunmore for boys on the north end of the lake, and Songadeewin for girls, on the west shore. Attending Keewaydin as a boy, he has spent nearly every summer of his life on Lake Dunmore. Before joining Keewaydin full time, he taught Spanish and history at the Episcopal Academy in Philadelphia and the American School of Madrid in Spain. During the fall and winter months, Pete lives with his wife, Diane, in Middlebury, VT. They have three grown children, all of whom remain active at the camps.

### Jim Meyersburg



Jim has been coming to Lake Dunmore for 65 years. His grandfather bought his family's camp in the early thirties and it has served four generations. Jim's family built a new house on the property in 2013, with the intent of eventually living there year round. Jim spent most of his life in suburban Washington DC, married Jane and had a son, Jason. He started a mobile electronics business which eventually became a small local chain. He sold it after 27 years then moved to Florida to care for his father.

Jim has always been interested in anything mechanical and has always been drawn to the water, so he apprenticed with a yacht company and eventually started a small boat service. He also teaches disabled people sailing with Freedom Waters Foundation, a local charity in Florida.

Jim joined LDFLA in 2014 to manage the milfoil effort. Jim credits his predecessor Allen Wilson on a fantastic job establishing the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) group and Jim has used his skills to expand the committee to utilize the wealth of talent he's found here on the lakes. The group is exploring every possible method to control the milfoil and prevent other invasive species. Jim loves these lakes and his main goal is to return them to the state they were in when he was growing up.

### Brian Pray



Brian has been connected to Lake Dunmore for 44 years. Growing up, he spent entire summers at Waterhouses, and in most recent years has been a seasonal renter there, waiting for the right opportunity to become a homeowner on the lake. (Happily, it looks as if this will become a reality in the new few months!) Brian has been an Associate Member of the LDFLA and generously donated to the Lakes Alive Campaign, even though he was not a homeowner. He has established many local long-lasting relationships to assist with his work with the LDFLA. A resident of Westfield, MA, Brian is the former President of the Devon Manor Homeowners' Association (consisting of 110 homes). Brian has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Westfield State University and has been employed for more than 25 years in the Aerospace Industry with United Technologies Corporation. There he has served as Manufacturing Engineering Associate, Chief of Manufacturing Control, Program Operations Manager, Program Manager for International Programs, and currently is the Director of Supply Chain for the Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Space Systems Business Unit, managing more than 100 associates at 10 United States and International locations. The Supply Chain group under Brian's direction is responsible for more than \$500,000,000 of the business' revenue. Brian can usually be found in his boat out on the water. He is passionate about preserving the lake's water quality and is eager to lend assistance wherever he is able.

# Aquatic Invasive Species Report

by Jim Meyersburg, Chair

Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake have always been pristine jewels. Beneath the surface, though, is a growing problem. As we are all aware, an invasive plant, Eurasian Water Milfoil, has taken root, and presents a challenge to control.

Over a decade ago, the LDFLA began a dedicated milfoil control program that has steadily expanded to keep up with the growth. As you are aware, we implemented a very successful concerted funding effort, Lakes Alive, to feed the growing milfoil control program. By last year, the program consisted of four large floating harvester machines manned by a crew of twenty divers and workers. They worked diligently all summer, and yet were unable to keep up with the growth.

There are many reasons why this is happening, but the bottom line is that our lakes are a perfect environment for this species. The expansion of milfoil appears to be exponential, but our ability to control it by our current means can only expand linearly. As well-funded as we are, using our current methods, we won't keep up.

By no means are we alone. According to the University of Vermont, Eurasian Milfoil is present in 40 states. In Vermont, it is present in 20 percent of all water bodies, mostly those with human activity.

The State's Agency of Natural Resources, which oversees all of our efforts, has accepted our request for an herbicide permit, and will probably grant us permission to use it this year.

Our plans to attack the milfoil this year assume that we will get the permit. There are two major forests of milfoil in Dunmore and a smaller stand in Fern. These and others are the areas that we will target for herbicide. These forests have historically been areas of major effort by the crews, and by eliminating them, we can concentrate more crew activity on new growth elsewhere.

The herbicide Triclopyr has been used for decades for this purpose nationally, with no known side effects. It is specifically targeted to this plant

in this environment and will not affect any other plants or animals. The State's permit is very specific about how it is used and monitored. Triclopyr has a very short half-life, and will be completely out of the water by the time we go swimming this summer.

## ***We still have a lot of work to do to protect our lakes.***

- Three suction harvesting machines and crews will continue to work.
- We encourage homeowners to continue to pick milfoil plants around their docks. (Remember to pull the roots!)
- We will still ask for volunteers to pick up floating fragments. (Organized frag picking parties in kayaks are a great excuse for a gathering!)
- We continue to encourage people driving motor boats to be aware of milfoil outcroppings and avoid them.
- The crews will respond to requests to clean around your docks, just call.

Related to this last point, we have an important request this year: please post your street address on your property in a way visible from the water. That way, the crews will know where to go when called.

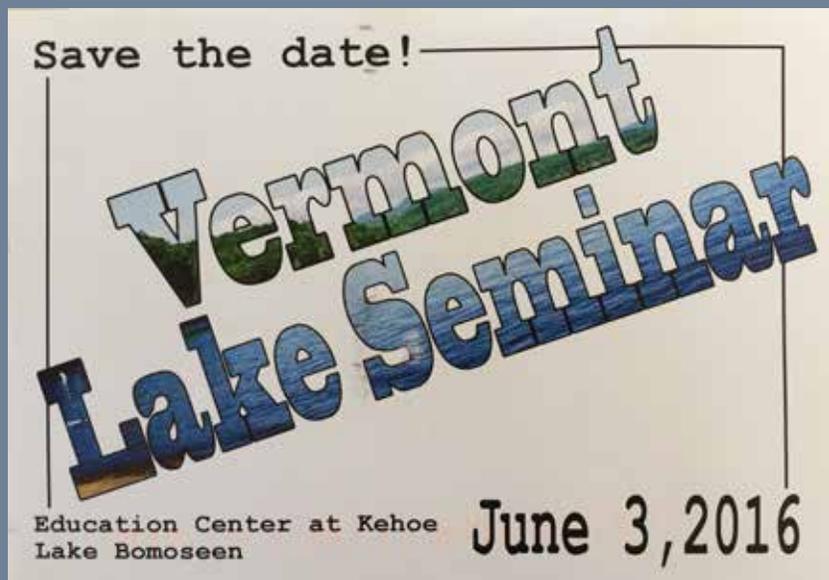
The Magoon launch area on Lake Dunmore will be manned seven days a week this year with greeters who will inspect all boats entering or leaving the lake. They are looking for the many varieties of other invasive species before boats launch and pieces of milfoil when leaving the lake. They are the front line of defense for our lakes and others in the state.

We are hopeful that all these methods will work together to halt the spread of Eurasian Milfoil and give us the upper hand.

**Mosquito  
Hotline  
802-247-6779**

**Are you interested in Shoreline Protection? If so consider attending the Vermont Federation of Lakes and Ponds seminar "From Policy to Action"**

Go to <http://vermontlakes.org/about-us/lake-seminar/> for details.



## The Third Anniversary

by Jay Michael

Here we are just passing midway through our Capital Campaign and there is cause for celebration. No, not another Gala (not yet anyway!), but rather the quiet comfort of a significant community effort progressing toward goals of meeting financial needs and stability today and added operating and/or capital funds for the future. We set high goals, and we have pledges to exceed them. Collections are a little ahead of schedule and we continue to receive added donations. Your faith and commitment has done what some said impossible.

The numbers as of  
March 31, 2016 are  
as follows:

Pledges \$2,266,604.  
Collections \$1,579,979.  
Participants 319 Donors

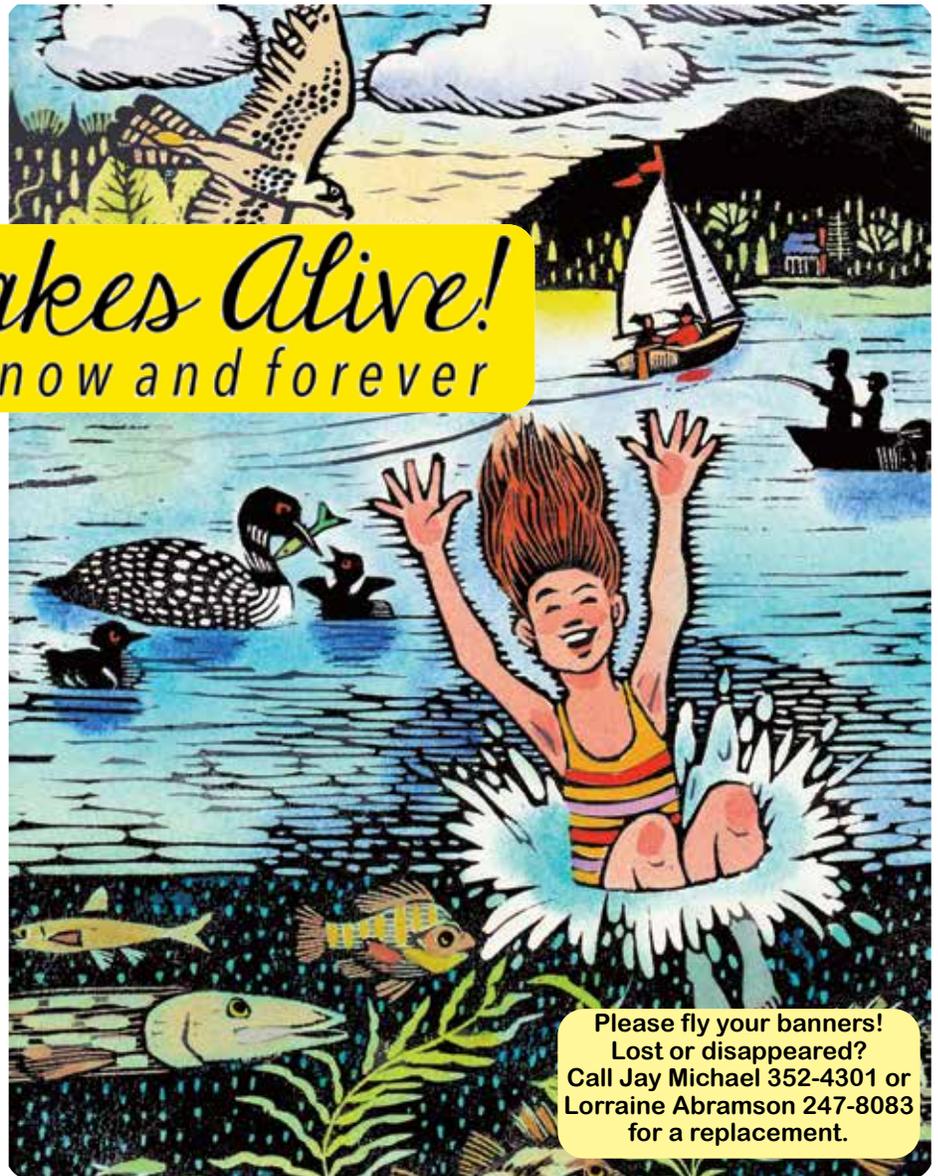
Over the last three years we have covered or defrayed budget shortfalls which totaled \$90,000. These were anticipated back in 2012 (although they were at best, educated guesses). Growing costs and declining state funding are a reality and we planned and dedicated some funds from the campaign to meet this need. In addition we have built an Endowment Fund which just reached \$1 million and a Reserve Fund of \$230,000. These do not make us rich or frivolous, but they do represent meaningful resources to help preserve our lakes. Be proud of what we have collectively achieved. It is great evidence of our love for the lakes and environs and proof of what we can accomplish when we pull together.

*With all this good news, remember your continued support is essential to carry us to our \$2.2 million potential.*

## QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

### **What will the Endowment Fund's income be used for?**

*Answer:* This question was certainly "top of mind" as people made pledges and donations. To address this concern and others the Board submitted a *Resolution to the Membership* in July, 2014 which said in essence, the income from



Lakes Alive!  
now and forever

Please fly your banners!  
Lost or disappeared?  
Call Jay Michael 352-4301 or  
Lorraine Abramson 247-8083  
for a replacement.

the Endowment Fund will be used to provide annual support for operations and/or capital needs to meet the stated goals of preservation of the lakes and surrounding areas. Preservation activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Education and training regarding aquatic invasive species
- Prevention, removal or control of aquatic species
- Control of mosquitoes and other potentially harmful insects
- Water quality testing, reporting and remediation
- Mitigation of excessive pollution or runoff into the lakes
- Activities associated with public safety on or near the water
- Programs to encourage prudent land use and ecologically sound development practices

### **How safe is our money?**

*Answer:* Like life in general, there are few absolute guarantees. However, we are trying for prudent practices and conformance to a law known as the *Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act of Vermont*. (Yes, there is a law to encourage good behavior by Boards such as ours!) Perhaps more to the point, we do have an Advisory Investment Committee which works with and reviews our chosen professional money managers. We have an investment policy document as a guideline for balancing risks and return. And we have a firm commitment to our first rule of investing "Don't lose the money!" Thus we are conservatively invested in quality large cap equities and bonds. Of course any funds held in bank accounts are Federally insured.

## Lake Health and Lawn Care Practices, Finding the Perfect Balance by Jay Thomas



How we care for our lawns can greatly affect the health of our lakes. The good news? There are several best practices for a healthy, vibrant and lake-friendly lawn that are simple and effective.

### **MOWING:**

- Mow high – Set your mower's height to 3" to help drown out weeds and encourage a deeper root system. Healthier turf will help to prevent runoff and erosion.
- Sharpen your mower blades regularly – A dull blade will tear the plant rather than cut it, leading to unhealthy grass.
- Leave the grass clippings on your lawn – This is one of the best things you can do to encourage a healthy lawn. Grass clippings left on your lawn will return nitrogen to the soil in an organic, slow-release form.
- Follow the 1/3 rule – Never mow more than 1/3 of the grass blade at one time. Doing so will result in browning, root death and weed invasion.

### **SOIL HEALTH AND FERTILIZATION:**

- Before considering any chemical treatment or fertilizer, be sure to have your soil tested to determine your property's specific needs. The University of Vermont has a great soil testing program.
- The best FREE, organic fertilizers are grass clippings and compost. When you start with a balanced soil and apply natural products

such as grass clippings and compost regularly, necessary nutrients will typically be replenished in the correct proportions.

- Improper or excessive fertilization is a main source of phosphorus and nitrogen runoff.

### **LAKE-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING:**

- Create a buffer zone between the lake and your property that restores the natural ecosystem function of a shoreline. This buffer zone could be as simple as an un-mowed strip of grass along the shoreline or it could be a more complex project involving native plantings.
- An effective buffer zone should be a minimum of 10 feet wide but larger is preferred.
- A native plant buffer zone will filter pollutants and capture runoff. These degrade water quality and cause excessive algae and invasive species growth.
- Native plants create a beautiful landscape that require minimal maintenance once established.
- Never apply fertilization within the buffer zone.



**It's never too late to join your neighbors in support of Lakes Alive Capital Campaign.**

It will take ALL of us pooling our resources to meet the challenge of Eurasian Milfoil in our waters.

Protect your lake property investment !!

And don't forget to join the Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association. Your membership dues support the effort.

**Lakes Alive Capital Campaign**  
Attention: Jay Michael  
PO Box 14, Salisbury, VT 05769

## Water Safety by Dede Snyder



This is the time of year to make sure you have life jackets that fit your growing families, register your boats, and that those born after January 1, 1974, have taken an “approved boat safety course” if they want to drive your registered motor boat. Check out our new website - <http://www.ldfla.com/> under “Lake Friendly Living” for the

“Boating” information. You will find a direct link to the Vermont safety course and a list of boating regulations.

For current information on some issues that have greatly affected much of our shore line, think and visualize 200 feet. This is the distance boaters need to be from shore, dock, swim area, person in the water, other ves-

sels, or anchorage before they can go more than 5 mph. You must be 200 feet away from our milfoil boat and divers. Do not come closer, please, for the safety of our divers underwater.

A general point of reference for that distance - visualize the distance between the island and closest shore – that is about 100 feet, at most. You want to be twice that distance from the shore or harvesters. If you are slowly motoring around the lake, 5 mph with no wake, you can go closer to the shore and take a good look at the shore line. What you’ll notice is a lot of the shoreline is being undermined by waves created by those water skiing, wake boarding, or just traveling too close and too fast to shore.

So, think of the safety of those swimming and boating near you and whether you would want to have your shoreline undercut and fall into the lake before you speed away from your dock and take your passengers or skiers too close to the shores and to others in the water.

As always, be safe, and be considerate and we will all have fun on the lake.

## Membership by Rich Dahlgren

Thank you all who have been regular members to the association. Thanks also to those who made additional donations! Your dues and contributions help support, among other things: milfoil removal, mosquito control, shoreline protection, water quality, legislative issues, water safety, and community outreach and activities.

Now is the time to pay for your 2016 membership (either to renew or join for the first time). There are several benefits associated with membership, including:

- *Discounts from local businesses*
- *Regular updates from the association*
- *The ability to vote on association matters*
- *Membership directory (hardcopy booklet and now electronic)*
- *Attendance to our fun annual community picnic with food, music and libations*
- *A 2016 dock tag*
- *Doing your part to support our community and the preservation of our lakes*

New members also receive a four-foot color map of the lakes showing all the roads, camps and lake topography.

You can either make your payment in our new member management system by following the instructions in the insert included in this newsletter, or you can send a check (\$75 for residential members, \$50 for associate members and \$175 for commercial members) along with the insert to LDFLA, PO Box 14, Salisbury, VT 05769.

We’re excited to introduce our new member management information system! Please read the insert in this newsletter and follow the instructions to help us maintain the most accurate information about our members and to efficiently process your membership dues. It’s been challenging to keep track of some properties with multiple owners and property transfers, so it’s critical we hear from everyone. One of the advantages of our new system is that you will be able to update your own contact information online and include nuances associated with your membership including multiple household members.

Thank you again for supporting the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association. Success requires participation of our entire community and beyond. As the saying goes, “It takes a village”.

## Don't Let Mosquitos Ruin Your Fun! by Pete Hare

Summer is right around the corner and that means Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake residents, whether they be year-round or summer, are getting ready to put in docks, clean off boats and enjoy summer on their lakes! At this time of year, we always wonder "How are the mosquitos going to be this summer?" For those of us who have been around for many years, we know the futility of trying to make an accurate guess! Last year we suffered the "May Massacre" weekend, when mosquitos descended on the lakes in clouds, seeming to portend a summer of swatting misery. After that weekend, however, with exception of a two week stretch in July, the mosquito population around the lake was at below average levels for the summer. Leicester and Salisbury are located in areas that are conducive to mosquito breeding, so we do need to be prepared.

Fortunately, Leicester and Salisbury are two of the member towns of the Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury and Goshen Insect Control District (a.k.a. BLSG), a municipal district "whose goal is to minimize the impact of mosquitos on the citizens of its member towns with as little environmental impact as possible." Beginning in April, the BLSG larvicide coordinator has been measuring the amount of mosquito larvae in shallow standing water around the edges of wetlands, flooded fields or floodplains and, when warranted by larvae density, applying an organic larvicide (*Bacillus thuringiensis*, or Bt) that closely targets mosquito larvae with little to no environmental impact. During the summer, BLSG applicators spray adulticides (designed to kill adult mosquitos) along public right of ways when mosquitos reach nuisance levels.

The BLSG has recently applied for a state grant to help fund the purchase of an Argo vehicle. An Argo is an amphibious vehicle which, by virtue of its ability to penetrate deep into flooded fields and floodplains, would greatly enhance the BLSG's efforts to measure mosquito larvae and apply larvicide. The BLSG is currently in the process of receiving bids for an Argo. The LDF-LA and Keewaydin have agreed to help with the funding of an Argo.

### ***A few important things to know:***

If you wish to report a mosquito problem where you live, call 802-247-6779 and speak to a representative who will forward your information to our spray coordinator.

If you are having a large gathering such as a wedding, graduation, family reunion or the like, and would like an application of adulticide, call 802-247-6779 at least 4 days ahead and an applicator will try to treat your area the evening before, conditions permitting.

If you wish to "Opt Out" (i.e. not have your property treated by larvicide or adulticide), please send a written request annually to BLSG, PO Box 188 Brandon, VT 05733. Please provide your 911 address and a property map which delineates your property boundaries on the public right of way. A representative from the board will contact you to assist in marking your property as a no spray zone.

As lake residents, we can play our role in reducing mosquitos by emptying stagnant water in gutters, old tires, or flower pots—prime environments for mosquito breeding.

While the mosquito borne diseases West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis can occur in Vermont, they are very rare. When mosquitos are out, where insect repellent or long sleeved clothing.

The range of mosquitos that carry the Zika virus does not reach Vermont.

For more information about mosquitos and the BLSG, visit the very informative BLSG website, <https://blsgmosquito.wordpress.com/>

## Overall Financial Health by Jim Cunningham

The overall financial health of the Association remains in very good shape thanks in large part to the generous support of our members. It's critical that we remain strong financially as the battle to control the spread of Eurasian Milfoil continues to escalate.

Our financial results in 2015 were slightly better than anticipated; however, it was somewhat of a mixed blessing. As you may recall we had planned on using \$141,000 from our reserve fund (replenished from the Lakes Alive campaign) to augment our operating budget, when in fact we needed to use \$80,000. The primary reasons were personnel and equipment related. We simply weren't able to attract and retain the number of people we'd hoped to form our milfoil crews. In addition, we lost some time on the water due to mechanical issues with the milfoil harvesting boats. So while we didn't spend as much as projected; we also didn't have a full complement of staff and equipment to attack the milfoil.

We have established and the Board has approved a preliminary budget for 2016. It is only preliminary at this time because we don't have enough information about what the State Aquatic Invasive Species Grant will be this year and whether our Aquatic Pesticide Permit will be granted. Our budget assumes approval of our Pesticide application and a grant from the state equal to what was received last year - \$55,000. If these budget estimates are realized, we project using \$76,000 from our reserve to augment our operating budget. Our Lakes Alive capital campaign was designed to supplement our operating budget, but in order to be sustainable, we need to figure out how to battle the milfoil infestation more efficiently.

Please continue to do what you can to help in the effort to control the spread of Eurasian Milfoil. Thanks!

## Staying In Touch With You by Joan Gamble

The primary concern of membership is how we are battling the scourge of Eurasian water milfoil. The board realized that there are two primary work streams associated with this concern:

What actions are being taken to control the spread of milfoil and are they the appropriate actions? (See the aquatic invasive species article.)

How we keep the membership informed about our activities and have a productive ongoing dialogue. (This article will give a recap of the communications activities over the last year, including related enhancements in the association's information-technology systems.)

### **What membership has said and how we responded**

A survey of the membership was taken last year, and 98% of those surveyed read and appreciated the content in this semi-annual newsletter! That's exciting!

In addition, the members who responded indicated that they would like more updates over the summer about activities of the association, most specifically the activities of the milfoil harvesting. In response to that need, LDFLA president, Chip Paison, with help from the communications team, sent an informative email every other week during the summer. We plan to continue those updates this summer.

Given the modified strategy to combat milfoil, to include the use of herbicides, the team working on herbicides in conjunction with the communications team has embarked on additional communications, in the form of email and some hard copy notices, informing association members of this change and the process involved with accomplishing this method.

### **Website and membership enhancements**

Also, a year ago, it became apparent the information technology systems that the association was using to manage membership and communicate with our members were antiquated and cumbersome. The specific issues we wanted to resolve included:

- The inability to send an email to all of our membership at once
- The fact that we could only store one email per household
- Difficulty managing accurate information on our members
- Volunteers spending numerous hours doing duplicative tasks due to system deficiencies
- An outdated, unattractive and underutilized website

A hard working team of Jason Meyersberg, Rich Dalgren, Jim Bosman, Chip Paison and me, spent countless hours and numerous meetings, and we are now proud to launch our new website and member management system! Hooray!

### **We need your help**

If we have your email address, you should have received an email from

membership@ldfla.com with your specific login information to our new membership portal within our new website. (If you have not received, please check your spam folder.) Please follow the link and update your household information so that it'll be accurate for the directory. Also, please add email addresses for everyone in the household who is interested in our communications. While in the system, you can easily and securely pay your 2016 membership dues. You'll also find an insert with this newsletter providing instructions on how to update your information, if you cannot find your email.

In addition to going to the member part of our website to enroll, I encourage you browse our entirely new and cool website at <http://www.ldfla.com/>. Thanks to Jason Meyersberg for creating and to Naylor and Breen Builders, Inc. for sponsoring!

### **Conclusion**

We're excited about our new communications and our more efficient systems! However, to make these systems add value to the association, it's important that you, as a member, get involved, check out the information and join the dialog. That's what makes a strong community! Thanks!

Check our website:  
**ldfla.com**  
early and often for  
latest information



## Taking Care of LDFLA Business by Chip Paison

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to all who volunteer their time and talents in support of our lakes. While support and preservation of the lakes comes in many forms, I would like to salute those who have served (past and present) on the Association's Board and Committees.

From humble beginnings in 1939, when a lightly populated Lake Dunmore gave birth to an Association, to today with Fern Lake included, most of the shoreline is developed and milfoil is growing at an alarming rate. The business of lake preservation is more intense and demanding than ever.

During a time when people are busy beyond belief, LDFLA is fortunate to have active concerned members who find time to devote many hours to the preservation of the lakes' natural beauty and recreational qualities. The Board of Trustees, as your representatives, is responsible for the Association's business. They set the pace, define the tasks and frequently

execute the tasks necessary to carry out the mission of lake community preservation. There are 15 Trustees, including 5 who are elected officers, who meet four to six times per year. In addition, the officers constitute the Executive Committee which meets approximately monthly to carry on the business between the Board meetings. There are 14 subcommittees of the Board, each headed by a Trustee. Furthermore, Trustees generally serve on one or more additional committees to facilitate communication and share resources. The committees are also supported by approximately 35 non-Board members, providing additional specialized skills and helping hands. Also, recently we are lucky to have the involvement of multiple generations, helping to liven and update our activities and systems.

Committees meet as needed during the year. Their tasks are ongoing. In the Autumn and Winter volunteers prepare grant requests, publish a Fall Newsletter, develop budgets,

prepare audit materials, track legislation and file taxes. In the Spring and Summer, the activity increases - volunteers publish a Newsletter and other communications; conduct the Membership drive; hire and supervise milfoil crews; conduct water tests; report milfoil control activities to the state; and organize community events including a picnic, auction, and golf tournament. In addition, there are frequently special projects such as the Lakes Alive - Now & Forever Capital Campaign, the revamping of the web site and member services software and the expansion of the aquatic invasive species (milfoil +) control program.

To paraphrase the thought "it takes a community to raise a child" --- perhaps "it takes many adults to preserve a lake community". Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake are wonderful natural resources we are privileged to enjoy. Special thanks to those currently involved. And if you are asked to help, please give it careful consideration and participate if you can.

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