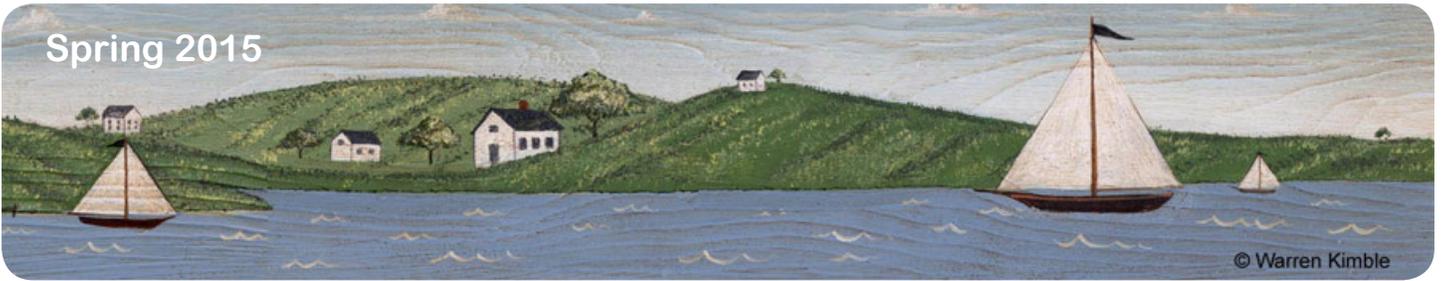


Spring 2015



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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

**Saturday
August 1st**

**First Annual
Golf Outing
at
Neshobe
Golf Club**

Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association

PO Box 14 Salisbury, Vermont 05769

www.ldfla.com

Message from the President by Chip Paison

Hello members, property owners and friends of the lakes.

It's been a rather brutal winter from my perspective, coldest February on record! (Otherwise, according to NOAA, just an average season.) Great for those of us who love winter sports! As I write this message spring is on the way, although Lord Dunmore is continuing his watch for the ice-out. We received 1961 "entries" this year which is a lower number than last year.

The main concern that's been on the mind of the association this winter is MILFOIL management. (The Dunmore Dip was initiated to help with funding for the Milfoil control program.) As has become the norm over the past 4 seasons, the program is taking another leap forward in efforts to combat the invasion. Please read the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) article for more updates and feel free to contact the trustees with questions. I'm very curious if the winter took any significant toll on this noxious weed. In any case, the battle continues!

Our other battle is COMMUNICATIONS – how to best stay connected to all of you! In addition to these newsletters, we posted monthly updates to the website during the off-season. We understand not everyone saw these updates so this newsletter contains some of the same information posted to the website over the winter. So, for those who check in at www.ldfla.com regularly, there will be some repeat news; for others, you'll get a sense of what's been going on in the off-season. In addition, by the time you receive this publication, you will have received a survey request. This is intended to help the association better understand the communication desires of the membership. If you haven't completed the survey, please do so. The more respondents, the better we can understand our members' communications expectations. Additionally, the trustees have agreed to expand the use of our Facebook site to see if that helps the membership enhance the Lakes community with more sharing of interests neighbor to neighbor and address the multigenerational aspects of our member families.

In light of our efforts to involve our multigenerational community, we've also expanded the Social committee. This group has much exciting potential. I encourage you to closely monitor the calendar as I expect you'll be surprised by what this team will introduce in the way of expanded community activities (see more in the article Of Things Social). The annual picnic tradition will be continued as Songadeewin has invited the association back for the end of season event. As usual, the annual meeting is the Monday after July 4th, this year July 6th, 7:00pm at Salisbury Congregational Church.

Thank you for reading! I'm looking forward to seeing you on the lake and hope you find many ways to engage in the wonderful community surrounding Lake Dunmore and Fern Lake.

Meet Your Trustees

Karen Rockow



Karen grew up in Brooklyn, NY but has summered on Lake Dunmore since early childhood. A reformed academic, she received a doctorate in Folklore and Celtic Studies from Harvard, when she could find time between games of squash, grave-stone rubbing, and long rows on the Charles. In 1958, her parents bought a group of cottages at the north end of the lake (the old Franzoni property), renovated them, and opened for business the following year as North Cove Cottages. This summer marks the 56th season of continuous operation for the cottages, which Karen has managed since the death of her mother in 1976. She has the dubious distinction of having discovered milfoil at the north end of the lake a number of years ago and has been involved in the battle against it ever since. A freelance writer and editor, in her spare time she quilts and is working on a book about life at the lake. During her years in Boston, she served as president of the Greater Boston Chapter of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (later the Hearing Loss Association of America), and on several state advisory councils for people with hearing loss. She has been a year-round resident at the lake for seven years and has been involved with the LDFLA silent auction for two years. She welcomes the opportunity to work with others who love the lakes to preserve them for future generations.

Sue Mackey



A real estate broker with Century 21 Jack, Sue grew up locally and lives year round on Lake Dunmore. As a kid, she spent a lot of memorable time at her grandparents' camp on Dunmore. Later she worked and played at Waterhouse's and the North 40, her family's businesses. Sue and her husband Peter operated Waterhouse's for 22 years along with their four children. Milfoil first cropped up during this time. As a trustee of the association then, Sue organized the initial volunteer program of hand-pullers. Milfoil remains a great concern for Sue. The Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association has matured during these years and is now the strongest it has ever been. Sue is proud to serve the membership as a trustee. It's her hope to preserve the natural beauty and recreational opportunities of this area for her children and grandchildren to be passed on to their families.

Dede Snyder



Dede has been on the lake all of her life, first as a summer resident and now full time for the past 7 years. In her past life, Dede served on various public sector boards in NJ -- 18 years on the town Housing Commission, the Community Development Board for about 12 years, and 13 years on the Board of Education, with 4 years as its President. This is her second term on the LDFLA board. Dede's grandchildren are the fifth generation of the family to enjoy the lake. They seem to have inherited the family "fish" gene and enjoy many hours in and around the lake. Dede is committed to do all she can to preserve the lake for their and others' enjoyment.

The first snow before the lake froze



Aquatic Invasive Species Report

by Jim Meyersburg, Chair

Our 2015 battle against milfoil is shaping up nicely and we have high expectations. The new milfoil committee is working hard to insure that we will be successful.

At the end of last season, even with the formidable labors of the milfoil crews, we found that we were unable to keep pace with the spread of the weed. Milfoil was growing where we'd never seen it before, and the existing patches were becoming harder to control. We decided that we needed to become more aggressive the following season and attack the milfoil with everything at hand. There are limited weapons that we are permitted to use on the lake and most require state permits. We currently have permits for machine harvesting, which is limited by the calendar, as well as bottom barriers. Hand picking, the old standby that needs no permits, is always available and is always encouraged.

We have initiated the application process to use selected herbicides on the hardest patches. The process is such that a permit is unlikely to be issued before the 2016 season. In light of these facts and limitations, the obvious path is to maximize what we are currently doing. Last season, we had three vacuum harvesting machines working 120 hours a week with a crew of 11. We also had a small boat to service the harvesters and to survey the lake. This year, we are building a fourth harvester which will be ready for opening day, and the fleet will be working 240 hours a week, with a crew of 17-18. We will use the service boat as a harvesting boat for hard to reach detail picking. The crews will be working 10 hour days which will maximize their working time, since set up and shut down has always taken two hours per crew per day. Communication with the crews will be vastly improved with a two-way radio system. The greeter program will continue its successful boat checks as before, with a single greeter, perhaps two on busy Saturdays. We have had to jettison plans for using bottom barriers in the South Cove, because they would billow up and prevent boats from passing. Instead, we will aggressively hand-pick the South Cove and we will use bottom barriers in two other areas where the bottom is hardscrabble, too difficult to hand pick. We do plan to collect data from our experience with the various methods to aid in future planning.

Another huge challenge area is the North Bay, which extends from the little bridge on Rt. 53 to Keewaydin Point. It is very densely covered with milfoil, but also supports a large population of snapping turtles. The crews have to be careful, so we will mark that area and try to keep people out until we can effectively treat it in 2016 with herbicide.

The committee is designing a GPS reporting system so homeowners will be able to easily report milfoil sightings and crew management will be faster and more precise. We hope to have this working by the start of season. Last Fall, we hosted a very well-attended educational seminar for ourselves and the entire board with governmental and industry experts to educate ourselves on all the latest technologies and regulations. (An audio recording is available to anyone who would like to borrow it.)

Because of the reduced funding from the state this year for our milfoil efforts, if we do manage to control the growth of milfoil with our efforts, we may be able to give one of the harvesters a rest toward the end of the summer season in order to economize.

We are hoping that the community will welcome these changes and will offer any help and suggestions to improve what we are doing.

The invasive species state grant, which is submitted by Town of Leicester, as required by the Grant-in-aid program, has been written and will be delivered in February. The LDFLA Board approved the preliminary budget at the January meeting. Please consider personally thanking Troy, Jim and Jay for working diligently to craft this critical document. Also you thank you can be given to town of Leicester for being the municipality that files the grant (1). Remember this funding is critical to continuing the battle at levels of the recent past (which we can say is still necessary).

Notation: Lake Fairlee lost their filing community and as such have received no state grants for 3 years. It is the opinion of the LD-FLA Trustees that we can not afford to curtail milfoil operations for the coming season.

**Mosquito
Hotline
802-247-6779**

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

A Little Winter Storytelling

When was the last time you thought of loving a place so much that you give yourself a gift! The gift of seeing that place everyday while you work.

Well , Brannon Godfrey did just that ...

The membership e-mail received a request which I found particularly enjoyable. I condense the conversation below as trying to read an e-mail conversation backwards is awkward.



Brannon, Nov 15, 2014

Good morning. I contacted you previously about the map - I was the guy who hoped that my wife would get it for an anniversary or birthday present. Alas, she was not alert to my hints and so I will "give" it to myself, if they are still available.

Do you still sell copies of the older version of the map that had the Warren Kimble fish on it? (See image below). Please let me know and I will get the check in the mail to you today!

LDFLA, Nov 20, 2014

Hello - sorry for my late reply. I'm new to triage of LDFLA email. I will confirm which version we have of the maps. Do you want whichever version or only the one with the fish?

Also, I don't straight away have your mailing address; could you provide this please to expedite the handling?

Thank you for your interest and sorry your wife didn't get your hints. Happy self-gifting!

Brannon, Nov 20, 2014

Thank you!

I only want one map – the one with the fish. I'll put my check in the mail to you today!

LDFLA, Nov 20, 2014

Hi - please hold on putting the check in the mail, until I can confirm the version we have. Thank you for the address and I'll revert asap on map status.

Brannon, Jan 05, 2015

Good morning. I am so pleased with my matted and framed map that I wanted to share a picture of it with you. It is hung on the wall across from my office desk and does more for stress relief than anything else! Thanks!

LDFLA, Jan 05 2015

Thanks for sharing Bannon. Would you mind if I posted this on ldfla/blog?

Brannon, Jan. 05 2015

No problem!

Further evidence to me that as an Association we create value for members and friends, not just when someone visits and enjoys the delightfully preserved environs, but well beyond to a daily resonance.

SOOOOO, I hope you find this story as much a delight as I did.

Of Things Social by Marion Bauer

As we look ahead to another wonderful season on the Lakes, we are planning the activities that will bring our friends and neighbors together to enjoy each other as well as the beauty that surrounds us.

This year we enjoy an expanded Social Committee with new members: Matt Brush, Adam LaPerle, Jed Malcom, Duncan Rollason and Sarah Voigt joining veteran members Stephanie Foley and Marion Bauer. We have Jeff Benton as the coordinator for our new venture-a golf outing.

The long-standing tradition of the end of season picnic is continuing. Camp Keewaydin has invited the LDFLA to its Camp Songadeewin to enjoy their grounds on August 30, 2015 from 4-7pm. Further details and additional activities for the day will be announced later on.

The Social Committee met on April 14 to discuss new and exciting summer activities. We will post them as they become planned events. One event is taking shape: save the date of Saturday, August 1st for the First Annual Golf Outing at Neshobe Golf Club. We hope many of you will try this fun activity. You do not need to be a great golfer to play. Watch our Blog for details. If you have ideas for social events you would like us to consider, please let us know.

Lakes Alive!

now and forever

History to Date by Jay Michael

Five years ago, trouble was brewing! The aquatic invasive species Eurasian Milfoil was spreading on our lakes beyond our resources to control. State grants which historically provided seventy-five percent of the funds needed to operate our Milfoil Control Program were shrinking. Increasing dues and fund raising events could not begin to finance the expanding operations. The invasive species control work had to continue. Additional divers were hired, an experienced milfoil crew manager was recruited and suction harvester boats were introduced. The LDFLA Reserve funds were used to offset the increased costs while the Trustees considered long term funding solutions.

In 2013, the **Lakes Alive, Now and Forever** Capital Campaign was launched to establish an Endowment account to generate an income stream for the future and a Reserve account to fund the immediate costs of launching the most aggressive Milfoil Control program ever. A minimum goal of \$1.725 million was set with aspirations of even greater success to attain financial security against future unforeseen threats. A dedicated volunteer campaign cabinet of 27 LDFLA members spearheaded the effort. As of April 2015, \$2.2 million has been pledged. Over \$1.2 million has been received. Two investment accounts have been established with \$800,000 in the Endowment Account and \$175,000 in the Reserves Account. John Wright, a lake property owner and principal with *SKY Investment Group*, manages these assets under the supervision of the Investment Advisory Committee of the LDFLA Board. Today these assets are conservatively invested and yield just over 3.5% in income. An additional \$60,000 is currently held in the Lake Sunapee Bank for expenses and other near term needs in 2015.

What's New in 2015?

Yes, things do change with the passage of a few years. The original plan included \$175,000 in Campaign Funds to cover anticipated deficits in the five years beginning in 2013. Happily, both 2013 and 2014 deficits were smaller than anticipated at about \$20,000 each. However, the projected deficit for 2015 is \$140,000. Estimates for 2016 and 2017 are similar.

The substantial increase in Milfoil Control resources comes at a cost. In 2015 we will operate four "suction harvester" boats and a small run-about. The personnel will grow to 21 and by operating 10 hour days we will double



the "time on the water" resources. The goal is to (1) bring the milfoil to a manageable level of control and (2) determine what level of resources will be needed in the future. This will also "buy time" to explore and seek permits for alternate control methods described in the Aquatic Invasive Species section of the newsletter. The good news is we expect to have the funds to meet this challenge. The bad news is it represents a significant draw from the Reserves we are seeking to rebuild.

The Campaign Continues

With the additional demands on our Reserves and a goal of encouraging participation by all in the lakes community, the Campaign Committee will continue to seek new donors during 2015. The preservation of the lakes' water and surrounding environs remains primary in all our efforts. The threats to the lakes may vary over time, and regrettably may be even more challenging than the current Eurasian Milfoil. We must have the resources to meet them. We will continue to look to the state and towns to partner in the preservation effort, but we must take the lead to defend what we love. We encourage all to join the campaign donor family. Together we can and will meet the Eurasian Milfoil challenge and better prepare to meet future threats to our lakes.

Contributions can be made now! They may be single donations of cash or stocks, multi-year pledges through 2018 or planned giving gifts for the future. LDFLA is a 501 (c)3, non-profit public charity and gifts are tax deductible to the extent the law allows. Please contact Jay Michael at (802) 352-4301 for more information or contact us at **Lakes Alive Capital Campaign**, LDFLA, PO Box 14, Salisbury, VT 05769 or email us at <LakesAliveInfo@gmail.com>.

Fly Your Banner

Calling all donors --- please post, wave, or fly your **Lakes Alive, Now and Forever** vinyl banner. And encourage others to do so. If, for any reason, you have pledged or donated and do not have a banner, please contact Jay Michael (352-4301) or Lorraine Abramson (247-8083) and we'll rush one to your doorstep.

The Verizon Tower: The Scoop by Jim Meyersburg

We have all noticed a new cell tower looming over Leicester, and have been waiting with anticipation for better cell service on the lake. Better service is in fact coming, but not as soon as we would like. Verizon, like all the carriers, is facing the challenge of providing much more data than in the past. We have come to expect our phones or tablets or cars to navigate, play movies, or consume unlimited data. This taxes the existing network, especially in high-use areas like cities. As a result, the entire cellular system, all the carriers -- ATT, Verizon, Sprint, etc. -- are in the process of building a new network called LTE, which stands for Long-Term Evolution. LTE is already in use in some areas, but for data only. Data is everything your device uses except voice. Some of you with late model phones probably see the LTE symbol pop up some of the time. This tells you that you're in range of an LTE tower.

"Our" new tower is exclusively LTE. It makes no sense to build a tower that will quickly become obsolete. When it comes online (if it isn't already), it will only be for data. Voice comes later. The voice part of cellular on the LTE network is called voice over LTE, or VoLTE. This is the next step, but our phones will have to be compatible. This means you'll have to buy one to use the new tower. You'll start to see them advertised soon. According to Wikipedia, they're "commonly marketed as 4G LTE" devices.

The tower looming over Leicester is Verizon, but it is more than likely that other carriers like ATT will eventually rent space and use it too. This explanation is a combination of technical fact and my extrapolation of what was explained to me.

And More About Telecommunications

In addition to Jim's research about the Shackett Rd. tower, there have been several other developments on the local communications front.

According to Glenn Andres, the Salisbury church had a contract about a decade ago for a cell tower to be installed on the church steeple and "all the engineering had been worked out" but the company filed for bankruptcy and other cell companies found other locations. The church is finally about to begin work on its tower, but so far there have been "no nibbles" from cell companies. In any case, Prof. Andres doesn't think that such a tower would be of much benefit to lake dwellers because of the location of Sunset Hill.

In other cell news, in mid-April the Vt. Public Service Board approved a proposal from Google to enter the cell market in the state. Google's Project Fi would use existing T-Mobile and Sprint networks, not as available in the state as Verizon or AT&T, for a no-contract service plan that would be \$20/mo. plus \$10/gigabit of data. In the beginning, the plan would only work on Google Nexus 6 phones.

And finally, Ryan Emilio in Salisbury recently sent in a petition to bring Comcast service to those parts of Lake Dunmore not already served by the cable company. If you'd like to add your name to the list (with no obligation to purchase anything), contact Rudy Hawes (sales dept.) at 802 353-2012 or email him at Rudy.Hawes@cable.comcast.com or Steven Marshall, the project coordinator, at 802 776-1626 or Steven.Marshall@cable.comcast.net. Ryan's email address is RyanEmilio2002@gmail.com. An earlier survey by Comcast years back to ascertain if there were enough prospective users on the lake failed badly since the Comcast people tallied satellite dishes they could see driving along the road; most lake people had their dishes in back of their houses, not visible from the road.

Go Home, Winnie the Pooh!

On July 1, a new law takes effect that will make it illegal to feed bears in the state, even if they aren't the intended diners. The Fish and Wildlife Dept. recommends that people remove their bird feeders from Spring until Winter, when bears hibernate. "We are receiving reports from all across the state of bears seeking food at bird feeders, bee hives, chicken coops and other sources," wrote Forrest Hammond, F&W biologist. He recommends that people install electric fencing around bee hives and chicken coops.



Financial Corner by Jay Michael

The overall financial health of the Association is good --- by many measures it is excellent --- thanks to the generous support of property owners and interested citizens. Your support through membership in the Association gives us strength in numbers and a strong voice in the local communities and the state. For many, your additional support of the Lakes Alive – Now & Forever capital campaign enables us to meet some significant near term needs and, through the Endowment Fund, provides added income in perpetuity.

Now to the numbers: In 2014, we had operating income of \$182,449 and operating expenses of \$203,431 for a net deficit of \$20,982. Milfoil expenses totaled about \$164,000. An above average state grant of \$87,980 (approximately 54% of milfoil control costs) helped to contain the deficit. The Lakes Alive campaign took in over \$580,000 and launched two investment funds: Endowment and Reserves. When combined with receipts from 2013, these funds now total over \$1 million. (See the Lakes Alive campaign update in the newsletter for details.) By any measure, 2014 was an outstanding year.

However, there are some surprises and necessary changes to our near term (think 3 to 5 years) plan that cannot be ignored. Several years ago we anticipated annual deficits of approximately \$35,000 (based on increased milfoil control costs and uncertain state grant income) until income from the Endowment Fund was available. These estimates held true for 2013 and 2014 with each year's deficit totaling about \$20,000.

Today, the milfoil growth is faster and greater than expected. The 2015 milfoil control plans (described elsewhere) call for doubling our resources (as measured by crew hours on the water). This, along with another boat, will increase 2015 milfoil control costs to \$254,000. Higher costs combined with a less generous 2015 state grant of \$55,960 (22% of costs) will produce a likely deficit of \$141,000 for the year. Do not panic --- we have the resources to meet the needs. But it is cause for concern. Assuming the deficits for 2015 and 2016 (and perhaps 2017) each exceed \$100,000, it will compel us to look for added income.

In the meantime, what can you do to help?

- *If you are not a member, please join us! It's a \$75 bargain you shouldn't resist!*
- *Add a little something when you send in your annual membership dues. It's painless and the funds go directly to the operating budget.*
- *If you haven't pledged or donated to the Lakes Alive campaign, now is the time. Milfoil is in everyone's backyard. Please pledge and contribute as you are able.*
- *Learn to recognize and pull milfoil found along the shoreline. You get your feet wet on a hot day, deserve a beer when you're done AND help reduce our costs!*

Mosquito Hotline
802-247-6779

IT Task Force

The IT Task force has been exploring solutions to upgrade our membership/supporter databases and help us manage everything from tracking pledges and donations to capturing relationships and volunteer skillsets. We have also looked at updating our website, though our priority is the CRM (Constituent Relationship Management) solution.

Since most of us on the task force are fairly tech-savvy, we got off to an enthusiastic start, having web meetings and calls at least twice a month and testing out numerous CRM systems online. We then realized there is a lot we don't know.

Thankfully, Chip Paison's friend Jeff Lewis (an IT expert!) agreed to join the task force and help us evaluate options, gently guiding us on important questions to ask each vendor. We recently sent out a Request for Information to six different companies and are waiting to hear back in order to compare pricing and options side-by-side before making a decision.

Once we have chosen the CRM system, we'll need to set a realistic timeline to move from a hodgepodge of systems (currently a number of Excel sheets and databases) to the new system. Switching tools and changing processes will require training and the cooperation of a number of volunteers who help maintain our current lists. Having everything in one system will ultimately save the Association a lot of time and frustration. Our goal is to then be able to turn our focus from "Who is on which list?" to "How do we leverage and grow our support base?"

As always, we would love more help from members and friends who are knowledgeable about CRM, website solutions and database management. We welcome your ideas and invite you to join our task force and help us move forward with the times! Feel free to contact Lisa, Chip or Jay if you want to help.

IT Task Force: *Jay Michael, Jane von Trapp, Chip Paison, Jeffrey Lewis, Lisa Peluso*

Caught on Camera at the Statehouse!



photo by Wayne Fawbush

To start the Legislative session the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Aquatic Invasives Species section coordinated a presentation at the 'Card Room' in the Statehouse. The Card Room is the anteroom to the house chambers and entrance to the floor.

This was a great opportunity with an unexpected two-fold gain in the fight against Eurasian Milfoil.

First is probably obvious, a chance to interact with Legislators about the issue that we have and that Vermont Can't Afford not to continue providing funding to support Lakes/Municipalities in the battle with stopping the spread of invasive species and the costly work to manage infestations that exist.

Secondly, several other Lake Associations were invited and when legislators were not in the area I was in discussion about approaches being used by others to win against milfoil. Others conversations were about the costs, the impacts to those guiding the efforts, the lack of predictability, and the explosion of growth experienced during 2015.

Approaches to combat the Infestation: well that was completely lake specific depending on size, resources, how much area is infested, and finally what permits had been approved (herbicide, Suction harvesting, Bottom barriers, mechanical harvesting, isolation)

Cost: the amount and measurement again is not universal nor well known. Most aren't tracking comprehensive cost. All seem to have different ways of calculating removal rate. There is a general challenge in evaluating cost as it depends on density of infestation, the technique used to reduce population, the type of growth experienced year over year. In the end a lot of variables to track.

Beyond Milfoil is Communications!

The communications committee has determined that now is a good time for examining the needs and desires of the community. The method will be to send a brief survey out the membership. The wish is we get extensive replies to represent the broader population around the lakes. The design is to assess what, when and how people are interested to receive information about the association. Once we receive the feedback then we'll provide the analytics. Please take a few minutes and complete the survey when it arrives, you can't be replaced .

Trustee Contacts

Chip Paison, President

802-773-8907 or 802-236-2470
124 Dogwood Ln., Leicester, VT 05733
Mail: 256 Grove St., Rutland, VT 05701
Email: chip.livelaughlove@gmail.com

Jay Michael, 1st VP

203-938-2342 or 802-352-4301
231 Lakeview Dr., Leicester, VT 05733
Email: jaymichael01@gmail.com

Marion Bauer, 2nd VP

802-352-4219 or 802-388-6812
2536 Lake Dunmore Rd., Salisbury, VT 05769
Mail: 333 Mead Lane, Middlebury, VT 05753
Email: mariondbauer@comcast.net

Stephanie Foley, Secretary

802-352-4587 or 802-388-3337;
802-363-4969(c)
435 Rustic Ln., Salisbury, VT 05769
Mail: 4411 Munger St., New Haven, VT 05472
Email: sbfoley@midlaw.com

John Barrera

802-388-7421 or 802-353-6543
1722 Lake Dunmore Rd., Salisbury, VT 05769
Mail: 688 Weybridge St., Middlebury, VT 05753
Email: barrera@middlebury.edu

Pete Hare

802-388-2216
3 Heritage Circle, Middlebury, VT 05753
Email: pete@keewaydin.org

Sue Mackey

802-352-6617
873 West Shore Rd., Salisbury, VT 05769
Email: suemackey@c21jack.com

Jim Meyersburg

802-352-4261 or 239-272-5494(c)
239-591-3313(FL)
133 Bay Shore Dr., Salisbury, VT 05769
Email: jimmeyersburg@msn.com

Lisa Peluso

609-388-1029
41 Sunset Point, Leicester, VT 05769
Mail: 12 Fleetwood Dr., Hamilton, NJ 08690
Email: peluso.lisa@gmail.com

Karen Rockow

802-352-4236
1958 Lake Dunmore Rd., Salisbury, VT 05769
Email: Karen@northcovecottages.com

Dede Snyder

802-247-8101
512 Indian Trail, Salisbury, VT 05769
Mail: P.O. Box 173, Forest Dale, VT 05745
Email: wfjs.vt@gmail.com

Water Safety

Be Safe and Be Considerate

By Dede Snyder

PLEASE POST at your lake home

IN THE BOAT

- All vessels must have a personal flotation device (PDF) for each person on board.
- All children under 12 MUST wear their PDFs at all times while on the water.
- If you were born after Jan 1, 1974, you must take a water safety course to operate a motorized vehicle. Go to www.boatsafe.com/vt.htm to take the course online.
- Don't operate the boat if your blood alcohol level is .08 or above.

WATER SKIING ,TUBING & TOWING

- Every vessel towing a person on skis or tubes, etc. must have another person at least 12 years old beside the operator to observe the person being towed.
- A skier must not come closer than 100 feet to a swimmer or small vessel.

200 FOOT RULE (*keep away from people, other boats, and shore*)

- Vessels must not operate within 200 feet of a diver down flag (rectangular red and white flag). Watch for our milfoil crew.
- Vessels must be operated at a “no wake” speed within 200 feet of the shoreline, a person in the water, canoe, rowboat, or another vessel at anchor, or moored vessel with a person on board, a dock, or anchorage.

*For further Boating, Fishing,
Hunting and Trapping laws call
State Police dispatcher at 802-388-4919*

**MORE COMPLETE RULES ARE
ON THE LDFLA WEB SITE • LDFLA.COM**