

7/25/2011 Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds Annual Meeting - Three volunteers represented SLA: Bruce Barter, Beth Torpey and Peggy Barter. This report is submitted by Peggy Barter.

Updates from VT-DEC Lakes and Ponds Section

Susan Warren, Lakes and Ponds Chief – As a result of the effects of the extreme spring flooding, Susan and her staff are reviewing the need to set limits for docks and retaining walls on the state’s lake shores.

Ann Bove and Leslie Matthews - They distributed a document recording the types of milfoil treatments used in Vermont. The chart includes locations where the water is being treated. Lake Hortonia, with a very extensive milfoil population, spent \$168,000 on treatment last year! They also distributed copies of their invasive species report for the past year.

Kellie Merrell – Kellie is spending her summer pre-assessing reference lakes in Vermont in preparation for the next National Lakes Assessment which is scheduled for 2012.

Speakers

John Magnuson – “Potential Impacts of Climate Change on Lake Systems”

John is Professor Emeritus of Univ. of Wisc. – Madison and shares in a Nobel Prize for his work on lakes and climate change. He said that ice out and freeze over records are useful in assessing climate change. He elaborated by saying that climate change is related to both greenhouse gasses and large weather oscillations such as El Nino, La Nina, sun spots and decadal (as in every ten years) oscillations.

Prof. Magnuson gave the following results of the climate change we are now experiencing:

- Lower lake levels
- Warmer surface waters
- Summer stratification begins earlier in the season
- Lower zones of lake water *may* lose oxygen resulting in fewer lake trout and salmon in deep, cold water lakes such as Seymour
- A longer period each summer for blue green algae blooms

David Mears, Commissioner of VT DEC – “Priorities of Vermont DEC”

- Gov. Shumlin says that Water Quality will be a major effort during his administration. The details as to how this will play out are not yet determined.
- Commissioner Mears will be working on a variety of areas for water quality including;
 - help small towns develop control over land use

- provide substantial effort to support the adoption and use municipal regulations regarding lake shore development
- provide some support to the State Legislature to enact state wide minimum standards regarding lake shore development

Justin Johnson, Deputy Commissioner of VT DEC – “Current Predictions of How Climate Change Will Affect Vermont’s Waterways”

I did not understand what this speaker was trying to convey. It seemed to me his major point was that he cannot make such a prediction.

Legislative Updates

Virginia Garrison, FOVLAP Legislative Committee Chair

A detailed printed report was distributed. Ginny reported on the two relevant bills that have passed so far this session (the first year of a two year cycle).

- A bill changing ownership of Maidstone Road from VT ANR to the town of Maidstone.
- A bill banning the use of phosphorus containing fertilizers within 25 feet of any lake shore.

Business Meeting

- Bruce Barter elected to FOVLAP Board of Directors
- FOVLAP awards a college scholarship of \$500 each year to a student showing interest in a career in a water quality related field. Students can apply by contacting Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC).

Lake Association Reports – One Conservation Issue – One Minute; 23 lake groups present

Lake Iroquois - Roger Crouse makes the point that lakes located in more than one town are at a disadvantage regarding local municipalities regulating lake shore development. State regulations are needed as local regulations can differ from town to town.

Caspian Lake – Andy Dales said their issue is the invasion of the public beach by Canada geese. He was advised that Canada geese like to browse lawns and do not like to pass through vegetation of meadow or shrub height when going between lawn and water. It was suggested that they try allowing a buffer to grow between the sandy beach and the grassy lawn.

Lake Willoughby – Art Brooks makes the point that even though Westmore has an excellent shore land development law, the town has no infrastructure to enforce or inspect the law. He suggests that state level regulations would not have the same lack of enforcement/inspection.

Carroll Guitar showed a calendar with Willoughby photos that they have used to raise funds.

Shadow Lake, Glover – Representative advocated for state wide lake shore regulations.

Two Lakes (do not remember names) –

- Representative made a case for lake associations need to obtain liability insurance for its Board members. There was discussion with considerable disagreement. FOVLAP will investigate and report its findings.
- Representative announced that the rain garden manual will soon have a new printing available to the public.

Seymour Lake Association Report –

One conservation issue we are addressing is Shoreland Restoration.

Who is involved? SLA committees for Membership, Web Site, Newsletter, and Water Quality.

How is issue being addressed? Increase SLA membership, provide presentations, publicize Dayna Cole's program, post info on web site, newsletter articles

What are association's hopes for the future? To have increased amounts of shoreline buffer.

How might FOVLAP and DEC Lakes and Ponds help? Support enactment of state wide regulations for lake shore development similar to Maine's NH's and Wisconsin's.

All other lakes reporting –

The issue discussed by the other lake associations was the prevention or control of Eurasian Milfoil.