

**LAKE MOREY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER**

President's Column

As we enter our 102nd year of existence, I reflect upon our original mission as stated in our charter: "preserving the natural environment of Lake Morey in the Town of Fairlee, Vermont, and its immediate surroundings, safeguarding the health and promoting the interests of cottagers and property owners." After mulling over the materials from boxes that I inherited, I realize that the LMPA has had many dedicated members who have committed countless hours to promote our mission. Additionally, our two partner organizations (The Lake Morey Foundation and The Lake Morey Commission) have assisted in creating the lake environment that we have all enjoyed, loved and appreciated over the years! Once again, a clarification of the roles of these organizations may be beneficial.

Lake Morey Foundation:

(Submitted by Dana Low)

The Lake Morey Foundation was created in 1984 as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, to encourage and expand upon the efforts of other organizations aimed at protecting, preserving and enhancing the environment of Lake Morey. It works in partnership with the Lake Morey Protective Association and Lake Morey Commission, providing the opportunity for those in the community who wish to support the environmental initiatives of those organizations to do so with tax-exempt contributions to the Foundation. The fact that so many people around the lake and in Town have gotten into the habit of making annual gifts to the Foundation is a testament to the dedication and interest we all have in preserving and enhancing what is so special about Lake Morey. This generosity has made it possible for the Foundation to be responsive to new needs for environmental protection action as they come to our attention -- and they do seem to keep coming. Have you noticed?

The fact that we can be responsive helps to make our lake the special place it is.

Contributions may be mailed to The Lake Morey Foundation, P.O. Box 234, Fairlee, VT 05045.

Lake Morey Commission:

(Submitted by Don Weaver)

Officially named the Lake Morey Advisory Commission, this five-member body of individuals from the lake community is appointed by the Fairlee Selectboard to provide an interface with the Board on significant lake matters. It was established in the late 1970's to address the phosphorous loading of the lake that culminated in the alum treatment in 1986 and has been active since 1991 in pursuing effective control methodologies for the lake's milfoil infestation.

Fairlee Family Fun Day

On Saturday, July 19, 2008, the Fairlee Town Beach on Lake Morey was the site of Fairlee Family Fun Day, co-sponsored by the Fairlee Recreation Council and the LMPA. Laughter and excitement emanated from children and their families as they delighted in old-fashioned relays, swim contests, water events, crafts, face painting, water balloon tossing, and even a watermelon seed-spitting contest! Over 125 participants were treated to a clown, barbeque and an ice cream social as part of the festivities.

This first annual event, in the tradition of Fairlee Day in the early 1900's, could not have happened without the generosity of the Fairlee community, particularly Jill Larson and the members of the Fairlee Recreation Council, the LMPA, and the many friends and families who volunteered. Thanks to the Town of Fairlee for the use of the Town Beach, and to Wing's Market, Aloha Camp, Lake Morey Inn, St. Martin's Church, Cabot Cheese, the Whippi Dip, Fairlee Marine, Blood's Seafood, Byron Stone, Leon Marsh, Greg Allen, Barry Larson, Ken & Barbara LeClair, Don Weaver, Ron

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Fisher, and the lifeguards for their generous contributions of time and/or materials. It was a great day to celebrate old traditions and make new friends. Thank you to all for helping foster community spirit.

We look forward to Fairlee Family Fun Day 2009: July 18th. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for improving this event – we'd love to receive your ideas and feedback!

Patty Armstrong & John Larrabee

Invasive Species (Milfoil) Update

In late August 2008, Aquatic Control Technology (ACT) surveyed the lake to determine the results of the May 13th Renovate treatment. They found that with the exception of several mini-beds and some scattered plants, the milfoil in the 14-acre western area had been destroyed but while the population in the southwestern, southern and eastern areas had been impacted, most of the milfoil plants there were still alive.

The Breezy Bay and north end of the lake areas treated in 2007 are still basically milfoil-free.

On December 4th, Lake Morey representatives along with those from ACT met with the VT DEC, reviewed the findings, outlined the probable causes of the problems, and then recommended the following course of action for 2009. Specifically, Renovate OTF (flake) would be applied at an increased concentration rate of 2.5 parts per million to the infested areas running from Brichen Brae on the east shore clockwise to Middlepoint on the west at a time in late May/early June when the plants would most effectively absorb the herbicide. The major problem we are confronting is a "concern" by VT Fish and Wildlife as to the possible effect on fish spawning during this period. It should be noted that this department accepts the use of the liquid formulation of Renovate during this time frame and also

voiced reservations in 2007 about the impact on native pond weeds, which obviously never materialized.

Non-chemical activities will be employed in the remainder of the lake. These will include suction harvesting along with hand pulling by professional divers and adopt-a-lake volunteers.

Those of you whose waterfronts are in the targeted area may want to delay installation of your docks until after the treatment, to allow ACT to place the chemical as close to the shoreline as possible.

Don Weaver

LMPA Greeter Program

The 2008 season Greeter Program was a resounding success. More than twenty-seven (27) LMPA members and friends manned the boat access to help educate boaters about invasive species and provide voluntary boat inspections for Eurasian water milfoil. More than a hundred (100) hours were volunteered, which shows the level of commitment of property owners to keeping our Lake clean and clear.

The milfoil management efforts at Lake Morey are considered a model in Vermont and throughout the northeast. We can be proud of that. We need to continue the vigilance and hard work at the access AND at our own waterfronts, for there will always be some sort of invasive plant or animal species threatening our Lake. The numbers of invasive species in some Vermont lakes and ponds is unbelievable.

There will be a new Invasive Species bill introduced to the 2009 Vermont legislature (formerly H.270). This will certainly help organize statewide efforts to control all invasive species. It will, in light of the current economic situation in the country, probably NOT be a priority. Those LMPA members

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who are VT voters need to keep up pressure on their legislators to pass this bill and help to make invasive species more manageable. Even if you are not a resident you, too, have rights as a property owner, and can contact state officials about your concerns. To follow what the state is doing you can monitor the website www.vtwaterquality.org.

I am on the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds board. This group is increasing its efforts (and visibility) to support better management of clean lakes and ponds. The group is a 501c3 non-profit. Membership is \$15 and will help the fight and information sharing. Currently, that website is under reconstruction. To join or for more info, write FOVLAP, P.O. Box 421, Waterbury, VT 05676.

Thanks again to all our Lake volunteer greeters. Get in touch with me early this spring when you want to volunteer in 2009. See you on our Lake!

John Larrabee

Electronic LMPA

As I review old newsletters and correspondences, I see multiple references to implementing web sites, etc. Once again, the LMPA board is reviewing the potential for developing a web site that would: 1) be sustainable, 2) economical, 3) reduce the need for paper communication, and 4) increase the effectiveness of our communication. We would really like to include a web cam if it meets the above criteria. If you have ideas please forward them to me (kindly mention Lake Morey in the subject heading so it will not be identified as spam) at Bminard@gmavt.net.

Reminders

- It would be helpful if people attached identification to any objects that may end up as “floaters” in the lake. This

summer, as a result of high water and storms, there were numerous times when rafts etc broke loose and sometimes it was challenging to identify the owners.

- The fire department stated that it would be beneficial if the 911 addresses of lake dwellings were clearly marked.
- The 200-foot buoy markers should not be moved, however it is permissible for property owners to install their own buoys.
- Save the date of July 18 (the third Saturday of July) for our annual meeting and the continuation of Fairlee Family Fun Day & Sailing Regatta!
- Mardie Durgan is still accepting entries for the Lake Morey History Book!

Property for sale

As many of you are aware, there is a significant parcel of undeveloped land (144 acres) on the east side of the lake (the Putnam Property, listed in the town records as Swamp Brook Associates) that went on the market last spring. A number of people have expressed an interest in seeing this property conserved. If you have any thoughts, please convey them to me.

Nature Corner

We have some good news and bad news to report on the nature front. I believe we are one of the few lakes in Vermont that enjoys summer weather without the constant presence of nuisance insects. This tranquility can be at least partially attributed to the bats that frequent our properties. Studies suggest that a single bat will consume as many as 600 mosquitoes in a single hour, a nursing female will consume up to 2/3 of her body weight in a single evening. Vermont is home to nine species of bats, however the bat we are apt to observe on the lake is the Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*). This past year, an alarming number of Vermont bats were afflicted with “white nose syndrome”. Our best interests are served by

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being receptive to the presence of these wonderful creatures (perhaps not everyone will agree with my descriptors). Creating homes (bat houses) and eliminating them from unwanted residences without exterminating will help us continue to enjoy our surroundings without the buzz and bites of mosquitoes. For more information on the status of Vermont bats, visit www.beec.org the web site for Bonnyvale Environment Education Center in Brattleboro, VT.

On the positive note, the loons continue to expand their territories in Vermont (summer of 08 reports 61 nesting pairs, 74 territorial pairs, 12 potential territorial pairs –Lake Morey is in this category – 75 hatched chicks with 55 surviving). There appears to be renewed interest in building a new nesting platform and we certainly have a better opportunity to attract a pair now. Please contact me if you are interested in supporting or becoming involved in this endeavor. For the complete Vermont loon report visit www.vtecostudies.org. This non-profit organization offers a lot of information on the ecology of Vermont, including the American bald eagle, which is making a comeback and had a distinct presence on the lake this past summer (at least 4 different eagles have been sighted). As the only state in the lower 48 without nesting eagles, the announcement that a nest (on the Vermont side of the Connecticut River) had successfully produced young eagles was welcome news. For more info visit www.cvps.com/eagles.

Directory

We (well mostly Sue) will begin the task of a new directory to be available next summer. We hope to receive more email addresses (we have approximately 50% presently). The LMPA will not share any email address with any outside organization. We do provide mailing addresses to the town of Fairlee when requested for official business.

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Celebrate our Lake heritage . . .



*by enjoying Fairlee Family Fun Day
with family and friends!*