

LAKE CARMİ ASSOCIATION NEWS

September 2018.....One Happy Lake.... Volume 12, Number 5

Brought to you by the Lake Carmi Camper's Association, Inc., and other fine sponsors.

Larry.myvott@lakecarmicampers.org.....http://lakecarmi.mylaketown.com/

New Officers and Directors Elected

At the August 11 annual meeting of the - Lake Carmi Camper's Association, Inc. new directors were elected. Diane Larose of Vic's Crossing Road was elected to her second three-year term. Nancy Johnson of Black Woods Road was elected to her first three-year term. There is still an open seat for a three-year term to expire in 2021.

Officers elected include President Peter Benevento and Secretary Ruth Ann Kravesky to one-year terms expiring in 2019. They will be eligible serve a two year at the end of their one-year term. Rob Evans was elected as Vice President and Polly Wright Gadbois was elected as Treasurer, both for two-year terms.

The membership passed the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws as had been proposed by the Board of Directors. The changes to these documents had been warned to all members according to the terms for amending them.

With about 60 members in attendance, the meeting started off with a great Pot Luck Supper for all.



Here members of the Hammond Shore Hammerheads accept the winners cup from Pontoon Boat Relay Race chair Robert Lumnah (far right) at the annual meeting. Front left to right, Jason Paquette, Ann Delaney, Robert Larose, Wilfred Commo, and Team Captain Joe Commo. (Another photo at the bottom of page 10)

Chair of this great event Robert Lumnah was honored by the LCCA and members of all the race teams for his 9 years of service chairing the annual Pontoon Relay Race. He was presented with gifts from the team members and presented a special Certificate of Appreciation



from the Board of Directors by President Ruth Ann Kravesky.

A special program was brought to the annual meeting by Dr. Perry Thomas, program Manager in the Department of Lake & Ponds, Agency of Natural Resources. Perry's Power



Point presentation brought a lot of understanding about the upcoming installation of the aeration system to help combat cyanobacteria in Lake Carmi in the future. The system installation is on target for it's grand opening by June 1, 2019. The compressor pump house will be located at the State Park, operating this whole-lake system. More details to follow.

Paid members are welcome to submit a free classified ad in the five issues of the season. Merchandise ads are only for two issues unless renewed. Camp rental ads can run for the whole season, but if you have no more availability, please notify the editor to stop the ad.

Cottage Rentals for the 2018 Season

Cottage for Rent, three bdrm, dock, rowboat, kayaks. Cushman, 925.253.1958 or jancushman@comcast.net.

Cottage for Rent, 1930's era vintage lakefront camp on Vic's Crossing. Sleeps ten, four bdrm, with canoe & kayaks. 802.285.2253, email: kathyskeepsakes@hotmail.com.

Cottage for Rent, Patton Shore, 3 bdrm, sleeps up to 15, full kitchen. New England Style rustic, by the week. Includes rowboat and canoe. Pets & children welcome. Contact James Hearne at 215.205.7855 or email: lakecarmicamp@gmail.com.

Cottage for Rent sleeps up to 12; fresh linens included, A/C, heat, Wifi, cable, spring water, 180 ft frontage, screened porch, kayaks, paddleboat, canoe. nlumnah@yahoo.com, call 603.231.0617.

Cottage for Rent, Hammond Shore Road, two bdrm, right on the water, \$800/wk, call 802.848.3393.

Cottage for Rent, Westcott Shore Road, May thru October, Call 802.373.1173 for details.

Cottage for Rent, Hammond Shore Road, fully furnished, bring your own linens, 802.285.6737.

Cottage for Rent, Westcott Shore, three bdrm, fully equipped. May thru October \$850/week. 514.220.7079 days, 450.359.9138 evenings. sjones@erbgroupp.com.

Cottage for Rent: right on the lake, Patton Shore Rd, 2-story, sleeps 9, 3 bdrm, 2 BA. Screened porch, Full kitchen, grill, kayaks, dock and swim platform. Call 802.879.7517 or email evansvt5@gmail.com.

For Sale

Row Boat, 12 ft fiberglass, Asking \$150. Call Hilda at 285-6855.

Chris Craft Classic 48 Replica. Custom built, MCL 175 HP Flat Head Hercules Six with twin downdraft carbs. Mahogeny decks/black sides. Includes trailer and cover. Call or email David Larose, 802.355.7393, larosedavid53@gmail.com.

Cottage for Sale, 234 Hammond Shore Road, 99 yr. Lease, 2 bdrm, 1 bath, north/westerly views. Bruce & Debbie Bushey, 802.285.6138 or 802.355.1969. Email, dbbushey@gmavt.net

Pure Franklin Maple Syrup. Deuso Family Maples, Call Howard or Pam. \$35/gallon, \$20/half-gallon, other sizes available. Call 802.285.2031.

Vermont Maple Syrup, \$40/gal, \$22/Half gal, smaller sizes available. Do your Christmas shopping now. Call or text 802.393.1241. Bruce & Sharon Patterson, 78 Patterson Point at Lake Carmi.

2000 lb aluminum boat lift; very good condition; \$2,000. Lift can be seen at 871 Westcott Shore Road; Dwight Tatro, 285-6600 or 285-6768 (camp).

Services

North Country Maintenance, **handyman** Henry Neuberger, (cell) 802.393.1107 or (home) 802.933.8958. No job to small, *but no yard work*. Free estimates.

We need you as a member of the LCCA, Inc: *When joining or renewing, please fill out and mail this form to the LCCA. Become an LCCA member for the 2018 season. The dues are just \$50.00 per year. LCCA members are committed to our wonderful lake in many ways. Some are volunteers who help out wherever and whenever they are able; some are only here to enjoy a week or more in this pristine setting. We only ask that you become a member of your association and do what you can. Your comments are always welcome, contact any of the directors, or send the editor your thoughts for sharing at your director's board meetings. Become an official member of the Lake Carmi community, send your membership form and dues check, payable to LCCA, Inc. to LCCA, Inc. P.O. Box 1, Franklin, VT 05457.*

*Please mail your check and this form to: **LCCA, Inc., P.O. Box 1, Franklin, VT 05457***

Name _____ Renewal New Gift Membership

Attached is my check for 2018 dues, in the amount of \$50.00, made payable to **LCCA, Inc.**

Cottage 911 Mailing Address, if applicable _____

Summer Mailing Address _____

Winter (Off-season Address) _____

Cottage Telephone _____ Off-Season Telephone _____

Please register your Email address; you'll get the season's Newsletters by email and other useful information, but no spam or advertising. (Please Print) _____

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Contributions to LCCA Water Quality Fund are very welcome: \$ _____.

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Franklin Watershed Committee News

The 2018 Annual Meeting, for the election of officers will be held on Thursday, September 20th at 7 pm in the FELCO Room of the Homestead. The entire community is welcome to attend.

The FWC is excited to welcome Amanda Forni, a new EcoAmericorps volunteer! Amanda will be serving half her time with the RWC and half at the Northwest Regional Planning Commission located at the St. Albans office of the NRPC.

Amanda has a MSc in Environmental Assessment and Management from the University of Liverpool and a BA in Geography and International Development Studies. She is a successful grant writer and excited to experience winter in Vermont. She'll be meeting everyone at the Annual Meeting.

Eurasian Water Milfoil - (Myriophyllum Spicatum)---third in a series of Lake Carmi Watershed Invasives.

Eurasian Water Milfoil is an invasive exotic species which was first reported in the US in the 1940s and spread rapidly into the mid-Atlantic and midwestern states in the 1960s and 1970s. Since the 1980s it has expanded its coverage throughout the northern US and is now the most widespread aquatic weed in the northern half of the US. It was likely first brought to North America from Europe in ship ballasts or as an ornamental plant for aquariums or water gardens. Accidental spread is primarily due to transportation of contaminated boat trailers, boat parts and bait containers, but the species has also spread through the aquarium trade. Some researchers speculate that it may be spread by wildlife or waterfowl, but no direct evidence exists to support this theory. In Vermont it was first identified in St. Albans Bay of Lake Champlain in 1962 and its distribution has spread steadily since then. Excessive nutrients in the lake exacerbate the situation and contribute to growth.

Eurasian Watermilfoil reproduces almost exclusively by fragments which can drift, sink, develop roots and grow into new plants. Fragments

can occur both naturally and as a result of human activity - within a lake, wind and waves may break plants loose; and boating activity through dense water milfoil beds also contributes to fragmentation and spread.

Identification: This invasive is submerged, though branches near the surface; it has whorls (the attachment of leaves) of 4-6 finely divided featherlike leaves with each leaf containing 12-21



leaflets along the stem; it has a bottle-brush appearance underwater; it

is limp when out of the water; is red tipped in spring and fall. Eurasian watermilfoil grows in up to 20 feet of water. Lake Carmi not only has the exotic Eurasian Water Milfoil but we also have a similar native species, Northern watermilfoil which is smaller in growth and has between 5 and 15 leaflets and remains stiff when out of water.

Eurasian Water Milfoil can interfere with recreational uses of water such as boating, swimming and fishing. Heavy infestations also lower dissolved oxygen under the canopy of plants, reduces water movement and wave action and increases sedimentation rates and reduces turbidity (water clarity).

Herbicides can be used to manage Eurasian watermilfoil but are subject to federal, state and local restrictions. Mechanical harvesting using our "weed harvester" boat has provided temporary but fair control of the watermilfoil in Lake Carmi. Other physical control techniques such as drawdowns, dredging and bottom barriers can provide physical control but have not been lake restoration efforts used in Lake Carmi.

Just to be clear, Eurasian Water Milfoil is not to be associated with blue-green algae (cyanobacteria blooms).

Diane Larose is an LCCA Board Member and Vermont Invasive Patroller.

The information in this article is from "Biology and Control of Aquatic Plants, A Best Management Practices Handbook." by Lyn A. Gettys, William T. Haller and Marc Bellaud; 2009; Vermont Invasive Patrollers, 2018- published by the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation Watershed Management Division



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LCCA member and weed harvester operator, Joe Craig, of Westcott Shore, spent a lot of time on the lake in the Hammond Shore area during August. Joe is one of three operators that can operate the machine for the Town of Franklin. The State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources permit says where the harvester can and cannot be operated on the lake. Its operation is managed by the Board of Selectmen.

In Memoriam, Dr. Helene Lang



Helene Lang as long-time summer resident of Westcott Shore passed away at her home in Wake Robin, Shelburne on August 21. She had faced cancer for the fourth time and fulfilled her wish to have one last summer in Vermont with family and friends. She was 87 years old and the wife of Dick Lang, they were married for 62 years. Her career was fulfilled as a professor of Literacy and Literature at the University of Vermont, she retired in 2001 as Professor Emerita.

A memorial service will be held on Sept. 25 in Shelburne.

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2018 Fishing Contest Winners

The annual fishing contest at Lake Carmi begins with Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend and ending Labor Day. There are two categories, Youth (Age 15 or Less), and adult. Entries can be entered in the following classes: Walleye, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, or Perch. Trophies are awarded, by the LCCA, to the winners in each class and each species.

In the 2018 Adult categories, Wendy Peyrat of Patton Shore Road takes the prize for her Northern Pike at 5.28 lbs. and 31 inches long. In the Walleye



category, Brian Irish of Hammond Shore takes home the trophy for his 27 inch, 5.96 lb. fish (See Photo). The Smallmouth Bass category winner is Frank Read of Westcott Shore with his 18 inch, 3.1 lb. catch. The winning Perch was

caught by Jerry Clark of Hammond Shore with a 12.5 inch, .96 lb. fish.

The fish is first measured by weight, then by length. There was no entry in the Largemouth Bass adult class.

Isaac Sullivan, age 13, caught the biggest



Largemouth Bass from the dock, 19.5 inches and 4.91 lbs. He is from St. Albans and was visiting his grandparents John & Pam Tatro on Westcott Shore.

Wesley Bailey, grandson of Ernie & Andrea Inglehardt wins the Walleye trophy for getting a 2.57 lb., 19.5 inch fish. Wesley's brother, William, won the Northern Pike Category. He caught a 21 inch, 1.84 lb. specimen.

In the Perch category Alexis Cyr, 13 yr. old granddaughter of Everett & Wendy Peyrat, Patton Shore Road. Alexis' Perch was 13 inches long and weighed .91 lb.

Trophies will be available this fall, watch for the announcement.



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Harvest Supper, Friday, September 21 at the Franklin United Church in Franklin Village. Serving 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., with the Fall Harvest Auction to follow. Corn Chowder, Chili, salads, homemade desserts, beverages, rolls and fun.

Things to Do in the Fall

It was amazing to see how many boats disappeared from the Lake over Labor Day weekend. The boat ramp at the north end was quite busy and lots of docks got taken out of the water as well. There's at least 1 ½ months of good weather this fall Lake Carmi. Fall foliage hasn't yet begun, just a wee bit high up on the hills, I especially like to see the foliage on the west side from our cottage on Hammond Shore, once it starts, we see day to day

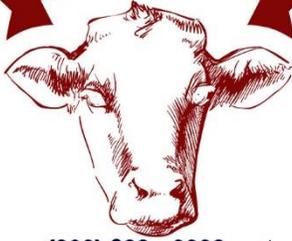
changes, until it is bright in the reds and golds, highlighted by the deep greens on the north shore areas.

• Enjoy the harvest, Enosburg has a Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 15, with over 60 vendors. Live music, food, chicken BBQ, horse drawn wagon rides, antiques, historical sites open and Eden Ice Cider Tastings ... 9am to 'til 4pm. You can go for breakfast or lunch at one of the restaurants near the park (See their ads in this issue).

• The next weekend, September 23, 1 – 4 pm will be the annual Taylor Park Fine Wine, Beer & Food Festival in St. Albans. You can sample from breweries and winemakers, restaurants, and pastry chefs. There will be a live auction featuring plenty of great items from local businesses, artists, and crafters. Age 21+, ID required. www.taylorparkfestival.com.

• For a little foreign adventure, especially for wine and beer tastings. Bring your passport and travel across the border to Quebec, just a few miles from Lake Carmi. There are dozens of welcoming facilities, check for websites, lots of shops, restaurants, wineries, and breweries. Travel only a few miles to Frelighsburg, Dunham, Sutton, Stanbridge East, St. Armand. They all speak English too.

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Farm Practices in the Watershed

By Emily Porter-Goff, PhD

Coordinator, Franklin Watershed Committee

The 2017 numbers are in, our local farmers have been working hard to do their part in reducing the nutrients that could end up in our lake. There are several practices being used to make that happen.

Cover Cropping: Bare soil is the most vulnerable to being washed away. Nutrients like to cling to these soil particles and find their way into ditches and streams and eventually end up in the lake. The idea of cover cropping is to reduce or eliminate times when soil is left exposed. Traditional farming usually leaves soil bare in the fall, after the crop has been harvested. Cover cropping would mean planting another crop, such as winter rye, immediately after harvest, so that some sort of plant with a good root system is holding that soil in place. Not only does this keep nutrients from our waterways, but it helps farmers keep more nutrients available to the crops, saving them money in the long run. But, cover cropping has the added cost of an additional planting and harvesting.

Reduced Tillage: Tilling loosens the soil and leaves it more vulnerable to being washed away. Cutting edge farm equipment uses different techniques to plant seeds and prepare fields with minimal disturbance to the soil. This equipment is costly to buy and takes some tweaking and learning before it works as effectively as traditional farming techniques had.

Manure Injection: While manure is often viewed simply as waste, to a farmer it contains precious nutrients which are essential for healthy crops. Traditionally, manure is mixed with water to form a liquid consistency and sprayed over a field. If left on the surface, nitrogen can dissipate, and phosphorus can be lost as runoff. Mixing the manure into the soil can help prevent these losses as well as reduce the smell. However, mixing or tilling

disturbs the soil making it very susceptible to running off. Injection of manure offers all the benefits of traditional spraying and tilling, with minimal disturbance to the soil and greatly reducing the opportunities for nutrients to escape the field. This is great news for the farmer, who wants to keep nutrients and healthy top soil on their field and also for water quality by preventing those nutrients from reaching waterways.

Buffers: Buffers are an important last chance for stopping nutrients from reaching a waterway. By leaving tall grasses or shrubs and trees in place, these plants slow water down, which reduces scour and catch much of the sediment. They also support good habitat and reduce the spread of invasive species along waterways. Vermont requires a minimum of a 10' buffer by ditches and 25' on open surface water.

Growing corn (as opposed to hay) is typically a larger strain on the nutrient budget. Therefore, efforts in the Lake Carmi watershed have mostly focused on corn practices. In 2017 we saw:

- 72% cover cropped or have the stocks left in place to protect the soil
- 82% reduced or no till
- 63% fertilized with injected manure
- 27% in crop rotation
- 22 acres of previous corn field were seeded down for hay
- 27 acres hay buffers
- 13 acres of riparian/forested buffers
- 573 acres of reduce manure application
- 116 acres of injected manure on corn fields



New for next year, supported by the Clean Water Fund, farmers in the Lake Carmi Watershed will have access to state-of-the-art manure injection

equipment, specifically designed for hay fields. Injection manure has been used for several years within the watershed for corn fields but transferring this progressive conservation practice to other crops can be challenging.

Thanks to all our friends and neighbors in Agriculture for all the sacrifices and hard work. By working together we can all achieve our clean water goal.

President Peter Benevento is Back

(Peter was elected to a one-year term, August 11, 2018)

I'm back. I really knew I was back when my editor called asking for the September Newsletter column. I was in the middle of one of those camp projects that you meant to do in May but didn't get around to until September when the phone rang. I had forgotten how persistent he can be. But before I get to the business at hand, I must recognize the great work of past President Ruth Ann Kravesky. Ruth Ann was President during the most pivotal and challenging year in Lake Carmi history. She did a tremendous job and certainly deserves our thanks and gratitude.

Now to the lake. I believe we are on the cusp of a significant transition in the water quality of Lake Carmi. Through the LCCA advocacy to the VT legislature and the work of the Lake Carmi TMDL Implementation Team significant, meaningful working relationships have developed that will transform Lake Carmi. Yes, transform Lake Carmi. Lake Carmi is a top priority with the State so much so, the State has allocated 1.6 million dollars for an aeration system that will benefit the entire lake for decades. The aeration system is scheduled for implementation by the spring of next year. It will be designed to suppress the algae blooms while we work in the watershed to prevent the nutrient loading that causes the algae blooms.

And work we will. The LCCA will continue its advocacy work with the VT legislature. We will remain fully engaged with the Franklin County Delegation, the legislature leadership and relevant committees in the legislature, ensuring our needs are addressed and the work to improve the lake continues in earnest. A second LCCA sponsored legislative breakfast at the State House in January is already being planned. News of State House activity will be shared throughout the winter, we urge all Lake Carmi stakeholders to participate. Our presence in Montpelier, at the State House, testifying and attending legislative committee hearings enabled us to communicate our message. Remember strength is in numbers and we must remain active to ensure our voices are heard loud and clear.

The most significant outcome of our advocacy was the passage of Act 260, wherein Lake Carmi was declared "A Lake in Crisis." The law requires the State to prepare a Crisis Response Plan which sets forth the actions necessary to improve Lake Carmi water quality. A draft of the *Crisis Response Plan* has been presented for public comment and the LCCA has provided much feedback to the current draft. The focus of our comments centered

on the need for a detailed listing of specific projects to be completed in the watershed. The Crisis Response Plan will be finalized later this fall.

The Franklin Watershed Committee will also be working throughout the winter. Projects to curtail harmful erosion to the lake will be the top priority. Recent meetings with UVM Extension reveal that every farm in our watershed is committed to the water quality initiatives. Cover cropping and injecting manure in both hay and corn fields are among the progressive practices to be used in the Lake Carmi watershed. Keeping the soil on the land and out of our streams and lake is paramount. The FWC also intends to take tributary water samples throughout the winter as well as developing road and shoreline improvement projects. Follow up on this year's septic system maintenance and improvement initiatives continues.

Of course, plans for next year's LCCA sponsored festivities are well underway. Fireworks, the Pontoon Boat Race, Pirate Raid, and Light Up Lake Carmi are all on the agenda. A new entry is a shoreline scavenger hunt which is currently in the developmental stage. More details to follow. Our sixth Cottage Tour is also on the drawing board so please stay tuned. Lots of fun and excitement coming in 2019!

There are so many things happening at the lake. We are a determined lake community and I am convinced more than ever that significant, positive change is taking place in Franklin and at Lake Carmi. So please when you talk about the lake please accentuate the positive. Tell everyone of the commitment to the lake and all the good things that are happening. I love all those Facebook postings and all the great pictures of sunrise, sunset and everything in between. From eagles to otters we are target rich for photographs so please keep them coming. They paint a beautiful picture, depicting the wonderful life at One Happy Lake.

That's about it for now. My editor will complain about the length of the article but more importantly my real boss is wondering if I completed my project. She too can be persistent, so I'd better go.



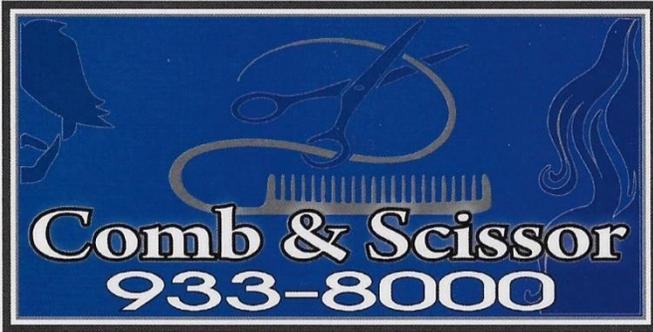
In the past I'd normally say goodbye and wish everyone a safe and healthy winter. However, there is so much happening I intend to keep in touch year-round. Remember, accentuate the positive! Talk to you all soon.

Pete Benevento, President



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Photo by Gina Leclair, Sunrise, August 28, 2018.

Last 2018 Newsletter - Editorial

This is the last issue, but that doesn't mean we stop communicating with our residents and members. The battle continues with the problem of cyanobacteria at Lake Carmi and all around the country. Our work these last few years really came to a head last winter, when the LCCA took the bull by the horns and went to the Vermont Legislature. We had been working with the folks at various state agencies for many years and were seemingly getting nowhere. We certainly had enough meetings to plead for help. We had worked with our local legislators and even met with legislators from other parts of the state. We were always present and in front of those who make decisions.

The 2017 summer season publicity campaign caught the attention of the entire legislature and as

our legislative advisors said, stay on it, be in Montpelier where you can talk to those who make the decisions. We had some doors opened to us, but we had to carry the messages and personally deliver them. Most of our membership has no idea of the work and time that went into getting that success in last winters campaign. Literally thousands of hours by a great number of volunteers, traveling on those icy winter roads to always be there, to be known, to stand out as the Lake Carmi group.

There were letter writing folks that kept up the mail going to the agencies, the Governor, and legislators. Our mentors showed us the way, but we followed up and did the work. Always keeping the topic in front of them. Our friends in the agencies did a lot of work for us and really helped us to get through the politics and "red tape."

The work the various state agencies has brought about some changes in the way things are done in the watershed. Make sure to read the article earlier in this issue. The LCCA and everyone at the lake over the years has been making changes in how we operate here at the lake. With the state's help the roads are being repaired and run-off is being prevented, the ditches and culverts are being repaired. Most of our private road owners have made efforts with the help of the state and the campers, on those roads, to prevent any further erosion or washing out. Major steps have been taken to help Lake Carmi.

The State of Vermont folks found \$1.6 million, when push can to shove, an aeration system is being planed for the installation in the entire lake some-time this fall. You've been reading about it in the papers and here in the Newsletter. It is scheduled to go into operation by June 1, 2019. They are in the process of deciding the type of system to purchase. This has been a very positive editorial, unfortunately, that ends here.

When I went to get four gallons of water from the LCCA funded spigot at the Franklin Fire Department, it had been shut off. There was a sign on the board saying we had to conserve water as the reservoir was low. We did not receive any warning or notice of an impending shutoff. The LCCA pays \$450 per season for the water that a few campers use from this Franklin Water District tap.

When President Peter Benevento went to Water Commissioner Marshall Ploof to inquire, he was told "if there is a shortage the lake water tap is the first to be shut down." Further, if there is a water shortage, the District "takes care of their own first." As Benevento was leaving his short meeting with Commissioner Ploof, he was told by another person

in the garage, “You have a second home, go there.”

It’s attitudes like this that tear down a good building relationship. We have been working hard on relationship building with the town government, we are working together. We can’t let this unfortunate attitude ruin our community. You will be kept up to date on this issue.

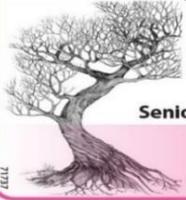
.....Larry Myott, Editor

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Field Update: Loon Wins and Losses

September 6, 2018 by [Eric Hanson](#) |



We have been monitoring this loon (known as Fish Line) on Lake Raponda in Wilmington, Vermont all summer. It can preen and catch

small fish, and has avoided capture since early June. Photo: © Nicki Steel

Every year, some of our returning loons manage to get themselves into “hot water” so to speak. They ingest fishing gear, get sick, or land in the wrong places (like on roads, in fields, or ponds too small to allow loon lift-off)—and then my phone rings. We do our best to respond to every situation, which often includes calling on our dedicated volunteers to monitor a loon for days or weeks, or jump into a small boat with me in the dark of night with spotlights and a giant dip net to catch an injured loon. We attempt most captures at night because loons tend to follow spotlights, allowing us to get close with the net. Sometimes we are successful and the loon lives to migrate another year, and sometimes despite our best efforts, we are not.

[Vermont Ecostudies staff and volunteers are Loon heroes, each summer they spend a lot of time rescuing our loon friends, here are a couple examples from their blog.]

Lake Raponda – June 2

I was helping VCE volunteer Henry Dandeneau place nest warning signs around a nest island when I noticed a sleeping loon very near shore. Something was amiss. Upon closer inspection, we saw that the loon had fishing line wrapped around its bill and head. Its mate sat nearby on the island nest, incubating eggs. Henry and I went right to work hatching a plan to return for a rescue attempt. By the time I made the 3.5 hour drive south for the second time a few days later, the pair had abandoned the nest. The loon (we call it FL—Fish Line loon) had re-joined its mate out on the main lake and easily avoided our nighttime spotlighting capture attempts, diving every time we got close. In fact, we only saw FL twice in over 90 minutes of searching. Wilmington resident and VCE volunteer Nicki Steel continues to monitor FL three to four times a week. She observes it dive, preen, and eat small fish. The fishing line has loosened over time, but has caused an infection at the base of the bill. FL catches larger fish, but cannot eat them. We’ve tried two more capture attempts to no avail. Nicki and others will continue to follow FL into the fall and report on whether it weakens or seems well enough to fly and migrate on its own.

In late July, we tried a third attempt at catching FL during both daylight and at night after it was observed sleeping more and possibly weakening. FL evaded capture once again.

East Hardwick – August 9

A loon landed on a 100-foot long pond in Michelle Demers front yard, taking up residence with their

eight-foot inflatable pink Flamingo. Michelle and her family watched the loon try to take off several times, but it consistently bailed out before reaching the bank. I arranged for the use of gill net from Vermont Fisheries Essex office just in case we could not catch it using spotlights and a dip net. I gathered my 20-year-old son, Anders, and a good friend of his, Jacob Morse, for a Monday night of entertainment in the Northeast Kingdom—a loon



round-up. Anders Hanson (left), releases an about-to-be happy loon on Caspian Lake. The loon spent the previous five days stuck on a 100-foot long pond with an inflatable pink Flamingo in East Hardwick, VT.

We hauled a borrowed 12-foot fishing boat, spotlights, trolling motor, and batteries to the shore. The loon called, probably wondering what the ruckus was all about. Every time Anders trained the spotlight on the bird, it dove. I began to worry that this would be a repeat of Lake Raponda! After 10 minutes of trolling in circles, locating the loon, making approaches, and watching it dive again, we noticed the bird change behavior; it started to follow the spotlight and stay on the surface longer. I hooted, imitating another adult loon. We got closer. Jacob turned that boat around using the trolling motor, shifting from forward to reverse and back again, faster than I've ever seen. I finally had a chance to plunge the net in front of the diving loon, and we got it. We adorned the loon with yellow, green, and silver bracelets (leg bands) and released it on Caspian Lake, a few miles up the road. There are several more stories of the loon rescue Group on the website for *Vermont Center for Ecostudies* or write: P.O. Box 420, Norwich, VT 05055. 802.649.1431.

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