

Lake Breezes

Lake Rescue Association, P.O.Box 372, Ludlow, VT 05149
www.lakerescue.org

October 2014

Milfoil Found Again In Round Pond

In late September our diver, Chris Sheldon, found a number of milfoil plants growing in Round Pond. He removed about 30 plants in the northeast area of Round Pond. About half of the plants removed in this area were about 6 inches high and the other half were 1-3' tall. He estimated they started growing this year. There was also a second patch about 100' x 20' of taller milfoil in the northwest area of Round Pond. Chris estimated these could be as much as eight feet tall. These plants were probably a year and a half old, judging by the number of stems on them. Their tops were a couple of feet below the surface and none of them had been hit by boat propellers, which would have spread small pieces. Chris pointed out that beavers cut small trees for food and drag the trees underwater to their huts. If they drag them through a milfoil patch, they spread the milfoil around the lake. Chris noted that beavers have been cutting small trees near the milfoil patch in Round Pond. (See following article)

It is unfortunate that we have milfoil in the lake after being clean since 2004. Looking back, TS Irene in 2011 had a big effect on water clarity of the lake in 2012 and 2013, For all we know, we could have gotten some milfoil fragments swept in during Irene, and were not aware of it until now. The divers had to call off the search for milfoil in the spring of 2012 due to poor visibility and were only able to search in a limited way in October 2012 Before the dredging in 2013 the divers searched and found no milfoil. When they set up the dredger a month later, they found one



Eurasian Milfoil

small plant floating next to the dredger. Speculating, it is possible that when they put the dredging pipe on the bottom to allow boat traffic to go through, the pipe might have been placed in a small milfoil patch starting to grow deep in the murky channel. They may have dislodged the small plant found later floating on the surface. Possibly, the small patch is now, a year later, the big patch Chris just found in Round Pond. The divers did a limited search in Round Pond after the dredging last fall and again this spring but didn't find any milfoil. The water continues to be cloudy which limits our search for milfoil.

This year the state greatly increased the milfoil grants to lakes that have big milfoil problems,(and did not give us a grant) thus greatly increasing the demand for qualified milfoil divers. Some of Chris Sheldon's clients doubled the amount of work for him and he has about five crews working now. Chris returned to Ludlow on October 17th with a suction harvester to demonstrate to the LRA how effective this machine can be in removing large plants. This specially designed pontoon boat has a hose which suctions the milfoil plants which are too large to remove by hand. The suction method

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ensures that pieces of the plant do not break off and cause further contamination in the lake. Rather than count the number of plants collected this method measures the number of gallons extracted via the hose. In this manner, 18 gallons of milfoil were removed from the northwest part of Round Pond. The divers that day found one additional plant at the northern end of Round Pond and two more plants just on the other side on the channel in Lake Rescue. After this, the search was stopped due to poor visibility. Chris will be coming back again this fall to search the rest of Lakes Rescue and Pauline. Meanwhile, the LRA will be applying through the town for a 10 year state permit to continue milfoil eradication through suction harvesting, as needed. We have yet to find out the cost of this fall's emergency 'house call', but are grateful that we have the funds to deal with this issue and hopefully will 'nip it in the bud'!

Eager Beavers on the Lake

Beavers are North America's "preeminent keystone species," according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Following protective action in 1910 by the state following near extinction due to the fur trade in the 1800s, the beaver population has been slowly increasing and has become robust in recent years. The Agency of Natural Resources recognizes beavers as a highly valuable natural resource, contributing significantly to the creation of vital wetland habitats that support biodiversity and essential ecological processes. Other than humans, beavers are the most remarkable and industrious civil engineers on earth, creating entire wetland ecosystems through their sophisticated building capacities and their eating, rooting, and digging behaviors that revitalize soils. As well, beavers are highly intelligent and social, mating for life and maintaining extended family networks.

In mid-summer, reports started coming in of beaver sightings on Lake Rescue. While occasional beaver sightings have occurred on the lakes for years, we presume this most recent influx is due to beavers moving slowly downstream due to habitat disruption from Tropical Storm Irene. Since mid-summer, sightings and reports of property damage have increased and have occurred around the entire lake and in Round Pond. While beavers may be a valuable natural resource, they can also cause significant property damage in populated areas, including felled trees, disruption of water flow, and contaminated water. We are also learning that beaver activity can contribute to the spread of milfoil.

In considering solutions, the LRA has been advised that beaver re-location is not an option, from practical and economic standpoints, and because relocation survival rates are low, and so are following the recommendations of the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. We are also learning that beaver activity can contribute to the spread of milfoil. We have had several conversations with our District Game Warden and we are told that "lethal reduction" of the beaver population is the best solution. The Ludlow Animal Control Officer will be carrying this out in the fall.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has information about [beaver control in Vermont](#), and a very informative and useful publication, [Best Management Practices for Resolving Human-Beaver Conflicts in Vermont](#) (http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wildlife_furbea rer.cfm#beaver). This publication includes recommendations for protecting your vulnerable trees from beaver damage, primarily by enclosing the first 3-4' in wire mesh hardware cloth, as some Lake Rescue homeowners have already done.

ERG Work Continues

The LRA has once again been approved to receive an Ecosystem Restoration Grant from the VT Watershed Management Divn., this year in the amount of \$44,688. Most of these funds will go to pay for small improvements in the areas of the three brooks which deposit sediment into the Black River. The brooks are Money Brook (north of Hawk Resort), Buffalo Brook (behind the state park at Echo Lake) and Patch Brook (along the road to Lake Nineveh). The LRA is paid (nominally) to administer the grant and to coordinate with the various town officials and our consultant.

And, In Other News...

- A new boat ramp was installed this summer by VT Fish and Wildlife
- A new dam was installed at the southern end of Lake Pauline by the Town of Ludlow
- The Ludlow Planning Commission is still researching whether to apply for authority to administer the new Shoreland Protection Act
- The proposed New England Clean Power Link would bring 1000 megawatts of DC power to the converter station at Nelson Rd. The transmission line would run from Canada, under Lake Champlain, across VT and wind its way under East Lake Rd. to Pettiner Hill Rd. Frank Heald anticipates economic benefits including jobs and reduced property taxes.

Money Matters

Now that the dredging project is behind us we are resuming the building up of our Restoration and Preservation Fund. Especially in light of the recent re-discovery of milfoil in our lake it is important to maintain a “war chest”. The potential costs of milfoil containment and eradication can be significant, as we know from the experience at other lakes. Every year a number of our members contribute to the LRA beyond the membership dues, and we thank these families for their support. They are: Elizabeth, James, & Thomas Archibald, Mary Rita Batesole, Hugh & Diane Bell, Bernard & Sue Bragg, Evandro & Darline Braz, Glenn Brown & Joan Collar, Nelson & Nancy Canter, Dawn Hoisington Cullen, Tricia Davis, Herbert & Doris Eddy, Harvey Eng, Wayne & Natalie Fisher, Michael & Leslie Gaffin, Suzanne Gilbert, Kevin & Kathleen Golmont, Jerold & Jane Gnazzo, Alan & Michelle Grant, Green Mountain Sugar House, Stephen & Trudi Greene, Adam & Anne Greshin, Frank & Melissa Hanenberger, Barb Silver-Holt & Harry Holt, Vanessa Johnson & Nicole Ditz, Ralph & Lynn Jones, Robert & Karen Jones, Tim & Gloria Katsiff, Thomas & Mary Kelly, Richard & Marge Killian, Elliott & Barbara Kitay, Monique Kosar, Harold & Jolanta Krach, Chris & Stacy Loveless, James McCall, Robert & Dorothea McFarland, John & Susan McKittrick, Neil Mahoney, Simon & Cheryl Moss, Phillip & Amy Newell, Ned & Jean Newland, Chip Newman Jr., Martin & Alice Nitka, Blasé & Dianne Picone, Rob & Katie Rauch, Roy & Paula Schwartz, Thomas & Maryanne Smith, Sam & Anne Stewart, William Vanneman, Jim & Jane Wallace Paul & Dawne Ware, Martin & Hinda Wolf, Shirley Yudkin, John & Anne Waldron, Stewart & Barbara Washburn.

THANK YOU ALL !

Lake Rescue Association

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Website:

www.LakeRescue.org

Promoting Water Safety,
Environmental Education
&
Improved Water Quality

SAVE THE DATES !!

***JULY 4th PICNIC on July 4, 12 Noon
Rain Date on July 5, 12 Noon***

***ANNUAL MEETING on
August 15, 9:30 AM
Ludlow Community Center (Armory)***

The Lake Rescue Association is a 501c3
Non-Profit organization. All donations to the
'Restoration & Preservation' fund are
tax-deductible.

We're on Facebook!

Visit our Group Page:
Lake Rescue Association

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