

Lake Breezes

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

October 2013

Dredging Project Completed

Our dredging project began on time with arrival of contractor Chris Sheldon and his crew on September 3rd. The first few days were spent setting up the boat launch site, installing the silt fencing in the water and assembling the pipes which ran toward the mouth of the river in Round Pond. Actual dredging began on Tuesday, September 10th and continued until October 1st. The 'cone' shaped channel from the river into Round Pond is now 5 feet deep, with the sides sloping to 3 feet. Temporary buoys will be installed for the winter, to be replaced by regular buoys next year. About 600 cubic yards of material have been removed and donated to the Ludlow Cemetery, thanks to the extremely generous donation of trucking services by M&M Excavation and owner Mike O'Neil, who is a Lake resident.

All this was accomplished at an approximate cost of \$85,000 - \$95,000. Most the funds came from our generous donors (see page 2), with the remainder coming from the LRA. Final invoices have not yet been received but should be paid in the next month or so. The initial volume estimate, 1200 cu. yd., did not properly account for the density of the material removed. Once the water drained away there was less material than originally estimated.

Shoreland Protection Legislation

As we have described in previous communications, the State Senate will be considering a Shoreland Protection Bill in the first quarter of 2014. Partly as a consequence of this the Town of Ludlow Planning Commission is rewriting the zoning regulations for the Lakes District. They have asked the Lake Rescue Assn. for input on this issue.

In late August, we sent out a brief survey to our membership which asked 1) whether state or



The dredger at work in Round Pond

municipal regulations were preferable, 2) whether the LRA board should represent the LRA membership, and 3) whether there was agreement that regulations should be site-specific and serve to improve water quality.

The overwhelming majority of respondents (67/69) agreed that municipal regulations were preferable to state rules. Similarly, a large majority agreed that the LRA Board should represent the membership in these discussions with the town. There was agreement on the third point as well.

Accordingly, the LRA board made the following recommendations to the Planning Commission:

1. The minimum lot size (40,000 sq.ft.) and minimum setback from the water (50 ft.) should remain unchanged.
2. The size and extension of docks are currently regulated by the state. There should be no additional local rules.
3. Existing land use should be grandfathered.
4. Construction of steps to the water should be regulated based on Best Management Practices, as set out in the state's Lake Wise Program.
5. Consideration of regulations concerning tree clearing, and shoreline buffers should be postponed until the State enacts standards. This would be not before the first quarter of 2014.

The Planning Commission is still in the information gathering stage. Their next meeting is on October 15 at 6PM.

THANK YOU! To Our Donors

We would like to thank all those who so generously donated to the dredging project. To date we have received 105 gifts for a total of \$76,740! Four remarkable donors offered contributions of \$5,000 or more, 4 more offered gifts between \$2,500 and \$4,999, 21 more were made between \$1,000 and \$2,499, 16 between \$500 and \$999, and 61 made contributions up to \$500. We thank you all, as every contribution is important. We would like to acknowledge all those who participated in this campaign in the list below. If you have contributed specifically to the dredging project and your name does not appear, we apologize – do let us know, as we will offer a follow-up list in the next newsletter.

Andrews, Peter & Bonnie
Anonymous
Archibald, Anne
Archibald, Kenneth
Archibald, Jim
Batesole, Mary Rita
Baydin, Jeffrey & Linda
Belanardo, Joseph & Lisa
Bell, Hugh & Diane
Bennitt, Theodore & Jocyl
Benson's Chevrolet
Bradford, Dan & Jill
Bragg, Bernard & Dorothy
Braz, Evandro
Brown, Glenn & Joan Collar
Canter, Nelson & Nancy
Casey, James & Mary
Chao, Rowena
Ciufu, Tony and Angi Benson
Conheaney, Thomas & Roseann
Cork Associates
Craven, Sidney (in honor of Frank Wingate)
Cusumano, Robert
Davis, Patricia
Denner, John
Durkin, William
Eckel, John & Catherine
Eddy, Herb & Doris
Esau, John & Joanne
Ferguson, Ronald & Carol
Fino, Marty & Sue
Fisher, Wayne & Natalie
Gaffin, Leslie & Michael
Gibbens, Mark & Amy Bradach
Gnazzo, Jerold & Jane
Goldberg, Alfred
Golmont, Kevin & Kathy
Grant, Alan & Michelle
Green Mountain Sugar House
Greene, Steve & Truddi
Greshin, Adam & Anne

Greshin, Julie & Jeremy
Gulli, Barbara
Hamm-Greenwalt, Lisa
Hanenberger, Frank & Melissa
Hansen, Elizabeth & John
Harris, Thomas & Patricia
Harrison, Richard
Heald, Frank
Hyland, Barbara
Jackson, John
Johnson, Vanessa
Jones, Bob & Karen
Jones, Luther & Elaine
Jones, Ralph & Lynn
Keane, John & Mary
Kelly, Tom & Mary
Kissell, Francis & Angela
Kitay, Elliot & Barbara
Kosar, Monique
Krach, Harold & Jolanta
Krefski, Elizabeth & Louis
Labonne, Dorothy & Richard
Latta, Jerry & Susan
Loveless, Chris & Stay
Low, David & Nancy
Lowry, John & TracyAnn
Lynn, Theodore & Jocelyn
Mahoney, Neil
McCall, James
McFarland, Robert & Dorothea
McKittrick, John & Susan
Minklei, Ken & Joan
Moss, Simon & Cheryl
Newell, Philip & Amy
Newland, Edward
Newman, Chip
Nitka, Alice & Marty
Norman, James & Janine
O'Connor, Brian & Helen
O'Neil/M&M Excavating, in-kind donation
Piccone, Blasé & Dianne
Pollie, William & Shara
Purington, Robert & Hilma
Rauch, Rob & Katie
Robinson, Charlie & Heather
Salerno, Chris & Dick
Saperstone, Peter & Nancy
Sauser, Thomas & Dale
Schwartz, Roy & Paula
Silver-Holt, Barb & Harry Holt
Soder, Douglas & Penny
Spaulding, Richard & Elizabeith
Stewart, Janet
Turner, Sally & Tim
Vanneman, Willliam
Vishnia, David
Waldron, John & Anne

(con't on page 3)

Ware, Paul & Dawne
 Washburn, Stewart & Barbara
 Weilbrenner, Charles & Holly
 Wingate, Frank & Anne
 Wolf, Martin & Hinda
 Yudkin, Shirley

Winter Ice Safety

Many people use the lake year round. Ice fishing and snowmobiling are popular activities in winter. We asked the State about ice safety. The official policy is: 'NO ICE IS SAFE'. But there are some general common-sense things to be aware of. There should be a minimum of 4" of NEW, CLEAR ICE to support walkers. Ice thickness can vary dramatically within just a few feet and does not necessarily freeze uniformly. Factors such as currents, springs and vegetation rotting under water will affect the thickness. Even a particularly active group of fish can reduce ice thickness. Early in the season a layer of snow on top of the ice can have an insulating effect, slowing down the freezing process. Ridge lines may form as new ice freezes toward the center of a lake. Be careful around these ridgelines until it is certain that the ice is solid.

The areas around the Red Bridge Dam and the Narrows are known to have thin ice and open water at all times and should be avoided. But even when the center of the lake is frozen solid there will be open water around docks that employ a bubbler system. Bubblers are devices that prevent ice from forming around docks and are intended to ensure that the natural crushing pressure of ice is not able to squeeze the structure. There are two known bubblers on the lake: one on the east side of Round Pond and the second in the southeast corner of Lake Rescue. However, be aware that new bubblers could be added. When on the ice, please use extra caution around dock areas. Generally, the best guides are the local ice fishermen. If you see them out on the lake walking around, drilling holes, you can be more confident that the ice has reached the necessary thickness and is safe in that area. Local bait shops are also a good source of information and can offer some general advice (as well as fishing licenses and ice fishing gear). The Tyson store (228 2284) starts stocking bait around the end of November until mid-April. Their constant interaction with local fishermen can provide useful information.

The beginning and end of the season, when the ice is freezing and thawing are the most difficult

to judge and so most dangerous. With this, as with any activity around water, having a 'buddy' along and staying a fair distance apart is a very good idea. Take a cell phone with you and let others know that you are going out on the lake and when to expect you back. Parents should always supervise younger children.

Some years ago, the LRA donated money to the Ludlow Fire Dept. for an Ice Rescue Sled. The volunteer firemen train with this sled every year and are prepared to use it if an ice rescue becomes necessary. But none of us wants to see this piece of equipment in action.

Be cautious at all times and remember:

You are on the ice AT YOUR OWN RISK!

(Reprinted from Lake Breezes Oct., 2011)

ERP Work Continues

The Ecosystem Restoration project continues work to investigate three areas which have been contributing to the sediment flowing into our lake. The three areas are Patch Brook, Buffalo Brook and Money Brook, all north of us in Plymouth. There have been many meetings, site visits and data collecting to determine the best solutions for stabilizing these problem areas. The parties involved are the LRA, town officials in Ludlow and Plymouth, VT Fish and Wildlife, VT Forest, Parks and Wildlife, a VT ANR stream engineer, a VT ANR Basin Planner and a VT ANR scientist. The study will continue into 2014 with the hope that a comprehensive solution will come out of this.

Buoy, Oh Boy!

We continue to have problems with vandalism directed at our 'Slow/No Wake' buoys. Again this year the buoy at the entrance to Slacks Pasture cove disappeared. We replaced that buoy with one which otherwise would have been on the north side of the Narrows. This has happened several times over the years. Each time we have to replace a buoy it is at a cost of \$500 (plus cables, anchors and labor). Obviously, this is an undesirable and unnecessary expense which could be spent in more productive ways. The safety concern of speeding boats in highly congested areas is obvious and the buoy serves as a reminder.

This kind of vandalism should be reported to the State Police at 875-2112

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Website:

www.LakeRescue.org

**Promoting Water Safety,
Environmental Education
&
Improved Water Quality**

We're on Facebook!

Visit our Group Page:

Lake Rescue Association

Help Wanted!

Our long time Webmaster, Dave Hearne, will be stepping down in 2014. We are looking for a volunteer skilled in website design and social media. Please contact Natalie Fisher at nataliefisher@yahoo.com.

Thank you to Dave for his long service to the LRA!

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

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