

Lake Breezes

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

June 2015

The Milfoil Battle Begins in Earnest

After last fall's disappointing discovery of milfoil, ending 10 years of being milfoil-free, we have all been anxiously awaiting the inspection this spring to know just what we were dealing with.

We have a new team this year, Shane and Cat Yoder, who have come to us on Chris Sheldon's recommendation. They have been removing milfoil at Lake Tinmouth for three years and have solid experience recognizing and hand extracting milfoil. They have done thorough searches of Round Pond, the main lake and Lake Pauline and we are confident of their capability. Their first visit was on June 7th and 8th and found 5-10 small milfoil plants, also 2 plants in the main lake near Discovery Island. On June 11th they searched the rest of the perimeter and coves of Lake Rescue and found no more plants. The same day they went back to Round Pond and, because the visibility was particularly good, spotted and removed many more milfoil plants...enough to fill a 10 gallon bucket. On June 12th Cat and Shane returned and removed yet another 10 gallons of milfoil in Round Pond. In the afternoon they searched Lake Pauline and found no milfoil. On June 14th, they returned again to Round Pond, removing another 15 gallons of milfoil. They are now scheduled to come back on June 21st to search Round Pond again and also the northern part of the main lake near Discovery Island to try and get it all. It is important to get the small plants now because during the hot months they can grow a foot a week. Once they reach the surface they can be hit by a passing boat propeller and spread elsewhere and anywhere.



Our Divers, Shane and Cat Yoder

In total, the Yoders have so far pulled out about 35 gallons of milfoil, mostly from Round Pond. All of this was done by hand extraction and did not require the use of the suction harvester which we now have a state permit for. Chris Sheldon used this equipment last fall to remove the large infestation he found, which amounted to 18 gallons of milfoil.

At printing, the Yoders are planning on returning again on June 28th to inspect Round Pond and upper Lake Rescue for any remaining milfoil plants. These inspections will continue until there is certainty that no milfoil remains. Watch our Facebook page for updates.

The impacts in Round Pond that we have seen due to TS Irene in 2011 have been far ranging and ongoing. Not the least of these is the current milfoil outbreak. In the years since Irene, our divers have been limited in their inspections due to poor visibility from stirred up sediment. Secondly, all of Round Pond is now shallower and, since milfoil only grows in 20 ft. or less of water, there is more potential area at risk. And finally, it's possible there is undiscovered milfoil still hidden in the sediment. We have contracted for more diver time and will take any action necessary to get back to milfoil-free status.

Boat Launch Greeters

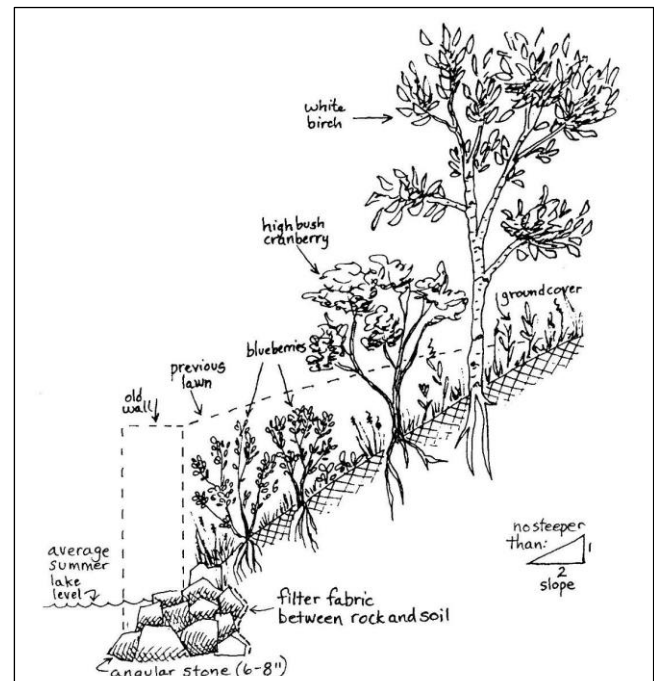
The LRA is once again operating a Greeter Program at the Boat Launch on weekend mornings. This is to check incoming boats for signs of milfoil or other invasive species and to inform boaters and fishermen of the need to inspect their boats between lake visits. At this point 55% of Vermont lakes have some type of aquatic invasive species and the state feels that educating boaters about the transporting of these 'invaders' is the best method of prevention. "Clean, Drain, Dry" is the catch phrase this year for how boaters can keep their equipment free of hitch-hikers which they may deliver to an unsuspecting lake. The board at the Boat Launch has more information on this topic.

Maintaining Your Shoreline

We are all very lucky to own property on our gem of a lake and we owe it to our children and grandchildren to do what we can to maintain the health of the delicate ecosystem in and surrounding the lake. A very important element that we have control over is how we treat the area of shoreline closest to the water. Experts recommend plantings of native groundcover, shrubs and trees which stabilize the soils, prevent erosion, enhance privacy and provide cooling shade for the shallow water where fish and insects breed. The lake bottom and is something we rarely think about except for finding it distasteful when we step into the soft, 'mucky' sand. But it provides habitat for many small creatures essential to a healthy lake, as seen in this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQmk4aRArDRkKgDZZ1fIdJg>.

Next, once on land, native plant species are recommended which will provide stabilizing root structures to prevent erosion, habitat for insects, small mammals and birds. Plants such



as ferns, blueberries and other low shrubs will provide all this and shade for the shallow water. You may be wondering, "How wide should the planted border along the shoreline be?" The simple answer is, "As wide as possible". Experts recommend 100 feet, but that is not often feasible with the small lot sizes on our lake. But, ANY vegetative strip you can plant along the shoreline is a help. Even 10 or 15 feet of shrubby plantings will provide some of the benefits mentioned above.

Another consideration is what kind of steps or paths you have to access the water. Any pathways or steps leading to the water should 'infiltrate', or have a crushed stone base which allows water seep through. The route the path takes should not be a straight line down to the water, but rather should zigzag or meander to slow down the velocity of water runoff and give the water a chance to absorb into the soil. See http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes/docs/LP_BMPIInfiltrationSteps.pdf#zoom=100.

Remember: Your property is the LAST line of defense in protecting the lake from runoff!

ERG Work Continues

The LRA recently made the following press release concerning the Environmental Restoration Grant:

“The Lake Rescue Association is very pleased to announce a grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to begin addressing sediments deposited in four lakes in the upper Black River Watershed. Since Tropical Storm Irene, even normal rainfall continues to cause substantial sedimentation in Lakes Amherst, Echo, Rescue and Pauline. This negatively impacts water quality, fish habitat, and recreation. Focus of the \$44,688 grant will be in three areas. First, berm removal and river corridor easements to regain flood plain access, thus reducing flood velocities. Second, selected slopes will be re-vegetated to accelerate healing of landslides. Third, there will be drainage improvement to underused roads upstream from Camp Plymouth State Park.

Kristen Underwood of South Mountain Research who has been principal investigator in previous studies of the area will manage the grant for LRA. The VT River Conservancy, represented by Steve Libby, has been contracted to work with landowners to ensure that the recovered floodplain functions are preserved in perpetuity. Marie Levesque Caduto, Watershed Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Conservation will monitor and assist in the project. Completion will be December, 2016.”

We received approval for this grant last fall and have just recently finished the necessary paperwork and signed the contract with the state. The LRA role will primarily be to administer this grant. The lands where the improvements are to take place are privately owned and negotiations with owners are in progress and will continue. We expect this to

proceed slowly since obtaining agreement from private landowners is difficult.

And, In Other News ...

- The Ludlow Design Review Board (DRB) is considering changing some key zoning provisions in the Lake District. Most of these have to do with bringing town regulations in line with the state Shoreland Protection Act which was enacted a year ago. We will post any decisions they make on our Facebook page when they happen.
- The beaver problem we spoke of last fall seems to have localized to one area in Slacks Pasture cove and the LRA is continuing to monitor it. If there is other beaver activity which is problematic, please contact the Ludlow Animal Control Officer directly: Steve Laskevich 802 228 4912 or 802 548 8026.
- There is still time to sign up for the July 4th Picnic and Family Fun Day! Send in your check to Box 372, Ludlow VT 05149. \$10 for Adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under. Contact Angi for more information angi@tonyciufo.com . Rain date July 5.
- Owners: Please remind your renters to observe lake etiquette: Quiet hours 10PM – 8AM and Flood lights out at night. Thank you!
- Check our Facebook page, Lake Rescue Association, for important updates throughout the season!

Lake Rescue Association
P.O. Box 372
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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

SAVE THE DATES !!

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

ANNUAL MEETING on
August 15, 9 AM
Ludlow Community Center
(Former Armory)

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

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