

# Lake Breezes



October 2021

The Pandemic is still with us despite Vermont achieving a very high vaccination rate. The infection rates climbed through the summer, but have recently shown a downturn. Fingers crossed for continuing improvement!

This summer we deployed our new DASH Boat with impressive results.



Eradicating the infestation in Round Pond has continued apace with strong progress in the worst areas of growth. But, in the coves throughout the lake, single plants and small patches have continued their creeping spread. It's not enough to deploy the DASH boat and bottom barriers in the most severe locations, while milfoil plants are trying to colonize the lakes. Next year's challenge will be to arrest this spread through increased volunteer patrolling, and plant removal.

## A Better Milfoil Season in 2021

Over the winter, we built a Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) Boat at a cost of approximately \$25,000. The DASH boat is a specially modified pontoon boat that deploys a powerful suction pump to remove the invasive plants from the lake bottom. A scuba diver vacuums up the plants with a 5-inch hose. The water and plants suctioned from the lake bottom are strained through a metal platform table on the boat. Then the plants are removed from the lake and disposed of at the Ludlow Transfer Station. McGowan Landscaping volunteered their services to haul the plants away for disposal. Thank you, Greg!

In 2020, 6700 gallons of milfoil were removed, 90% of which was during the October DASH boat suction harvesting by A&E Diving. During the 2021 season, 2761 gallons of milfoil were removed by a combination of DASH boat harvesting and hand pulling. Our professional dive team, Cat and Shane Yoder, started surveying the lakes and hand harvesting Eurasian milfoil plants in May and June. Our permit with the state of Vermont for the deployment of bottom barriers and DASH boat harvesting requires us to wait until July, after the fish spawning season, to start those efforts. The July deployment of 48 bottom barriers, 10' x 50' weighted vinyl blankets, smothered and killed milfoil in the most severely effected areas of Round Pond. The locations of the barriers were adjusted twice over the summer to target milfoil in

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## Milfoil... 2021



Bottom barriers being deployed in Round Pond

the north and east parts of Round Pond where the 2021 growth was heaviest.

This year our dive team also spent considerable time surveying and harvesting milfoil plants on Lake Pauline. We made arrangements with a private homeowner on Lake Pauline to launch the diver's workboat.

DASH boat suctioning, hand harvesting, bottom barrier deployment, volunteer harvesting and skimming combined for a great effort in fighting the invasive plant infestation. Because we had a rather rainy summer, the milfoil plants did not grow as aggressively this year as they did last year in the sunny weather. Hence the lower number of gallons harvested.

Including the cost of the DASH boat, we spent approximately \$47,000 on milfoil remediation in 2021. We will receive over \$14,000 from the Vermont DEC Grant Program, led by Ms. Kim Jensen. This is double what we were granted in 2020. The remainder was paid for by membership dues and donations from Lake Rescue Association members.

We continued our "Greeter Program" at the Fishing Access. Our Greeter, Christopher Mott, has been trained by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to screen boats and watercrafts such as kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards for invasive plant

species. Mr. Mott made inspections at the boat ramp on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from Labor Day to Memorial Day.

### 'Defend Your Waterfront' Volunteer Expansion

One of the greatest successes we enjoyed this year was the increased volunteer efforts of our membership. One of the challenges of fighting milfoil is ensuring that the plants don't float and propagate in other parts of the lake after being cut by boat props. We emphasize asking our members to carry "pool skimmers" in their boats and kayaks while paddling to pick up floating pieces of milfoil. We also encouraged homeowners to harvest the plants along their shoreline. Our members spent hundreds of hours helping with these efforts. In preparation for the 2022 summer season the LRA hopes to expand and formalize the volunteer milfoil remediation effort that began in the fall 2020. The lakes will be divided into 'zones' with dedicated teams patrolling for milfoil plants and fragments on a regular basis. In this way we will be able to leverage the impact the professional divers can make by increasing their efficiency. Training will be provided.

## The 'Rescue Our Lakes' Campaign

**What a difference a year makes!** The Rescue Our Lakes (ROL) Campaign was launched in late fall of 2020, with a fundraising goal of \$250,000, to be raised over a 3-year period. As the milfoil proliferated, sediment accumulated, and our coffers dwindled, we knew we had to reach out to you for help. How we underestimated the passion and commitment of the Lake Rescue Association members! While we haven't reached our cash-in-hand goal, in under a year we have surpassed it when including pledges that will come in over the next two years. With all

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## 'Rescue Our Lakes'

commitments honored, we now have reached an in-hand donations total of over \$230,000 (when all pledges come due, we're tracking well over \$325,000)!

But we are not finished. These funds will take care of milfoil eradication efforts for 3 or so years, have enabled us to buy our DASH boat, to dredge the Narrows at some point in the next 2 years, and will replenish our reserve fund. However, milfoil containment will be an everlasting, ongoing battle, and sediment will always accumulate. Normal operating expenses, as well as other, sometimes unexpected, costs arise. We will continue to seek state funding and grants, and we will continue to encourage donations. If you haven't given to the ROL Campaign, please do so! Thanks again to all of you who have and who will support our efforts.

The machine that fueled this campaign was made up of tireless neighbors who spent countless hours helping to drive donations and share the mission of the campaign. Our unending thanks to our wonderful committee of ROL Campaign committee, volunteers and board liaisons:

Pete Andrews, Jacalyn Diesenhouse, Rod Forter, Tina Gehris, Kathleen Golmont, Kara Gregory, Gigi Katsiff, Amy Newell, Ann Rose, Spencer Rubin, Barb Silver, Liz Spaulding, George Thomson, Jackie Thong, and Michele Zanca.

**Shifting ROL Priorities – Membership.** There are approximately 330 properties that are considered the "lakes district," as defined by the Ludlow, Vermont zoning regulations. These include properties directly on Lakes Pauline and Rescue, as well as those within 200' of the lakes. The LRA membership has been dropping and currently represents only about a third of those property owners. We believe there is much we can do to increase that number. As a lake community, we believe we're stronger together - so as our ROL committee seeks donor participation from all who enjoy and care about the lakes, we'll also re-focus our efforts to

increase our LRA membership base. The ROL committee will be expanding its focus to include a membership drive, as well as public awareness and "friend-raising" efforts and events. We'd like to increase awareness of the LRA, its mission, and its activities, not only to lakes district property owners, but also to the general Ludlow community. As the ROL committee re-organizes to include these membership goals with their fundraising efforts over the next year, you will be hearing more about their plans. We hope you will help us by participating in any events they plan, and spreading the word about the LRA to your neighbors and friends around the lakes who might not be members, and also to those you might meet in the community if the opportunity arises. Finally, if you are interested in helping either as a committee member or for a specific event or initiative, email us at [lakerescueassn@gmail.com](mailto:lakerescueassn@gmail.com). Thank you!

## Sedimentation and Dredging

The Lake Rescue water level remained high through the end of September and navigation between Round Pond and the southern end of Lake Rescue was not impeded for most boats using the lake. As reported at the 2021 Annual Meeting, the dredging project was deferred. In April/May of 2022 LRA will again assess the impact from winter storms and the urgency of needing to dredge the Narrows. Initially our assessment will be based on our own general observations. If water depth levels in the project area appear to be shallower, LRA will then commission another bathymetric survey to confirm the observations and determine the location and quantity of material that needs to be

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## ...Sedimentation

removed. Generally, LRA will need to make a determination as early as possible in the season so that arrangements with the contractor and suppliers can be made to ensure labor, equipment and supplies are available when needed in the Fall, otherwise dredging will be deferred to the following year. The benefit of pushing back the project is that it effectively extends the useful life of the 2013 dredging project. The LRA permit to dredge the river channel in Round Pond, expires on August 7, 2025.

The Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP) for the Town and Village of Ludlow, prepared by consultants for Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC), was completed in June of 2021. Two projects around Lake Rescue were identified as 'high priority' and preliminary designs were drawn up. One project is along Scott's Landing and Tepper Drive and the second one is between Red Bridge and Lake Shore Drive. The cost estimate for these two projects is \$56,000. The funding for these projects has been identified and will be submitted for approval this fall.

The Better Roads Grant application for culvert and stream bed improvements under East Lake Road and Archibald Lane, which was denied in 2020, will be resubmitted by the Town of Ludlow this fall.

## State Dock Update

To recap, a complaint was filed against the state over two years ago by a group of Lake Rescue property owners and the Lake Rescue Association protesting the proposed placement of a 48' dock at the Fishing Access boat launch in Round Pond. (More information about the suit can be found [here](#). Please note especially the [LRA Report](#) which details our position.) After unsuccessful attempts to cancel or modify dock plans through public hearings and mediations with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, the LRA agreed to pursue the complaint and proceed to trial with the Vermont Environmental Court. Because of Covid, a 2020 date for that

trial was delayed until fall 2021. Late this summer, the court requested documents from both parties in preparation for a trial. As of now, we have not received a court date. We will update the membership as more information becomes available.

## Native Americans in Vermont

Throughout history the native peoples in Vermont depended on the lands and waters of Vermont for their survival. Their spiritual practices emphasized a reverence for the gifts that the earth provided them. We, in the LRA, strive to be good stewards of the gift we have been given: our beautiful lakes.

For many years Native American history has been overlooked but this is now changing. This year, October 11<sup>th</sup> was the third anniversary of this day being officially designated as 'Indigenous People's Day' in Vermont. The indigenous people in New England are part of the Abenaki Nation. In 2011 and 2012 the State of Vermont officially recognized four 'bands' of Native Americans. (\*\*listed below ) This was a very significant step in the struggle of Native American to gain recognition and awareness of their population and culture in the history in Vermont.

These indigenous peoples and their ancestors, Paleoindians, have been in New England continuously for more than 12,000 years. There are numerous sites around the state where evidence of their presence has been found. One such site is here in Ludlow, near the entrance to Jackson Gore, just off Rt. 103. This corridor is thought to have been a major east-west route for migrating game and

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## ...Native Americans



Sign at Jackson Gore

the people who hunted them. Arrowheads and other artifacts found there in 2007 show evidence of a campsite and hunting activity.

Early contact with Europeans likely began in the 1500s, with the fur trade. At that time the estimated Native population in Vermont and New Hampshire was around 10,000. These early contacts brought with them European diseases, such as smallpox, typhus and yellow fever. The ensuing waves of epidemics decimated the Native population such that by the mid-1600s, the population was less than 2,500. The Abenaki were nomadic and would change locations when conditions were adverse and returning after conditions improved. And so, many thought the 'Indians' had abandoned Vermont for Canada. When colonial farms and towns were established in the mid-1700s, the native population, much reduced through disease and war, retreated to the northern reaches of the state and has maintained a continuous presence there to this day.

In the late 1800s the Eugenics movement gained popularity in the United States and by 1931 Vermont passed a law which allowed 'voluntary' sterilization and the removal of children from families deemed 'unfit'. Native Americans were one of the targeted groups. The program continued into the 1960s. This caused fear and distrust of the government and colleges, where these ideas were promoted. On October 16, 2021 the top legislators of Vermont issued an official apology to the Native American community for the trauma inflicted by these policies. This August in Stowe the tribes celebrated the second annual 'Indigenous Peoples' Day Rock!' The event included music, food and booths selling native

crafts and providing information about the Abenaki language. The morning featured a traditional drum circle. The tribes are building unity and connecting with the larger Native American community. There is pride in the recognition and visibility the tribes have achieved after many years of struggle.



Tribal Dance at the celebration in Stowe August 2021

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### \*\* Abenaki Tribes now recognized by Vermont:

- The Elnu Abenaki Tribe in Jamaica and Southern Vermont
  - The Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe in Barton and NE Vermont
  - The Koasek Band of the Kous Abenaki in Newbury and NE Vermont
  - The Abenaki Nation at Missiquoi in Swanton and NW Vermont
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### Sources:

Vermont Digger: 'Then Again' series.  
1/20/2019, 9/20/2020  
VermontDigger:2/21/2021,10/10/2021,10/18/21;  
Journal of Vermont Archaeology, Vol.12, 2011  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hnk2dtaYCOK>

## Other News/ Reminders

- Emerald Ash Borer: Consider having an inventory of Ash trees on your property, in preparation for our area becoming infested with this insect. Early intervention may save your trees and avoid costly removal later. For more information, Visit this [website](#).
- Winter Ice Safety: This is a reminder to review safety recommendations before going out onto the ice when the lake is frozen. Keep your family and friends safe! Visit <https://lakerescue.org/ice-safety/>



Promoting Water Safety,  
Environmental Education &  
Improved Water Quality

[www.LakeRescue.org](http://www.LakeRescue.org)

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