

Lake Breezes

We're Hoping for a 'Normal' Summer!



We plan to dredge the river channel, including part of the sand bar, in Round Pond this fall.

We are grateful that our lake water is returning to its previous clarity, despite taking another beating during a December rain storm.

Milfoil mitigation will commence very soon, and we plan to dredge the river channel in the Southwest portion of the lake this fall. More details and other news follows...

Watch our Facebook page, Lake Rescue Association for important updates.

Last year was a traumatic one for many of us. The flood on July 10 was of historic proportions, in some areas worse than T.S. Irene in 2011. The lakes were severely impacted as well as all roads and infrastructure in our area. The recovery has proceeded according to plan and was carried out by state, local and federal governments. They were aided by countless volunteers who stepped up to help neighbors and the community. FEMA was here in Ludlow for several weeks, providing emergency assistance and low-cost loans. The Ludlow Road Dept. restored roads, culverts and drainage ditches throughout the village and town, including paving Red Bridge Rd. and 'upsizing' all the culverts on East Lake Rd. The large culvert at Archibald Ln. was enlarged and a new header poured. The wooded swale on the lake side of that culvert will be stone-lined. The Town will continue grading and erosion control projects throughout the summer. They are working with the state and region to finalize a Hazard Mitigation Plan to prioritize mitigation projects.

While some stores and restaurants are still in recovery, much of life is resuming its previous rhythm around Ludlow.

On the lakes, our activities are also returning to normal, with Milfoil removal to resume as soon as normally permitted.

The dredging project plans are proceeding with a target of removing 4,900 cubic yards of sediment, beginning after Labor Day and continuing as long as weather permits. (See p.2)

Milfoil

As you may recall, last summer all efforts to remove and control milfoil in Lakes Rescue and Pauline were cut short because of the devastating flood. Unfortunately, we were only able to do a small fraction of the work planned. We still have not been able to do a survey of the lakes to see what effect the flood had on the milfoil growth. Regardless, this summer, we are prepared to attack the invasive weed with vigor and plan to deploy 63 bottom barriers after July 1 (the earliest date the state will allow) and have contracted to have the DASH (Diver Assisted Suctioning Harvesting) boat on the lake 4-5 days per week and will employ a boat monitor at the state fishing access area for three days per week.

Milfoil is so prolific and spreads so easily, we once again will be asking for volunteers to support the work of paid personnel by collecting fragments, looking for growing milfoil plants, removing them if possible or marking the location for the divers to remove with buoys. We have supplies to support this effort so just ask. Our budget for milfoil removal this summer is \$72,677 of which over \$8,000 is in kind services of time that volunteers donate in this effort. We have applied once again this year for a state grant from the Agency of Natural Resources. The state grant that we have applied requires volunteer participation in the maintenance of the lakes, so please log your hours...date and number of hours and action taken.



We would like to have a team of volunteer in each of the lake zones (left) to make sure we are covering all areas of the lakes. Please sign up to help by contacting George O. Thomson at gothomson131vt@gmail.com

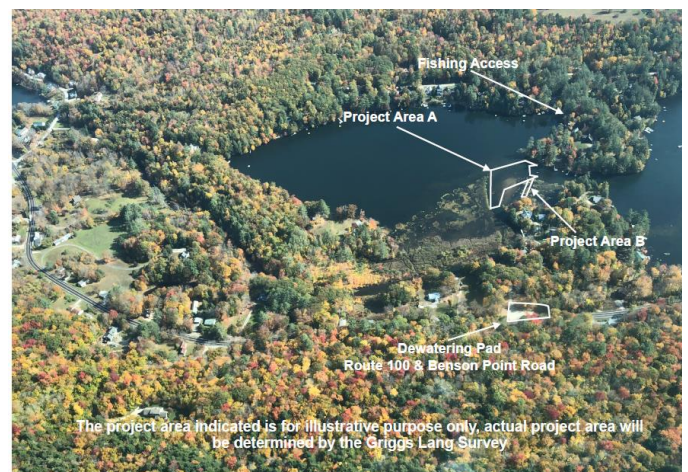
Dredging

The Lake Rescue Association's 2023 dredging plan was postponed due to July flood which damaged much of the infrastructure in our region. Roads and bridges were washed out, the lake water level was far above normal, and the turbidity of the lake water all made the project not feasible last year.

The storm resulted in more sediment in the Narrows, Round Pond and mouth of the Black River. The size of the sandbar at the mouth of the Black River has increased in size.

LRA is planning on implementing last year's dredging plan in September 2024, with a few proposed changes. We are applying for an amendment to the Lake Encroachment Permit. The key changes requested are: 1) moving the dewatering site from the Fishing Access to the lot at the corner of Benson Point Road and Rt 100 North, 2) increasing the amount of material to be removed from 2000 cubic yards to 4900 cubic yards in the original project area and 3) increase the project area to improve access to Benson Cove with an additional 500 cubic yards to be removed in that area.

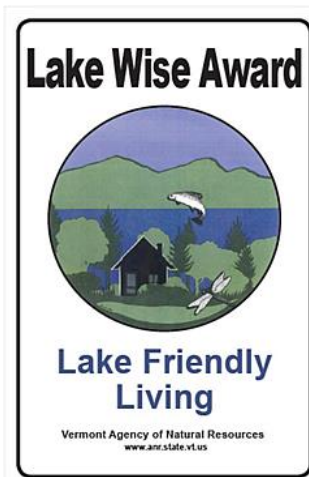
The dredging plan is to achieve a 4-foot depth within the project area with priority on Area A. If time and resources permit, further dredging will continue into Area B. (See below) The projected costs are nearly \$300,000. We anticipate starting the project right after Labor Day and continuing through October.



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Lake Wise Program

This important program for reducing erosion and storm runoff into lakes and stream got off to a good start last summer but was then derailed by the flood of July 10. Despite that, 7 properties received the 'Lake Wise' designation and now proudly display the award.



This year the State is sponsoring 12 more Lake Wise assessments at Lake Rescue, which will be done by Fitzgerald Environmental on July 24th and 25th. Email us at lakerescueassn@gmail.com to sign up! Additionally, The State is expanding the program to Lakes Pauline, Echo and Amherst. Long Creek Resources will be doing the assessments at Lake Pauline beginning this summer. We don't have dates for Lake Pauline yet but stay tuned for more information.

Having your property assessed is an important step you can take to improve and maintain the water quality of our lakes!

For more information, visit <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise>

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Dredging

The dredging program is only a restoration and not a permanent solution to sediment entering the lakes. Upriver erosion of the steep terrain, sediment already on the riverbanks and dirt roads will continue to be transported down the Black River and will result in additional sediment in the Lakes. The LRA is committed to striving for long term solutions, such as the ongoing Better Roads projects and improved shoreland conditions on properties around the Lakes.

We are grateful that we have the funds to carry out this necessary restoration and thank the Lakes community for the generous support of the "Rescue Our Lakes" campaign over the last three years.

Wake Boat Restrictions Enacted by the State of Vermont

Vermont's new wake boat rule protects lakes and reduces safety risk by confining wake sports to 'wake sport zones' in larger lakes defined by a 500' shore buffer and a depth more than 20'. There are also certain 'decontamination' requirements when wake boats travel between lakes, to prevent spreading invasive species. There are now 30 inland Vermont lakes where 'wake sports' are permitted, but Lake Rescue is not one of them. Wake boat owners can still use their wake boats on our lake but not with the ballast tanks filled, which is what permits the large wake to form. For further information, visit

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/vermont-use-public-waters-rules/wakeboats>

State Prevails in Fishing Access Dock Appeal

This past March, the Vermont State Court, Environmental Division finally ruled on the appeal filed by The Lake Rescue Association and other Lake Rescue residents contesting the Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2017 encroachment permit proposal, which planned to install a 48-foot handicap-accessible dock at the Lake Rescue Fishing Access in Ludlow, Vermont. Superior Court, Environmental Division Judge Thomas Durkin denied the appeal and ruled in favor of the Department of Fish and Wildlife. We have been told that the state intends to install the dock in 2025.

"We fought the good fight but did not prevail," said Bruce J Zanca, co-president of the Lake Rescue Association. "It's remarkable to me that the entire community opposed the installation of the proposed dock on the merits, and the state disregarded the collective comments of the community. We spent hundreds of hours working on this case," Bruce Zanca added. "I guess you can't fight City Hall." Barb Silver, former LRA co-president, noted, "We spent two years collecting data, compiling research, and presented cogent arguments that the proposed dock would not be in the best interest of the public good at Lake Rescue or support the public trust doctrine, both of which are foundational criteria that define encroachment permitting. We are very disappointed."

As background, in 2017, the Department of Fish and Wildlife applied for an encroachment permit to install the dock. There was a public comment period. Many local homeowners and The Lake Rescue Association filed comments in opposition to the plans. There was a public meeting at the Fletcher Library in Ludlow in March 2018. The comments made at the public meeting were universal in opposition to installing the dock for various reasons, including safety, congestion on the boat ramp, and the idea

that the proposed dock would be an attractive nuisance, among other issues. The Lake Rescue Association's attorney, George McNaughton of Springfield, Vermont, filed an appeal on August 30, 2018. Over the next 18 months, we tried to resolve the dispute through mediation, but an agreement could not be reached. The proceedings were delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, Attorney McNaughton passed away on March 24, 2022. The Lake Rescue Association retained replacement counsel, Attorney Alexander J. LaRosa, in July 2022.

A de novo hearing was held in Burlington on June 6 and 7, 2023. Bruce Zanca, Barb Silver, and homeowner Kate Haslam testified in the two-day trial on behalf of the Lake Rescue residents. The court decision is now available for review on the Lake Rescue website, [HERE](#).

Important Dates!

The 21st Annual Independence Day Picnic

Where: 775 East Lake Rd.

When: July 5, 1-4 PM,
(Rain Date July 6, 1-4pm)

What: - Live music with Sammy Blanchette!
- BBQ
- Face Painting
- Games, Games, Games!
- Raffle, including offerings from local businesses
- **Dogs and Alcohol Prohibited**
- Click [HERE](#) to Register!!

The LRA Annual Meeting

Where: August 3, 9 AM

When: Ludlow Town Hall

What: Come for the latest lake news,
Meet your neighbors,
Coffee, Donuts,
Speakers

Members Engage!

Even as temperatures dropped and the lakes iced over this winter, LRA members continued to meet up to connect with neighbors new and old. Donning this winter's LRA beanies, many of our members took the opportunity to enjoy some time together at several of the many après-ski events hosted by Okemo Mountain. On the mountain, our members also met up to take a few runs with each other; it was great fun seeing lake neighbors finally take some turns together!



Then, to usher in the summer season, on Saturday, May 4th, the LRA participated in the momentous Green Up Vermont event to help pick up litter around Lake Pauline and Lake Rescue and along Route 100. We had an astonishing 19 volunteers, in addition to special help from another dozen volunteers from our friends from the Black River Action Team. Thank you to all our volunteers - it was a real pleasure working alongside each other to help keep our roadways and waterways beautiful!



Promoting Water Safety,
Environmental Education &
Improved Water Quality

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[Lake Rescue Association](#)
[Instagram: @lakerescue](#)

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