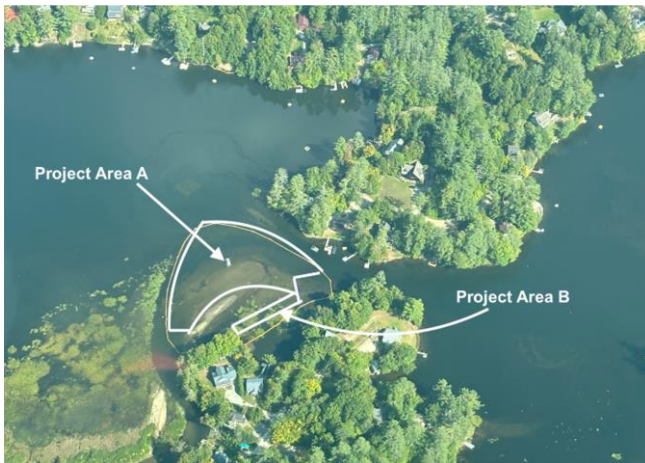


Lake Breezes

Restoring Our Lakes



The Dredging Area

Our long-planned-for dredging project was completed on November 1. We are pleased that the area in SW Round Pond has improved depths and navigability.

The effects of the 2023 flood are largely behind us. Clean up efforts around the lake continued and both lakes are mostly free of flood debris. Other projects continue apace.

Milfoil removal continues to be a vital part of our activities. The budget for this necessary lake maintenance has stabilized at around \$60,000 per year.

Lake Wise assessments continue around the lakes and members chip in to help other neighbors and socialize while having fun on our beautiful lakes.

Watch our Facebook and Instagram pages, Lake Rescue Association for important updates.

The Lake Rescue Association dredging project began on September 5th. Installing the curtain and dredge line, preparing the dewatering pad and launching the dredger along with working out a few kinks along the way took until September 17. The first full day of dredging operation was September 18. On Monday, September 23 the first load of material yielded approximately 55 cu. yds.

The dredging team worked to improve its yield. The operators contacted the dredge manufacturer to discuss its performance. Additionally, the operators increased the workday from 8 to 10 hours and agreed to work some Saturdays. LRA also explored with our equipment vendor adding an auxiliary pump into the process. However, due to the density and abrasiveness of the material an appropriate auxiliary pump was not available. Despite these efforts the weekly yield did not significantly increase.

Notwithstanding the lower volume, a substantial portion of the project area was covered by the dredging activity. The operators worked to increase depths over a larger area rather than just focusing on creating a narrow channel. The dredging started on the east side of the project area and worked westerly towards the sandbar island. The areas dredged resulted in increases in depths ranging from 1 to 3 feet, albeit not over the entire project area.

Con't from p.1

Restoring Our Lakes

The composition of the sediment this fall made its removal difficult. When we dredged in 2013, the sediment was largely sandy material. This time the sediment contained a lot of organic material which resulted in frequent clogging of the dredge. This required the operators to stop the dredging and remove the material clogging the inlet.

After 6 weeks of dredging, our efforts were completed on November 1, 2024, our best estimate of the volume removed is approximately 500 - 600 cu. yds. This is significantly less than the 5,000 cu yds which we were permitted, however the area in which boats will be able to navigate has been improved. We have not received all the invoices related to the project, but we expect our final costs to be approximately \$280,000.

The Lake Rescue Association would like to thank the Benson and Kissell families for allowing us to access and use their properties for this project. Without their support and the support of all the Lake Rescue Association members whose contributions made this project possible. And, last but not least, none of this could have been accomplished without the tireless efforts of Kevin Golmont. He worked on this project for over two years. Beginning in 2022 all the plans were put in place for the dredging to take place in September 2023, which the July flood precluded. Then the planning began all over again, culminating in the dredging taking place in September and October this year. Thank you, Kevin!

Although we had a clean-up day last year on Lake Rescue, there were still reports of large debris in the lake. We scheduled another clean-up day on July 27th. Many dead trees and dock parts were removed from the lake and...a truck axle!! Lake Pauline had 2 clean-up days last year and did have an additional clean-up day this year. The Lake waters have largely recovered and been restored following the devastating flood of 2023. We can again enjoy the clear, clean waters of Lakes Rescue and Pauline.



Clean Up Day on Lake Rescue

Milfoil

This summer, we again worked hard to mitigate the effects of the Eurasian Milfoil that is so adversely threatening our beautiful lakes. Unfortunately, since milfoil plants were brought into the lakes, all we can do is work hard to keep it in check. The Lake Rescue Association considers it a high priority, and this year spent close to \$61,000 in fees to the divers running the DASH boat, for placement of bottom barriers and for the 'Greeters' at the fishing access area. Over 3,625 gallons of milfoil were removed from Round Pond, Lake Rescue and Lake Pauline over the course of the summer. Our divers were at the lake from late May to mid-October, for 14 days per month, on average.

Since we were so limited in what we could do last year after the flood, the milfoil had an opportunity to further establish itself in known areas and appear in a significant number of new locations in different sections of the lakes. There was substantial new growth discovered in coves, with an all-time high in Lake Pauline. In addition to paid staff, there were many volunteers who played a significant role by

Con't on p. 3

Lake Wise Program

con't from p.2

Milfoil

This past summer 20 Lake Rescue properties and 3 Lake Pauline properties were assessed by the Lake Wise teams from Fitzgerald Environmental and Long Creek Resources. This important State-run program aims to improve water quality by improving the shoreline resilience to harmful runoff. Properties are assessed in four areas:

<p>DRIVEWAY</p> <p>Condition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defined and minimized driveway • Minimized soil compaction • No erosion • Runoff channeled away from the lake <p>BMP and Fact Sheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crowned driveways, good gravel, & rock- or grass-lined drainage ditches • Open-top culverts & rock aprons • Infiltration trenches • Turnouts • Pervious pavement • Non-structural BMPs 	<p>RECREATION AREA Yards, Footpaths, Gardens, Patios</p> <p>Condition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 15 ft of vegetation from shoreline • Minimal lawn area • Soil erosion is not occurring on site • No pet waste accumulation • No solid waste scattered • No pesticide, fertilizer, or runoff to lake <p>BMP and Fact Sheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infiltration steps • Rain gardens • Waterbars • Lake-friendly yard maintenance • Planting & re-naturalizing areas • Planning pathways • Establishing no-mow zones • Vegetated swales • Vegetated Berms • Vegetation Protection Standards
<p>STRUCTURES/SEPTIC</p> <p>Condition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 20% of property contains impervious surfaces • Properly functioning leach field • No uncovered oil tanks • No erosion caused from impervious surface runoff <p>BMP and Fact Sheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic system primer • Ensuring septic system quality • Dripline trenches • Drywells • Infiltration trenches • Rain gardens • Vegetated swales 	<p>SHOREFRONT</p> <p>Condition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural conditions • Stable bank • Minimum of 15 ft width of vegetation area for developed sites • Minimum of 100 ft width for undeveloped sites • No unfiltered runoff to the lake • Shallow water areas natural and not "cleaned up" <p>BMP and Fact Sheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving lakeshores • Resloping, rock toes & riprap • Live staking vegetation • Planting & re-naturalizing areas • Planning pathways • Waterbars • Establishing no-mow zones • Vegetation Protection Standards

collecting floating fragments, harvesting plants, marking areas with buoys where the plants were found and alerting LRA board members of sightings. We plan to continue with our efforts next summer, recognizing this is a problem that we ALL can help solve. If you did not help this year, please join your neighbors next summer to help reduce the problem.

We again have applied to the state for grant funds to help with our efforts and we are hopeful of receiving around \$12,000.

Annual Meeting

The August 3rd meeting was attended by 68 people, in person and online. In addition to financial, dredging and milfoil reports from the board, our speakers were Brendan McNamara, Town Manager, and Tim Carey, the Game Warden for our area.

Brendan introduced the **Ludlow Emergency Alert** system. This system will provide you with emergency information and updates from official town sources and will reduce reliance on social media channels, which may or may not be accurate. You can create an account at this website:

<https://accountportal.onsolve.net/townvillageofludlowalerts/>

Tim Carey talked about boating safety and the safety stops that he and the state police perform on our lake. You are required to have on board: your boat registration, a PFD for each person on board (anyone under 12 must be wearing a PFD), an up-to-date fire extinguisher, properly working lights, and a 'bilge blower' (for inboard engines). The Game Wardens also check licenses of those fishing.

Nine properties on Lake Rescue received the Lake Wise award this year, while 9 more properties received Recognition Certificates for meeting 2 or 3 of the standards. On Lake Pauline, 2 properties received Recognition Certificates.

Next year sign-ups will take place in early summer. To learn more about the Lake Wise program see:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise>

Con't from p.3

Annual Meeting

Another concern was the increasing visits by bears around the lakes. Tim explained that the bears are attracted to accessible trash containers. The best remedy is a steel box to house your trash, such as: <https://www.wayfair.com/storage-organization/pdp/arrow-6-ft-w-x-3-ft-d-metal-storage-shed-bdb11209.html>

Mary Rita Batesole Scholarship

This year's Mary Rita Batesole Scholarship was awarded to Xavier Fagginger-Auer of Wallingford. He graduated from Mill River Union High School in June and has begun attending the University of Vermont.

He was a counselor at the Green Mountain Conservation Camp for four years, teaching other teenagers hunting skills, conservation and sustainability. He has done boating and fishing on Lake Rescue and plans to stay in the area after finishing his education.

He is also a talented trombone player who, in addition to four years of Band and Chorus, participated in jazz ensembles after school. Xavier captained the basketball and baseball teams and, as you can see, played football as well!

Congratulations, Xavier!



Rotary Club Duck Race

Every summer the Ludlow Rotary Club sponsors this fund raiser to benefit a local organization.

Members sell ducks (or a Quack-Pak of 5!) to raise funds. Then on the given day all the numbered ducks are 'released' into the Black River at the Depot St. bridge and 'race' to the Main St. bridge. This year the Lake Rescue Association was selected as the beneficiary of this fund raiser and received \$3,055.

We thank the Rotary Club for their valuable and generous support of the local community and the Lake Rescue Association.



Ducks for Sale!



George Thomson (LRA) receives check from Sharon Bixby (Rotary)

Picnic!

The main social event that the Lake Rescue Assn. organizes each year is the Picnic on July 4th Weekend. This year was no less exciting than in the past 20 years. The weather was perfect, and everyone enjoyed delicious BBQ from Squeels on Wheels, Sammy Blanchette’s music and games for young and old!

Special thanks to the organizers, who worked all year to organize the raffle prizes from local businesses, food and entertainment:

Barb Silver, Gigi Katsiff, Sharon Fleischer and Jane Simon with help from other volunteers.



Raffle Prizes



Tug of War



Promoting Water Safety,
Environmental Education &
Improved Water Quality

www.LakeRescue.org
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[Lake Rescue Association](#)
[Instagram: @lakerescue](#)

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Spencer Rubin – President
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Natalie Fisher – Secretary
Jay Charles
Gigi Katsiff
Phil Newell
George Thomson
Jackie Thong
Bruce Zanca

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