

# Lake Breezes

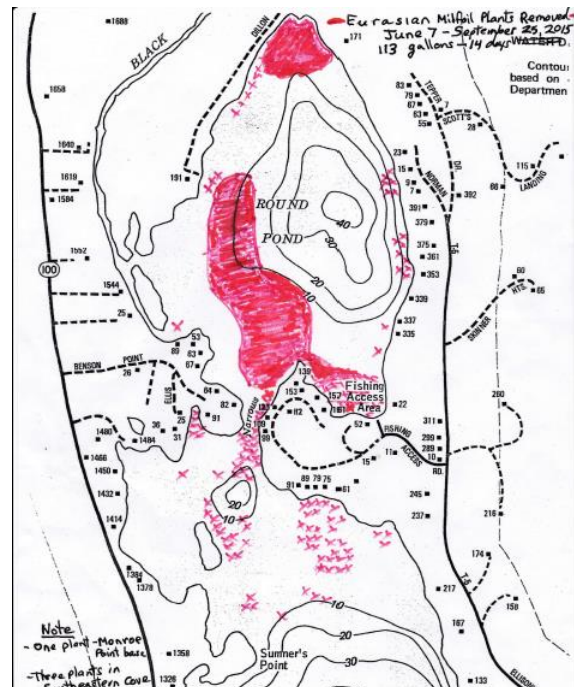
Lake Rescue Association, P.O.Box 372, Ludlow, VT 05149  
www.lakerescue.org

October 2015

## There's More Milfoil Than We Thought

As we reported in June, we have hired divers, Cat and Shane Yoder, to remove the milfoil plants which have invaded our lakes. Starting in June and ending in late September they have come to search and pull plants for 14 days. The map on the right shows where all the plants have been found. The 'hot spot' in Round Pond accounted for the bulk of the plants found (80%), although it is evident how the current flow has disseminated plant fragments/seedlings toward the south. At the very end of the season three plants were found in the southeastern cove of Lake Rescue and one plant was found on the south side of Monroe Point, a favorite spot for fishermen. To date nothing has been found in Lake Pauline.

It is a challenge to think about containing this outbreak given that 113 gallons of milfoil plants were removed in total and the affected area has increased substantially since our first discovery approximately a year ago. The LRA board has decided to increase our response next year. The Yoders will be coming twice a week from early June to mid-September. We have contracted with them to come for 28 days next season in the hopes that we can arrest the spread of this pernicious weed and start to beat it back. This will no doubt be a multi-year project and we can only hope that we can gain control of the milfoil and start to reduce the number of plants being found. This year we spent \$8,100 for 13.5 days of diving activity. Next year we expect to spend between \$16,000 and \$17,000 for 28 days of diving. It is important to try and arrest this infestation before it overwhelms the lake and we are not sparing any



Map of Round Pond and Northern Lake Rescue

expense.

We were able to eradicate milfoil once before, in 2000-2004, and we should be able to do it again. Next year will be a crucial test.

We will, of course, apply for the state grant available for this purpose, but it will not cover the amount we expect to spend on milfoil removal. State funds are limited and many lakes have an even greater need. While we do have money set aside for just such a contingency we hope you will be generous in your contributions to the Lakes Restoration Fund.

## Winter Ice Safety

Every year at this time we want to remind everyone that walking on the ice during the winter months is a risky activity. This year we have a dramatic example of what can happen, even when prudent measures are taken.

Last February one of our long-time members, Liz Spaulding, who lives on East Lake Rd., was walking on the ice and fell in. Here is her account:

### **My Final Walk On The Ice**

It was a sunny February afternoon day. Temperatures hovered near 0 degrees. It had been very cold that January, with many days in the minus degrees. I felt comfortable that the ice would be frozen. I have walked on the ice many winters.

Stella (our dog) and I went snow shoeing down our lawn to the lake. I felt prepared to walk on the lake. I took my cell phone, some spikes (I was using screwdrivers with eye-holes drilled in them to tie the line) tied with string that I hung around my neck. This would help me if I fell in. You are supposed to put the spike into the ice with each hand and pull yourself out of the lake onto the ice.

As I walked in front of Gutner's (795 E. Lake Rd), I was thinking about where the new stream was, because it had been moved by tropical storm Irene. The next thing I knew, I was in the lake looking up as my dog paddled around me. I could not stand. Stella was trying to pull herself out, so I boosted her out. That is when I panicked. I began to yell for help. Then, I realized that midweek, midday, that there were few to no people around. I was about 15 yards from shore. I reached for the spikes to pull me

out, but they had gotten wrapped around my neck, so I had to take off my gloves to get to the spikes. I finally was able to try to use the spikes but there was so much snow on top of the ice that I could not get a purchase. I then tried breaking the ice to get to shore. This worked. I was finally able to touch bottom and push myself up. Stella was waiting for me.

By this time, my snowshoes were not securely fastened making walking through the snow difficult. My hands, were not functioning well because they were so cold. I managed to get the snow shoes off but had to go back on the ice to be able to walk. I walked back to my house about 200 yards. I got out of my clothes. My frozen hands made this very difficult.

I was shaking and hyper-ventilating by this time. I called 911 and Chief Billings called the EMTs and kept me on the line, then he went to locate my husband.

I think I did all that I could have done to have prevented this fall into the lake, except take a buddy with me. I did not even think of using the cell phone in my pocket. It did not have a waterproof case anyway, so it was dead.

My husband rescued my gloves from the ice later and noticed that where I had fallen in was near a stream and ice was only 2 inches thick with snow on it. There was a large air bubble where the stream flowed. Thank goodness the stream was not flowing at that point; I would have been under the ice.

All in all, I feel very lucky to have survived. It was a very scary experience. My fingertips had no feeling in them for about 3 months.

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It is sobering to think this could happen to you or a loved one, with not as fortunate an outcome. So please be careful this winter. Our previous article with safety guidelines can be found [here](#).

Be especially aware that there are two bubbler systems on the Lake Rescue, in eastern Round Pond and in the southeast cove of Lake Rescue. Plus, there is one bubbler on Lake Pauline, across and north of the sugar house. And there is always open water and thin ice around the channel and approaching the dam at Red Bridge.

## Send Us Your Story!

If you have a story such as Liz's, that would be of interest to the entire lake community, send it to us and we will consider putting it in our newsletter.

## ERG Work Continues...

Progress on the most recent grant to implement remediation projects upstream has been agonizingly slow due in large part to the lengthy process of getting bids for work, as well as getting permissions from private landowners. We now have verbal agreement with a contractor to do the plantings along Money Brook and hope that this can still be accomplished this season.

Kristen Underwood is still negotiating with property owners along Patch Brook regarding removal of berms. The issue is complicated by the need to coordinate with at least one other state agency. It's a labor intensive process! The Town of Plymouth has made improvements and repairs to the road near the State Park to reduce runoff into Buffalo Brook. Attempts to contact a private land owner along Buffalo Brook were unsuccessful and, instead, the focus has shifted to land closer to the state park which involves town, not state, roads. Kristen Underwood has arranged to have The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) do the work of rebuilding trails alongside the brook that have washed out and are in immediate danger of collapse. They will be sending 4 youth volunteers and a leader to do this project during 5 days in November. Okemo has graciously donated lodging for this work event.

## We Are Planning Ahead

We have asked our long term consultant, Kristen Underwood, to help us develop a long term plan to address the ongoing sediment flows to our lakes. For many years we have worked through the state grant system studying various aspects of the problem and trying to find practical solutions. But, even with the state agencies' cooperation and approval, making meaningful progress is elusive. Either the costs are prohibitive or there are other logistical barriers or dead ends. We are putting our 'thinking caps' back on!

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**Website:**

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

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

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Lake Rescue Association

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## Lake Directory Coming Next Spring

After many years (2008) we are planning on updating the LRA Membership Directory. Information to be included will be local address and phone number, home address and phone number and email address. If you wish to have a cell phone included, please email it to us at [lakerescueassn@gmail.com](mailto:lakerescueassn@gmail.com). Or, if you wish to have your information withheld, let us know by email.

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

Lake Rescue Assn.  
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