

Lake Breezes



June 2020

Welcome to the spring 2020 edition of Lake Breezes!

The no-wake buoys are in (thank you Bruce and Bill!) and the lake is warm. Summer is here! Read on to learn about the multiple projects the LRA is managing this year, including milfoil eradication, sediment problems and dredging permit, our new member portal on our website, the state dock proposal, the MR Batesole Scholarship, and myriad other issues that arise throughout the year. All of our work is time-consuming and requires resources. We cannot do it without the help of our members. We need your support, your voice, and your participation - please encourage those you know around the lakes, who may not be members, to join! Membership renewals are due now - And, with our expanded and improved website features, you can now donate, join, and renew online more easily than ever. (see page 4).

Milfoil Update

Much as we struggle with the Coronavirus, our lakes continue to struggle with the invasive species, Eurasian milfoil. There will never be

vaccine against this scourge and we can only hope to contain and reduce its spread in our lakes. We will continue with our containment program this summer. Last year we added 'bottom barriers' to our eradication efforts. We put down twelve 10' by 50' polyethylene vinyl sheets (and rebar to hold them in place) in an area of dense growth. (see map on p.5) This year the barriers will be repositioned on another dense growth area and we will purchase an additional twelve barriers to put down in Round Pond where there are also dense patches of the weed. Our divers, Cat and Shane Yoder, will once again be coming at least twice a week to locate and hand pull milfoil plants. This remains the most effective way to control the spread of milfoil. If you see any milfoil plants, mark the location and email us right away. lakerescuassn@gmail.com. The divers will come by on their next visit. **DO NOT REMOVE THE PLANT YOURSELF.**

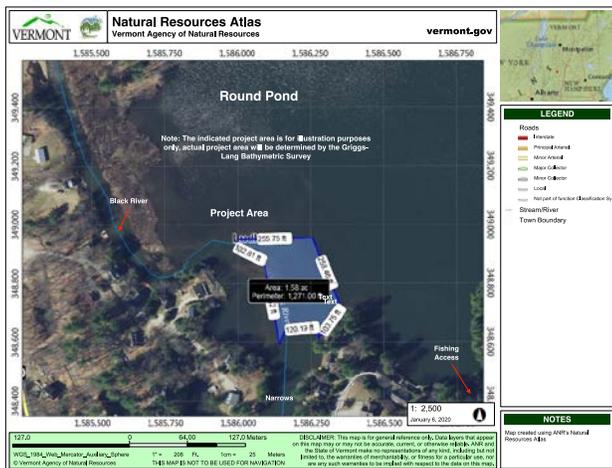
Our milfoil budget for this year is \$34,000. Of this, about \$5,500 is for 12 new bottom barriers and the remainder is for the milfoil divers and the Greeter Program at the Fishing Access. We once again applied for an Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant from the state and will receive \$3,527 in total to offset our expenses.

Recreational users can also help to control the spread of milfoil. When boating please avoid areas of the lake with existing milfoil populations. (see map on p.5) A boat prop can shear a plant sending hundreds of fragments free to drift and start new plants. Lastly, if you see a floating fragment scoop it out of the water. A pool skimmer or kitchen strainer will do the job! Amy Newell (newellsfour@comcast.net) has offered to show kayakers where the milfoil is and how to remove the fragments safely. Email Amy to setup your tour!

Lake Restoration and Sediment Projects

We are moving ahead with the permitting of the Lake Restoration Project at the mouth of the Black River and the north end of the Narrows. The LRA board has approved the application for a permit to restore the depth of the navigation channel to a minimum of 4 feet by removing approximately 2000 cubic yards of sediment. Notifications to abutters has been sent and the application to the DEC has been submitted early in June. The state has 60-90 days to respond to our request.

The map below details the proposed project area. (and, see photo on Page 5)



Area to be Dredged

After many conversations with town management to clean catch basins/culverts along the roadsides, in October of 2019 the LRA proposed five possible areas that could qualify for a Vermont Better Roads grant. We suggested the projects should include some combination of stream bank stabilization with lining of stone rip-rap, catch basin installation, ditch stabilization, and/or storm water diversion ditches.

Initially all 5 projects were deemed ineligible for a grant, though the state did eventually approve an application for the Archibald Lane stream crossing. Because of COVID-19, funding for the Better Roads program this year has been significantly cut. However, some funding decisions will be made by mid-June, and while we are hopeful this project may be approved, it is not a certainty.

Update on Dock at Fishing Access

At the present time, the proposal by the state to install a 48' dock at the fishing access in Round Pond has been recently amended by the state to move the location of the 48' dock to the east side of the boat ramp (which is, from the parking lot view, the right side of the boat ramp) from the original proposed west side (the left side). This amendment has complicated procedures further, and, along with state delays due to the COVID pandemic, has further extended the timeline. We and our attorney have recently submitted response documents to the Environmental Court, and are now looking toward a pre-trial meeting between attorneys to once again attempt to come to a settlement. If that is unsuccessful, the next step would be a court trial with the Vermont Environment Court.

We'd like to thank those 34 members who responded to our survey request sent out March 14 asking your opinion on whether the Association should continue to pursue litigation to its conclusion, or let the matter go and acquiesce to the state. Your comments were most appreciated. The board has decided to pursue the matter through the pre-trial hearing and then determine our next course of action. Due to the ongoing nature of this litigation, further public details are not available at this time. A more detailed report will be available at the Annual Meeting in August. However, in the meantime, your individual inquiries are most welcome. Email us at lakerescueassn@gmail.com.

See: *More on Sedimentation, Page 6*

MR Batesole Scholarship

We are very pleased to announce the 2020 recipient of the Mary Rita Batesole Scholarship award. This is the second year of the scholarship, which was started last year in memory of MR Batesole, long-time Lake Rescue resident and dedicated LRA board member, who left us in 2018. The scholarship supports a regional a graduating high school senior or a currently enrolled college or vocational student pursuing environmental education, broadly defined.



This year's recipient is Olivia Bernier, from Andover, a graduating senior from Green Mountain Union High School. Olivia will be attending St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York this coming fall and will be pursuing a degree in Conservation Biology. She looks forward to a career as an environmental educator. The field of applicants this year was very strong, but Olivia's commitment to environmental pursuits stood out. She is currently President of the school's Environmental Club, in which she has participated for the past three years. Outside of school activities, Olivia has worked for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and the Hildene Youth Corps. Olivia says, *"Putting my desires to conserve the environment into action felt liberating. I was doing work that mattered, work that had an actual impact on the health of our planet."*

In addition to stellar academic achievement and a demonstrated commitment to the environment, this multi-talented student is a violinist and volunteers in the summers with a children's youth ensemble. She envisions a future that combines her passion for the natural world with educating children about conservation and environmental sustainability. Congratulations, Olivia!

Save The Dates

--Please mark your calendars for the 87th Lake Rescue Association Annual Meeting, Saturday, August 1, 2020, 9:00 a.m. Ludlow Community Center. Come a little early for coffee and muffins! Many important issues to discuss. We anticipate that group gatherings will be permitted and safe by August, but will keep you posted if we must revert to an electronic meeting (Zoom or other platform), or have an outdoor option.

--Sadly, we must cancel our Annual July 4 Picnic this year due to safety concerns surrounding the coronavirus crisis. However, we know how important it is to promote our lake community connections and to celebrate our nation's birthday



together, so we are suggesting a fun alternative! The LRA is asking everyone to decorate your boats, your docks, your houses, your trees - your anything! With lights! Red, white, and blue lights! Lots of lights! Let's light up Lakes Rescue and Pauline on the evening of July 4 to celebrate Independence Day, our support for respecting each others' health and safety as a lake community, and SUMMER! (While we normally discourage 'light pollution', this is one exception!)

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Threatens Ludlow Area

We alerted you in our last newsletter about the danger that this new pest poses to ash trees in our area. In October the beetle was discovered in a tree in Londonderry, putting our area at high risk. The map below shows the areas where EAB has been found.

In March the state began training volunteers to take an inventory of ash trees on public properties throughout the state.



One of the trainings took place at the Ludlow Town Hall. In the coming months Ludlow will begin the inventory process and will be looking for volunteers to help identify both healthy and infected trees.

In the meantime, homeowners may want to identify ash trees on their property to monitor the trees' health.



Ash trees are identified by their leaves and bark patterns. The leaves are compound and are composed of 5-11 leaflets. The leaflet margins may be smooth or toothed.



The bark has a distinct diamond pattern. An arborist can help you do an inventory on your property. If EAB is found on your property, the trees can be treated with

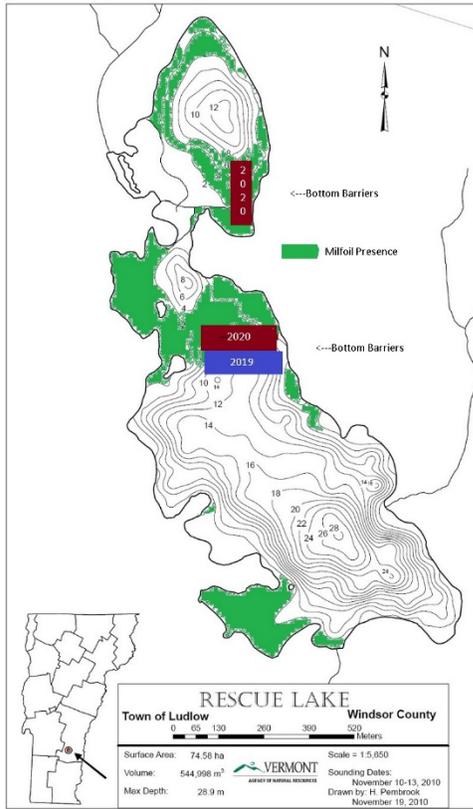
pesticide. This may be more cost effective than removal if the tree fails.

NEW! Member Services Online

This winter the LRA committed resources to produce a full complement of Member-Only online services. *The LakeRescue.org* website continues its evolution with a major component that now allows active LRA members to

- View the detailed Member Directory
- Renew/pay memberships and update profiles
- Sign up for events/meetings
- Donate to specific campaigns or to the general fund

When you go online you will find instructions for creating a password and editing you profile information. <https://lakerescue.org/member-login/> If you have problems or questions about paying LRA dues online, please call Jacalyn (our website guru board member!) who is happy to help: 203 988 8809



Position of Bottom Barriers



Milfoil Found on Lake Pauline 2019



Aerial View of the Narrows, May 23, 2020

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More on Sedimentation

As many of you know, the sediment inflow into the lakes has increased in recent years. This worrisome situation has resulted in large deposits of sediment at the mouth of several stream inlets. There has been an ongoing dilemma about where the responsibility lies in remediation efforts for each particular site, depending on its location and the type of intervention needed, and what combination of state, town, and/or personal property owner involvement is appropriate. Although the catch basins and ditches were recently cleaned out, these locations will fill with sediment again. We are frustrated by the state's and town's seeming lack of concern, and our inability to move this matter forward.

In response, we have formed subcommittees to address three areas of concern on the lake:

1. The Scott's Landing/Tepper Dr. area.
2. The stream just south of Archibald Lane, and
3. A pipe outlet in Slack's Pasture cove.

We will try to formulate longer term solutions, including diversions for the storm waters, so that rushing water is slowed down and can infiltrate before reaching the lake.

If you would like to participate in this effort, please email us at lakerescueasn@gmail.com



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

www.LakeRescue.org

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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