

Echo Lake Protective Association

Summer 2008 Newsletter - Hello Echo Lake Association Members!

Milfoil Prevention Project

The Echo Lake Milfoil Prevention Project received \$10,890 in grants for this year, including \$500 from the town of Charleston. This allows us to staff the access from 6AM to 6PM Tuesday through Sunday. We hired 4 new milfoil inspectors: Diane Anderson, Janna Ketchum, Michelle Preston, and Theron Matthews. Look for their pictures under the Milfoil Prevention Project on our new Echo Lake website: echolakeassociation.net

Thanks to inspection volunteers for donating 4 hours per week of their time this summer: George Thompson, Tom Wagner, Patti Lennon, and Maryanne O'Brien.

Thanks to all the Echo Lake Association members who donated \$1,280 to the Milfoil Prevention Project so far. We also received dues from 34 members out of the 84 we have on our list. We only receive 1/2 the grant funds during the summer, so we need the dues and donations to pay for salaries, overhead to the Northwoods Center, and supplies. See the dues form at the end of this newsletter if you haven't paid your dues yet!

Ways to get involved for \$12/hour in-kind match for the grant

Be trained as a Vermont Invasive Patroller - Tom and Amy Wagner and Eric and Peggy Stevens have been trained as Vermont Invasive Patrollers. It would be great to have several more folks go through the training. There is a 4-hour workshop in Newport on Lake Memphremagog on July 17 from 1-5PM. All hours spent on training and patrolling the lake count as \$12/hour in kind match for the grants. You can download the form to sign up on our website or call Peggy for more information at 723-5951 for more information.

Citizen Watershed Survey - Susan Warren from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation will be coming to Echo Lake sometime in July or August to assess the general ongoing health of the lake. This will include inspection of the shoreline from canoes and kayaks. Participants will survey the perimeter of the lake for aquatic nuisances, shoreline erosion, runoff problems, etc. Anyone who is interested in coming along is welcome. Please call Peggy Stevens 723-5951 to let her know you are interested in participating. All hours spent on this survey count as \$12/hour in kind match for the grants.

General survey of the lake - Anytime you're out paddling on the lake, you could be looking for aquatic nuisances. Forms, including directions, are available at the kiosk or you can download them online. You can give them to anyone working at the access when you are finished. Your time is worth \$12/hour in kind match for the grants. These hours can really add up!

Echo Lake Association website: echolakeassociation.net

We launched our website in time for summer. You can check the weather, see our donation thermometer go up, check Echo Lake related events over the summer, get your fishing license online, download lake survey maps and directions, read information about the loons and what they are doing this summer, and much more. Please check it out. Email Cindy Swanson (cinswanson@gmail.com) if you have any suggestions or have information (pictures of you and yours on Echo Lake as jpeg files) you would like to include. This will help personalize the website. Check out the Echo Lake Association blog to get information about the loons on Echo and the smelt survey George Thompson, Peter Engels and Eric Stevens did this spring.

Echo Lake Information Kiosk and the East Charleston Country Store

Our kiosk is in the process of being updated, thanks to your donations. There will be plastic brochure holders with maps, hunting and fishing guides, and milfoil prevention information available when no one is on duty. We are also purchasing a brochure stand for the East Charleston Country store to hopefully reach more of the East Charleston community. The brochure stand will be stocked with milfoil prevention information and general information to help keep Echo Lake clean and safe.