



BOARD MEMBERS

Patti Lennon, Co-President
Larry Martin, Co-President
Bill Mann, Treasurer
Susan Czerepak, Secretary
Nancy Engels
Terry O'Brien
Jean Wilson
Mike Vinton

2016 Fall Newsletter

Presidents' Message

Dear Members,

Hope you were able to enjoy the beautiful summer weather and spectacular fall colors on Echo Lake. 2016 was a busy and successful year for ELPA that included receiving multiple grants and profitable fundraising that support our many activities.

We were especially proud this season of our lake monitoring program, which includes the access greeters. On several occasions the greeters prevented Eurasian watermilfoil from entering our lake. With all of our continuing diligence we seek to maintain the pristine water quality of Echo Lake.

This year, in addition to community activities such as Green Up Day, we have added new, innovative programs partnering with Charleston Elementary School. Also, multiple shoreland property owners received Lake Wise recognition for their efforts to protect lake water quality and habitat.

We'd especially like to extend our thanks to ALL ELPA members, committee members, and the Board for their extensive volunteer hours, working together to keep Echo Lake such a special place to live, visit and enjoy.

Patti Lennon, Co-President
Larry Martin, Co-President

Financial Highlights

Our current financial condition is healthy with a balance of \$23,965.67. Our largest expense is the Access Greeter Program, which costs us about \$14,000 per year. The Town Appropriation, Aquatic Nuisance Grant, and Watershed Grant cover the majority of the cost of this program. The dues and donations we receive from our members cover the balance of the program, so please complete a membership form each year with your dues and hopefully a donation.

In addition, this year's Color Challenge 5K along West Echo Lake Road was a great financial success, but the event is weather dependent and is not something we can necessarily depend on.

We continue to build our bank account to prepare for the time that we don't receive the grant monies that provide for the maintenance of the access greeter program. The grants we have been receiving are not guaranteed and are likely to be reduced in future years, so your support is crucial to protecting the quality of water in Echo Lake. The 2016 Membership and Donations Form is included at the end of this newsletter in case you would like to make a tax deductible contribution before the year ends.

(As of November 2016)

Income YTD is \$23,160 -- Our major sources of income are:

Dues	\$2,265
Donations	\$5,710
Watershed Grant	\$4,600
Aquatic Nuisance Grant	\$7,940
Color Challenge	\$5,138
Town of Charleston	\$1,000

Expenses YTD are \$17,757 -- Our major expenses are:

Access Monitors Payroll	\$13,356
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	\$2,035
Color Challenge Expenses	\$883
Charleston School Ecology Program	\$1,250
Charleston School Water Bottles	\$233

Lake Bed Survey

We had 50 hours in volunteer surveying this year and all but one section between Boat Access and Birch Point were thoroughly investigated two times at least. The combined efforts of 13 of us revealed no concerns about milfoil or other invasive species this year. We hope we continue to be as effective next year, and we will make sure that the outlier section is covered.

Access Greeter Program

Paid and volunteer staff once again worked at the VT Fish and Wildlife boating access area to inspect watercraft for Eurasian watermilfoil and other aquatic invasive species. The inspections were conducted from Memorial Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. Funding through grants, dues, and donations allowed our staff to cover the access five days per week, twelve hours per day. Our three paid access greeters (Cheryl, V, and Ed) checked watercraft entering and exiting Echo Lake, as well as educating boaters to "Clean, Drain, Dry" their watercraft.

This year paid greeters put in 987 hours and volunteers put in 198 hours, 100 hours more than last year! There were 822 launches and retrieves. There were added hours for the Hex hatch, but not many fisherman showed up. This year 13 samples were sent to the state; 3 were confirmed as milfoil. The invasive plants were found early in the summer.

If you would like to volunteer to help check boats at the access, please contact Jean and Terry O'Brien at obrien6417@yahoo.com to sign up for 2-hour rotations. And, as always, a reminder to all to let your boating guests who enter Echo Lake from a private dock to thoroughly inspect and remove

any aquatic material from watercraft (kayaks, canoes, boats) and equipment (skis, tubes, floats, anchors, fishing tackle) before entering the lake. We will continue to work together to help keep Echo Lake one of the cleanest lakes in Vermont.

Lake Wise

This past summer Amy Picotte, Lakeshore Manager with the Watershed Management Division, and Holly Greenleaf, assistant with the Lake Wise program, evaluated nine shorefront properties. Six of those properties earned Lake Wise awards for exemplary stewardship!

Jon and Carolyn Simsarian won their 2nd award for an additional waterfront parcel. The extended Mills Family, including Jon Mills, Ted Mills, Dorrie Andermills, Katherine Anderson, Lee Mills, Robert Mills, and Susan Warner Mills, earned awards for their three adjoining properties at the North end of the lake running from the Simsarian property to Dickie Brook. Cindy Swanson earned an award for her natural shorefront. Nancy Whalen Bernstein earned an award for her property adjacent to the Northwoods Conservation area. And Byron and Sue Fish earned a Lake Wise award for their revegetated waterfront.



Byron and Sue Fish with Major

The Wall-Bull Family received enthusiastic compliments from Amy and Holly for their waterfront property, which is very close to meeting the Lake Wise requirements. Holly Greenleaf is preparing a rain garden design for them, which can be established to absorb run-off from the roof. The Trehearnes and Bordens were given some helpful suggestions for improvements that might be made.

To date, 13 of our 94 shorefront properties have earned Lake Wise awards. That represents 13.8% of the total shorefront properties. Lake Associations or lake groups with 15% awarded participation in the Lake Wise Program will receive the Gold Lake Wise Award. We're getting closer!!!

Green Up Day

Ann Hunsicker reported that this year's Green Up Day was a great success. It was noted that this year there was less debris around the lake than in years prior. Perhaps people are learning to have more respect for the environment and are littering less. And we can always use more volunteers. Keep this in mind for next Spring.

Echo Lake Color Challenge

With the support of some 30 corporate sponsors, we organized and ran the second annual Echo Lake 5K Color Challenge on Sunday, July 3. More than 160 runners and walkers were treated to delightful temperatures and scenic lake views while taking off under a blast of color. The participants passed through 5 color stations where energetic volunteers showered them with brightly colored powder. The event ended lakeside where snacks were provided and prizes were awarded, donated by 20 local businesses.



The participants started and ended their race alongside brightly-colored banners displaying the many local sponsors. A number of runners sported bright costumes, while all exhibited a willingness to be doused (many repeatedly) with color.

Community Outreach

At the September board meeting there was a discussion about how ELPA can give back to the community. We identified two opportunities.

Environmentally friendly drinking water --The Charleston Elementary School has launched a new "disposable plastic free" project that provides clean drinking water for the students at Charleston, in an environmentally friendly way. ELPA has donated \$233 to pay for the reusable BPS-free bottles provided to every student.

The bottles are kept at school and students fill them at a water station, which displays a flyer describing what the Echo Lake Protective Association does for the lake and the community.



Student field trip project –A member of ELPA has made a generous \$1250 donation to sponsor an educational program run by Siskin Ecological Adventures. Fourth and fifth grade students from Charleston Elementary School Students will learn, explore, and make real life connections with the Echo Lake Ecosystem.

Topics include:

- Plants and animals living in and around the lake
- The good and bad effects of native and non-native species on the lake
- The health of the ecosystem and how citizens can help



Siskin instructors are making three 1-hour classroom visits at the school and will conduct full-day field trips in the fall, winter and spring.

At the end of the school year the community and school will engage in a celebration at Echo Lake to display what the students have learned. All are invited to attend. We'll keep you posted as to the date.

Vermont Better Roads

Road work, financed with a Better Roads Grant from VTrans, was completed this summer to remedy the problem of a considerable amount of silt and run-off entering the lake along East Echo Lake Road near the inlet and the intersections of Camp Winape Road and Barney's Pebble Road. However, since the Better Roads project on East Echo Lake Road, residents from Apple Tree Lane down to Beulah's Way have complained that the roadwork resulted in road erosion and torrential run-off with plumes of dirt washing into the lake through their properties. Some landowners expressed concern that this erosion will be a continuing problem in future rainstorms and will be costly on the part of the landowners to mitigate.

In response, ELPA organized a meeting with representatives of the Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection Program of the Vermont Watershed Management Division of the Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation and with representatives of the NorthWoods Stewardship Center (NWSC). Those who attended were:

- Peter Engels ELPA member in charge of Water Quality evaluations
- Mike Vinton and Keith Gee, ELPA board members
- Susan Czerepak, ELPA Secretary,
- Environmental scientists Amy Picotte, Shoreland Manager, and Mark Mitchell, Lake Assessment Coordinator of the Watershed Management Division
- Meghann Carter, Conservation Science Specialist at NorthWoods Stewardship Center and Select Board Member from the Town of Charleston
- Trevor Banister, ECO AmeriCorps member in service at NorthWoods Stewardship Center

The purpose of the meeting was to assess the effect on camp roads, which occurred after the new road grading on East Echo Lake Road. As a result of this visit, NorthWoods has decided to seek a grant to help solve the issues.

NorthWoods has submitted an Ecosystem Restoration Program Grant to develop projects to mitigate stormwater sediment inputs into Echo Lake. The goal of NorthWoods Stewardship Center is to work with ELPA and the individual landowners on the lake to figure out the best sites on the lakeshore to use Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as rain gardens, swales, and berms that help to reduce sediment inputs into the lake as recommended by the Agency of Natural Resources. Once the sites are identified, NorthWoods will design the projects for each site that will help reduce sedimentation as much as possible. If NWSC is awarded this grant, it will cover the siting and design for these projects, but will not cover the actual implementation of these management practices. We know that there is need for these projects on the stretch of East Echo Lake Road that was worked on using the Better Roads grant, so that will be the main focus on Echo Lake.

If NWSC obtains the grant for design work, they will create solutions for each affected site. NWSC will work with the property owners to implement their recommendations. NWSC also expects to apply for additional grants to fund the improvement to each landowner's property, so that the cost to individual landowners is reduced as much as possible. We will keep you posted and let you know if the grant is awarded.

Membership Committee

The membership committee met on September 3, 2016 at the Beam's residence. In attendance were Jean Wilson, Nancy Engels, Bill Mann, Larry Martin, Ann Beams, Mark Beams, Tom Wagner, Ann Hunsicker, Steve Gratton, and Arvin Anderson.

The committee was formed after the annual meeting and this year we were successful in increasing the membership after the annual meeting by visiting some residents. Currently we have 79 members, 69 families and 10 individuals. For next year we are planning:

1. Creating a new brochure about ELPA
2. A mailing to all Charleston residents
3. Having members of the committee contact residents who are not currently members to discuss the advantages of ELPA
4. Consider additional payment options on the membership form

Annual Picnic

Our thanks to Ann and Mark Beams, as well as to Pam and Kirk Koenigsbauer, for once again hosting the annual picnic. It was nice to have so many members present, sharing their favorite dishes on a lovely August evening. In addition, we had a brief riparian buffer presentation given by Meghann Carter of NorthWoods. The Beams and Koenigsbauer families had participated in a grant-funded riparian buffer revegetation program, designed to help improve the water quality of Echo Lake. Once again, thanks to all who came together to enjoy delicious food and camaraderie lakeside.





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State Grants

We owe a great deal of gratitude to Cindy Swanson who has written our grant applications over the past 10 years resulting in ELPA receiving upwards of \$100,000 in funding for our lake work. Cindy is taking a well earned break and is passing on the grant application duties to our new Board member, Keith Gee. Our thanks to Keith for taking on this very critical responsibility.

VERMONT WATERSHED GRANT

We were approved for a \$4,500 grant from Vermont Watershed Management Division for 2016. While we were approved for the 2016 Watershed Grant, the Committee that approves these grants had some concerns including the following statement: "The Committee encourages the Town (and Association) to explore options for making this program more self-sustainable and less reliant on Watershed Grant funding". Therefore, the ELPA Board is attempting to build up reserve funds and consider additional alternatives to help fund the Access Greeter Program.

AQUATIC NUISANCE GRANT

We received a \$6,390 Aquatic Nuisance Grant for 2016! Thanks to all of the members who put in volunteer hours. These in-kind volunteer hours helped us to secure this funding.

Vermont Conservation License Plates

A reminder that half of the proceeds derived from the sale of Vermont Conservation License Plates go towards funding the Vermont Watershed Grant Program. If you are a Vermont resident, please consider purchasing a Vermont Conservation License Plate to support this program.



Get Involved

If you are interested in becoming more involved or volunteering there are several options.

- Membership Committee – Larry Martin – larry@mas-vt.com
- Fund Raising – Patti Lennon – pattilennon@aol.com
- Lake Survey – Peggy Stevens – pegnericstevens@gmail.com
- Access Greeter – obrien6417@yahoo.com
- Green-up Day – Ann Hunsicker - ahunsicker@gmavt.net

Important Dates

- Jan 14, 2017 – Board Meeting
- May 27 , 2017 – Board Meeting
- July 2, 2017 – Color Challenge
- July 22 , 2017 – Annual Meeting
- August 19, 2017 – Annual Picnic
- September 9, 2017 – Board Meeting

Please visit our website for more information - <http://www.echolakeassociation.net/>



2016
MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS FORM

MEMBER/FRIEND INFORMATION

NAMES:

EMAIL:

1. _____
2. _____

MAILING ADDRESS:

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

ECHO LAKE ADDRESS:

Street: _____ Phone: _____

ECHO LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION DUES & DONATIONS FOR 2016

DUES: Individual: _____ \$15 Family: _____ \$30

DONATIONS:

The protection of Echo Lake from the incidental contamination with aquatic invasive species is a continuous effort that incurs expenses. Would you be willing to make a donation to help protect the water quality of our lake?

Yes, I'd like to contribute to fund the water quality protection programs:

\$200 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other _____

ELPA is a 501(c)(3) organization; your dues and donations are fully tax deductible.

Thank you from your ELPA Board!

ELPA Use

Date Rec'd. _____ Check # _____ Acknowledgement Sent _____

MAIL TO: TREASURER ELPA
P.O. BOX 41
EAST CHARLESTON, VT 05833