



OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Patti Lennon, Co-President
Larry Martin, Co-President
Ann Hunsicker, Treasurer
Susan Czerepak, Secretary
Nancy Engels
Laurie Gee
Steve Gratton
Samantha Stevens

ELPA Spring Newsletter **April 2019**

Presidents' Message

Dear Members

If you like snow, then this was the winter for you if you were on Echo Lake. Whether you were enjoying mountains of snow or having fun in the sun in warmer climes, we hope you had a wonderful winter. As the snow and ice is melting on Echo Lake, your ELPA board is preparing for our many summer programs and activities designed to protect our pristine waters.

This summer, with help from NorthWoods Stewardship Center, ELPA is sponsoring a buffer workshop to encourage the planting of native shrubs and trees along the shoreline. In addition, the Vermont Department of Conservation has put together a guide for lakeshore property owners that contains a wealth of information and valuable resources. The guide is called "Sharing the Edge" and can be found at https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/document/s/lp_SharingTheEdge.pdf.

As a fundraiser, we will be hosting the 5th annual Color Challenge on Saturday July 6th. We hope that you and your family and friends will join us for this family-fun event. In addition, we are selling beautifully designed maps of Echo Lake that lists the homeowners as of the summer of 2018.

We truly appreciate the support you have given ELPA in terms of dues and donations. Please encourage your guests and renters to become members or Friends of Echo Lake. Electronic payments can now be made from our website.

We look forward to seeing you on the lake!

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Our Finances

By Ann Hunsicker

The financial health of ELPA continues to improve! We received two grants from the state last year for a total of \$16,904, all of which came in before the end of 2018. We received \$4,075 in dues and \$4,800 in donations in 2018. In addition we received a grant from the Town of Charleston for \$1,000 and raised \$4,661 at the Color Challenge.

Our expenses remained stable with the biggest expense still our access greeter program, which cost about \$13,000 in 2018. We continued to fund a couple of well-received educational programs at Charleston Elementary School through Siskin and NorthWoods,

partially funded by a very generous anonymous donation. We also produced a lovely map of Echo Lake and hope to generate some additional income with the sale of these maps.

We were fortunate to be able to add to our contingency fund in 2018. As a result we are continuing to build a fund that will enable us to quickly address a potential aquatic nuisance invasion. Any such effort would be expensive and the board and membership want to be prepared. With the support of our members and careful stewardship of the board we are on track to have the

funds necessary to preserve the quality of our lake.

2019 is off to a good start. We are beginning to see some membership dues and donations come in. Remember that we are a 501(c)3 organization so all dues and donations are tax deductible! You can mail your contributions or we now have the ability to receive payments through PayPal. We have already received notice that one of the grants we applied for will be funded. We also have plans for another Color Challenge as well as map sales so it will be another busy year. Thanks to everyone for their volunteer and financial support



Aerial Photo of Echo Lake by Doug Gimler at www.nekwildlifephoto.com

Framed photos available at the Morgan Store

**Echo Lake Protective Association
PO Box 41
East Charleston, Vermont 05833**

For more information, visit our website -

<http://www.echolakeassociation.net/>

We, in collaboration with the Town of Charleston, have been awarded an Aquatic Nuisance Prevention grant of \$8,563. This grant will help fund our three paid access greeters this summer as we continue our program to educate boaters about keeping Echo Lake free of Eurasian watermilfoil and other invasive species. We will inspect every vessel and trailer launching and retrieving at the boat access.

We also received the full \$5,000 funding of our 2019 Watershed Management grant. In addition to helping fund the access greeter program, we will be funding hands-on, Echo Lake centered, ecosystem educational programming. This year, third graders at Charleston Elementary School, as well as middle schoolers, will continue to enjoy the popular programs we fund through the NorthWoods Stewardship Center and Siskin Ecological Adventures.

Lakeshore Buffer Workshop

A workshop on planting a lakeshore buffer will be presented on Saturday, August 24, 2019 by Meghann Carter of NorthWoods. The workshop will include an introduction to NorthWoods and the how's and why's of buffering including what plants to include. We will then go on a tour of a few already planted buffer sites, transportation provided by NorthWoods. This will be followed by a planting demonstration and time for your questions. The workshop will take place between 10AM and 12PM. We will meet at the Echo Lake boat access. Please plan to attend, this is an important way to support ELPA and maintain our beautiful lake! Please email Ann Hunsicker at ahunsicker17@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Calendar of Events

- May 4 – Green Up Day
- June 8 – NorthWoods 30th Anniversary Open House
- July 6 – Color Challenge
- July 20 – Annual Meeting
- August 3 – Circle of Friends Bazaar
- August 17 – ELPA Annual Picnic
- August 24 – Lakeshore Buffer Workshop

Lakebed Survey

By Peggy Stevens

The Echo Lake Protection Association Lakebed Survey, sponsored by Vermont Water Resources, is an annual effort to identify and monitor the existing plant life in Echo in order to ensure that no invasive species take hold should they be introduced. The survey is a second line of defense after the Access Greeter program, which to date has been successful in keeping invasives out.



Our group of surveyors- Larry Martin, Susan Czerepak, Peggy Stevens, Hugh Hawkins, Tom and Amy Wagner, Patti Lennon,

Maryanne Obrien, Ann Hunsicker, Peter Bestenbostel, Lori Kempton, Ann and Steve Gratton, Holly Bull - are all trained Vermont Invasive Patrollers, though this is not a prerequisite to joining in the survey effort.

We encourage every Echo lakeshore property owner to survey their lakebed and get to know the aquatic plants that live there so they can note any changes as they occur. Peggy Stevens is the coordinator of the survey effort and is available to answer questions and help you to identify the various plants in your "waterfront yard". Call at 723-5951.

Should an infested boat make it past the access, the odds of an infestation taking hold may be reduced if the invaders are swiftly identified. In that event, Water Resources personnel are called on to come and attempt eradication. Residents, including surveyors, are requested not to pull any weeds as this can worsen the situation. Samples must be captured and bagged and sent to the State for further identification. Peggy is the contact person as well in terms of forwarding samples.



The survey formally takes place twice a year, late June and late August, but patrollers may be seen at any time of the summer season, informally checking out the lakebed as they are out for a paddle on a clear and windless day (the best conditions for surveying). Surveyors document their findings and submit lakebed maps and paperwork to Peggy at the end of the season to file with Water Resources. We have one of the longest running and most effective lakebed surveys in the State of Vermont. Help us to continue our effort by keeping an eye out for invasives on your property.

See you on the lake!

Membership

By Larry Martin

The membership committed consists of Tom Wagner, Ann Hunsicker, Holly Bull, Nancy Engels, Ann Beams, Lori Kempton, Jean Wilson, Tracey Shadday, Steve Gratton and Ann Gratton. It had a successful year, which included creating Visitors Bags for renters and visitors to Echo Lake.

The final membership figures for 2018 were as follows:

- Families: 75
- Individuals: 11
- Friends: 9

Tom Wagner has served as the chairman of this board for several years but has decided to resign. We thank Tom for all of the hard work that he is put into this committee and ELPA over the years. He will be difficult to replace.

If you would like to join this committee or would consider taking on the chairman roll, please contact Larry Martin at larry@mas-vt.com.

ELPA Lake Wise Program

By Steve and Ann Gratton

What a joy it is to live on our pristine Echo Lake. To become Vermont's first recipient of the Gold Lake Wise Award in 2016 is an honor that all Echo Lake residents should be proud of.

The Lake Wise Program on Echo Lake continues to expand. To date, nearly 30% of property owners have received the award. Many Lake front property owners have committed to voluntarily implementing lake-friendly practices on their lakeshore. The Lake Wise Award certifies that a property is managed in a manner that preserves fish and wild life habitat, protects water quality and maintains a shorelines' natural stability.

All Echo Lakeshore owners are welcomed and encouraged to participate in this Lake Wise program. We suggest that all property owners download and read the new Vermont Guide for lakeshore owners, called **Sharing the Edge** at https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/documents/lp_SharingTheEdge.pdf.

For more detailed information and requirements for the award go to www.dec.vt.gov.

To schedule an evaluation of your property this summer for Lake Wise certification, please contact Ann and Steve Gratton at sgratton911@gmail.com, or call 603-848-2131.

Echo Lake Map

You can purchase a beautifully designed map of Echo Lake that lists property owners as of the summer of 2018.

The maps will be available for sale at the Color Challenge on July 6th, the ELPA Annual Meeting on July 20th, and at the Annual Picnic on August 17th.

In addition, maps are always available at Laurie and Keith Gees' home at 1008 W Echo Lake Road. Feel free to call 723-4886 to arrange a time to purchase maps.

Centenarian Among Us

We have a new centenarian on Echo Lake!! Congratulations to Marie Nielsen on celebrating her 100th birthday. Here's to many more!!!

Circle of Friends Bazaar – August 3rd

The Circle of Friends Bazaar will be held on Saturday August 3, from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM, at the Morgan Community House and the E. Taylor Hatton School on Meade Hill Road. Lunch will be served at the Morgan Community House.

The Bazaar includes the sale of crafts, baked goods, attic treasures, antiques, sports goods, and a kid's table. Proceeds go to three local food banks, four local libraries, fuel assistance, NorthWoods, Morgan Historical Society, Reining Hope, winter clothing for children in need, scholarships, and more.

A beautiful quilt made by Circle members will be awarded to the winning ticket holder. The Quilt is aqua and beige with a theme of Grandmother's Flower Garden. All Circle members will be selling tickets.



The Circle of Friends is a group of women living in Morgan and neighboring communities whose charitable work enriches the lives of its members and has a positive effect on the community through donations and good works.

Invasive Terrestrial Plants

By Steve and Ann Gratton

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation reminds us that non-native, invasive terrestrial plants are one of the greatest threats to the health of Northeastern forests. They negatively impact the environment, are costly to manage, and can be harmful to human health.

Increasingly, public and private landowners struggle to reduce the

impact that invasive plants, shrubs, vines, and trees have on forest regeneration, forest structure, ecosystem function, recreation, and wildlife habitat. They are also concerned with the lost revenue in these altered natural communities, as well as the lost natural heritage.

However, many Vermont forests are still relatively invasive-free, so we may stand a chance in maintaining the structure and

function of the state's woodlands if - and only if - we take the issue seriously. Landowners and land managers must do everything in their power to prevent the spread of invasive species, including recognizing and removing new infestations early.

Echo Lake has instances of both Phragmites and Knotweed on its shores.

Phragmites australis (common weed)



Because of its height and fluffy seed heads, even motorists can spot phragmites. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) recommends hand cutting the individual stems below the lowest leaf at the end of July before the flowers produce seed.

At that point, most of its food reserves have gone to the top of the plant. Use hand-held cutters, gas-powered hedge trimmers and weed whackers with a circular blade to leave a six-inch stump. The harvested plant material should be burned or dried on a tarp before composting.

For several years at their Seymour property, Woody and Missy Woods have been battling dense phragmites beds with a weed whacker, and with loppers where it has insinuated itself with cattails. The leaves of both plants are so similar it's hard to tell them apart. The Woods burn the invasive plants when they cut them down. NorthWoods planted an assortment of trees amid the couple's dense phragmites to counter their growth, and those native species are doing well.

Japanese Knotweed

For mechanical removal the VTDEC recommends cutting its stalks preferably twice a month in the spring season with a scythe, loppers or lawnmower, if the topography permits. The plant grows up to 10 feet. Do this for five to ten years, and when the knotweed is much smaller and under control, replant with good-sized natives. Taming the knotweed can take up to 10 years because the roots and rhizomes in the soil are so powerful. Never leave cuttings on the ground. Spread them on a tarp and compost after thoroughly dry. See Managing Japanese Knotweed [https:// www.agriculture.nh.gov/ publications-forms/documents/ japanese-knotweed-bmps.pdf](https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/japanese-knotweed-bmps.pdf).

There was a substantial stand of knotweed on the Woolsey/Stevens/Cze repak property. That stand has been eradicated after the physical removal of the plants, their roots and rhizomes. But more knotweed persists at other locations around the lake.



(Portions of this article taken with permission from May 2018 Seymour Lake Association Newslettter, article by Cynthia Stevens, photos by Rhonda Shippee)

Community Outreach

By Jason Brueck

Once again students from Charleston Elementary are diving into the ecology of Echo Lake thanks to a grant from the Echo Lake Protective Association. This year, Mrs. Lahar's 3rd graders have teamed up with ecologists turned educators at Siskin Ecological Adventures for a seasonal series of classroom STEM lessons and field trips to explore and make real life connections with Echo Lake.

Throughout the program, students develop the scientific language and the knowledge necessary to grow a deep understanding and appreciation of both the ecological and economic importance of Echo Lake. Hands-on scientific investigation are coupled



with science inspired art and presentations of learning designed to instill a deeper understanding of the role Echo Lake plays in the larger Clyde River watershed and in the Charleston community.

A March 14th field trip to the cedar-lined lakeshore saw several feet of snow still on the ground. After donning snowshoes, students stomped their way along the trail that leads through the Lydia Spitzer Demonstration Forest held by the Vermont Land Trust and managed by the NorthWoods Stewardship Center. Already armed with an understanding of a



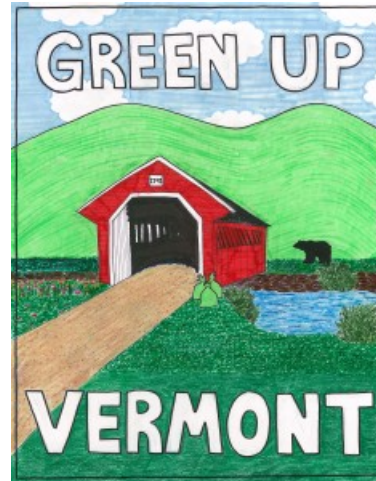
wide range of ecological concepts such as how homeothermic mammals like otter are able to out swim poikilothermic animals like lake trout in the chilly winter water, students were excited to venture out onto an ice covered Echo Lake. With the passing of the Vernal Equinox, spring may technically have sprung, but it is likely that the next round classroom science visits will have already started before the more than 3 feet of ice the students drilled through melts.



Green Up Day 2014 - May 4th

Green Up Day is almost upon us! This year it will be held on Saturday, May 4th. Last year's Green Up Day was a great success. Our thanks to all who participated. It's great to have the lakeside looking so clean as we get into the season.

We can always use more volunteers. Please let Ann know if you can volunteer this year by emailing her at ahunsicker17@gmail.com.



Access Greeter Program

By Maryanne O'Brien

The 2019 access greeter program is once again scheduled to begin the Friday before Memorial Weekend and run through mid-September. As before, we will have paid greeter coverage Wednesday through Sunday, 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

We are still in need of an access greeter supervisor. The access greeter supervisor's responsibilities have been greatly reduced from previous years. His/her tasks will be to distribute supplies and log sheets, set up the greeters' schedules, and visit the access from time to time to make sure the access is running smoothly.

Also, if suspected milfoil is found, the supervisor(s) will mail the sample to the state. The supervisor(s) will not be involved with training greeters or any paperwork having to do with payroll, data collection or the volunteer greeter program. Please consider stepping up to volunteer; we will be happy to assist you through the process.

Volunteer greeters will cover the access Mondays and Tuesdays. We still need additional volunteers on these days; please consider volunteering. VTDEC will be hosting 5 access greeter workshops this year. May's

workshop is Tuesday, May 21 in Westmore. June's workshop is Thursday, June 22 in Newport. If interested, please pre-register with Ryan Colarusso at Ryan.Colarusso@Vermont.gov. If you cannot attend training we still want you to volunteer. All that is needed is a willing spirit to help keep our beautiful lake free from invasives. If we can sign up enough willing participants, each volunteer could put in as little as 2 hours per week. If interested, please contact Patti at pattilennon@aol.com.

Natural Shoreland Erosion Control Certification Course for Landscapers, Contractors, Site Workers and Property Owners

By Tom Wagner

Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation introduced in 2016 a certificate program to educate those individuals who work along our shorelines about the importance of Best Management Practices (BMP.) This voluntary certification training is required in the Vermont statute through the Shoreland Protection Act.

This voluntary certification course teaches landscaping techniques that control stormwater runoff and conserve wildlife habitat, which are essential shoreland development practices for protecting Vermont lakes.

The training introduces and reinforces the use of Shoreland Best Management Practices from bioengineering for stabilizing shores, green infrastructure, native plantings, stormwater management, to habitat protection techniques. These practices are essential for developing shores that safeguard water quality and aquatic habitat. These trainings offer a forum to bring together and learn from collective experiences with participants gaining a common understanding of what shoreland BMPs are and what lake friendly development involves, including knowing when and how to apply the standards of the Shoreland Protection Act.

All landscapers, site workers,



Northwoods Stewardship crew working on infiltration steps on Seymour Lake. Infiltration steps prevent erosion on walkways leading to the lake, and is one of the many Best Management Practices utilized along shorelines. NWSC crews have Erosion Control Certificates.

contractors, gardeners, and others, including lake front property owners, who attend the trainings will be Certified in Shoreland BMPs and listed as Certified in Natural Shoreland Erosion Control on the Agency of Natural Resources web site. **All those certified will be given preference for all grants provided by the Watershed Management Division for shoreland work.**

So if you are contemplating septic work, landscaping or

shoreline work, including building, Best Management Practices would encourage you to reach out to those who have obtained the Certification, so that you use those professionals who have taken the time to take the training and obtain the Certification. Here is a link to those who have obtained the Certification.

https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/lakes/Lakewis/docs/NSECC_CertifiedProfessionalsByTown.pdf

Annual Picnic – August 17th

Our Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 17th on the Beams property at the West end of the lake. The Li'l Deb and Big Wind band will be back with us again this year, playing rock-a-billy, country, blues, and swing. Stay tuned for more information on time and so forth.



Vermont Conservation License Plates



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

NorthWoods 30th Anniversary Open House – June 8th

The NorthWoods 30th Anniversary Open House will be held on June 8th from 4pm to 8pm. Live music by the popular celtic band The Wind that Shakes the Barley. Admission and a delicious dinner are free to all as we welcome and thank our community for supporting us for 30 years!

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 – Patti Lennon – pattilennon@aol.com
- Green-up Day – Ann Hunsicker – ahunsicker17@gmail.com

If you are not already a member please consider becoming one. If you don't want to be a member, consider being a "Friend" for a contribution of \$25. You can access 2019 Membership Dues and Donations Form at <https://www.echolakeassociation.net/dues-donations/>

Echo Lake Color Challenge – July 6th

By Patti Lennon

It's the most colorful time of the year 🎵🎵



Come join us for the 5th annual Color Challenge on Saturday July 6th at 10:00 a.m. The event is open to people of all ages and all abilities. Walkers and runners travel a gentle, rolling 5K loop on West Echo Lake Road while being showered with colored powder at five color stations throughout the course. After the race enjoy post-race snacks and a chance to win fun raffle prizes.

We are keeping the registration fees the same as last year. You can save money by pre-registering. With each registration, we will provide

sunglasses, a white t-shirt, post-race snacks and a raffle ticket. You can pre-register online at Active.com or download our mail-in registration form from www.echolakeassociation.net. Individual registration fee is \$15 per person; day of event registration is \$20. Or you can form a "team" of four friends, family, or neighbors. Team registration fee is \$50 per team of four people; day of event team registration is \$60. The couples' registration fee is \$30; day of event registration is \$40.

See you at the 2019 Color Challenge!

