

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS



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

## ELPA Fall Newsletter November 2019

### Presidents' Message

Dear Members,

The foliage around Echo Lake has finally faded, but what a beautiful and sunny fall we enjoyed, right on the heels of a lovely summer. It was fun to see how long into October folks were still kayaking, fishing, walking, and biking around Echo.

Summer highlights included the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Echo Lake Color Challenge, our annual picnic, a Buffer Workshop, impressive improvements to the NorthWoods Stewardship Center's Echo Lake



Shore Trail, and reinvigorated efforts on the part of ELPA's expanded Membership Committee. Learn more about these as you read further.

While all of us care deeply about keeping Echo Lake free of invasive species, this past summer we did not have enough volunteer Access Greeters to fill our Monday-Tuesday Greeter schedule. Our

Access Greeter program has always been our best defense in keeping aquatic invasive species out of our lake. Please consider volunteering to help in this effort next summer.

To our board and committee members, we give thanks for your creativity, hard work and willingness to serve. This year we welcomed two new board members, Holly Bull and Carol Martin. Thank you to our loyal and generous hosts: Nancy & Peter Engels (annual meeting), and Ann & Mark Beams, Pam & Karl Koenigsbauer, and Jean and Bob Wilson (Echo Lake Color Challenge and annual picnic). We thank our many volunteers for your valuable time and enthusiastic support in helping bring our programs and projects to fruition. We are also grateful for our members' financial support of ELPA's work through your dues payments and generous donations. Finally, thank you to all who have purchased updated Echo Lake maps. These are still available by emailing Laurie Gee ([laurie.eckels.gee@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.eckels.gee@gmail.com)) to arrange a mutually convenient time/date to purchase.

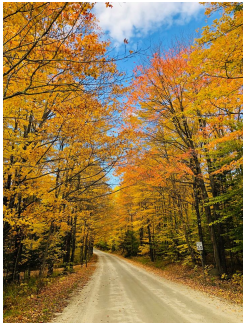
We are fortunate to live in such a special place, and it is a pleasure to work with so many fine neighbors to help ensure Echo Lake will continue to be a special place for generations to come.

Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Laurie Gee and Larry Martin  
Co-Presidents

## Our Finances by Ann Hunsicker

I would like to thank our many residents who continue to support our lake with their donations of time, effort, and money. Thanks to you, we continue in good financial health through another year.



Our dues and donations are below last years and our Aquatic Nuisance grant was lower than last year. The color challenge was a great success and our sale of Echo Lake maps continues. While our cost to run the paid access greeter program was about \$1,600 higher this year, the total assets for the

organization increased since the end of last year by about \$5,400 and we have not yet received the second payment on our Aquatic Nuisance grant. This allowed us to make another addition to our contingency fund in the amount of \$12,000. This fund will give us the means to address a potential infestation of invasive species in a timely manner.

Thanks again to all of you who sustain ELPA by volunteering, becoming informed, and also by your financial support. There is still time to make a year-end donation or pay your annual dues if you haven't already done so. ELPA is a 501(c)3 organization so all dues and donations are tax deductible.

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

For more information, visit our website - <https://www.echolakeassociation.net/>



Aerial Photo of Echo Lake by Doug Gimler at [www.nekwildlifephot.com](http://www.nekwildlifephot.com)

## Adopt a Trail

By Carol Martin

The NorthWoods Stewardship Center is running an Adopt a Trail program that invites volunteers to help maintain trails under the guidance of NorthWoods.

This summer at our Annual Meeting Meg Carter of NorthWoods invited ELPA to “adopt” the NorthWoods’ Shore Trail that runs parallel to East Echo Lake Road along the south shore of Echo Lake. At the September Board Meeting, the board officially accepted the invitation to help clean up the trail two or three times a year to keep it accessible. Carol Martin volunteered to coordinate the effort.



On Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, Jesse Coe, Carol Martin, Holly Bull, Larry Martin, Peter Bestenbostel, and Susan Czerepak took to the woods to clear the parking area, trim the trail, and build two bridges. The project added a new 12-foot bridge that crosses a small streambed, which was a tricky section to navigate. The second bridge is a replacement of a bridge that had become rotten and slippery over the years. Both bridges came out beautifully and really improve the hike down to the lake on this beautiful trail.

In addition, we trimmed back several feet on all sides of the parking area as well as mowing around the kiosk and signage. We also did some light brush-back and trimming along the whole length of the trail. The work was made light by lots of fun, joking around, and visiting during our work, while

being fortified by some scrumptious snacks!!



Jesse did more work later in the fall mowing brush at the parking areas at the Echo Lake trailhead, the Jordan Road trailhead and trail, and the Jordan Road connector to the Forestry for the Birds Area in the Lydia Spitzer Demonstration Forest.



Special thanks to Sam Perron, the NorthWoods Sustainable Forestry Coordinator, for helping with this collaboration between NorthWoods and ELPA. Sam met with Carol and Jesse to provide guidance on projects to work on and direction on what we can do to help improve these trails. Echo Lake Protection Association looks forward to continue helping NorthWoods maintain and improve these trails in the future!

## Lake Monitoring

By Peggy Stevens

Our lakebed survey was completed by the end of September with, thankfully, an all clear as far as invasive aquatic species. Our crew of surveyors completed two rounds of inspection, in June/July and late August/ September. This year we have two new members of our team, Jesse Coe and Carol Martin.

Every section of the lake is covered, with some overlap in most cases,

insuring a thorough look at the lakebed. As said previously, we are the second line of defense after the access greeters in the effort to screen for invasives. So far, so good!

It remains our hope that every lakeshore property owner will be vigilant in being familiar with the vegetation growing in their “front yard” and alert to any changes. In

case of concern, call Peggy Stevens, 723-5951 for help in identifying plants and, if necessary, sending samples to the State for further assistance.

Thank you to all of you who work on the survey team. Your survey hours, just under forty this year, are recorded as in-kind donations and help us to secure our grants for the access greeter program

## Celebration on Echo!!!

The Wilson family had reason to celebrate this summer, and what a perfect venue and perfect day !!!



The bride and groom,  
Kristina Wilson and Lex  
Reynolds

The wedding party – best friends



## Membership

By Ann Beams

Currently, we have a total of 82 dues paying memberships in ELPA for the year 2019.

That's great!!

But as of Dec 31 last year, we had a total of 84 dues paying memberships.

We hope you'll help us meet or beat last year's total and continue

the good work of keeping our lake clean and healthy and beautiful!

If you haven't paid your dues yet, you can register and pay online on the Echo Lake Protective Association website, or check that site to see how you can register and pay by mail It's \$25 for individual, \$50 for a couple or family.

ELPA is a 501c3 organization, so your dues and contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you!

If you have concerns or questions, please contact one of the co-chairs, Tracey Shadday, [tracey.shadday@gmail.com](mailto:tracey.shadday@gmail.com), or Ann Beams, [ann.beams@gmail.com](mailto:ann.beams@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/>

## Not "OK" Down the Drain

By Holly Bull

A friendly reminder that what we put down our kitchen drains can affect the health of our septic systems. An unhealthy or failing septic system has a negative impact on the surrounding groundwater and our lake. A common list of these items that should **not** be put down the kitchen sink are:

- ✚ Food scraps (including coffee grounds) because they don't dissolve causing more septic pump outs.
- ✚ Oil, fats, and grease because they can solidify clogging your pipes causing your system to back up.
- ✚ Antibacterial cleaning products because they kill the good bacteria that break down the solids in your septic system.

- ✚ Bleach and cleansers containing phosphorus. These harsh chemicals can move through the soil untreated and unchanged.

Familiarize yourself with this list and please let family members, guests, visitors, and renters know about what's not "ok" down the drain

And here's a little ditty you may want to post in your bathrooms for your guests . . . .

***All us folks with septic tanks  
Give to you our heartfelt thanks  
For putting nothing in the pot  
That isn't guaranteed to rot.  
Kleenex is bad, matchsticks too,  
Cigarette butts are taboo.  
No hair combings, use the basket,  
There's a darn good reason why we ask it!***

**Lakeshore Buffer Workshop** **By Ann Hunsicker**

On August 24th NorthWoods Stewardship Center in the person of Meg Carter provided a workshop demonstrating and educating us about lakeshore buffers on a variety of Echo Lake properties. This workshop is particularly helpful for Echo Lake property owners with direct lakefront access. Meg demonstrated several properties on the lake, which have been substantially improved by a variety of best practice buffer plantings.

NorthWoods (<https://www.northwoodscenter.org/wordpress/>) can provide both planning and planting of lakeshore buffers as a service. Improving the lakeshore making it more lake friendly is an important step in the Lakewise certification process from the state

(<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise>).

The workshop lasted for 2 hours, was highly informative and culminated with the planting of several cedar trees on the lakeshore of one of the participants. A fun time was had by all. If you are a lakefront property owner and are interested in making your lakefront more environmentally compatible with the lake, or with the Vermont Lakewise program contact Steve Gratton at [sgratton911@gmail.com](mailto:sgratton911@gmail.com).

You can also contact Meg Carter at NorthWoods by email at [meghann@northwoodscenter.org](mailto:meghann@northwoodscenter.org) or by phone at 802-723-6551 x302.

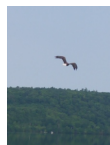
**.Access Greeter Program** **By Laurie Gee**

Our Access Greeter season ended on a successful note, with no invasive species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, being detected on any of the 858 watercraft inspections performed by our



paid and volunteer greeters. This program is ELPA's largest expense and the centerpiece of our efforts. The access area is staffed 12 hours a day Wednesday-Sunday by paid staff. Volunteers staff the

remaining two days. All greeters attend a four-hour, State-run invasive species training program. We encourage anyone interested in becoming actively involved in maintaining the excellent water quality of our lake to volunteer as a greeter.



A very special thanks to Patti Lennon and Maryanne O'Brien for jumping back in and helping to manage the Access Greeter program this season when we failed to find enough volunteers. They

had previously managed this program for many years and have agreed to continue help with some of the tasks. However, we are looking for a volunteer to help manage some aspects of our program. We have several members taking on different tasks but need additional help overseeing this critical program.

Please email Laurie Gee ([laurie.eckels.gee@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.eckels.gee@gmail.com)) if you can volunteer a few hours a week next summer.

<b>ELPA Lake Wise Program</b>	<b>By Steve and Ann Gratton</b>
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We all should be proud of Echo Lake receiving The Golden Lake Wise Award from the State of Vermont. The Lake Wise Program is about education, not enforcement. The goal of the program is to establish a new culture of lakeshore management that is proven to help protect our lake. We don't all have to be fully Lake Wise Certified, but we can all become more aware of shoreline Best Management Practices for controlling runoff and preventing erosion.

In the State of Vermont Echo Lake is a shining star. We have a total of 21,550 feet of beautiful shoreline. Of that total shoreline

nearly 50% has been awarded Lake Wise status. I do not believe that any other lake in Vermont has matched this accomplishment. Thank you all for making the Lake Wise Program a part of our culture on Echo Lake.

Many property owners around Echo Lake are working toward becoming future Lake Wise awarded properties.

Congratulations to our newest Lake Wise property owners: Marc Gavin and Family on West Echo Lake Rd, and Nancy Bernstein on East Echo Lake Rd.

Anyone that would like more information on the Lake Wise Program please contact me or visit the Vt. Lake Wise website. I encourage you all to download and read the newest information from the State called "Sharing the Edge – A Guide for Lakeshore Owners in Vermont" a link can be found on our ELPA website.

Have a safe and great winter. We look forward to seeing you all next spring.

Ann and Steve  
603-848-2131  
sgratton911@gmail.com



*A healthy lake makes for healthy fish  
Nick Dibble with his 42" trout*

*ELPA's Most Shared Facebook Photo of the Year! 23 Shares, reaching 2,172 folks*

## Ongoing ELPA Projects

By Steve Gratton

ELPA Board member, Steve Gratton, has been working with the Charleston Selectmen and road agent with regards to the lakeshore mowing and road width concerns on West Echo Lake Road. All parties have been willing to work with us in order to help reduce sediment runoff into our lake. Reducing and possibly eliminating mowing near the lakeshore and controlling the growing width of West Echo Lake Road will aid in

reducing harmful runoff and help keep our lake pristine.

We will continue to monitor and work with the town of Charleston on this project.

ELPA is also working with two cooperative landowners to eradicate a land based invasive plant called Phragmites. This is a rapidly growing and spreading non-native invasive reed. It is presently an issue on the border of the NorthWoods property and

the adjacent property. We started work to eradicate this invasive in the Fall but more work will be required next season. This reed can only be cut down during a specific point in it's growth in order to interrupt its spreading. Next season we will seek volunteers and when conditions for cutting are optimal we will have a Phragmites cutting party on this part of the shoreline. Stay tuned for more info.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

*Edward V Boncek - July 19, 1924 - March 31, 2019*

*Patricia Wood Eckels - May 1, 1927 - August 3, 2019*

*Albert Ford - February 16, 1926 - March 21, 2019*

*Iroing R. Hislop - July 14, 1929 - April 14, 2019*

*Linere Siloway, - July 11, 1951 - August 25, 2019*

*Donald Wilson, Jr - July 19, 1935 - November 14, 2018*





## FOVLAP Annual Meeting

By Holly Bull

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) held its annual meeting. ELPA members Tracey Shadday and Holly Bull attended. FOVLAP is an advocacy organization focused on promoting and maintaining the quality and enjoyment of the 800 lakes and ponds in Vermont. It consists of associations, individuals, and businesses with this similar interest and gives them an opportunity to network and share information.

At the meeting, Julie Moore, Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources, asked that associations spread the word about Bottles for Clean Water. Instead of giving away unclaimed deposits to beverage manufacturers, beginning in October 2019 the state will recapture the unredeemed bottle deposits and use the money to fund clean water programs. The money is not insubstantial as it could be as much as \$2 million dollars. It's easy. Simply put those bottles into recycling bins and not redemption centers.

Dr. Dupigny-Giroux, Vermont State Climatologist and UVM professor, gave a compelling, comprehensive, and informative lecture on the dramatic climate trends that she has been tracking and documenting. Climate change is not only observed through warming trends but through changing cycles, large jumps in records, and fluctuations over time and variability in weather. This all can have a negative impact on our lake with warmer water surface temperatures and heavier periods of precipitation causing more runoff and erosion.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reported that 96% of Vermont's oligotrophic lakes, like Echo, have increasing phosphorus trends. This may seem alarming, yet Vermont lakes are some of the cleanest and clearest waters in the U.S. Encouragingly, phosphorus trends can be turned around, by continuing to educate homeowners through Lake Wise evaluations, septic socials, and community

outreach. That, along with continual assessment of roads, forestry and farming operations can result in a lowering of the phosphorus levels in the lakes.

Your ELPA board is in contact with Ben Copans, DEC's Memphremagog Watershed Coordinator, to see about participating in their tributary monitoring program that may help Echo Lake decipher and remediate it's increasing phosphorus trend.

Finally, at the end of the meeting each attending association gave an overview of their lakes. Tracey was able to give the gathering an upbeat report on Echo Lake's outstanding water quality, our proactive initiatives and the community's commitment to keep it that way.

ELPA is a member of FOVLAP and individuals can also join. For more information about FAVLAP, or to read more about the meeting, go to <http://vermontlakes.org> or to <https://www.facebook.com/VermontLakes>

!"

## 2019 Annual Picnic

Due to poor weather this year, the picnic had to be rescheduled at last moment from Saturday evening to Sunday afternoon. Even with the short notice the picnic was well attended and the weather on August 18 was much better!

Thanks to Koenigsbauer, Beams, and Wilson's for hosting once again this year! We had some delicious food, got to catch up with old friends and met some new neighbors. Hope to see you all next year at the picnic, which is scheduled for August 8, 2020.



## 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.

## Dates to Remember

- Board Meeting — January 11, 2020
- Board Meeting — May 16, 2020
- Color Challenge — July 5, 2020
- Annual Meeting — July 18, 2020
- Annual Picnic — August 8, 2020

## Echo Lake Color Challenge – July 6th

By Patti Lennon

Once again, we dodged a bullet with the weather. 150 people turned out for the rain-free Color Challenge that was squeezed in, in between torrential rainstorms. Our 5K fundraiser has turned into a community event that families look forward to year after year. In addition to many local participants, we also had people from nine different states attend our event.



As always, many thanks to the Beams, Koenigsbauer, and Wilson families not only for volunteering but also for hosting our event each year on their beautiful properties. We'd like to thank our 30 plus volunteers and the Color Challenge committee for their tireless and contagious enthusiasm.

We are very grateful to the local businesses whose sponsorship have made the Color Challenge the major fundraiser for our association. We are also grateful to our businesses that supplied over \$1,100 in raffle prizes. Please support the local businesses listed below that made our Color Challenge a fundraising success.

Planning for the 2020 Color Challenge is underway, and the event will take place on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Registration will be available starting January 1<sup>st</sup> on Active.com. We look forward to seeing neighbors, friends and families at the 2020 Color Challenge.

### A Note of Thanks from Echo Lake Protective Association



Echo Lake Protective Association would like to thank the following sponsors whose generous donations helped to make the 2019 Color Challenge so successful:

Century 21 Farm & Forest, the Chronicle, Inc., Columbia Forest Products, Community National Bank, Concept 2 Rowing, Conley Country, Gervais Hardware, Hayes Ford, Dr. Hugh's Dental, Island Pond Health Care, Martin Appraisal Services, Inc., Nadeau's Plumbing & Heating, North Country Federal Credit Union, North Country Hospital, Northern Counties Health Care, Noyle Johnson Insurance, Passumpsic Savings Bank, Paul Decelles Financial Services, Poulin Lumber, Tardiff Heating & Mechanical, Taylor-Moore Agency, Walmart, White Birch Lodge, Wright's Plumbing & Heating.

In addition, we'd like to thank the following businesses that donated wonderful prizes for our runners and walkers: Agway, All About Home, City Cinema, Country Thyme Vermont, Cumberland Farms, Derby Village Store, Devaney Farm Stand, Essex House and Tavern, Foggy Goggle Osteria, Hoagie's Pizza & Pasta Newport, Hearth and Home Country Store, Kinney Drugs, Lines & Designs, Louis Garneau, My Salon & Spa, Nature by Design, NEK CBD, Newport Natural, Orleans Country Club, Pick & Shovel, Vermont Pie & Pasta, Price Chopper, Roasters, Shaw's, Subway, Sweet Scoops, and Vista Foods.

