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

**ELPA Spring Newsletter
April 2020**

Presidents' Message

Dear Members,

Happy Spring! How we miss the normal-ness of anticipating everyone's usual patterns of returning to Echo Lake in early or mid-Spring (aka Mud Season), getting into our Summer routines, greeting each other with hugs, handshakes, group walks, shared happy hours...

We hope that you and your families are staying safe, well-fed, healthy and sane. COVID-19 has invaded every aspect of life, and your ELPA board and committees are busy (via email and phone) trying to recalibrate for 2020. These are tough times in every way; for many these are tough financial times. We hope that those who are able will make financial contributions to ELPA and our other cherished Northeast Kingdom non-profits since so many fund-raising activities have been cancelled and so much vital programming lost or postponed.

Based on the information we have at this time, we have cancelled the Color Challenge. The state has postponed Green Up Day from May 2nd to May 30th. It is not unlikely that more changes to scheduled events will be required. PLEASE keep reading this newsletter to learn more about how ELPA's activities and budget are being affected during this critical time.

Let's hope we can all look forward to rewarding and relaxing summer traditions on the lake. Even after Vermont lifts its "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, when migrating to Vermont we will still be expected to self-quarantine for two weeks. Fortunately, that is easier and more natural in our beautiful, uncrowded community. But how we all miss connections!

For all of those near and far who are on the front lines in "essential" jobs, we owe a debt of gratitude and appreciation, and we hope you are able to stay safe.

Laurie Gee and Larry Martin
Co-Presidents

Following is some information regarding the directives Vermont Governor Phil Scott has issued. At the bottom are three links where you can access more. Please note that the governor's original order has been extended as of Friday, April 10th, to be in force until at least May 15th.

Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers arriving in Vermont

ADDENDUM 7 TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-20 [Quarantine Restrictions on Travelers Arriving in Vermont]

NOW THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of Vermont by the Constitution of the State of Vermont, the emergency powers set forth in 20 V.S.A. §§ 8, 9 and 11 and other laws, hereby order the following:

1. To preserve the public health and safety, to ensure the healthcare delivery system is capable of serving all, and to help protect those at the highest risk and vulnerability, any person, resident or non-resident, travelling into Vermont for anything other than an essential purpose, must immediately self-quarantine for 14 days or the balance of 14 days dating from the day of arrival.
2. "Essential purpose" for purposes of this quarantine restriction shall mean travel required for personal safety; food, beverage or medicine; medical care; care of others; and to perform work, services or functions deemed critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security, as set forth in Stay Home/Stay Safe.
3. The Agency of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles are hereby directed to post this guidance at all major points of entry into Vermont, on highway message boards and at the Burlington International Airport and all other Vermont airports.
4. Guidance for self-quarantine shall be made available by the Vermont Department of Health.
5. Visitors are instructed not to travel to Vermont if they are displaying symptoms or if they are travelling from cities and regions identified as COVID-19 "hot spots," including, among others, the states of Florida and Louisiana and the cities of Detroit, Chicago and New York City. In addition, residents of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut should stay in their home states in strict compliance with CDC travel guidance issued Saturday, March 28, 2020. This is essential if you will be in close contact with people who are older adults or have a severe chronic health condition.
6. For the purpose of clarifying Stay Home/Stay Safe as it relates to the suspension of lodging operations, "lodging" shall include, but not be limited to,

hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, inns, short term rentals, such as those made available through VRBO, Homeaway, AirBnb and other services, parks for recreational vehicles and campgrounds, all public and private camping facilities including those managed by the Vermont Department of Parks and Recreation. Lodging may be provided for the following purposes:

- a. Housing vulnerable populations (emergency shelter for homeless individuals) as arranged through the state.
- b. Providing accommodations for health care workers, or other workers deemed necessary to support public health, public safety or critical infrastructure.
- c. Use of lodging properties being as quarantine facilities as arranged by the state.
- d. Limited verifiable extenuating circumstances for the care and safety of Vermonters.

On-line reservations shall be suspended and lodging providers shall post a prominent notice on their web platforms which advises potential guests that reservations for lodging in Vermont, as allowed above, shall be accepted by phone only.

Lodging providers may permit existing guests to remain through the end of their scheduled stay, however, may not allow extended stay or new reservations, except for the purposes set forth above.

7. All state agencies and departments, including the offices of elected officials in the Executive Branch, which register, regulate or otherwise have contact information regarding lodging facilities, shall provide an electronic advisory regarding the suspension of lodging operations, consistent with this Executive Order.
8. The Vermont State Police and all county and municipal law enforcement agencies shall monitor the compliance with this Executive Order by lodging providers and notify the Office of the Attorney General regarding potential non-

compliance using a reporting method prescribed by the Department of Public Safety.

9. The Attorney General shall take such steps as he deems necessary and reasonable to ensure the compliance of lodging providers with this Executive Order.

Except as otherwise set forth herein, this Addendum to the Executive Order shall take effect upon signing and shall continue in full force and effect until April 15, 2020, at which time the Governor, in consultation with the Vermont Department of Health, the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Public Safety/Division of Emergency Management shall assess the emergency and determine whether to amend or extend this Order.

[Click here for the FULL ADDENDUM 7 TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 01-20](#)

[Click here for more information on the Governor's actions](#)

[Click here for the latest information and guidance relating to COVID-19 from VT Health](#)

Our Finances by Ann Hunsicker

The financial health of ELPA continued to improve in 2019. We received two grants from the state last year for a total of \$13,563, all of which came in before the end of 2019. We received \$3,635 in dues and \$4,800 in donations in 2019. The donations we received were less than in 2018. In addition, we received a grant from the Town of Charleston for \$1,000 and raised \$5,544 at the Color Challenge. We also took in \$630 from map sales and \$600 in interest. Our interest income will continue to increase as we have more money in our contingency fund.

Our expenses remained stable with the biggest expense still our access greeter program, which cost about \$14,900 in 2019. 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 were fortunate to be able to add to our contingency fund in 2019. 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 in future years to preserve the quality of our lake.

2020 was off to a good start before the coronavirus pandemic began. The membership committee sent out a reminder early in the year which resulted in 22 members already sending in their dues! Your dues and donations received earlier in the year help the board plan our monitoring and other events for

the coming season. 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. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel plans for another Color Challenge which will impact our fund raising. There are currently uncertainties about how the pandemic will change our greeter program this summer. This will obviously have an impact on our budget but at this time we cannot tell you what that impact will look like. The board of ELPA will do everything we can to maintain financial stability during this crisis. We understand that some members may be impacted financially but please, those of you that can, continue to support ELPA. As always, thanks to everyone for their volunteer and financial support.

REMINDER

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES

JUST GO TO echolakeassociation.net

CLICK ON Support ELPA

REGISTER TO PAY ELECTRONICALLY OR BY MAIL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Usually held the first Saturday in May, this year Green Up Day is postponed to May 30th, the last Saturday in May.

Green Up Vermont has been closely monitoring coronavirus (COVID-19) communications and guidance from the Vermont Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports, and daily news from Governor Scott and our federal government. The situation is fluid and our greatest priority is the health and well-being of our Green Up family of volunteers and event participants.

Although Green Up is shifting its planning toward May 30, they will still look for final guidance from the Vermont Department of Health and Governor Scott.

Green Up Vermont will be ramping up communications around coronavirus safety, wearing gloves, protection from ticks and sharp objects, and other things for the next several weeks. Communication will be an imperative component to handling this community service safely while keeping everyone connected to giving back by Greening Up.

Green Up Day, by nature, is an activity of social distancing as citizens of all ages get outside and clean up miles of Vermont roads.

Green Up is a well-loved event that will bring some normalcy to our communities and will help contribute to the physical, social and mental health of Vermonters as much as their Green Up activities will help beautify our state. We look forward to Greening Up safely on May 30.

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, especially this year as we have lost one of our dedicated volunteers with the unfortunate passing of Linere Silloway. Her participation will be missed. Please let Ann know if you can volunteer this year by emailing her at ahunsicker17@gmail.com. It doesn't take long and is an important part of keeping our lake healthy.

We will let volunteers know if there are any further changes to this Spring's Green Up plans.

The annual Echo Lake Lakebed Survey- our second line of defense against invasive aquatic species- is one of our most successful volunteer efforts. Our team of volunteer surveyors, all trained and experienced Vermont Invasive Patrollers, perform two surveys each summer, one in late June and the other in late August or September.

Each volunteer takes responsibility for an assigned section of the lake, examining the lake bed from the shoreline to a depth of about twenty feet from shore, the depth at which Eurasian milfoil can grow and thrive. Each surveyor documents the date, time and weather conditions and the type of aquatic species found. Obviously, we are on alert for the presence of invasives, like Eurasian milfoil, which, if found, may be successfully eradicated if reported to Natural Resources staff in a timely manner. Natural Resources staff are trained and authorized to attempt to remove any invasives before they can take a firm hold. Once established, invasives are virtually impossible to eradicate.

Thus far, after over a decade of surveying, no invasives have been discovered to have taken hold in Echo. Another plus is that we have, over time, developed an inventory of the types of beneficial plants that do live in our lake and provide a habitat that supports the health of the lake and the creatures that live in the Echo habitat.

Thanks to our volunteers- Susan Czerepak, Larry Martin, Tom and Amy Wagner, Lori Kempton, Holly Bull, Ann Hunsicker and Peter Bestenbostel, Marianne O'Brien and Patti Lennon, Hugh Hawkins, Jesse and Carol Coe and Peggy Stevens - we can look forward to another successful year of lakebed surveying. We invite every lakeshore property owner to join us in our survey effort. Get to know your lakebed property, what plants grow there, so you may recognize any new species and bring them to our attention. Call Peggy Stevens with any questions or concerns at 723-5951. And thank you all for supporting this effort, one that can be accomplished while social distancing, god forbid that is still necessary in June.

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

Water Quality

By Holly Bull

Every year the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) releases score cards that report on how lakes are doing. Echo Lake received a score of "Good" on Water Quality. This means that Echo Lake's water meets Vermont Water Quality Standards and the Vermont Surface Water Assessment and Listing Methodology. Our Nutrient Trend has attained a "Fair" rating, due in part to our "significantly increasing" total phosphorus (TP) amounts recorded over the past 10 years. An increasing trend suggests

something is changing in the lake, along the shoreline, or in the watershed that is causing phosphorus concentrations to rise. As a lake ages it can move through the trophic (growth) stages, but this natural progression can be accelerated by unnatural influences.

At the writing of this article, ELPA is waiting to hear from the Vermont DEC about a grant for tributary testing for phosphorus. If awarded to ELPA, the grant will pay for the testing of samples from streams around the lake. ELPA hopes to use

these test results to determine possible contributors of the phosphorus. From there, a proactive plan can be put in place to decrease or eliminate the problem(s).

To learn more, check out our updated website at echolakeassociation.net under Water Quality to see all our programs that are working to keep Echo's water as clean, clear, and as healthy as possible.

2020 Color Challenge is Cancelled

By Patti Lennon



In order to keep our community safe, the 2020 Color Challenge is cancelled. At a time when our lives have been turned upside down; we have to keep a sense of humor, act with kindness and believe that better days are ahead. Stay safe and see you at the 2021 Color Challenge.

Access Greeter Program

By Laurie Gee

The State hasn't yet decided whether Greeter programs will be permitted to function this summer. So far, the State is keeping fishing accesses open and depending on residents to maintain safe social distancing and share boats only with others in same self-isolating households. We are hopeful that we will be able to continue our vital Access Greeter program so that we can check all boats and trailers before

they enter our lake. It seems easy enough to imagine this activity being performed while staying at least six feet apart from each other. At this point, we have two returning paid greeters and one excellent candidate poised to accept the third spot. Our volunteers who cover Mondays and Tuesdays at the access will need additional volunteers. Please let Laurie Gee know if you are willing to help out by taking a

two- or three-hour shift each week. We are still in need of a Coordinator, someone who is willing to be the point person for the three paid greeters. This is not a particularly time-consuming role, but it's a vital one.

Please contact Laurie Gee at laurie.eckels.gee@gmail.com if you would like to participate in this program.

Loons

By Laurie Gee

Even activities in support of our beloved loon pair are in flux due to COVID-19. Eric Hanson and his Vermont Center for Eco-Studies team are not allowed to travel by car to do fieldwork, so they cannot help re-vegetate our loon nesting platform this Spring. Fortunately, the platform is already in its

rough position for 2020, and maybe a couple of us will be able to push it out a little deeper when the time comes. As Eric said, this may be the summer we experiment with reduced loon management efforts.

For the past few years, ELPA has given back to the community by supporting education programs at Charleston Elementary. The two organizations, Siskin and NorthWoods, that provided the programs have done amazing work

with the students. ELPA has also provided each student and teacher with a reusable, BPA free water bottle to use, most keep them on their desk.

Siskin Ecological Adventures once again worked with the 3rd graders to learn about, explore and make real life connections with Echo Lake. The Fall and Winter programs, led by Jason Brueck, each had 3 classroom STEM lessons followed by field trips to the lake.



Northwoods Stewardship Center has developed an afterschool program called Echo Lake Explorers. They host a Fall, Winter and Spring session, and students of various grade levels can participate. This past winter, CJ Hill led a session on ice fishing, exploring topics like variable ice thickness, regulations regarding different types of fish in different water bodies, and the types of gear used for ice fishing.



Unfortunately, the early closing of the schools prevented these programs to complete their Spring sessions. We are looking forward to sponsoring Northwoods and Siskin next school year. This community education is a key part in the grants received by ELPA from the state, and we especially appreciate the support of the Board.

Grants

By Laurie Gee

The good news first: In early March, we received a \$5,000 Watershed grant for 2020, the maximum for which we were eligible. The bad news: Aquatic Nuisance grant decisions are overdue and now on

hold. VTDEC tells us that if funds end up being available at all, each recipient will receive a drastically reduced amount this year.

Restoring Living Shorelands Webinar

By Susan Czerepak

In celebration of Earth Day 2020, and to promote shoreland practices that protect our lakes, the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC NALMS) is hosting a webinar on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for lake-friendly development. This webinar will cover Shoreland Best Management Practices; Ecological Designs for Lake Wise Living; and Bioengineering Installations to restore living shorelands and create a new trend towards lake-friendly practices. Practicing shoreland BMPs allows for lake-friendly development, a win-win for water quality, wildlife, and property.

There will be three presentations, each 20 minutes in length:

- ***Vermont Shoreland BMPs: Native Plants for Stormwater Treatments*** Laura Dlugolecki, MS, BS – VTANR Lakes and Ponds Shoreland Permit Specialist

- ***Ecological Designs for Water Quality, Wildlife, and Well-Being***

Holly Greenleaf, MS, BA – Ecological Landscape Designer

- ***Bioengineering Methods and Case Studies to Stabilize Eroding Shores*** Amy Picotte, MS, BS – VTANR Lakes and Ponds Lakeshore Manager

To Register for the Webinar:

Please register to attend the webinar here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7653240151662308366>

Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email from Watershed Management, with a subject line of “Restoring Living Shorelands – Webinar offered by the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society.” That confirmation email will contain information on how to log into and/or call into the webinar on 4/21. Please save that information so that you can use it to join the webinar at 10:30 AM on Tuesday April 21, 2020. If you do not receive an immediate confirmation email, please check your spam folder for an email from Watershed Management. If you still cannot find it, email Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov.

If you are unable to join the live webinar a recording of the webinar will be posted at <http://nec-nalms.org/> and <https://www.nalms.org/at-home-activities-and-resources/>

ELPA Lake Wise Program

By Steve Gratton

There are many unknowns as we all adjust to life during this horrific Pandemic. How it will affect activities and programs at Echo Lake this year remains to be seen. We will of course be following any and all recommendations and guidance from Vermont officials.

The State of Vermont's Lake Wise Program has been well received by Echo Lake lakeshore owners. Echo Lake now has nearly 50% of its shoreline certified by the State as meeting the optimum criteria for shoreline management. There is and always will be room for improvement, but in Vermont we are a shining star and we should all take pride in all of the lakeshore owners efforts.

The Lake Wise recommendations apply to the land surrounding the lake that is within 250 feet of the shoreline. Using Best Management Practices for our

lakeshore will help maintain our property values and certainly help maintain our excellent water quality.

I would like to encourage you all to read the information in the State provided brochure called "Sharing the Edge – A Guide for Lakeshore Owners in Vermont", which can be accessed through the link below.

https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/documents/lp_SharingTheEdge.pdf

You will also find a link to this brochure on the Echo Lake Website -

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

If you would like more information or want your property evaluated for Lake Wise criteria, please call Steve Gratton at 603-848-2131.

2020 Calendar of Events

- **May 30 – Green Up Day**
- **May 30 – Board Meeting**
- **July 18 – Annual Meeting**
- **August 1 – Circle of Friends Bazaar**
- **August 8 – ELPA Annual Picnic**
- **September 19, Board Meeting**

With the uncertainty that COVID-19 imposes, all dates are tentative. We will update as necessary.

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.



Last summer ELPA committed to adopting the Echo Lake Shore Trail to support NorthWoods Stewardship Center in maintaining and improving this beautiful trail section. The shore trail is an easy hike beginning at the East Echo Lake parking kiosk and meandering through forests, crossing several streams and ending on the lake shore. In addition to the beautiful Echo Lake Shore Trail, the NorthWoods trail system from the East Echo Lake Road trail parking area weaves among boulders and a variety of forest types on the north side of Tripp Hill, providing access to one of three Forestry for the Birds demonstration sites – a collaborative effort with NorthWoods, Audubon Vermont, and the Vermont Land Trust to show how timber management can also enhance songbird habitat. Another fascinating feature along the trail, a short hike from the trail head, is the Wolcott Homestead Historic Foundation – the remains of a stone foundation that provides a glimpse into Vermont farm life on these hills from a time gone by.

NorthWoods trail crews continue to make progress on extending the Echo Lake trail section with the goal to eventually connect to the NorthWoods Stewardship Center campus trails. An updated trail map and more information about the highlighted features of these trails is available at the East Echo Lake Road kiosk. We encourage our Echo Lake community to explore these gems of hidden trails.



Last September, a group of ELPA volunteers built bridges, trimmed trails and brush-mowed the trail-head and information kiosks at Echo Lake Road and Jordan Road. ELPA is planning on continuing Echo Lake Shore Trail annual maintenance and improvements again this year, with oversight from Sam Perron, the NorthWoods Stewardship Center Director of Forest Stewardship. Be on the lookout for trail improvement volunteer opportunities to be announced later in the season!

Support our Local Businesses

By Patti Lennon

Many local businesses are struggling due to the impacts from COVID-19. Please support these businesses by using their services, shopping or dining with them and purchasing gift cards. These businesses are not only the backbone of our community but have given much support to ELPA throughout the years.

- 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
- Agway
- All About Home
- City Cinema
- Country Thyme
- Cumberland Farms
- Derby Village Store
- Devaney Farm Stand
- Essex Tavern
- Foggy Goggle Osteria
- Hoagies Newport
- Home and Hearth
- Kinney Drugs
- L&R Automotive
- Lines & Designs,
- Louis Garneau,
- My Salon
- Nature by Design
- NEK CBD
- Newport Natural
- Orleans Country Club
- Pick & Shovel
- Pie & Pasta,
- Price Chopper
- Roasters
- Shaw's
- SubWay
- Sweet Scoops
- Vista

