



NEWSLETTER

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds, Inc. • P.O.Box 421, Waterbury, VT 05676

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NUMBER 8

The Use of Weevils to Control Eurasian Watermilfoil in Vermont

The VTDEC Perspective by Ann Bove

VTDEC has supported the study and potential use of the watermilfoil weevil as a control for Eurasian watermilfoil infestations since 1989 through a variety of research, rearing and stocking programs, including helping lake associations rear their own weevils. VTDEC feels there is significant value in protecting the weevil population that exists naturally here and has apparently had an impact on VT watermilfoil populations at no one's expense. Thirteen of the 37 waters known to naturally support weevils have had some level of watermilfoil decline that we attribute to the weevil, based on its presence and the appearance of weevil-induced damage on watermilfoil.



Adult Weevil
(*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*)
Photo credit: Ted Walker

However, despite this time and effort, their effectiveness, or not, is still a mystery. Until we can determine why weevils work in some lakes and not others, we are unable to depend on or promote them as a predictable and reliable control method for Eurasian watermilfoil. Watermilfoil declines have not been noted in 24 of the 37 VT waters where weevils occur naturally, many of which have had no watermilfoil control actions implemented, or in three waters where weevils at high numbers have been stocked. We will continue to support and follow research associated with this insect, to work with citizens to rear and stock weevils, to support stocking efforts thru the Grant-in-Aid grant program as available funds and criteria allow, and to document the status of weevil and Eurasian watermilfoil populations in VT waters. We hope that

with a better understanding of the insect, the watermilfoil weevil will become a predictable and reliable future control option for many lakes infested with Eurasian watermilfoil both in and outside of VT.

Weevil introductions require an Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit from the VTDEC. Recently concern has been raised about the requirement that weevil rearing and stocking projects make use of only weevils from Vermont waters. VTDEC has concerns related to the introduction of watermilfoil weevils and Eurasian watermilfoil from out-of-state waters. These concerns are also shared by *Vermont's Species Advisory Group on Invertebrates*.

- 1) The introduction of weevils from Ohio (where EnviroScience, Inc., the only company currently selling weevils, is located) or another state into VT waters has the potential to expose VT weevils to parasites, disease-causing pathogens, or other organisms that may negatively affect the survival of weevils that already naturally occur in VT. (Weevils have been documented as naturally occurring in approximately 37 of the 64 VT lakes/ponds known with Eurasian watermilfoil.)
- 2) The introduction of weevils into VT waters from other states may impact the genetic integrity of the existing VT weevil population by introducing weevils that may have less desirable attributes (e.g., lower feeding or reproductive capacity rates).

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- 3) The potential exists for other exotic organisms to be brought in during the stocking process through the transfer of water or plant material (weevils are transported on pieces of watermilfoil in water to lake stocking sites).
- 4) The possibility exists that a new type of watermilfoil could also be introduced that might be more problematic (e.g., aggressive) than what we already have.

In the absence of available information to address these concerns, VTDEC has required that only weevils from VT genetic stock reared on watermilfoil from VT be stocked into VT waters. Other states share these concerns and adhere to similar requirements (e.g., MN, WA). If weevils are stocked in VT waters, VTDEC feels it is extremely important to prevent, to the extent possible, the introduction of other exotic pests or more aggressive versions of what we already have.

For more information, this website on the watermilfoil weevil is valuable:

<http://fwcb.cfans.umn.edu/research/milfoil/milfoilbc.html>

Announcing the 2008 New England Lakes Conference

Celebrating Lake and Watershed Stewardship! Taking place June 13-14, 2008 at the Lake Morey Inn and Resort in Fairlee, Vermont. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Lakes and Ponds Section and the Federation is very excited to be hosting this regional conference in 2008, which will replace the Lake Seminar for this year.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for an informative and inspiring conference! This annual event provides a forum for information exchanges amongst lake managers (volunteer or professional) and encourages a proactive and protective approach to lake health and use. The conference will feature the best New England has to offer:

Lake Shoreland and Watershed Protection and Management
Invasive Species Spread Prevention and Management
“State of the Lakes,” are they getting better or worse?
Recognizing 30 Years of Volunteer Monitoring in New England

The conference begins Friday afternoon with a diverse selection of workshops and field trips. Saturday features presentations about a large variety of lake projects and issues from around New England. You'll be able to share information and ideas with others tackling similar issues and leave with new ideas and renewed energy! We're also very excited to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the VT Lay Monitoring Program! We invite you to join us for a celebratory reception on Friday evening. We'll recognize 30 years of the Vermont Lay Monitoring Program as well as other New England volunteer monitoring programs. Watch your mailbox in early April for registration information, or check the websites: www.vtlakes.org or www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes.htm.

Call for Papers

We are seeking workshop or presentation proposals from throughout Vermont and New England on exciting and interesting lake projects from both lake volunteers and professionals. Workshops/field trips will be 3 hours long on Friday afternoon, and presentations will be 25 minutes long on Saturday.

If interested, please submit proposals in 250 words or less specifying your purpose, approach, and results (for presentations) or your purpose, content and target audience (for workshops). Include your name, affiliation, telephone number, e-mail address and mailing address and submit via e-mail by March 14, 2008 to Susan Warren at susan.warren@state.vt.us.

Long-term Federation Leaders Refire

President Jackie Sprague and Treasurer Reginald Lamb have announced that they will not stand for re-election at the next annual FOVLAP meeting in July 2008.

Jackie has provided outstanding leadership beginning with her presidency of the Northern Lakes Federation and guiding the merger of the North and South Federations into the present state-wide FOVLAP organization, which had its first official meeting in July 2003. She has presided over the expansion of FOVLAP membership and has established long-term strategic plans for the organization. During her tenure, FOVLAP has become recognized at the state house in Montpelier as a voice to be reckoned with in matters of water quality.

As treasurer for many years, Reggie Lamb has kept a tight rein on the finances, issuing regular financial reports insuring that FOVLAP continues financially solvent and that members are aware at all times of expense and income positions.

The agenda for the meeting next July will include nominations for these two important leadership positions. We know there are many capable folks in FOVLAP well qualified to take over and maintain the momentum that Jackie and Reggie have established. If you believe in the need and the objectives of FOVLAP, we urge you to consider stepping forward and offering your time and talent. Should you want to discuss the details of the jobs, please call Jackie at 802-633-4994, or Reggie at 802-456-9486.

New Board Members

We welcomed four new board members, elected at the annual FOVLAP meeting in July, each of whom brings a wealth of experience in matters of water quality.

DONALD HENDRICH, year-round resident of Newport, VT is co-chair of the Water Quality Committee of the Memphremagog Watershed Association, and is also involved with the Memphremagog Watershed Council. Don is in his 26th year as a 6th grade science teacher at the Newport City Elementary School. Controlling invasive species, supporting watershed quality (not only lakes & ponds) and promoting legislation for the maintenance of water quality in all Vermont bodies of water are his specific interests.

ELIZABETH PERRY THOMAS is President of the Lake Eden Association. Holding a Ph.D. in Biology, with a concentration in aquatic ecology, Perry, as she likes to be called, lives year 'round in Craftsbury, VT, where she teaches Critical Science & Mathematics at Sterling College. She also directs the Master of Education Program at Union Institute & University's Montpelier Center (formerly Vermont College). Clarifying rules on motorboat usage on small lakes, along with lakeshore vegetation and invasive species control are on the top of her list of interests.

STEWART DITTMEIER brings to FOVLAP a long association with the problems of Eurasian Milfoil control in Lake St. Catherine, where huge sums of money have been spent by both local residents and the state, in mechanical and chemical efforts to eliminate and/or control the spread of the invasive aquatic species. The Lake St. Catherine Association was a major player in the original Southern Lakes Federation before the 2003 merger with the Northern Federation to form FOVLAP.

KINGSLEY BOYD, a year-round resident of Newport, VT and co-chair of the water Quality Committee of the Memphremagog Watershed Association, with Don Hendrich, was elected to a 2-year term in July, but has found that other commitments prevent him from devoting necessary time to FOVLAP, so he has submitted his resignation. The Board will select a replacement member who will serve until next July, when an election will take place to fill the one year remaining on King's term.

FOVLAP contacts:

Jackie Sprague, President, 802-633-4994 or jackie@sprague.org

Andy Dales, Vice-President, 802-533-7733 or g.dales@worldnet.att.net

Reginald Lamb, Treasurer, rdlamb@prodigy.net

Joanna Wright, Secretary, 802-482-2937 (summer)

Susan Warren, VTDEC Liason, 802-241-3794, susan.warren@state.vt.us

Or visit our website: www.vtlakes.org

The First Year of VIPs!

Early detection is vital to protecting Vermont's waterbodies from harmful invasive plants and animals. Vermont Invasive Patrollers (VIPs) monitor a local waterbody for new introductions of invasive species while also learning about native aquatic plants and animals and their habitats.

Thirty-seven certified VIPs surveyed 21 waterbodies during the summer of 2007. Happily, no new infestations of invasive species were discovered! Several VIPs did discover native species that had not previously been recorded in their lake – a testament to the thoroughness of VIPs' survey efforts.

Host a VIP training workshop in 2008!

A VIP training workshop takes about 4 hours and consists of:

- a two-hour indoor session consisting of a powerpoint slide presentation and an introduction to native and invasive plant and animal identification
- a two-hour field session on the water, during which participants will learn how to conduct surveys of native and invasive species in their natural habitats

It's helpful if VIP workshop hosts can provide:

- An indoor venue with electricity, for the slide presentation and plant ID introduction (i.e. a town hall, library, church basement, etc.)
- A nearby canoe-able waterbody, preferably with an existing invasive species infestation, such as milfoil, suitable for plant survey field training
- Canoes and/or kayaks and personal flotation devices (i.e. life jackets) for as many participants as possible; Vermont DEC can only provide a limited number of canoes and/or kayaks for workshops

If you would like to host a workshop for a group of volunteers in your area in 2008, please contact Leslie Matthews at leslie.matthews@state.vt.us or by calling 241-3777.



A VIP workshop participant uses a view scope to survey plants and animals underwater; June 2007



VIP workshop participants practice identifying aquatic plants; Lake Seminar, June 2007

REMINDER: *You do not want to miss!*

Annual Meeting

Monday ~ July 28, 2008 ~ Montpelier Elks Club

Planning on a Better Federation!

To make the Federation the voice for lakes in Vermont, and to help lake associations accomplish their goals; these are the goals the Federation is working toward, thanks to a lively strategic planning session held in late summer of 2007.

The Board of Directors met in August at the Lake Morey Inn and Resort to develop three year goals for the Federation. Our facilitator was Beth Ann Finlay from the Northern Vermont Resource Conservation and Development Council. The group identified four areas of concern: *membership development, legislative affairs, public relations/ outreach, and lake issues*. The fun began with good ideas, bad ideas, pie-in-the-sky ideas, foolish ideas, but ideas, lots of them, all recorded on newsprint hung on the walls for all to see. Jackie set the standards, the goals should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and results oriented and come with a time line.

Committees are currently working on ways to meet these objectives.

- **Membership:** increase membership by contacting non-member lakes and what would they like to gain from joining. What do you want from the association?
- **Legislative affairs:** track legislation and offer testimony on bills affecting lakes and keep members informed.
- **Public relations / outreach:** improve communications by keeping web site up to date and publishing two or three newsletters per year and talking with members. Encourage feedback.
- **Lake issues:** once a year meet with Lakes and Ponds section of ANR staff to share goals and ideas. Directors to attend member lake associations' meetings. Continue workshops on invasive species, grant writing, funding and finding volunteers.

Remember: FOVALP will be as successful as the members make it! We need your input and involvement. The next board meeting is February 26th in the Montpelier area. Please contact us!



2008 Membership Dues

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR FEDERATION AND HELP PRESERVE VERMONT'S LAKES AND PONDS.

() \$25.00 Association Member () \$15.00 Individual Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Association: _____

Contact Phone No.: _____ e-mail: _____

() We would like to show our support with the following additional donation \$ _____.

The Federation is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible in accordance with I.R.S. regulations.

*Checks payable to the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds
and mailed to our P.O. Box 421, Waterbury, VT 05676.*

Please send us your updated list of Association Officers and e-mail contact.



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Waterbury, VT 05676

OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION

Jackie Sprague, President (Harveys Lake)
Andy Dales, Vice-President (Caspian Lake)
Reginald Lamb, Treasurer (Woodbury Lake)
Joanna Wright, Secretary (Lake Iroquois)

DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERATION

Cliff Aikens (Silver Lake)
Stewart Dittmeier (Lake St. Catherine)
Bill Fisk (Cedar Lake)
Don Hendrich (Lake Memphremagog)
Jeannie Jenkins (Lake Paran)
Patricia Rockwell (Shadow Lake)
Perry Thomas (Lake Eden)
Dave Wood (Salem Lake)

Buffer Bill in the Legislature

A bill to establish state-wide vegetated buffers along lakes and streams is being worked on in the Vt House of Representatives Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee. The details of H549 are constantly changing as of this writing, but here are a few features of the bill:

Natural vegetation would be preserved along lakeshores and streams for new construction (the exact width is currently under discussion, but everything from 15 feet to 100 feet has been discussed)

Existing uses would be grandfathered

A naturally vegetated buffer of sufficient width filters out sediment and phosphorus in runoff, thus protecting the lake. Other states that have such buffer laws (New Hampshire, Maine, Wisconsin and Minnesota, for example) all allow a path to the water, and some minor pruning to open up “keyhole” views.

Members of the committee currently considering the bill are:

Representative Deen of Westminster, *Chair*

Representative Shaw of Derby, *Vice-Chair*

Representative McCullough of Willison

Representative Adams of Hartland

Representative Anderson of Montpelier

Representative Courcelle of Rutland City

Representative Johnson of Canaan

Representative Martin (Cynthia) of Springfield, Clerk

Representative Randall of Troy

For a copy of the most recent draft of H549, you can call Catherine Russell at 828 2266 or 828 3559.