

Lake Saint Catherine Association

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all in our Lake St. Catherine community.

In the Spring edition of the newsletter, we mentioned that August 31st would mark the 70th anniversary of the Lake St. Catherine Association - which is now less than two weeks away as we work to prepare this Fall edition of our newsletter. As we mark this occasion, we reflect back to think of those who started this great organization, and their initial stated purpose of the "beautifying of the grounds, cottages, beaches and roads... on or near Lake Saint Catherine." We sincerely hope that they would be proud to see what the Association has grown into.

It's been another busy Summer as LSCA Trustees have been working hard on behalf of the LSC community for the preservation, protection and maintenance of beautiful Lake St. Catherine. I'd like to highlight a few of our projects and programs that are underway to preserve and improve water quality, and to prevent and control aquatic invasive species (AIS).

In early May, field work began on the LSC Watershed Action Plan. This 3 year project will assess current conditions in the watershed, and create a long-term plan to address the issues discovered.

A few years ago, a Stormwater Master Plan was developed for Lake St. Catherine by the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) which identified 50 areas around the lake that have stormwater runoff issues. Last year, the LSCA and PMNRCD earned a \$50k grant to design 10-12 of these projects to make them ready for implementation and funding. We'd like to invite you to join us, PMNRCD, and Fitzgerald Environmental on September 1st, at 10 AM at the Wells Town Hall, for a meeting to select the projects to be developed with this grant.

The LSC Lake Wise Program continues to be very popular with lakeshore property owners. This program works with owners around the lake to help them make their shoreline lake friendly by using native plantings, stormwater mitigation techniques, and advice for best management practices. All recommendations and work performed are voluntary, and completely free to the property owner. At a recent Lake Wise training event held by the DEC, we learned that we are leading the way with over 10% of the Lake Wise assessments performed state wide having occurred at LSC!

We also continue to work diligently on preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species by running the Greeter Program at the boat launch (working to keep new AIS out of LSC), starting up the Vermont Invasive Patrollers (VIP) program (an early warning system to detect potential new AIS), and running our Milfoil Control Program (our DASH team has been hard-at-work hand-pulling milfoil since late June).

All of these projects and programs are made possible by your membership support & additional contributions, donations, allocations from Wells & Poultney, and grants earned from the State and the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP).

Cheers to those founding members of the LSCA as we reach our 70th anniversary!

Thank you for your continued support, Jim Canders - President, LSCA

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2023 ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

On Saturday, July 22nd, the Lake St. Catherine Association held our Annual Meeting & Dinner at the Lake St. Catherine Country Club.

With approximately 100 people in attendance, Lake St. Catherine Association trustees gave reports from their committees, and our two guest speakers: Vermont Fish & Wildlife Game Warden Justin Turner, and the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) President Pat Suozzi also presented to attendees.

LSCA President Jim Canders kicked off the meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for coming, it was a packed house!

After some introductions and housekeeping announcements, Justin was up first. He spoke about Game Warden patrols of Lake St. Catherine, lake safety & rules, and recent enforcement actions. Pat was up next and spoke about the mission, purpose, and work of FOVLAP which supports lake associations and works for the benefit all of Vermont's lakes and ponds.

Next, LSCA Trustees gave reports on all their work for the benefit of Lake St. Catherine over the past year. Topics included: outlining the LSCA's 2023 priorities, water quality improvement projects, aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention and control projects, LSCA outreach, engagement & education efforts, the LSCA's finances, lake safety, LSC wildlife, and Trustee elections. We unfortunately ran out of time for Q & A at the end, but Trustees fielded lots of questions after the presentation.

As the presentation finished, everyone was so helpful as we switched the room over from stadium seating to dinner seating. The LSC Country Club once again provided a fantastic dinner for attendees, it was great to see all our lake neighbors enjoying a meal together for the rest of the evening. Thank you to the wonderful staff at the Country Club for their fantastic service!

If you attended the meeting, we'd love to hear what you thought of the evening. Please reach out with any feedback you'd like to provide us at info@lakestcatherine.org. If you were unable to attend, the presentation was recorded, and you can view it on our website, or on YouTube. You can scan the QR code in the top right of this article, or type in the link to view it.

Thank you for your support of the LSCA! 



YouTube Link to Recording

https://youtu.be/F_9OFUuoT8U



Attendees Arrive...

At the Lake St. Catherine Country Club



Pat Suozzi, President

Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds



Lake St. Catherine Association's Presentation

Annual Meeting & Dinner - Lake St. Catherine Country Club



Justin Turner, Game Warden

Vermont Fish & Wildlife

AN UPDATE ON LSC'S LOONS

In our Fall 2022 newsletter, we let you know about the noticeable increase in loon visits to Lake St. Catherine over the past few years, and about some recent loon presentations that had taken place at the LSCA's 2022 Annual Meeting & Dinner (Eric Hanson from Vermont Center for Ecostudies) and at the Poultney Library, presented by the Rutland County Audubon Society (Scott MacLachlan). We also wrote about some upcoming loon initiatives at Lake St. Catherine, and we'd like to provide you with some exciting updates!

Loon Nesting

In late May, lake resident Dawn Smith had been observing a pair of loons that were frequently active in the same area near her camp, and she was able to record the activity by one of the loons that looked like nest building. We sent this video to loon biologist Eric Hanson from the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, and he confirmed that the loons are performing nesting activity! Eric was here at Lake St. Catherine twice this past July, once at our Libraries Love Lakes event, and then again at our 2022 Annual Meeting & Dinner. In the fall of 2021, Eric also rescued a sub-adult loon on Lake St. Catherine that had been caught up with a lure and fishing line.

On May 27th, Eric loaded up loon nesting buoys and headed down from Craftsbury Vermont to the lake. Five signs were put together, and we all headed out to the site. Although the loons had been performing nesting activity on the site over several days, there was no evidence of a nest, so he said it was too early to put out the buoys. However, Eric explained that these loons would be a "territorial pair" for Lake St. Catherine and should return next season to this location. While the loons did not successfully nest this year, we'll attempt to help them next year by installing a floating nest platform in this area that they have chosen. We'll work with Eric in April of 2024 to make this happen!



Thank you to Eric for being so supportive of loons at Lake St. Catherine, and thank you to Dawn for her observations and storing the loon buoys!

Lead & Monofilament (Fishing Line) Collection Tube Installed at the Wells Boat Launch


On August 2nd, in partnership with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) and Vermont Fish & Wildlife, we have installed a collection tube provided by VCE at the boat launch in Wells to collect old lead tackle and monofilament fishing line.

Lead: Even a small lead split shot is 100 percent fatal to a loon if swallowed.

Monofilament fishing line: Most monofilament line is not biodegradable and will last hundreds of years in the environment. Often discarded near the shoreline, monofilament line provides hazards to birds and other wildlife.

- Every year lead tackle and discarded monofilament line kills aquatic wildlife, including loons, eagles, swans, geese, mammals, and other waterbirds.
- Nearly 50% of loon deaths from 1989-2022 in Vermont were caused by lead fishing gear, monofilament, and ingestion of hooks.

Our Greeters will inform boaters of the new collection tube, and we will monitor it throughout the year. VCE will make pickups and properly dispose of the collected lead and monofilament line.

So, check your tackle box for old lead sinkers, tackle, and old fishing line, and drop it off in the tube. Please help to spread the word! 



11TH ANNUAL LSCA BOAT PARADE

On Saturday, July 1st, the LSCA held our 11th Annual Boat Parade! Twelve boats participated this year, and the creativity was FANTASTIC! We again held an online poll to determine the winners in our four categories: Most Patriotic, Funniest, Most Original, and Best Overall, and 177 votes were tallied. Photos of the winners and runners-up are shown below. Thank you to all our very creative participants, and to Lake St. Catherine photographer extraordinaire Karen Velsor for sharing her photos! We hope you enjoyed the parade, and we'll do it all again next year! 🌊



Most Patriotic Winner: Boat #3
4th of July / Fireworks - Joseph Cheslawski



Most Patriotic Runner-Up: Boat #13
The Eagles Nest - The Conte Family



Funniest Winner / Most Original Runner-Up: Boat #11
Sunnyside 5th Generation - Megan Caswell



Most Original Winner / Funniest Runner-Up: Boat #1
Unidentified Floating Object - The Goldman Family



Best Overall Winner: Boat #6
Groovin On The Lake 2.0 - Christine & Mike Gay



Best Overall Runner-Up: Boat #9
The Lake St. Catherine Pirates - Conine Family

2023 SUMMER RECAPS!

So much has happened since the Spring Newsletter, so we'd like to give you brief recaps of some of the recent happenings. For detailed information and photos of all these events, and many more, please visit our website Blog: www.lakestcatherine.org/blog.

LWAP Field Work Begins!

On May 16th, Hilary Solomon & Sadie Brown from the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD), Evan Fitzgerald from Fitzgerald Environmental Associates, limnologist Emily Porter-Goff from the Lamoille County Conservation District (LCCC), and Trustees from the Lake St. Catherine Association headed out on the water to begin the assessment of current shoreline and in-lake conditions to begin the field work on the Lake St. Catherine Watershed Action Plan. The LSCA has hired and will partner with lake experts to perform various in-lake and watershed based measurements, testing, and studies over a 3-yr period to identify current or potential future issues and design a comprehensive, long-term plan to address them.



Greeter Program

On Memorial Day, our Greeters began staffing the boat launch to check incoming vessels for aquatic invasive species (AIS). They do a great job keeping invasive species out of LSC, and educating boaters about the dangers of transporting these harmful species.

Milfoil Cleanup Day & Meeting

On June 17th, the LSCA held a meeting at the Wells Lakeside Park to discuss the 2023 Milfoil Control Program. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate (something we've

all experienced this summer), so we didn't head out onto the water to do a milfoil cleanup day as planned. However, the drop-off float has been in the Channel this summer.

Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting

Our DASH team started hand-pulling milfoil in late June, and started full suction harvesting operations on July 1. As of the publication of the newsletter, they are working in the Channel south of the bridge.



Free Boating License Classes

In late June, Lake Safety Trustee Frank Callahan taught two boating safety classes resulting in 16 people earning their boating license.

Game Warden Updates

Our Game Warden Justin Turner has been providing updates throughout the season to the lake community outlining patrols on LSC. These updates include safety tips, enforcement actions, and boating rule explanations. Check out our website to read them!

Libraries Love Lakes Continues!

In early July, based on the FANTASTIC ideas and grant proposal created by Wells Village Librarian Gina Ellis, we were informed that we had earned a \$20k grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program to continue the Libraries Love Lakes initiative at LSC! Libraries Love Lakes II includes: the creation of an interactive watershed model of Lake St. Catherine, the creation of a Lake St. Catherine mascot through community participation, the expansion of "The Lake St. Catherine Collection" at the library, and four seasonal themed, hands-

on, fun & educational events for winter, spring summer & fall, which will include a larger summer event at the Lake St. Catherine State Park. Work will begin in December, with the first event for winter in February.

An Extremely Generous Donation

Back in August of 2021, we received a letter from someone who wanted to make a land donation to the LSCA to help support our mission for the lake. They said: "I am aware of the work the LSCA does in preserving Lake St. Catherine and hope this donation furthers your ability to continue that work." After all associated costs from the sale of the property have been accounted for, the proceeds from this donation will total just over \$42,000 dollars! This donation will help to fund important water quality improvements like the creation of the Lake St. Catherine Watershed Action Plan, and the projects that will result from it. Please join us in thanking the donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) for this extremely generous donation which will greatly benefit LSC.

East Poultney Day

On August 12th, the LSCA was happy to participate in East Poultney Day. It was great speaking with everyone about LSC! We also gave a presentation about the lake in the event tent, which you can view on Peg TV.



1st VIP Paddle On LSC

On August 19th, volunteers gathered at the boat launch to perform the first Vermont Invasive Patroller (VIP) paddle on LSC. This is an early warning system to detect aquatic invasive species (AIS) that may have been introduced to LSC. Another is planned in September.



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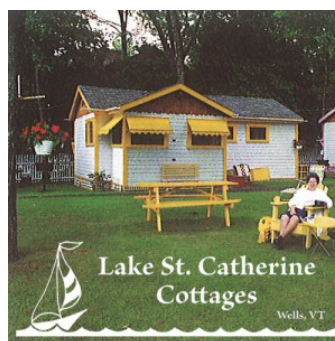


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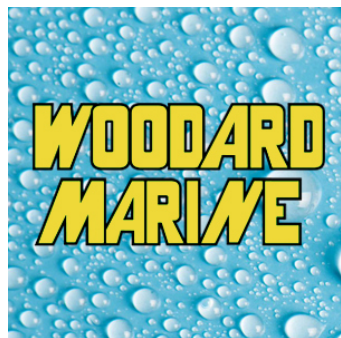
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LAKE ST. CATHERINE TRUSTEES

Name	Email	Term Ends
John Belnavis Greeter Program	john.belnavis@lakestcatherine.org	2024
Frank Callahan Lake Safety	frank.callahan@lakestcatherine.org	2025
Jim Canders President	jim.canders@lakestcatherine.org	2026
Jeff Crandall Milfoil Committee Chair	jeff.crandall@lakestcatherine.org	2026
Michael Gay Vice-President	michael.gay@lakestcatherine.org	2024
Jerremy Jones Membership / Publicity	jerremy.jones@lakestcatherine.org	2026
Ed Laird Trustee	ed.laird@lakestcatherine.org	2025
Nancy Liberatore Trustee	nancy.liberatore@lakestcatherine.org	2025
Kemi McShane Recording Secretary	kemi.mcshane@lakestcatherine.org	2025
Lisa Micich Trustee	lisa.micich@lakestcatherine.org	2024
Rob Nesbit Trustee	rob.nesbit@lakestcatherine.org	2024
Mark Shea Trustee	mark.shea@lakestcatherine.org	2024
Mary Jo Teetor Treasurer / Water	maryjo.teetor@lakestcatherine.org	2025
Bob Williams Nominating Committee	bob.williams@lakestcatherine.org	2026
Sue Williams Trustee	sue.williams@lakestcatherine.org	2026

Volunteer or become a Lake St. Catherine Association Trustee

Would you like to contribute and help to preserve, protect and maintain our beautiful Lake? If so, please send an email to info@lakestcatherine.org, and include your contact information, a little bit about yourself, including why you'd like to join the board. Thank you. 



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LAKE ST. CATHERINE ASSOCIATION: BECOMING A MEMBER

Everyone associated with the Lake St. Catherine Association is a volunteer. But, there are only 15 trustees and it's a very large lake. Your membership and the dues and contributions we receive allows us to accomplish our work. Maintaining the lake costs approximately \$125,000 annually. While we do receive annual grants from Poultney, Wells, and the State, membership dues and contributions make up the majority of our funding.

WHAT DOES THE LSCA DO?

Here are some of the services that we provide:

- Maintaining & purchasing navigation and shoreline protection buoys throughout the lake.
- Testing the water for E coli, phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and water clarity as part of the State of Vermont's Lay Monitoring Program.
- Conducting 2 free boating safety courses that are state mandated for all persons born after January 1, 1974.
- Greeter Program: Inspecting boats wishing to enter the lake at the Vermont Fish & Wildlife boat launch in Wells and at the State Park in Poultney for aquatic invasive species (AIS) to keep them out of the lake.
- Keeping the invasive weed Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) under control via our Milfoil Control Program.
- Working with state & local governments, and individual property owners to mitigate stormwater runoff from carrying phosphorus, sediments, and other pollution into the lake with the LSC Stormwater Master Plan and the Lake Wise Program.
- Long-term planning for the future of the lake by beginning a 3 year process in 2023 to create a Watershed Action Plan for LSC.
- Liaising with other lakes in order to exchange information on best practices.
- Sponsoring the annual fun-filled July 4th Boat Parade.
- Providing information to our membership and the lake community via newsletters, emails, website & social media postings, and other publications.
- Organizing funding through membership fees, donations, and grants from the State of Vermont, Poultney and Wells, and environmental groups.
- Representing you to state and local governments to protect your rights and the lake in general.
- Protecting the value of your property by maintaining the beauty, access, and safety of the lake. 

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Please complete this form and send along with your check payable to Lake St. Catherine Association to:

Lake St. Catherine Association
PO Box 631
Wells, VT 05774

You can also pay your dues or make a donation on our website:

www.lakestcatherine.org

Thank you for your support!

* Business Sponsor Membership includes a listing on our website & newsletters, a posting on our blog and the ability to have your special events listed on our Lake St. Catherine Community Calendar. 

DUES SCHEDULE, OR MAKE A DONATION

• Cottage Owner	\$100
• Business Sponsor*	\$200
• Unimproved Lot Owner (no dwelling)	\$50
• Supporter of LSC	\$35

- Supporter of LSC = family members of property owners, renters, those who use the lake for recreation

Dues Amount or Donation: _____

Additional Contribution: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Owner: _____

Lake 911 Address: _____

Lake Phone: _____ Camp Name: _____

Do you receive mail at this address? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Permanent Address: _____

Permanent Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

