Lake Saint Catherine Association

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all in our Lake St. Catherine community.

Your LSCA Trustees have been hard at work over the winter preparing for the 2026 season at Lake St. Catherine.

As you'll read later in this edition of the newsletter, we submitted three grant applications to bring funds to Lake St. Catherine, and we are happy to report that all three were approved! Through grants from the State, and the Lake Champlain Basin Program, we have earned $50k in support of our Greeter and Milfoil Control Programs. Also, in partnership with the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District (PMNRCD), we have earned a grant for up to $35k for the Lake Wise Program! These grant funds, along with allocations from our towns of Wells & Poultney, and membership dues and donations from the lake community will help to fund these important lake programs. We appreciate the continued support of our members!

We are also happy to report that our Basin Water Quality Council recently approved a larger scale stormwater mitigation project spanning three properties along Lochlea Lane on Little Lake. These projects originate from initial designs from the LSC Stormwater Master Plan and the LSC Watershed Action Plan. We are hopeful that the work can begin this summer.

On Page 3, you'll read about some of the upcoming lake related events that we were aware of before the newsletter deadline - we hope to see you at them! You can always see an updated calendar of events on our website. Please note that due to a scheduling conflict, our Annual Meeting will not take place on our traditional fourth Saturday of July, and will instead take place on Saturday, August 8th at the LSC Country Club - so save the date!

Thank you all for your continued support of the LSCA and we'll see you on the lake!

Sincerely, Jim Canders - President, LSCA

LAKE ST. CATHERINE NEWS & NOTES

Grants Update

The LSCA has been working over the fall and winter months to bring additional funding to the lake through grants from the State and the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP). We're happy to report that we've earned multiple grants to provide funding for the Greeter, Milfoil Control, Lake Wise, and Water Quality Monitoring Programs.

For the Greeter & Milfoil Control Programs, we have earned a $25,000 grant from the LCBP and a $25,489 grant from the State's Grant-In-Aid program, for a total of $50,489 in support of these important initiatives.

The Greeter Program inspects vessels for aquatic invasive species (AIS) as they enter or exit the lake. They are working to keep new invasives out of the lake, while also making sure that a boat or trailer is not potentially transporting milfoil to another lake.

As part of our Milfoil Control Program, our Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) team hand-pulls milfoil from the lake bed, and uses a suction tube to get the milfoil up to the boat, and removed from the lake.

For the Lake Wise Program, in partnership with the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD), we have earned a grant for $15,097 from the LCBP for Lake Wise assessments around the lake, including up to $20,000 in funding for project implementation! These funds will allow PMNRCD to work with property owners to design and install stormwater runoff mitigation best management practices including the creation of buffer areas, native plantings, water diversion and water infiltration, and shoreline stabilization. This is a FREE program, but spots are limited - so please reach out to sign up!

Finally, over the winter, we were able to purchase in-lake loggers and a hand-held testing device to monitor multiple water quality parameters. The in-lake loggers will be installed in the lake this spring. We'll share the data and the analysis of the data as it comes in.

Lakeside Park Shoreline Cleanup

The Lake St. Catherine Association (LSCA), the Lake St. Catherine Conservation Fund (LSCCF), and The Delaney Committee are organizing a volunteer event to clean up the shoreline at the Wells Lakeside Park on Little Lake on Saturday, June 20th, beginning at 9 AM. The plan will be to hand-pull milfoil in the dock and beach area, and to also clean up the debris on the lake bottom in this location to make a nice swimming area:

We'll be looking for volunteers to help with this effort, including equipment that could be borrowed to assist with the cleanup. Helpful items to assist in the effort would be floating mats, 'lake rakes', large plastic tubs, and of course the elbow grease of lots of volunteer. The Delaney Committee will be providing ice-cold bottled water, and will also dispose of all the milfoil and debris volunteers remove from the lake. If you'd like to volunteer, or have items that you can loan, please let us know at info@lakestcatherine.org. Please mark your calendar, and we'll have more information as we get closer to the event. Thank you!

Junior Warden Weekend

We'd like to let you know about this great Vermont Fish and Wildlife program called Junior Warden Weekend, taking place at the Edward F. Kehoe Green Mountain Conservation Camp on Lake Bomoseen, August 1st & 2nd - and the Lake St. Catherine Association would like to sponsor a teen from Wells or Poultney to participate!

The LSCA would like to sponsor a teen from Wells or Poultney and cover the participation fee for them to attend this fun and educational weekend. If your teen from Wells or Poultney applies, please let us know at info@lakestcatherine.org, and we'll work with the program coordinator to make a donation to cover their fee. Spots are limited to 25 teens, so be sure to get your application in soon before the program is full. We'll sponsor the first applicant from Wells or Poultney that the program receives.

Little Lake Paddle

The Vermont Land Trust has scheduled a paddle on Little Lake on May 25th, 2026 from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, led by plant ecologist and retired biology professor Jim Graves and VLT Project Director, Pamela Burlingame. The paddle will explore the lake's numerous natural communities and diverse plant and animal species.

LSCA At Poultney Chamber Mixer

The Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region will be hosting a Social Meet & Greet Mixer at the Fairways Restaurant at Lake St. Catherine Country Club on Thursday, June 4th from 5 PM - 7 PM. This event will showcase businesses, organizations, and resources in our region, and it is open to the public. The Lake St. Catherine Association will be participating with a table at the event, so stop in to see us to talk about the lake, and to learn about the other exhibitors. We hope to see you there!

FOVLAP's Lake Seminar

On Friday, June 5th, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM, the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds will be holding their annual Lake Seminar - the theme this year is Hidden Worlds: Life Under the Surface. We enjoy a walk in the woods because of the richness of this ecosystem with its variety of flora and fauna. Our lakes are rich in its diversity, and in this seminar, experts will highlight some of the many interesting parts of this hidden ecosystem.

> To learn more about these events, including how to register, visit our website Calendar.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events: Visit lakestcatherine.org/calendar for additional events, details, and registration info.

	Dates & Times
May Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees Lake St. Catherine Country Club	**5/23/26** 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Paddling Among Living Lands and Waters The Vermont Land Trust has scheduled a paddle on Little Lake - registration required.	**5/25/26** 9 AM - 11 AM
Poultney Chamber & CEDRR Meet & Greet Mixer Fairways Restaurant at LSC CC - stop in to speak with us & other local businesses & orgs.	**6/4/26** 5 PM - 7 PM
Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds Annual Lake Seminar Hidden Worlds: Life Under the Surface - registration required.	**6/5/26** 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Little Lake - Wells Lakeside Park Shoreline Cleanup Volunteer to help cleanup the shoreline and hand-pull milfoil to create a nice swimming area.	**6/20/26** 9 AM
Milfoil Spot Treatments Please see the 2026 Milfoil Control Plans on page 5 for more information.	**6/22/26** 9 AM
June Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees Lake St. Catherine Country Club	**6/27/26** 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
14th Annual Lake St. Catherine Association Boat Parade Email info@lakestcatherine.org to register your boat!	**7/4/26** 1 PM
Vermont Center for EcoStudies LoonWatch on LSC Lake St. Catherine - Help to get a lake-wide count of the loons on the lake.	**7/18/26** 8 AM - 9 AM
July Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees Lake St. Catherine Country Club	**7/25/26** 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Wells M.W.A. Carnival Wells Carnival, 61 MWA Loop, Wells, VT	**7/29/26 - 8/1/26**
East Poultney Day East Poultney Green - Stop by and see us in our booth to talk about the lake!	**8/8/26** 9 AM - 3 PM
LSCA's Annual Membership Meeting & Dinner Lake St. Catherine Country Club	**8/8/26** 6 PM - 8:30 PM
August Meeting Of The Board Of Trustees Lake St. Catherine Country Club	**8/22/26** 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

LSCA Community Calendar: Visit the Calendar on our website for more details on these and other events: lakestcatherine.org/calendar

The 2026 Ice Out Champion Is...

It was not an April Fools - with his guess of Wednesday, April 1st at 11 AM, the winner was John Burchett!

Thanks to the 90+ folks who entered a prediction in our online poll.

Congrats John!

Green Up Vermont Day on LSC and in Wells & Poultney

Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in Green Up Vermont Day around the lake and in Wells & Poultney. Between both towns, over 60+ volunteers pitched in to clean up our roadways.

Thank you to our volunteers and our town crews for your efforts!

WATER QUALITY

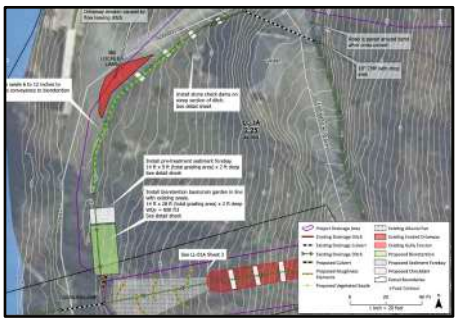
2025 was a big year for water quality improvement projects on Lake St. Catherine.

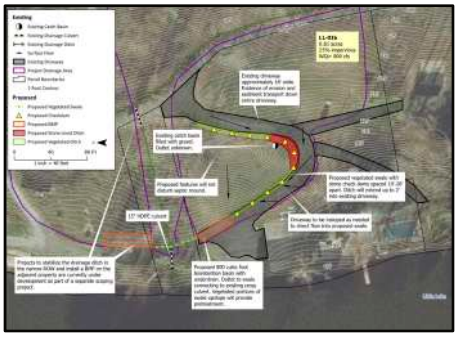
The LSCA and the PMNRCD continue to partner on multiple water quality improvement programs in support of working to increase the water quality of Lake St. Catherine.

Last June, the Lake St. Catherine Watershed Action Plan (LWAP) was completed. This 3+ year study of the Lake St. Catherine looked at multiple facets of our watershed, and the final report is available on our website.

Also last June, 10+ designs for stormwater mitigation projects around the lake were presented as part of the Lake St. Catherine Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP). These designs were funded via a grant earned from the LCBP by the LSCA and PMNRCD.

We are happy to report that a combined stormwater mitigation project using a design from both the LWAP and the SWMP across three adjacent properties on Lochlea Lane on Little Lake has been approved for funding. During their April 30th meeting, the Basin Water Quality Council reviewed and approved the grant application to support this project for a final design and implementation. This project includes native plantings, wood and stone check dams, bioretention basins, and gradings and stabilizations.We hope this project can be installed over the summer.





Lake Wise

In partnership with the PMNRCD, we have earned a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) and NEIWPCC for $15,097 to perform Lake Wise assessments, and to install best management practices (BMPs) on LSC. This grant also includes up to an additional $20,000 for supplies and materials to install BMPs around the lake!

Lake Wise is a program developed by Vermont's Lakes and Ponds Program to recognize outstanding efforts by homeowners who live along a lakeshore to protect the water quality and habitat along the shoreline and within the near-shore area of the lake.

Stormwater has a widespread environmental impact which makes it a growing concern in Vermont. In a statewide effort, towns and local organizations are working to implement large scale projects to help clean stormwater before it enters water bodies. Excess nutrients in the water contribute to problems which affect both human and wildlife health including; lower oxygen levels in the water, toxic algae blooms, and excessive plant growth.

As a shoreline property owner, you have the access and the ability to control what is happening directly at the water's edge.

The LSCA would like to help other Lake St. Catherine property owners implement best practices to mitigate stormwater on their properties, and help them to earn the Lake Wise Award. To date, over 110 properties have participated in the Lake Wise Program, and have at least received an initial assessment.

If you would like to have your property assessed (or reassessed), please email us at info@lakestcatherine.org to get on the schedule for 2026 This is a FREE program, including the assessment, plantings, and other stormwater mitigation installations.

Greeter Program & Invasives

The LSCA's Greeter Program staffs the public access launch in Wells to examine vessels and equipment entering and exiting the lake to check for aquatic invasive species (AIS). They are on duty from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

There are multiple nearby lakes that have AIS that are not present in Lake St. Catherine, so it is important to check incoming vessels for these aquatic hitchhikers. It's also important to remove AIS from exiting vessels, such as milfoil, so that it is not spread to another lake.

This program is funded by grants earned from the LCBP & NEIWPCC and the State, allocations from our towns, and membership contributions. As you'll read below, keeping AIS out of LSC is extremely important!

Unfortunately, we need to report the discovery of a new invasive animal in LSC called the Rusty Crayfish:

This crayfish has distinctive markings, including the red spot on its side, and the black coloring on the tips of its claws. If you come across one, please remove it from the lake. This crayfish has a HUGE negative impact on the lake's ecosystem. It is highly destructive of aquatic plants, they outcompete and displace our native crayfish, and they impact fish populations by both consuming the same insects as fish - and raiding their nests to eat their eggs. It's unclear how long this crayfish has been in LSC, but it was most likely introduced via bait bucket transfer.

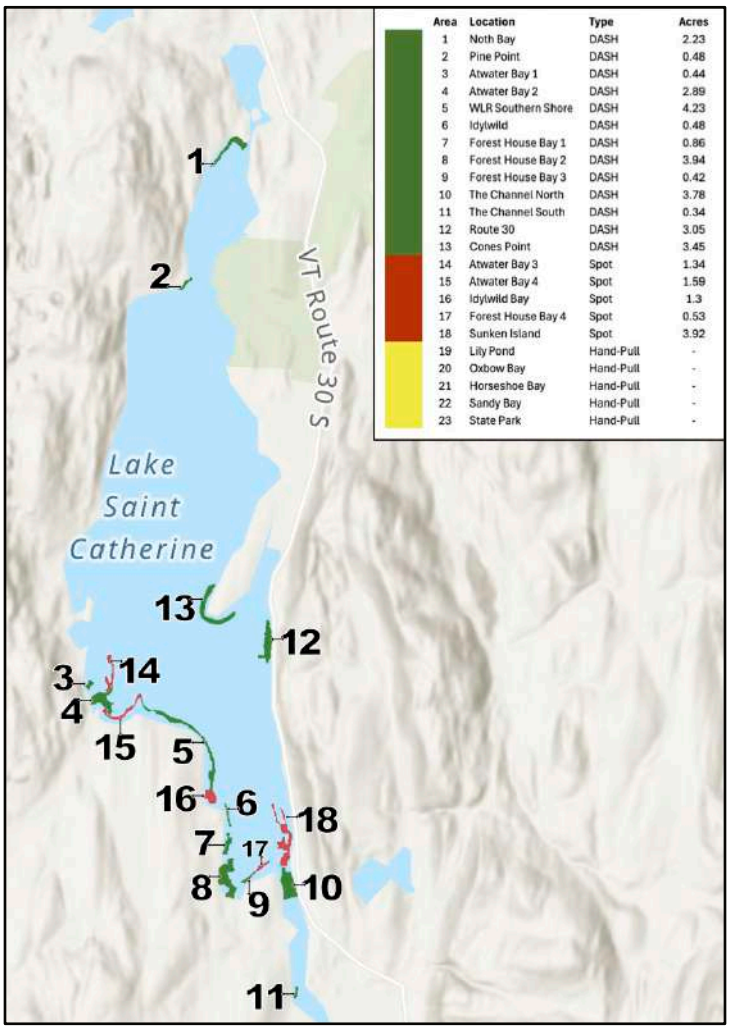
When you see our Greeters on duty, please thank them for their good work for LSC!

2026 MILFOIL CONTROL PLANS

On May 11th, the LSCA, Ready Scout, and Olin Reed from the Vermont Lakes and Ponds Program participated in, and conducted an aquatic plant survey to evaluate native plant and milfoil growth, with a follow up survey scheduled for the week of June 8th. Pending approval by the DEC, the 2026 Milfoil Control Plan includes 26.59 acres of diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH), 8.68 acres to be spot treated, and 5 areas designated for hand-pulling (see map, top right). The spot treatments are scheduled for Monday, June 22nd.

The LSCA's Milfoil Control Program consists of five components:

1. Stop The Spread' education and outreach. Our 'Stop The Spread' campaign educates boaters and property owners on best practices to limit the spread of milfoil.
2. Volunteer milfoil cleanup. Throughout the season, we encourage lake users, boaters, and volunteers to collect detached floating milfoil and remove it from the lake, including working with property owners to remove detached milfoil, and hand-pulling any along their shoreline.
3. DASH - Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting. Our DASH crew suits up in scuba gear and hand-pulls milfoil by the roots from the lakebed. In sections of lower milfoil density, they will swim the area and hand-pull with mesh bags. In higher density areas, they will set up the DASH equipment which allows them to suction the hand-pulled milfoil up through a tube to a catch table on a boat. Milfoil is then placed in 17.5 gallon buckets for transport off the lake.
4. Herbicide spot treatments with ProcellaCOR EC. In order to maximize our DASH crew's time, effectiveness, and number of acres covered, one of our control methods includes spot treatments with ProcellaCOR EC.
5. Water quality improvement programs. Although not directly related to Milfoil Control, the LSCA's work on Lake Wise on LSC, the LSC Stormwater Master Plan, and the LSC Watershed Action Plan all help to limit phosphorus and other nutrients from entering the lake which can contribute to excessive plant growth, and improves overall water quality.



Area	Location	Type	Acres
1	Noth Bay	DASH	2.23
2	Pine Point	DASH	0.48
3	Atwater Bay 1	DASH	0.44
4	Atwater Bay 2	DASH	2.89
5	WLR Southern Shore	DASH	4.23
6	Idylwild	DASH	0.48
7	Forest House Bay 1	DASH	0.86
8	Forest House Bay 2	DASH	3.94
9	Forest House Bay 3	DASH	0.42
10	The Channel North	DASH	3.78
11	The Channel South	DASH	0.34
12	Route 30	DASH	3.05
13	Cones Point	DASH	3.45
14	Atwater Bay 3	Spot	1.34
15	Atwater Bay 4	Spot	1.59
16	Idylwild Bay	Spot	1.3
17	Forest House Bay 4	Spot	0.53
18	Sunken Island	Spot	3.92
19	Lily Pond	Hand-Pull	-
20	Oxbow Bay	Hand-Pull	-
21	Horseshoe Bay	Hand-Pull	-
22	Sandy Bay	Hand-Pull	-
23	State Park	Hand-Pull	-

These efforts have resulted in the lowest percentage of milfoil cover and frequency of occurrence in the lake since the mid-2000s. We have also seen many species of our native aquatic plants that have been suppressed by milfoil growth have increased in frequency of occurrence, along with an increase in our plant species richness (the number of different plant species present in an ecological community). These results are exactly what we want to see!

What can you do to help?

- As a general rule, get as much milfoil out of the lake as possible and dispose of it.
- Don't drive through milfoil patches with your boat which will create fragments.
- If you have milfoil on your prop, don't just reverse and drive away, remove it from the lake.
- If you have milfoil growing in your dock or swimming area, pull it out by the roots and remove it from the lake.
- If you see milfoil floating anywhere in the lake, near your dock, or along your shoreline, remove it from the lake.
- Volunteer to help with milfoil hand-pulling & shoreline cleanup at Wells Lakeside Park on Little Lake on June 20th (see map, bottom right).

You can learn more about our Milfoil Control Program here: https://lakestcatherine.org/milfoil

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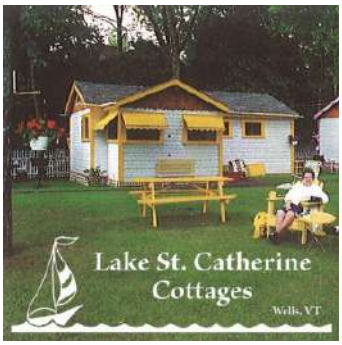

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LAKE ST. CATHERINE TRUSTEES

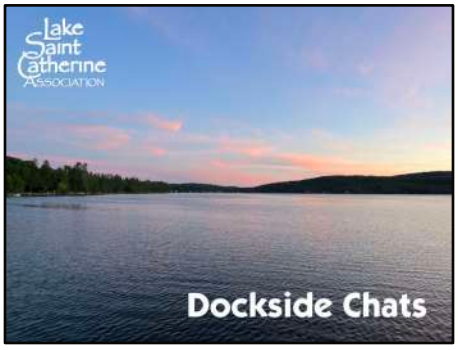
Name	Email	Term Ends
Jim Canders President	**jim.canders@lakestcatherine.org**	**2026**
Jeff Crandall Milfoil Committee Chair	**jeff.crandall@lakestcatherine.org**	**2026**
Michael Gay Trustee	**michael.gay@lakestcatherine.org**	**2027**
Jerremy Jones Membership / Publicity	**jerremy.jones@lakestcatherine.org**	**2026**
Ed Laird Trustee	**ed.laird@lakestcatherine.org**	**2028**
Nancy Liberatore Trustee	**nancy.liberatore@lakestcatherine.org**	**2028**
Tim Mante Trustee	**tim.mante@lakestcatherine.org**	**2027**
Steve Mattison Trustee	**steve.mattison@lakestcatherine.org**	**2027**
Kemi McShane Recording Secretary	**kemi.mcshane@lakestcatherine.org**	**2028**
Lisa Micich Trustee	**lisa.micich@lakestcatherine.org**	**2027**
Dan O'Connell Trustee	**dan.oconnell@lakestcatherine.org**	**2028**
Mark Shea Trustee	**mark.shea@lakestcatherine.org**	**2027**
Mary Jo Teetor Treasurer / Water	**maryjo.teetor@lakestcatherine.org**	**2028**
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.

Dockside Chats

Dockside Chats began in 2020 during COVID as a way to have safe, face-to-face interactions with members around Lake St. Catherine to discuss lake related issues and topics. These chats have continued to be very popular, so we'll schedule more visits this year. Please each out to us at info@lakestcatherine.org to schedule a date & time.



An LSCA Trustee will swing by your dock to speak with you, and your invited neighbors, about any lake related topics that you would like to discuss.

Catherine Capers

Woodland Cottages with lake view for weekly rental Memorial Day - Labor Day. Winter boat storage October - May.

clarejnels@gmail.com

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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. While we do receive annual voter approved allocations from Wells and Poultney, and we work to bring grant funding from the State and environmental groups to the lake each year, your membership contributions are a significant source of our yearly 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.
- Inspecting boats wishing to enter the lake at the Vermont Fish & Wildlife boat launch in Wells for aquatic invasive species (AIS) to keep them out of the lake as part of the LSCA's Greeter Program.
- Keeping the invasive weed Eurasian watermilfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum) under control via our Milfoil Control Program.
- Working with state & local governments, our local partners, and individual property owners to mitigate stormwater runoff from carrying phosphorus, sediments, and other pollution into the lake with the LSC Stormwater Master Plan & Watershed Action Plan, and the Lake Wise Program.
- Liaising with other lakes, and the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds 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: _____