



Lake Saint Catherine ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SPRING  2021

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many things have changed since the LSCA was formed during the 1950s. At that time, it was more of a social organization holding picnics, pot luck suppers and other social gatherings, and conducting Trustee meetings during the summer months. Then, in the early 70s, a big challenge emerged: how to control a newly introduced invasive plant, Eurasian Watermilfoil. The LSCA had milfoil and other serious issues to attend to. So, with a good team of Trustees as stewards of the lake, our mission became the preservation, protection and maintenance of Lake St. Catherine.

The retirement of Trustees and the passing of others, Phil Pope and Martin Greenberg, have presented the need to locate and elect new Trustees. Trustees' terms run for three years. Every year, we vote for a slate of 5 Trustees which is coordinated by Bob Williams who chairs our nominating committee. One of the trustees who is up for reelection this year has advised that she is stepping down and will not run for reelection. Elaine Bagley, who has served as Treasurer of the LSCA for many years, will not be returning after this season. She will be sadly missed and very difficult to replace – thank you for your dedicated years of service to the LSCA and LSC Elaine.

While each Trustee contributes their own expertise, we were very fortunate to have Jeremy Jones and Martha Pofit join the board several years back. Jeremy is very adept with our communications and related IT work. He manages the organizing and publication of our newsletter, and our website and Facebook pages. Also, as we have moved forward in coordinating a joint effort with the Lake St. Catherine Conservation Fund (LSCCF) on a 3 year plan to control milfoil in the Little Lake, Jeremy has spent many hours coordinating with LSCCF board member Rick Newell to refine the plan and to develop a funding proposal for the undertaking (see pages 4-5).

Martha has added a new dimension to the LSCA through grant writing and is currently serving as our Vice President. Over the past two years, Martha's grant writing has earned the LSCA \$60,000 through the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) to help fund and expand important programs to benefit LSC. For example, we've been able to expand our Greeter Program which inspects boats for invasive species like zebra mussels, asian clams, and spiny waterflea to the LSC State Park, and to add hours at the boat launch in Wells. We've also expanded the Lake Wise program into the Little Lake this year. Lake Wise works with lakeshore owners to mitigate stormwater runoff from their property which can carry phosphorus and other pollutants into the lake, decreasing water quality. We thank Michael Marine, acting LSCCF president, and all the board members for their cooperation and assistance with these two joint projects (see pages 4-5).

LSC water quality testing has been performed for many years by long-time LSCA Trustee, Mary Jo Teetor as part of Vermont's Lay Monitoring Program. Our water quality and water clarity (secchi disk) readings have remained very consistent over the years. The combination of our efforts with Lake Wise, the Shoreline Protection Act, and our initiative to create a LSC Watershed Action Plan (see page 3) look to maintain and improve water quality of LSC over the long-term.

It is my pleasure to serve as president of the LSCA and to work with you and our Trustees toward the continued health of this great natural resource.

Sincerely, Jim Canders - President, LSCA

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LSCA's 2021 PLANS & EVENTS



Because of the ever-changing COVID situation, we are unsure if all of the following events will take place, or in what fashion. What you'll read below is the most up-to-date information we can provide at the time of the writing of this newsletter. For the latest updates and information, please visit our website and view the Calendar: www.lakestcatherine.org/calendar.

LSCA Meetings & Annual Dinner

The LSCA holds 4 board meetings (May - August), plus the Annual Membership Meeting & Dinner in July. At this time, we have not decided if they will be in-person or online. If we are unable to have an in-person membership meeting (usually the 4th Saturday in July), we'll conduct an online version as we did in 2020. We hope to be able to get together and resume our Annual Membership Meeting & Dinner at the LSC Country Club.

Boating Safety Classes

Each year, the LSCA holds 2 boating safety classes, usually held near the end of June and the beginning of July so that boaters born after 1/1/1974 can get their boating license. We are working to be able to hold these classes this season. We'll make an announcement on our website and update our calendar when the dates and locations are scheduled.

Milfoil Control

LSC will be treated for milfoil on Tuesday, June 22nd. The focus of our ProcellaCOR treatment this season will be the Little Lake (more on this effort on pages 4-5). The Spring milfoil survey took place on Thursday, May 13th to determine which areas around the lake need attention. Using this information, we'll decide where to use DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) and where to use a spot treatment (if needed). We expect our DASH team to work throughout the summer starting in early July. The DASH and ProcellaCOR map will be posted soon.

The 9th Annual LSCA Boat Parade

We were able to have a fun and safe boat parade last year, and we'll do it again this year. For safety, we did not have judging stations. Instead, we had a lake-wide vote to determine

the winners, which we'll do again this year. The tentative date for the Boat Parade is Saturday, July 3rd. If you'd like to participate, please email us at info@lakestcatherine.org to register your boat!

Lake Wise Program

Our Lake Wise Program had a hugely successful year in 2021! 11 properties on LSC earned the lake Wise Award. The purpose of the Lake Wise Program is to educate lakeshore property owners about stormwater runoff from their property carrying phosphorous, sediments, and other pollutants into the lake, and to also assist with interventions on their property to mitigate these issues.

This season, the Lake Wise Program is focusing on Little Lake, using a grant received from the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP). You can read more about this effort on pages 4-5. If you'd like to be part of the Lake Wise Program, please email us at: info@lakestcatherine.org. Lake Wise is open to all LSC property owners.

Greeter Program

Each season, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, our Greeters are on duty inspecting boats entering and exiting Lake St. Catherine for invasive species, and educating boaters of the danger they pose to our lake.

In 2020, we launched a successful pilot program at the LSC State Park, and will expand our hours there in 2021. We will also again expand our hours at the boat launch in Wells.

Thank you to all boat owners to inspect your propellers, dry wells, bilge, and trailers where milfoil, zebra mussel larvae, and other invasive species could collect. Together we will keep these invasives out of LSC, and preserve the health and beauty of our precious Lake. 

IN OTHER NEWS...

New LSCA Website

In December, the LSCA launched our new website: lakestcatherine.org. It has lots of new features like a member directory, a mobile app for your phone, and a brand new design. Check it out!

New Game Warden For LSC

Our new Game Warden is Justin Turner. His coverage area includes 9 towns: Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate, Manchester, Rupert, Dorset, Pawlet, Danby and Wells. Although his area does not include Poultney, he is responsible for all of Lake St. Catherine. He can be reached at 802-595-8754.

Aquatic Vegetation Report

In late September, a comprehensive lake-wide aquatic vegetation survey to both evaluate the performance of our milfoil control efforts, and to assess the overall state of aquatic plants in Lake St. Catherine was completed. These reports, dating back to 2004 can be viewed on our website in the [Links & Downloads](#) section.

Dockside Chats

Our 'Dockside Chats' initiative was very popular last season, so we'll do it again in 2021. If you'd like to speak to a LSCA about lake issues, email us at: info@lakestcatherine.org and we'll schedule a Trustee to swing by your dock for a chat.

Ice Out Champion 2021

For the past few seasons, we've held a contest to predict when the ice will go out fully on LSC. This year, with his prediction of April 2nd at 2 AM, the winner was Walter Huss. He has bragging rights for the year! 

LSC WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

This past Fall, the LSCA, with the support of the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRD) and the Vermont DEC, applied for a Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) grant to help fund the research and the development of a Watershed Action Plan for LSC.

From the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a Watershed Action Plan is described as:

“Watershed planning helps address water quality problems in a holistic manner by fully assessing the potential contributing causes and sources of pollution, then prioritizing restoration and protection strategies to address these problems.”

The LSCA has been committed to a series of annual initiatives to apply continuous quality improvement to Lake St. Catherine. These activities include: aquatic invasive species (AIS) control [Milfoil Control], pollution prevention programs [Lake Wise], expanded boat inspections for AIS prevention [Greeter Program] by adding additional staff hours and expanding to the State Park, and collaboration with the PMNRCD on the Lake St. Catherine Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP) projects.

The LSCA will work in partnership with state specialists and local stakeholders to include: the Lake St. Catherine Conservation Fund (LSCCF), the towns of Poultney and Wells, Castleton University, and the lake community to research new initiatives and incorporate our highly successful programs into a comprehensive, long-term Watershed Action Plan for Lake St. Catherine.

The Watershed Action Plan Team will hire qualified consultants to assist with the plan development, data collection and interpretation, project identification, and solution / mitigation development as well as advice and counsel from a qualified limnologist and/or chemist to advise on lake nutrient cycling, lake functions, and assist with any in-lake studies, such as water chemistry, sediment testing, measuring phosphorus, and geomorphic style assessments.

Through this field work and analysis of the resulting data, the Team will identify high quality projects to address potential issues like: inflows into LSC transporting pollutants, cross culverts & drainage issues, high development density issues, algae & harmful algae blooms, sediment accumulation, and shoreline erosion.

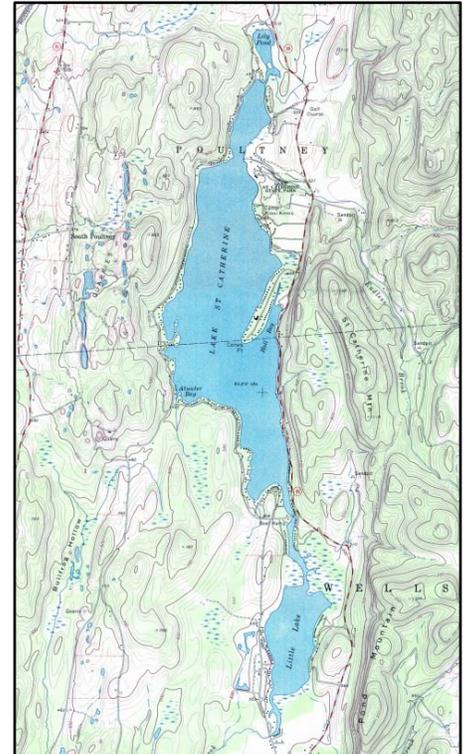
The Team will focus on the Lily Pond, the Big Lake, the Little Lake, and their connecting channels as discrete, but interdependent areas within Lake St. Catherine, each with their own unique needs. They will be committed to fully participating in this extensive and demanding planning exercise to increase understanding, to maximize implementation options, to provide a template worthy of emulation, and to ultimately improve water quality of Lake St. Catherine.



Other initiatives include: working collaboratively with other groups creating watershed action plans in Vermont (ideally collectively creating a unified template for future WAPs), researching a diversity of technologies or techniques to address lake issues, establishing a shoreline homeowner educational program (ie. ‘LSC Lakeshore Owners Best Practices’); and creating a welcome guide for new LSC property owners.

The Lake St. Catherine Watershed Action Plan will serve as an essential umbrella to unify the goals and outcomes of current and future implementation work within the watershed, the greatest single action we can take for the next decade.

Our proposal was submitted to the LCBP in February, with a decision being made in June. We are hopeful to earn this grant for LSC!



Please direct any questions and/or suggestions to Martha Pofit, Vice President, LSCA Board of Trustees martha.pofit@lakestcatherine.org. 



LITTLE LAKE PROJECTS...

Introduction

Over the past year, the Lake St. Catherine Conservation Fund (LSCCF) and Lake St. Catherine Association (LSCA) have been working together to discuss the best ways to mitigate the persistent and intensifying problem caused by an invasive weed - Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM, milfoil) - found throughout the lake, but especially in Little Lake. EWM significantly degrades the natural habitat of our lake and impacts accustomed uses of boating, swimming, fishing and other activities.

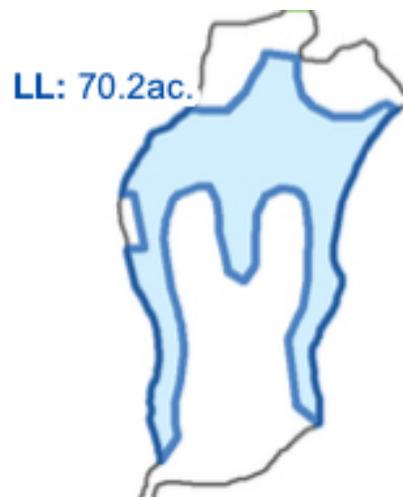


Background

Last fall, we announced that our two organizations will work together in 2021 and beyond to treat the Little Lake with a new herbicide that has shown excellent results in reducing EWM here and in many other lakes around the country. For the past two years, the LSCA has been using this new, highly targeted herbicide called ProcellaCOR in the Lily Pond and the Big Lake with excellent results. Currently, there is less milfoil in our control areas than at any time since at least 2006. In 2021, the LSCA will primarily rely on the diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) program to address small areas of milfoil in these areas. At the same time, the LSCCF will continue its harvesting program to maintain navigational channels throughout Little Lake.

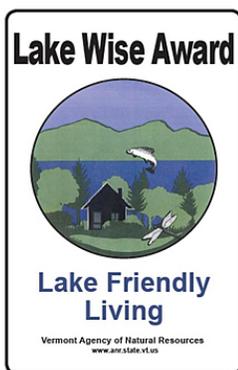
The Plan

Although this plan is focused on Little Lake, it will be a benefit to the whole of Lake St. Catherine, and we hope to receive contributions from everyone who cares about LSC. Our mutual goal is to get Lake St. Catherine as close to EWM-free as is possible in the next few seasons. EWM spreads quickly, re-roots easily and is carried across our lake by boat props, water currents and other means. No area in the lake is immune from EWM when another area suffers from it. Working in concert with the DEC, we have developed a 3-year treatment plan to gain control over the milfoil throughout the Little Lake. At this juncture, the DEC allows a maximum of 40% of Little Lake to be treated in any one calendar year. Working with lake management contractor SOLitude Lake Management and the DEC, in year one, we have selected the northern third of the Little Lake and the complete east and west shorelines to the southern end of Little Lake as the best parts of the lake to treat in 2021 for the greatest reduction of milfoil. This creates an 'M' shape, as depicted in the image to the right. After evaluation of effectiveness, we'll formulate a plan for 2022, and if necessary, 2023.



Little Lake Treatment Area 2021

We are scheduled to treat the lake on Tuesday, June 22nd. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date.



Lake Wise Award Plaque

Lake Wise

Another program the LSCA and the LSCCF will be working on together this year is Lake Wise. The Lake Wise Program was developed by Vermont's Lakes and Ponds Program to help and encourage lakeshore owners to make their property lake-friendly by keeping pollution, sediments, phosphorus, and nitrogen carried by stormwater runoff out of the lake. Our goal is to both educate and help property owners make their shorelines beautiful and lake-friendly.

Over the past 3 years, the Lake Wise Program has worked with camp owners to improve many Lake St. Catherine properties. So far, 12 of these Lake St. Catherine properties have earned the Lake Wise Award. We're working to increase this number every year.

We'd like to have 10 Little Lake property owners participate in Lake Wise this year. There is no cost to participate.

LITTLE LAKE PROJECTS... <continues on page 5>

...LAKE WISE & MILFOIL CONTROL

Through a grant earned through the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), we have funds to help property owners with plantings and other stormwater mitigation projects. Let us know you'd like to participate by emailing us at: info@lakestcatherine.org.

How You Can Help

1. Donate to the cause: First, we need your financial assistance. The three-year program to treat Little Lake could potentially cost up to \$90,000, and \$36,000 specifically in 2021.

The LSCA and LSCCF have pledged to each fund a third of the cost for a total of \$24,000 in year 1, so we launched a fundraiser with the intention of raising the remaining \$12,000 from the lake community. We ask that you consider a donation to support this three-year plan. As of the writing of this newsletter, we have already fully funded year 1, and we have collected \$5,200 towards year 2.

Any donation is welcome. You can make a donation by visiting our fundraising page: lakestcatherine.org/little-lake-milfoil-control. If you'd prefer to make a donation by check, please make it out to the Lake St. Catherine Association and send it to LSCA Treasurer, Elaine Bagley at 48 West Mountain Road, Bernardston MA, 01337. Please also include a note that the donation is for the Little Lake Milfoil Control Plan. Donations made are tax deductible. We also encourage you to check with your employer - many employers have a matching program for charitable contributions would could double your donation!

2. Become a Member of the LSCA and the LSCCF: Both of our groups rely on membership dues to fund lake management programs each season - visit our websites for more information on how to become a member.

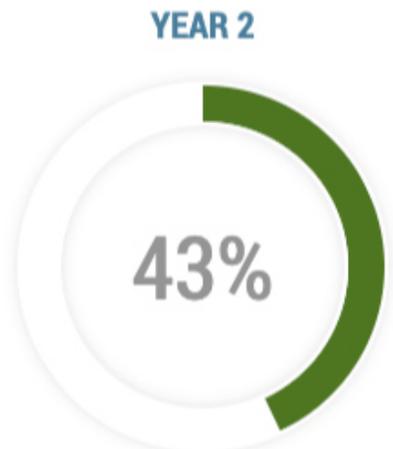
3. Get Involved: There is much that every homeowner and area resident can do to help the Lake – from stormwater management on your property (consider having the Lake Wise team come to your property), to milfoil collection from your dock, on your shorefront, or off your boat prop. **Each fragment of milfoil floating in the lake is a potential new plant. If we are all working together to remove milfoil from the lake, we can collectively make a significant difference by limiting the milfoil's ability to spread.**

4. Learn More: The LSCA and LSCCF held a Zoom Webinar Meeting on March 24th at 7 PM. Representatives from both groups gave a short presentation about our plans, and we answered attendee's questions. This session was recorded and can be viewed on the page linked above.

It is up to all of us to help make this effort a success. The LSCA and the LSCCF will be reaching out soon to all lakeshore property owners and boaters at the boat launches with suggested best-practices for limiting the spread of milfoil in Little Lake, and lake-wide. Please join us! 



Goal: \$12,000.00
Collected: \$12,000.00



Goal: \$12,000.00
Collected: \$5,200.00

GREEN UP VERMONT DAY ON LSC

Green Up Vermont has been a tradition for 50 years. Each May 1st, volunteers state wide clean up litter from our roadways and waterways. This season, we organized folks around Lake St. Catherine who volunteered to clean up and help to get the Lake ready for a great Summer. Thank you to all who participated! 



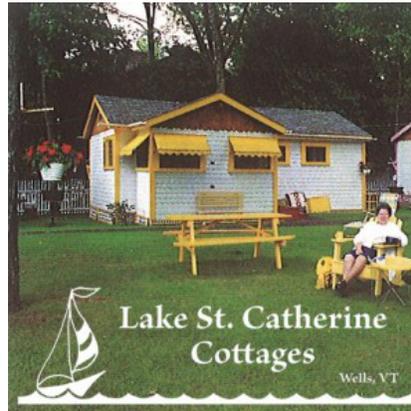


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gregobrienvt@gmail.com

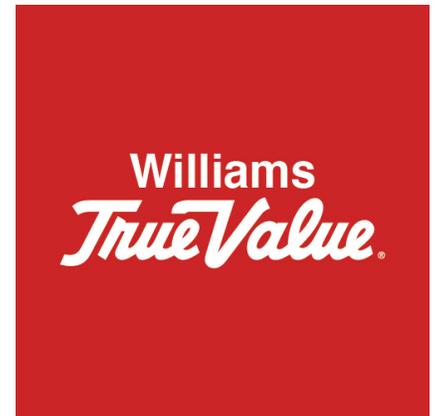


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LAKE ST. CATHERINE TRUSTEES

Name	Email	Term Ends
Ken Abt Trustee	ken.abt@lakestcatherine.org	2021
Elaine Bagley Treasurer	elaine.bagley@lakestcatherine.org	2021
John Belnavis Greeter Program	john.belnavis@lakestcatherine.org	2021
Frank Callahan Boating Safety	frank.callahan@lakestcatherine.org	2022
Jim Canders President	jim.canders@lakestcatherine.org	2023
Jeff Crandall Milfoil Committee Chair	jeff.crandall@lakestcatherine.org	2023
Jerremy Jones Publicity	jerremy.jones@lakestcatherine.org	2023
Ed Laird Trustee	ed.laird@lakestcatherine.org	2022
Nancy Liberatore Trustee	nancy.liberatore@lakestcatherine.org	2022
Kemi McShane Trustee	kemi.mcshane@lakestcatherine.org	2021
Rob Nesbit Trustee	rob.nesbit@lakestcatherine.org	2021
Martha Pofit Vice President	martha.pofit@lakestcatherine.org	2023
Mary Jo Teetor Water Quality Chair	maryjo.teetor@lakestcatherine.org	2022
Bob Williams Nominating Committee	bob.williams@lakestcatherine.org	2023

Become a Lake St. Catherine Association Trustee

Would you like to join the board and help 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. 

BUSINESS SPONSOR MEMBERSHIPS

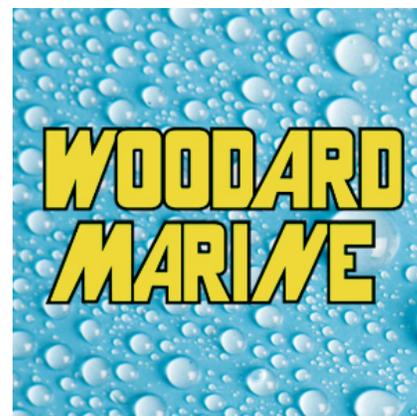
Dear Lake St. Catherine Community Business Owners,

Beginning with the 2018 season, the Lake St. Catherine Association started offering a Business Sponsor Membership to local businesses in the LSC region. We believe this membership level will be mutually beneficial for your business and the LSCA.

The Business Sponsor Membership for \$200 per season will include: a listing on our 'Sponsors' page of our website, a posting of your events & special occasions to our Events & LSC Community Calendar, a 'Sponsor Spotlight' posting on our Blog and Facebook page, and a posting for your business in our Spring and Fall newsletters.

If you'd like to become a Business Sponsor Member for the 2020 season, please visit our site at www.lakestcatherine.org and click on Become A Member under the Membership menu to join via credit card. Or, you can fill out the form on page 8 and mail it in with your payment.

Please email us at info@lakestcatherine.org to discuss. **Thank you for your support!** 



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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:

- Maintain and purchase navigation and shore line protection buoys throughout the lake.
- Testing the water for E coli, and water clarity.
- Managing the free Boating Safety courses that are state mandated for all persons born after January 1, 1974.
- Inspecting boats wishing to enter the lake for milfoil, zebra mussels, and other aquatic invasive species.
- Controlling milfoil (and other invasive species) while maintaining native weeds at tolerable levels.
- Working with the state to solve the problems of silting and impacts of phosphorus and other sources of pollution.
- Maintaining "welcome" signs and gardens.
- Liaising with other lakes in order to exchange information.
- Sponsoring the annual fun-filled July 4th Boat Parade.
- Sharing information with our membership and the community via newsletters, our website, Facebook, and local publications.
- Organizing funding through membership fees, donations and grants from the State of Vermont, Poultney and Wells.
- Representing you to state and local governments, protecting 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:

Elaine Bagley, Treasurer
48 West Mountain Road
Bernardston MA 01337

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 LSC Community Calendar. 

DUES SCHEDULE, OR MAKE A DONATION

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

- 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: _____

Do you receive mail at this address? YES NO

Permanent Address: _____

Permanent Phone: _____

Email Address: _____