



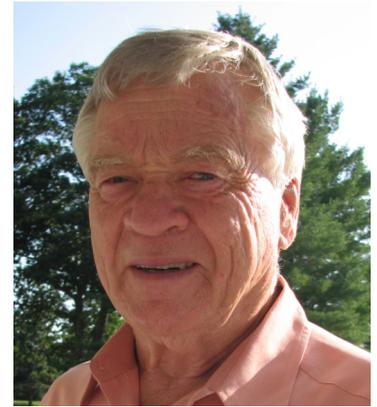
Lake Saint Catherine ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SPRING  2022

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Lake St. Catherine Association was very busy over the winter months working on many initiatives for the benefit of Lake St. Catherine.

As you'll read in this newsletter, over \$100,000 of clean water funding was earned through grants from the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP). These funds will support the LSC Stormwater Master Plan, the Lake Wise Program, and the creation of the LSC Watershed Action Plan. You can read the details of these projects on pages 4 and 5. You'll also read about how we are working to expand our water testing beyond the Vermont Lay Monitoring program, which we have participated in for almost 40 years, by working with Castleton University and the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) to monitor tributaries, and working with the Vermont DEC to have a 'Next Generation Lake Assessment' performed on LSC in 2023.

We have also received a \$21,910 grant from the Vermont Department Of Environmental Conservation as part of their Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-In-Aid Program (ANC). These funds will help to partially fund two other important initiatives for LSC: our Boat Launch Greeter Program, and our Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) team as part of our Milfoil Control Program.

Speaking of our Milfoil Control Program, over the past few months, you may have heard that the Lake Bomoseen Association has applied for a permit to use the herbicide ProcellaCOR EC. This is the product we have used for our milfoil spot treatments over the last 3 years as part of our control program. There are some very vocal opponents who have taken to spreading misinformation about ProcellaCOR online and in local newspapers. Some are even making things up and disparaging LSC, then using these false stories to voice their opposition. We want to let you know that we are aware of what is being said.

The LSCA has always employed evidenced-based decision making when evaluating lake related issues, and we continue to do so with our Milfoil Control Program. Working with the State and lake scientists & experts, following the science and the data, and evaluating the results of our efforts show that we are doing the right things for the long-term health of Lake St. Catherine.

To our members, and all who love Lake St. Catherine, if you ever have any questions or concerns, reach out to us. We would be happy to discuss this or any other lake related topic with you so we can address your questions or concerns, and provide you with factual information.

We will continue to build on all of these efforts as we work over the next three years on the creation of the Watershed Action Plan. This ambitious project will position LSC to secure future Vermont clean water funding which will be invested in water quality projects all around the lake.

It's going to be a big year for Lake St. Catherine as we continue to fulfill our mission of the preservation, protection and maintenance of Lake St. Catherine.

We hope to earn your support this season - please join us. Thank you to our members.

Sincerely, Jim Canders - President, LSCA

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LAKESTCATHERINE.ORG

LSCA's 2022 PLANS & EVENTS



There are lots of great programs and events that you can take part in this season. 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 more detailed information on these and all other events, please visit our website and view the Calendar: lakestcatherine.org/calendar. It is kept up-to-date with all the latest information. Contact us at info@lakestcatherine.org for more information.

Milfoil Cleanup Community Day

On Sunday, June 5th at the Wells Lakeside Park at 8 AM, we'll have our volunteer kickoff for Milfoil Cleanup Community Day. Throughout the summer last year, volunteers, kayakers, and boaters worked to clean up floating milfoil and other detached plants by scooping them up and placing them on our drop off locations. This program was very successful last season in both cleaning up milfoil, and educating residents and boaters on how to stop the spread of milfoil. We hope to see you at the kickoff!

Lake Wise Program

Our Lake Wise Program had a very successful year in 2022! 4 properties on LSC earned the Lake Wise Award. Over 60 property owners have participated so far. 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 them. You can read more about Lake Wise on page 5. If you'd like to be part of the Lake Wise Program, please email us.

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.

Greeters are on duty at the boat launch in Wells and at the State Park in Poultney. They work Friday - Sunday, on holidays, and also cover fishing tournaments.

Ecosystem damaging invasives like zebra mussels, spiny waterflea, asian clams, and water chestnut are only a lake away. Together we will keep these harmful invasives out of LSC!

Milfoil Control Program

The LSCA's Milfoil Control Program has 4 main components: resident & boater education, volunteer efforts, DASH, and spot herbicide treatments. We have previously mentioned the education and volunteer components as part of the Milfoil Cleanup Community Day entry.

Using the information gathered from our fall and spring lake surveys, we have created the milfoil control map for the season. The focus of our ProcellaCOR treatment will be the southern end of Little Lake, and the treatment will take place on Monday, June 20th. Our DASH team will work throughout the summer starting in early July. The milfoil control map has been posted on our website.

Boating Safety Classes

Each season, the LSCA offers FREE safe boating courses to help boaters satisfy the requirements by the state of Vermont. All boaters born after January 1st, 1974, must be certified to operate a power boat in Vermont waters. The certificate received by passing this class is good in all 50 states. This year, we are offering 3 classes, all are from 4:30 - 8:30:

- June 22 & 23, Poultney Fire Department
- June 27 & 28, Wells Village School
- July 5 & 6, Mettawee School (tentative)

To register, please call LSC Boating Safety Chair Frank Callahan at 802-645-9136. Classes are limited to 25 participants per class, and lesson materials are for 6th grade and above reading levels.

The 10th Annual LSCA Boat Parade

Our 10th year! The boat parade will be on Saturday, July 2nd at 1 PM. If you'd like to participate, please email us to register your boat!

Libraries Love Lakes

This fun, family friendly lake event will be taking place at the Wells Lakeside Park on Sunday, July 3rd from 10 AM - 1 PM. You can read all about this event on page 3.

LSCA Annual Meeting & Dinner

As we did in 2021, we hope to again have our Annual Meeting & Dinner, in person, at the Lake St. Catherine Country Club. The meeting will take place on Saturday, July 23rd at 6 PM. Trustees will give reports from their committees, we'll take your questions, then we can all sit down and have a great meal with our lake neighbors. More details on meal choices and costs to come. We hope to see you there!

Dockside Chats

Would you like to speak with a LSCA Trustee about lake issues? Schedule a Dockside Chat, and we'll swing by your dock for a discussion.

Loon Presentation

Want to learn more about loons? A presentation will be given on Friday, July 29th at 7 PM at the Poultney Library. More details soon.

Vermont Invasive Patroller Paddle

On Tuesday, August 9th at 10 AM, paddle with us and the VT DEC on LSC to learn how to spot invasive species. More details soon.

East Poultney Day

On Saturday, August 13th, stop by to see us at East Poultney Day.

Wastewater Workshop

Learn about keeping your septic system working properly and lake friendly. Date TBD. 

LIBRARIES LOVE LAKES

Last summer, Gina from the Wells Village Library reached out to the Lake St. Catherine Association and the LSCCF to discuss organizing a 'Libraries Love Lakes' event for Lake St. Catherine.

Libraries Love Lakes is an outreach project which pairs school and public libraries with lake scientists to provide collaborative programming emphasizing the importance of lakes in our everyday lives.

Gina provided a detailed outline of her ideas for the event, and using this outline, we submitted a comprehensive proposal for an Education & Outreach grant with the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), which we are happy to report, has been awarded!

Work has begun on this event, which will take place on Sunday, July 3rd at 10 AM at the Wells Lakeside Park.

This family friendly event will include fun activities, presentations, and boat tours related to all aspects of the lake. Children will receive lake themed kits containing books, and science & creative activities for the day.

Also, children will be invited to decorate a boat and participate in the 10th Annual Lake St. Catherine Association Boat Parade, which will take place the day before, Saturday, July 2nd at 1 PM.

After the event, the educational opportunities will continue at the Wells Village Library. Gina has dedicated a section of the library to Lake St. Catherine which will include pertinent information and activities to further advance lake-related learning. Gina has identified a wide variety of lake-related materials to launch this section of the library which we will be able to purchase via the grant.

Books and activities for the event kits and the library section have started to arrive, and Gina has started to prepare for the new section of the library, the "Lake St. Catherine Collection".



In the image to the left, you can see this new section of the library where Gina has arranged some of the fun activities and books that have arrived for the big day.

Details about the day, the presenters, and how to register to attend will be announced soon.

We will also be looking for volunteers to help out during the event, and for boat captains with pontoon boats to give lake tours for the participants. Let us know if you'd like to volunteer - thank you!

We are so excited for this event! 

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT LSC

There are so many things scheduled to happen at Lake St. Catherine this year! All these events will be creating numerous opportunities to volunteer to pitch in and help out. Let us know at info@lakestcatherine.org if you would like to volunteer or participate.

Green Up Vermont Day On LSC

Green Up Vermont day was the first Saturday in May. It was great to see so many volunteers around the lake picking up trash on the road ways and shorelines.

Milfoil Cleanup Community Day

On Sunday, June 5th, we have our kickoff meeting at the Wells Lakeside Park at 8 AM. Volunteers will then head onto the lake to clean up floating milfoil and other detached weeds and place them on our drop off location in the Channel. Volunteers can then work throughout the rest of the season scooping up the floating weeds and placing them on the platform for pickup.

Libraries Love Lakes

As you read in the story on the left, we'll be looking for volunteers to help out with this event and pontoon boat captains to give boat tours for attendees.

Watershed Action Plan & Stormwater Master Plan

Participate in meetings for long-term clean water planning initiatives for LSC. Meetings to be scheduled later in the season.

Vermont Invasive Patroller Paddle

On Tuesday, August 9th, participate in a VIP paddle on LSC with us and the DEC to learn how to identify invasive species.

Events Calendar: lakestcatherine.org/calendar 



A BIG YEAR...

We'd like to take a moment to outline the work the Lake St. Catherine Association (LSCA) will be undertaking over the next three years as we continue our efforts to preserve, protect, and maintain our beautiful lake. 2022 will be a big year for Lake St. Catherine as HUGE water quality investments are made, future funding is planned for, and LSC's watershed is studied as never before.

Lake Watershed Action Plan

Last year, the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) awarded the LSCA, in partnership with the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD), a 3-year grant to develop a Lake Watershed Action Plan (LWAP) for Lake St. Catherine.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) describes a Lake Watershed Action Plan as:

A Lake and Watershed Action Plan (LWAP) is designed to identify and communicate the problems and fixes within a lake watershed to best protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and the lake's ecosystem health. These plans answer the questions 'what issues threaten the health of our lake the most?' and 'what can we do about them?'

The \$38,224 awarded by the grant will allow the LSCA to hire and partner with lake experts to perform various in-lake and watershed based measurements, testing, and studies to identify current or potential future issues and design a comprehensive, long-term plan to address them. Our Project Team will include a panel of water and lake experts, including: Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District, Fitzgerald Environmental Associates, Castleton University, and a limnologist. This exhaustive study will assess areas around Lake St. Catherine including its: shorelines, roads, tributaries, forests, wetlands, and in-lake.

The findings from the creation of the Lake Watershed Action Plan will guide our long term efforts to increase water quality in the lake, and will position Lake St. Catherine to secure future grants and Clean Water Funding to implement projects to benefit the lake.

Current & Future Water Testing

Previous to beginning work on the LWAP, the LSCA and our partners have been involved in water testing in LSC for many years:

Lay Monitoring: For almost 40 years, the LSCA has been collecting data on LSC as part of the Vermont DEC's Lay Monitoring Program. Each week during the summer, along with a Secchi depth (water clarity) measurement, the LSCA collects a water sample from the Big Lake and Little Lake to be tested for phosphorus (nutrient), and chlorophyll-a (algae and cyanobacteria). This year, we are also participating in a new sampling pilot program.

LaRosa Partnership Program: This program helps watershed organizations and monitoring groups across Vermont implement new and/or ongoing monitoring projects for surface waters in need of water quality assessment by helping to alleviate the financial burden of laboratory analysis costs. In December, in support of the upcoming LWAP, 7 sites in the LSC watershed were nominated to participate in this program. The PMNRCD will be monitoring these sites which are in tributaries that flow into LSC. They will be working with Castleton University to analyze the data.

Next Generation Lake Assessment: This Vermont DEC program is a comprehensive, quantitative survey of a lake's condition which began in 2010. A suite of physical, chemical and biological parameters are sampled at three areas: the deep open water 'index site', ten randomly distributed shoreland and littoral habitat sites, and the inlets and outlet. LSC was added to the 2023 list of lakes to be assessed.

But that's not all. The Project Team has also discussed increasing testing by adding areas, increasing frequency, adding more parameters like chloride, dissolved oxygen, sediment testing, and exploring phosphorus budgets.

Parameters measured in Next Generation Lake Assessment

PARAMETER	LOCATION(S) MEASURED
Total Hard, RegAlk, TCa, TMg, TK, TNa, TurbNTU, Secchi, Sediment Diatoms	Index site
Conductivity, Dissolved Oxygen, DO%, pH, Temperature C, TN, TP, TCI, Chlorophyll a	Index site, Tributaries and Outlet
Macroinvertebrates, physical habitat complexity, shallow water habitat, lakeshore habitat, lakeshore disturbance	10 random sites around the lake
Crayfish	3 sites with good crayfish habitat
Aquatic plants, algae and maximum depth of colonization	10 random sites around the lake and tributaries
Area and depth of deltas	Tributaries and sites of significant erosion

As a result of all these activities, the lake, and Lake St. Catherine watershed will be studied at a level it never has before. [<continues on page 5>](#)

...FOR LAKE ST. CATHERINE

Lake St. Catherine Stormwater Master Plan

In 2018 and 2019, extensive field work by the PMNRCD and Fitzgerald Environmental Associates took place in the LSC watershed. The goal was to identify sources of increased stormwater runoff and associated sediments and nutrients flowing into the lake with phosphorus reducing projects being of particular importance. The work involved identifying sources of stormwater, prioritizing sources, and designing projects to mitigate those sources. This resulted in the creation of the Lake St. Catherine Stormwater Master Plan (SWMP).

50 potential sites were identified, and as of today, 4 projects have been implemented, and 2 others have been designed and are awaiting installation. Projects have recently been completed on North Street, Ferncliff Road, the boat launch in Wells, and at the Wells Lakeside Park. That leaves 44 others that need to be evaluated, designed, and implemented.

This past winter, in partnership with the PMNRCD, the LSCA applied with the LCBP for a "Clean Water and Healthy Ecosystems Projects Planning Grant" to fund the planning, prioritization, outreach, design, and budgeting of projects identified in the LSC Stormwater Master Plan. Then in early January, we were informed that we had earned part of a \$100k grant being administered by the PMNRCD. \$50,000 of this grant will be used directly for Lake St. Catherine to design Stormwater Master Plan Projects on LSC.

The goal of our approved grant in 2022 is to develop 10-12 projects identified in the LSC SWMP to be ready for implementation during the first round of Clean Water Service Provider formula grant funds in 2023 and thereafter. Our Project Team, consisting of the LSCA, PMNRCD, local partners, and the selected consultant, will identify a list of high and medium priority projects and develop 30% conceptual designs for those that rank within the top 10-12. Included with the designs will be budget estimates, permitting needs, and preliminary landowner agreements or letters of interest.

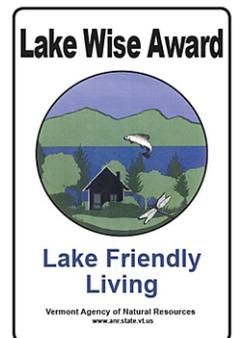
Lake Wise

In late January, we were informed by the LCBP that we had earned a grant in the amount of \$24,970 for the 2022 Lake St. Catherine Lake Wise Program. This year's project is entitled: "Creating a Critical Mass of Lake Stewards on Lake St. Catherine", and will be implemented in partnership with the LSCA, the PMNRCD and new partner Castleton University.

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.

The goal of the Lake Wise program, from the Lake Wise website:

The goal of Lake Wise is to establish a new normal, a new culture of lakeshore landscaping that is proven to help protect the lake. A property that earns the Lake Wise Award will represent a 'model' shoreland property. The Lake Wise Award certifies a property is well managed, using shoreland Best Management Practices, and is maintained to care for the lake.



Excess nutrients in the water contribute to problems which affect both human and wildlife health including; lower oxygen levels in the water, algae blooms, and excessive plant growth. Shoreline property owners have the access and the ability to control what is happening directly at the water's edge. While small-scale improvements on individual properties may not seem like they have much impact, collectively the implementation of many small projects will have a positive benefit on the water quality in the lake and the surrounding watershed. Actions now will promote a healthy lake environment that will continue to support swimming, fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing in the future.

This is such an important program for long term health of Lake St. Catherine, and we can all pitch in to make a difference. If you are a LSC property owner who would like to be part of this program, please contact us at info@lakestcatherine.org so we can add you to our 2022 list.

In Summary

Just these projects alone total over \$113,000 in water quality investments for Lake St. Catherine for 2022. These investments will lead to water quality improvements for LSC, and future funding for important projects. **2022 Is Going To Be A Big Year For Lake St. Catherine!** 



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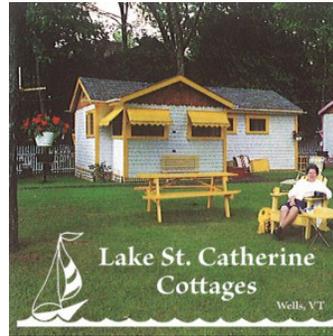


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LAKE ST. CATHERINE TRUSTEES

Name	Email	Term Ends
John Belnavis Greeter Program	john.belnavis@lakestcatherine.org	2024
Frank Callahan Lake Safety	frank.callahan@lakestcatherine.org	2022
Jim Canders President	jim.canders@lakestcatherine.org	2023
Jeff Crandall Milfoil Committee Chair	jeff.crandall@lakestcatherine.org	2023
Michael Gay Trustee	michael.gay@lakestcatherine.org	2024
Jerremy Jones Membership / Publicity	jerremy.jones@lakestcatherine.org	2023
Ed Laird Trustee	ed.laird@lakestcatherine.org	2022
Nancy Liberatore Trustee	nancy.liberatore@lakestcatherine.org	2022
Lisa Micich Trustee	lisa.micich@lakestcatherine.org	2024
Rob Nesbit Trustee	rob.nesbit@lakestcatherine.org	2024
Martha Pofit Vice President	martha.pofit@lakestcatherine.org	2023
Mary Jo Teetor Treasurer / Water	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

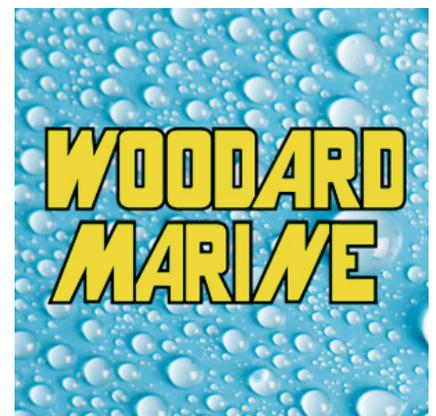
Dear Lake St. Catherine Community Business Owners,

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:

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 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: _____