

LAKE MOREY PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER
www.lakemorey.org



From the President

Happy Spring! We greatly appreciate your membership in the LMPA. Your fee supports the work of volunteers caring for Lake Morey, its watershed and its ecosystem. We continue our focus on water quality and the prevention of invasive species, so that Lake Morey can survive and thrive for many years to come.

The enthusiasm with which LMPA members return to Lake Morey each year is legendary, and LMPA volunteers are actively working to engage our community in numerous ways. Our communication is enhanced by our website, lakemorey.org - updated and maintained by Denise Drouin. I encourage you to visit it for helpful information and updates.

Below you can read about LMPA-sponsored social and sporting events in 2018, including First Fridays at the Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee Family Picnic Day, and the LMPA Golf Tournament and Regatta.

It won't be long before our hearts are lifted by that first walk down to the lapping water on Lake Morey's shore.

Cheers for happiness with family and friends at Lake Morey in 2018!

Peter Massicott, LMPA President

Summer Events Schedule

Check out our calendar at www.lakemorey.org for additional information on LMPA activities:

LMPA 1st Fridays at the Lake Morey Resort

This continues to be a great way to meet up with friends and neighbors. 2018 dates are: 5:30 PM on June 1, July 6, August 3 and September 7 (cash bar). Stay tuned for a possible arm-to-table event in Corinth, usually the last Saturday in August.

There is no formal plan for a walking group. Feel free to contact anyone at any time for a walking buddy! As always, if anyone has any other ideas for social gatherings please contact me by email, [Carol Wertheimer@comcast.net](mailto:Carol.Wertheimer@comcast.net) or cell phone 410-591-6466.

Fairlee Family Picnic Day - Sat., July 14, at the Town Beach from 11 AM to 2 PM. Enjoy this annual LMPA event with free BBQ and ice cream at Noon! Please help: make a salad, help with set-up, serve food, or cook BBQ.

Contact *Ginny Pomeroy* to volunteer (ginpom1@gmail.com).

LMPA Annual Meeting - Sat., July 14, at the Lake Morey Resort at 4 PM. A Social Hour with appetizers will follow (cash bar).

LMPA Golf Tournament - Sat., July 14, at the Lake Morey Golf Course - time TBD.

LMPA Regatta - Sat., July 21, with 10 a.m. start in Breezy Bay. See you on the Lake!

LMPA Board of Directors

Peter Massicott, President; Ginny Pomeroy, Vice President; Bill Minard, Treasurer; Debbie Baker, Peggie Bissell, Denise Drouin, Barbara Duncan, Mark Richardson, Will Watson, and Carol Wertheimer. Secretary: Ginny Reed. Nominating Committee: Barbara Duncan, Chair; Debbie Baker, Carol Wertheimer.

Would you like to contribute your expertise, time, and energy to benefit the Lake? We would love to talk to you about joining the Board.

LMPA Communications

Please be sure to follow LMPA all year at www.lakemorey.org, where you can find up-to-date information, announcements, events, and a chat page. Many thanks to Denise Drouin for her willingness to continue as our webmaster and to Patty Armstrong for augmenting our website by maintaining the LMPA Facebook page.

Boater Certificate Course

Sponsored by the LMPA for those who need to obtain VT certification to operate a motorized boat -- this free class is scheduled for **June 19 and June 21 from 4 – 8 PM each night** (a total of 8 hours is required). Meet at the Fairlee Fire Station.

HELP NEEDED: We can't continue to offer this vital program without your help! We need a volunteer to take over the course for 2019. Particularly if you are a retired/former/active teacher - can you help? Our current trainer will certify the next teacher, but he/she must attend this year's 2 sessions. To volunteer, contact *Ginny Pomeroy* (ginpom1@gmail.com).

Update on Morey Mountain

Since last summer the Lake Morey Foundation (LMF) has been working with the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) on the purchase and conservation of a 148-acre parcel on Morey Mountain. Containing abundant natural habitats, as well as a large watershed surface, Morey Mountain has been viewed as critically important to the long-term viability of our lake environment. LMF received contributions from 96 donors for its successful purchase of this property.

Ownership will soon be transferred to UVLT, who will place permanent conservation easements on the land and assume stewardship responsibilities for the benefit of our entire community. Many thanks to the numerous lake families, LMF, LMPA, Aloha Foundation, Lake Morey Resort, town residents & businesses, the Byrne Foundation, and other friends of our lake who generously made this possible! Read about UVLT's plan for Morey Mountain here: http://www.uvlt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/68500_Web.pdf

Water Quality

• Lake Morey Commission

Solitude's late summer 2017 surveys revealed that the extent of the lake's milfoil infestation was similar to that in 2016 - abundant density in the northeast quadrant and sporadically scattered plants elsewhere. In a total of 4 weeks, Aquatic Endeavors divers removed 13 cubic yds of material. Adopt-a-Lake volunteers recorded 1474 hours searching and hand pulling. Under the expanded Greeter Program, 1066 boats were inspected; no invasive species were detected entering or leaving the lake.

There are no plans for a chemical treatment in 2018 and we will continue to use traditional control methodologies. A new 5-year Renovate permit application has been initiated for future years and all lake abutters have received a notice to this effect.

Storms at the end of June and early July seriously degraded the lake's water quality. Clarity readings and phosphorous levels were the worst in years. Fortunately, by Labor Day they had returned to near normal.

The Commission held a seminar on blue-green algae featuring the State Toxicologist and the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC)'s expert. Over the next two years, it will continue to work with these departments to study and pursue solutions for the algae and phosphorous loading.

At the end of the summer, there were sightings of Chinese Mystery Snails. The DEC subsequently reported that they are less of a concern than other invasive species and are likely to populate most of Vermont's waterbodies.

The Selectboard appointed Byron Stone and Mark Richardson to fill vacancies on the commission.
Don Weaver, Lake Morey Commission

• Adopt-A-Lake News

Thanks for your vigilance in searching and pulling milfoil - please continue this summer! If you find milfoil be sure to pull it or ask for help - we don't want to spread it by creating fragments with motors or paddles. Contact Don Weaver or Barbara Duncan to

report milfoil beds or to get help identifying milfoil -- we are always happy to provide samples.
Barbara Duncan, Adopt-A-Lake Coordinator
barbara.duncan@valley.net

• VT Lakes & Ponds Update

Our State organization, Federation of Vermont Lakes & Ponds (FOVLAP), has been working with the Vermont Legislature on a number of clean water initiatives. Senate Bill 75 (Act 67), which strengthens the law covering control of aquatic nuisance species, was signed into law in June.

FOVLAP (vermontlakes.org) continues to hold educational seminars each summer - the next will be Friday, June 1. Interested in attending? Contact Bruce Durgin (durginbruce@yahoo.com).

• Public Access Greeter Program*

The Public Access Greeter Program exists to educate recreational boaters about the harmful effects of aquatic invasive species (AIS), provide boat inspections, and to stop the spread of AIS. In 2017, 1000+ boats were inspected on Lake Morey! This year we plan to provide full time coverage on Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day from 7AM-7PM, when heavier than normal boat traffic is expected. The 2018 Greeter Program will run from May 18 to September 3.

*Volunteers are always needed. Contact peggiebissell@gmail.com for more information.

• Minimizing Phosphorous in Lake Morey:

Many were alarmed last fall when our lake was invaded by a foul-smelling algae bloom. While some algae are naturally occurring and not harmful, sample analyses last fall raised concerns and kept people and dogs out of the water. There are contributing factors beyond our control that can promote a bloom (weather, water level) but other measures can mitigate a potential negative impact. The most obvious is minimizing our phosphorous contribution to the lake's watershed.

Two key ways to reduce phosphorous include: 1) updating septic systems; the DEC website provides information on approved septic systems (<http://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management>) and 2) preventing the dumping of leaves and other organic matter from landscape operations. If you use outside contractors to take care of yard clean-up, request that all debris be removed from the premises rather than being dumped into the lake. **Be informed and help us be good stewards of our lake!**

Be Visible on the Road! There are still a few **110th Anniversary LMPA** t-shirts in a neon "safety" green color available at the bargain rate of 2 for \$20. Contact *Bruce Durgin* at 333-4328 after May 20.