



President's Letter

October: A Time for Reflection and Anticipation

The lake is growing quieter except for the sounds of frolicking geese and ducks. The boat traffic has dropped to a trickle, with only a handful heading south into Little Lake. The leaves are turning, a bit slower this year due to the wet weather, but still with a promise of an explosion of color later this month. It is a good time to review what happened this season and lay out our plans for 2022.

As you all know, our efforts to persuade the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to allow us to maintain the existing aeration systems, much less expand to a full-lake system coupled with bio-augmentation, fell flat, despite strong support from the Little Lake community and local authorities. The last blow was a DEC ruling last month that we must remove the equipment from the lake (rather than maintain it, at no cost to the State, as a prevention measure in case of an emergency such as a fish kill due to a sudden drop in dissolved oxygen levels or a dangerous algae bloom). Given other factors (contractor availability, COVID, winter weather, fish spawning in the spring, and plans to again apply herbicide in Little Lake in June), we have worked out an agreement with the DEC for the LSCCF to remove the gear between July 15 and August 31 next year.

Our primary areas of focus next season will be the harvesting program and supporting the Lake St Catherine Association's program to use herbicide to further reduce the presence of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) in Little Lake. This past season, the LSCCF and the LSCA



worked well together to allow both programs to carry out their objectives effectively. The joint effort to educate the community on the importance of cleaning up floating EWM segments was a hit and, hopefully, will continue and expand next year.

We will be working over the winter months to refurbish and repair all of our harvesting equipment, with an eye toward of maximizing the effectiveness of our orange harvester operated by a contractor and, if repairs on the blue harvester are successful, reestablishing a supplemental, volunteer harvesting program. These machines will focus on maintaining clear navigational channels around and down the middle of Little Lake, but they will also devote time and effort to picking up EWM floaters, as part of the effort to cut down on EWM reseeding, in and north of Little Lake.

Everyone I have spoken with this summer was very pleased with the condition of Little Lake. The herbicide application knocked the EWM down beyond all expectations. More and more people were visiting Little Lake, and for the first time in years, we had folks water-skiing or riding tubes south of the bridge. The harvesting program did its part, and the overall result was a body of water that looked better than it had in years. Of course, as we move into Year 2 of the three-year herbicide use plan, we still need to keep an eye out of potential problems, including a rapid EWM regrowth, accelerated growth of native plants, and changes in the water quality. But, so far, so good.

Below, we have included updates and more details on the LSCCF work plan. Please read them and let us know if you have any questions or other ideas on how to make our lake and community as vibrant as possible. We absolutely cannot succeed in what we are working to achieve without your support and commitment. Thank you for all you do!

Saving Little Lake will take years of effort by all of us. Please urge your friends and neighbors to help in the fight by joining the Fund.

Michael Marine
LSCCF President

Photo Contest/Lake St Catherine Calendars

It's been a year in the making, but September marked the end of the 2021 Photo Contest! It has been great fun with many people participating and 12 winners who enjoyed their gift certificate to the Wells General Store. We have decided to use these great photographs to create a calendar for 2022. Look for an announcement late October on how to get your calendar.



We will have them ready to ship by early December. Just in time for stocking stuffers for Christmas and Happy New Year gifts.

This has been so much fun we intend do it again for a calendar in 2023! So...don't stop taking and sharing your photos. Some great opportunities out there in the Fall. Share with us on our website lakematters.com or on our LSCCF Facebook group page.

Monthly Lottery Raffle

The LSCCF Monthly Lottery Raffle is turning out to be a huge success, which will raise \$12,000 to support LSCCF programs. Only a few tickets are left, so if you would like one message us on our Facebook page or email contact@lakematters.com. We will arrange to get you a ticket.

Each \$80 ticket is valid for 12 drawings for a \$1,000 prize. Only 300 tickets will be sold. Starting in December, a winning ticket will be drawn each month at the Wells Town Hall and the winner announcement will be on our website and on our Facebook page.



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Fundraising

LSCCF survives solely on the generous contributions of our membership and the Town of Wells. We also work at fundraising and this year, in addition to the monthly lottery and the calendar programs, we have taken on a few more community-centric fundraising events that have proven to be much fun and have driven some nice revenue for the fund.

The first LSCCF Fishing Derby was held on June 26th. It was such a success and our intention is to do it again next year, when we believe it will be even bigger! We had 58 Derby entrants and cash payout of almost \$600 plus more cash prizes for 50/50. We had several volunteers who worked tirelessly on this event: Rich and Peggy Young, Sue Ritchie and Ron and Heather Carlton. We thank them for putting such a great event together. We also must thank all the local businesses that contributed prizes for this event.



We will be working out further details on our 2022 fundraising plans over the coming months, but these events and campaigns are only successful with your participation as either a volunteer to work the event or as a participant. We thank you in advance for your support and help. We also welcome your fundraising ideas, so please reach out with any suggestions!

Cooperation between LSCCF and LSCA

The year 2021 has been a busy year for those of us who live south of the bridge. We have seen a big improvement in Little Lake that has even brought out water skiers and tubers on the lake this year.

Much of this improvement has been the result of the cooperation between LSCCF and LSCA. LSCCF began working with LSCA on their 3-year Eurasian Milfoil Control Program which would focus most of the herbicide (ProcellaCor) treatment on Little Lake. On June 19, LSCCF and LSCA held a meeting at Wells Lakeside Park to discuss the 3-year Milfoil Control Program and answer any questions or concerns from residents. This year, 40 percent of Little Lake was treated. It was determined after the treatment that 95 percent of the milfoil was removed in the treatment area. A comprehensive aquatic plant assessment was carried out by the contractor in September with a full report coming out around November. After this assessment, it will be determined how much of the lake will need to be treated in Year Two (2022).

On July 25, LSCCF and LSCA had a milfoil cleanup day which included volunteers from the big lake and Little Lake. This effort resulted in 21-buckets (17.5 gallon) filled with milfoil and other aquatic plants removed from the lake and disposed of by the LSCA DASH team. The milfoil cleanup project continued throughout the summer with residents placing aquatic plants they had collected from the lake on a raft in the channel and a dock in Little Lake. The LSCCF harvester team removed the aquatic plants from these deposit areas throughout the summer.

LSCCF also joined with LSCA on their Lake Wise Program. The Lake Wise is a program to help lakeshore property owners protect the water quality and habitat along their shoreline by mitigating stormwater runoff which carries phosphorus, sediments, and other pollutants into the lake. There were 24 participants in the program this year – 14 of those participants were from Little Lake! For more information on the Lake Wise Program please go to lakestcatherine.org.

Please join our Facebook page (Lake St Catherine Conservation Fund) or sign on to our website (lakematters.com) for further information on upcoming events and lake news. We thank you for your continued support and we will continue to work with LSCA, residents and the Wells Selectmen to build on the progress we have made on Little Lake this year.