



ON THE POND

JUNE/JULY 2016

President's Message

I'm a little behind on newsletters this year, having missed the opportunity for a winter edition. That being said, our June/July newsletter will be somewhat brief, covering just the immediate upcoming events, with more news to follow in an August/September edition that will detail events scheduled later in the summer.

See you on the pond!

Jackie Pratt

NPCOA President
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New Invasive Found in VT

The fall 2015 newsletter sent by the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) provided some information on a new invasive species discovered in Lake Memphremagog in Newport.

The latest invasive species to make an appearance in Vermont is Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*). According to FOVLAP, "this non-native, invasive can develop large, dense stands, crowd out other aquatic plants, and can tolerate low- or high-nutrient conditions."

Starry Stonewort is native to Europe and Asia and first appeared in the St. Lawrence River in 1978. It has since spread to many other inland areas, including Massachusetts, Michigan, Indiana, and New York.

Please take special care to clean your boat thoroughly following the "Clean, Drain, and Dry" technique promoted by the Vermont Invasive Patroller (VIP) program. A high-pressure, hot water wash is most effective, if available.

For more information on invasive species, please visit www.VTInvasives.org. 🐾

Legislative Updates

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds Legislative Committee has been monitoring a number of bills up before the VT House and Senate. Regular updates on legislation that may impact FOVLAP members can be found at www.vermontlakes.org/legislativeupdates 🐾

Citizen Science

The Vermont Center for Ecostudies, which generously provided loon expert Eric Hanson who spoke at our meeting last July, has a number of "citizen science" projects that Camp Association members may be interested in checking out.

iNaturalist Vermont

From backyards to mountain summits, hundreds of citizen naturalists and biologists document and share biodiversity at iNaturalist Vermont. Join the fun at www.inaturalist.org/projects

Vermont eBird

Vermont eBird has revolutionized the way the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Submit your observations or view results at Vermont eBird www.ebird.org/content/vt

eButterfly

eButterfly is providing a new way for the butterfly community to report, organize, and access information about butterflies in North America. Visit www.e-butterfly.org

Loon Watch

Leader: Eric Hanson
Season: Mid July
Participate in the annual one-day census of Vermont's breeding loons! For details, email ehanson@vtecostudies.org 🐾

Dues are Due

Quadrant officers will be visiting each camp prior to July 4th to collect Camp Owners Association dues and to sell flares for the 4th of July as well as tickets to the Camp Owners Association BBQ on July 9th.

Dues are \$15 per year. The best deal is \$25 for dues, two flares, and two people at the cookout. Neal Pond bumper stickers will also be available for \$7 each. Please note: supplies are limited.

Please renew your membership to ensure we will continue to have a strong organization that will monitor water quality, represent camp owners to local and state government, and maintain membership in the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds. Our group will continue to explore new ways to improve water quality and foster strong community relationships. 🍷

Fourth of July Events

July is peak time for many of our members who will be busy with family gatherings to celebrate Independence Day. If history is any indicator, we'll have more guests on the pond over the 4th of July than at any other time of the year. This year's NPCOA-sponsored events are listed below:

Saturday, July 2, 2016

6:00 – 11:00 am Kid's Fishing Derby – The Carbonneau family will once again host the annual kid's fishing derby for members and their guests up to 14 years of age. Stop by their dock to register the morning of the derby.

Fish should be brought ALIVE to their dock on Boys Camp Road for official weigh-in. This catch-and-release derby is free to all Camp Association members and their guests.

Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories. All participants should meet back at the Carbonneau's dock at 11:00 am for prizes, snacks, and crafts.

Monday, July 4, 2016

1:00 – 4:00 pm Poker Run – A family-friendly event! Boat to each of the five numbered docks indicated by a balloon/ball and pick up one card at each dock.

When you have collected one card from each dock, meet back at dock #1 at 4:00 pm to determine who has the best poker hand. Prizes will be given to those with the top three hands.

Rules: One hand of cards per boat. Be respectful of dock owners and other boaters. No opening envelopes or trading cards. Please paddle safely and use an appropriate life preserver/PFD as required by law.

7:00 pm Boat Parade – The boat parade will begin at the boat launch and proceed counterclockwise around the pond. Get in the spirit of the holiday and dress your boat in the most patriotic decorations you can find! Nothing gets the crowd cheering more than good old red, white, and blue! Please DO NOT throw anything from your boat during the parade.

9:00 pm Flare Lighting – A horn will sound when it is time to light the flares. Each camp should place their flares in a safe location down by the water's edge for all to enjoy!

Please have a happy, safe, and healthy 4th of July and enjoy the fireworks! 🍷

Annual Meeting Information

The annual Neal Pond Camp Owners Association meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 9, 2016.

- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Business Meeting
- 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Association BBQ

The meeting and BBQ will be held at the Reddy Camp located on the west side of the pond on Boys Camp Road. Thanks to the Reddy family for hosting!

Outdoor Movie Night

The Camp Association will once again host an outdoor movie night the evening of our annual Camp Association meeting on July 9th.

Information on time and location will be provided on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/nealpondvt and at the meeting on July 9th. This has been a big hit over the last couple of years and is a great event for members of all ages... Hope to see you there! 🍷