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Karl Koenigsbauer, President  
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Ann Hunsicker, Treasurer  
Lori Kempton, Secretary  
Mark Bechtold  
Ed Borden  
Elaine Carpenter  
Carol Martin  
Susan McKenna

## ELPA 2024 Fall Newsletter



**“ECHO EVENING” By Nile Stevens Kinsley, age 7 (now age 8)**

## ELPA MISSION STATEMENT

The objective of the Association is to promote the welfare of Echo Lake which lies within the boundaries of the Town of Charleston, Vermont. The Association will work to maintain the quality of Echo Lake, the waters, native wildlife, and habitat for all to enjoy for generations to come.

## President's Message from Karl Koenigsbauer

Dear members and friends,

It is hard to believe that the holidays are right around the corner. It seems like it was just yesterday that the lake access was active with anglers and recreational boaters from across the state! As we approach the holiday season it is traditionally a time to be thankful for our good fortunes as well as appreciative for the gifts that are associated with the holidays. For many, who have been dealt an unfair hand by mother nature the past two years, it may be a challenge to recognize their good fortunes or to be appreciative of roads that were washed away, flooded homes and no electricity for days. As I reflect back on the summer of 2023 and the summer of 2024 it is clear that communities were impacted in ways that are still difficult to measure. However, as with most setbacks, time heals. Roads that were impassable are repaired for the most part, and in some cases, in better shape than they were before the flooding. The lakebed has finally settled and the water clarity is back to where we all appreciate it. Along with the improved lakebed the level of the lake has returned to where we usually see it in early September. Clearly, there is a sense of normalcy that we can be thankful for as we head toward the winter months. Those of us who are fortunate enough to witness life on the lake in September are appreciative of how mother nature is trying to regain our trust by providing us sun filled warm days and cool nights that enhance the brilliant colors that surround the lake. Given the challenges that the Echo Lake community has faced the past two summers was unprecedented for sure but at the same time there is an inner strength in Vermonters that allows one to look around and find the good. For that, I am extremely appreciative and grateful. I am confident that many, if not all lake residents are as well. All the best, for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Karl Koenigsbauer, ELPA Board President



Echo Lake magnet. A perfect Holiday gift! \$15 each while supply lasts. Actual size 2" x 6".



George Thompson with two large lake trout caught on a recent outing!  
(Photo credit to Lawrence Slason)

# All About Us Celebrating our 54th year

By Greg Carpenter

If you are reading this article, it is highly likely you're a member of the Echo Lake (Charleston) Protective Association. But as a member, what do you know about your association? Do you know how it got started? Some of its significant causes or its community involvement? If you don't, maybe this will help.

The Echo Lake Protective Association was formed in late August of 1970. Roughly half of the lake's property owners attended the first meeting which was held at the Plymouth Congregational Church in East Charleston. Property owners unified after recognizing they had many of the same concerns as Lake Seymore Association and their own concern of Echo camps sending sewage straight into the lake.

At the first meeting bylaws were created and approved after an extensive debate among members. Two guest speakers were invited to address the new organization. Former president of the Lake Seymour Association and Senator Arthur Jones spoke in detail about a pending water pollution bill in the legislature, which according to public records "would force polluters to get a permit before dumping waste into Vermont water". Former member of the Vermont Fish and Game Board, John Boylan, also discussed the water level of lakes.

In the association's second meeting on the evening of October 3, 1970, East Charleston Country Store owner Jack B. Sloan, was officially elected president. Future White Birch Lodge owner, Andrew Pato, was named vice president; and Princeton Alumnus, Arvin R. Anderson as secretary-treasurer. Directors included Dexter Bennett, Lyle Silloway, Ruth LaFoe and Karleene N. Lamson.



Jack B. Sloan  
The ELPA's first president

As early as the third meeting, the association had already become a corporation, which the Vermont Secretary of State approved on October 27, 1970. Over the years, the ELPA has included such committees as fishing, camp patrol, condolence, map, picnic, history and sunshine.

Although the association's official name hasn't changed, the word "Protective" surprisingly hasn't been constantly used in print media throughout the years.



A postcard created by George H. Stone, Chairman of the History Committee

For a lake of only 1.5 miles long and less than a mile-wide, its members haven't shied away from attention. In 1972, the Echo Lake Protective Association filed a petition to establish a set minimum water level for the lake. The petition failed and ended up being dismissed by the state Public Service Board. In 1993, the association explored a possible merger with the Seymour Lake Association, due to the lack of lake owner's willingness to become board members. Then ultimately deciding against it.

In 2005, the Association petitioned the state Water Resources Panel to ban personal watercraft on Echo Lake. Vermont law defined "personal watercraft as vessels less than 16 feet that use an inboard motor to power a water jet pump as its primary source of motor power....". At the time of the petition, lakes such as Willoughby, Caspian and Fairlee had already banned the personal watercraft, but our neighbor, Seymour had not. Within three months, the Water Resources Panel unanimously rejected Echo Lakes' petition and stated they "clearly didn't see a conflict with property owners concerns."

And just recently, former president Steve Gratton made the news by sharing his insights on the Shoreline Protection Act and Act 64 in a state-wide newspaper article. In the 2023 story, Steve shared some effective steps he made to his own property to protect the lake's water quality.

At present, lake association members have continued to try and keep the lake an enjoyable place to use by voting to petition the state of Vermont to prohibit wake boats and wake sports activities from operating on Echo Lake. And finally, members continue to try to address the ongoing concerns with the boat access.

Currently, membership is actively involved in undertakings that are not as well known to the public, such as hosting an annual members' picnic, running educational workshops, lakebed monitoring and making donations to the community.

The association's most well-known community event is the Echo Lake Color Challenge run, a popular event which draws large crowds each year. The history of racing dates as far back as 1929, with the Echo Lake Fish and Game Club's 4th of July running race. Such organizations as the Orleans Citizen County Advocacy and Kingdom Games have also offered races over the years.



In over the last 50 years, membership has nearly doubled! A testament to its members hard work. As we look ahead to the next 50 years, may the association continue to make the lake an even more enjoyable experience for future generations.

Sources:

- “Property Owners Form Echo Lake Association” The Burlington Free Press, (Burlington, VT.) August 31, 1970.
- “Pollution Permits Passed by Panel” The Burlington Free Press, (Burlington, VT.) February 19, 1970
- “PSB Dismisses Petition on Level of Echo Lake” The Burlington Free Press, (Burlington, VT.) November 21, 1972.
- “Rough Water” The Burlington Free Press, (Burlington, VT.) July 23, 2005.
- “Lake ban on craft rejected” The Burlington Free Press, (Burlington, VT.) October 18, 2005.
- “Regulations affect Vermont waterfront property owners” The Burlington Free Press, (Burlington, VT.) June 22, 2023.
- “Membership Committee Report and Logo Wear” ELPA Annual Meeting Minutes, July 22, 2023. Echo Lake Protective Association Archives
- “Mrs. Lewis C. Bates” The Newport Daily Express, (Newport, VT.) March 19, 1962
- “East Charleston To Celebrate 4th” Essex County Herald, (Island Pond, VT.) June 14, 1929.

## ELPA Merchandise: submitted by Dawn Bechtold

The Echo Lake merchandise team is happy to report another successful summer season of sales that benefits the preservation and protection of our pristine Echo Lake. Thank you all for your purchases!

We have had fun building community with our sales through our many great chats with so many of you. There are still Echo Lake refrigerator magnets for sale! These would make great stocking stuffers for the holiday season. The magnets are 2" x 6", wooden, with a full magnet on the back side. They are beautifully printed with a loon and text of "Echo Lake, Charleston, VT." The price is \$15.00.

If you would like one or more mailed, the additional flat rate postal cost would be \$11. There's an additional shipping cost for mailing 5 or more magnets.

Contact Dawn Bechtold, 603-991-8034 or [dmbechtold@gmail.com](mailto:dmbechtold@gmail.com), if you are interested.

Please send your check to: Echo Lake Protective Association, PO Box 41, East Charleston, VT 05833.

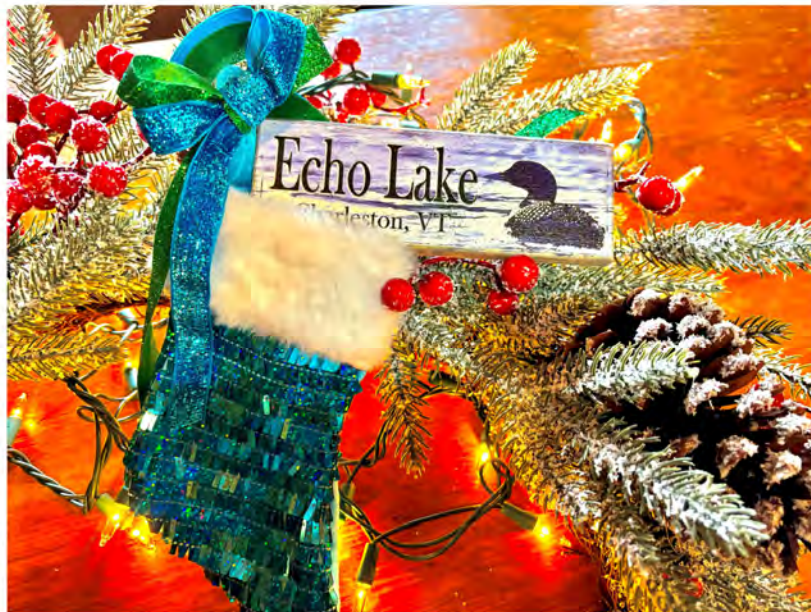


Photo credit Dawn Bechtold

You will find some of our members' pictures, wearing their ELPA merch, sprinkled throughout the newsletter. This is what we call, "Merch and Motivations". We have asked a few willing members to showcase their ELPA merchandise and include their choices/reason for purchasing that ELPA item. We hope you enjoy that. So please feel free to submit your pictures wearing ELPA gear and a quote or occasion the picture demonstrates. Be creative and have fun! For example, take a picture of yourself with your ELPA cap at the Eiffel Tower in Paris, or the most adorable picture of your grandchildren sitting together wearing their ELPA sweatshirts, or your dog wearing the ELPA sun hat and glasses! The chosen photograph will be highlighted in the spring 2025 newsletter! The winner will be given 50% of their next ELPA item purchased. We would like to make this an annual event in the spring, so join in and have fun!

Submissions should be sent to [ELPAMerchandise@gmail.com](mailto:ELPAMerchandise@gmail.com) by April 1, 2025.

As we look ahead to the summer of 2025, the order dates for ELPA merchandise will be: June 15, July 15, and August 15, with delivery in two or three weeks.

Thank you, and we'll see you on the lake before you know it!

## ELPA COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS DESIGNATED: Karl Koenigsbauer

The ELPA Board is pleased to provide a list of committee directors to assist ELPA members to communicate with a director of a specific committee if questions arise that need clarification. Committee reports can be found on the ELPA website. We look forward to your input as well as your support and interest in gaining a clearer perspective on the goals and focus of the ELPA board of directors.

Water Quality - Holly Bull: [EchoWaterQuality@gmail.com](mailto:EchoWaterQuality@gmail.com)

Lake Wise - Tom Wagner: [echolakewise@gmail.com](mailto:echolakewise@gmail.com)

Access Greeter Program - Karl Koenigsbauer: [karljk1950@gmail.com](mailto:karljk1950@gmail.com)

Lakebed Survey - Peggy Stevens: [pegnericstevens@gmail.com](mailto:pegnericstevens@gmail.com)

LWAP - Tom Wagner: [echolakewise@gmail.com](mailto:echolakewise@gmail.com)

Membership – Elaine Carpenter: [egscarpenter@yahoo.com](mailto:egscarpenter@yahoo.com)

Echo Lake Merchandise - Ann Hunsicker: [ahunsicker17@gmail.com](mailto:ahunsicker17@gmail.com)



Bill and Lynne Mann and Mickey modeling their Echo Lake gear!



## Access Greeter Report: Karl Koenigsbauer

While a good deal of damp weather played a role in our coverage of the access for the months of July and August, I am pleased to report that the access was covered for 12 hours, seven days a week this year. Adding an additional paid greeter this year allowed us to have ideal coverage, especially on the weekends when the access is generally the busiest. Starting the program the Friday before Memorial Day, may need to be reviewed next spring given the volume of anglers who found their way to the lake that weekend. The bass fishing was excellent this year resulting in perhaps the busiest Memorial Day weekend I have witnessed in several years. We plan on assigning two greeters next year to provide additional support. We will also consider the pros and cons of starting the program earlier than the Memorial Day weekend, as well as extending the coverage to September 30. Our program closed on September 15 this year.

We are still entering data with respect to the number of inspections that our four greeters and two volunteers conducted but an early review reflects an increase compared to last year. We inspected 501 boats in the summer of 2023 and it looks like we may have performed 847 inspections this summer. Kayakers and dedicated anglers tend to lead the way with arrivals to the access. Recreational boaters (waterskiers) and skis, round out the majority of watercraft that greeters see on a daily and weekly basis.

We had one sample of Eurasian milfoil discovered and verified that it was indeed milfoil. The sample that was dry was found inside a kayak. We assume the sample entered the kayak on a paddle and was not detected until a close inspection was made prior to launching the kayak. Much credit goes to Ryan Hryckiewicz, who discovered the sample. The owner of the kayak was extremely cooperative and appreciated the way Ryan handled the matter.

I cannot end this report without a huge vote of appreciation and thanks to our greeters this summer. The access coverage was outstanding this year due to the commitment of each greeter to safeguard the lake from aquatic invasive species entering the lake. My wish is that Dean White, Josh Brien, Ryan Hryckiewicz, Cheryl Hryckiewicz, and Peter Bestenbostel will return next year, as they bring dedication and a genuine appreciation for the natural beauty that surrounds the lake and assurance that the lake will continue to be free of unwanted hitchhikers entering the lake. A commitment that lake residents are extremely grateful for given the challenges of maintaining a pristine lake!



"I love my wicking ELPA polo shirt I bought purposely for riding my bike. It keeps me cool, dry and seen!!"

Dawn Bechtold sporting her Echo Lake polo shirt

**REMINDER**

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR 2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES.

GO TO [www.echolakeassociation.net](http://www.echolakeassociation.net) AND CLICK 'Support ELPA'

PAY ELECTRONICALLY OR BY MAIL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## **Treasurer's Message: Ann Hunsicker and Susan McKenna**

ELPA incurred another solid year of financial solvency due to the support and dedication of its members. We have 84 paid members to date. A big shout-out to the 41 members who made an additional contribution alongside their yearly dues. Thank you all!

Another successful Color Challenge in July netted \$6,538.06. Laurie Gee's dogged grant writing secured a \$5,000 Watershed Grant, and we await word concerning the final amount of our Aquatic Nuisance Grant. The sale of ELPA merchandise, though not quite as productive as the year before, also contributed to the organization's profits.

The greatest expenditure of funds is once again our excellent Greeter Program. Because we raised the number of hours covered by the paid greeters this summer and extended their coverage, the costs were greater than in previous years. We hope to see all four paid greeters back next summer and to recruit more volunteer greeters as well. Please let Karl know if you might be interested.

Our contingency fund continues its steady growth. Divided between two local CD's that mature on different dates, the fund now boasts over \$86,000, steadfastly approaching the stated goal of \$100,000 set by the Board several years ago. The Board will decide on an addition to the fund for 2024 at its January 2025 meeting once we know how much we will receive from our Aquatic Nuisance grant.

Finally, our Charleston Educational Program bought water bottles for the elementary school this year. The Board authorized another year of the same programs we have run in the past by Siskin and Northwoods.

## **Investment Committee Report: Peter Bestenbostel**

In 2017 the ELPA board established a contingency fund with an initial target of \$100,000 and as of 2025 we expect to reach that target! The stated purpose of the fund is to provide money to assist in remediation of any invasive species contamination in Echo Lake when it occurs. When the time comes this fund will provide a vital resource to the lake community, enabling it to react swiftly and thereby hold down any remediation costs. The projection of these costs has continued to grow since the fund was established.

As always the growth of the fund will be largely determined by the success of ELPA in event fundraising like the color challenge, and in securing private gifts through donations as a not-for-profit organization. Additionally, the board recently amended the contingency fund guidelines which now authorize the interest on the invested contingency funds to accrue to the fund and not be used for general ELPA purposes. In January 2025 the board will be making its annual decision about additions to the fund. Since the initial fundraising goal is expected to be met it is time to ask the board to raise the initial funding target.



"We love our new Echo Lake Association swag! The colors and quality are fantastic! I was told, when purchasing the hat, that if I wore it when fishing next year that I would catch twice as many fish! It might be helpful to know if I could catch both those fish on the same day!"

- Al, Darcy, Anna, and Grace Brouillette

## COLOR RUN CHALLENGE 2024



Photo Credit Susan McKenna

On your mark. Get set. Go! Blue skies and sunshine came together for the 198 runners and walkers who participated in the 2024 Color Challenge on Sunday, July 7th. Enthusiastic fans lined West Echo Lake Road, alongside the traditional color stations, to cheer them on as they completed the 3.1-mile route on a beautiful summer morning. Thanks to our many generous sponsors and wonderful volunteers, the athletes enjoyed a post-race buffet of orange slices, water, ice and granola bars followed by a spirited raffle with many exciting prizes. ELPA earned a total of \$6,538 with its popular fundraiser. Kudos to everyone involved and a special thank- you to Lisa Martin who coordinated registration this year. As always, we are grateful to the Beams, Koenigsbauer, and Wilson families for hosting the event on their spacious properties. Tie up those laces and see you in 2025! (Submitted by Susan McKenna)

**Thank you to our sponsors!!**

Century 21 Farm & Forest	City Feed and Lumber Co. Inc. dba Sticks and Stuff	Community National Bank
Concept 2 Rowing	Conley Country Real Estate and Insurance	Dr. Hugh's Dental, PC
Gervais Ace Hardware Inc.	Hayes Ford, Inc.	High Country
Island Pond Health Center	Ivers Electric LLC, Inc.	Kingdom Market
Memphremagog Rentals / Spates Family LLC		Nadeau's Plumbing and Heating, Inc.
NEK Holdings, LLC	North Country Federal Credit Union	North Country Hospital
Noyle W Johnson Insurance Agency, Inc.		Passumpsic Savings Bank
Pick & Shovel	Poulin Lumber	Taylor Moore Agency
		White Birch Lodge

**Thank you to everyone who provided prize donations!!**

Agway	Bennett Maple Farm	Jason Bingham	Brown Cow	Burke Mountain
C & C Market, Barton		Devaney Farm Stand		EM Brown Hardware, Barton
Evansville Trading Post		Garden Patch		Great Outdoors
Green Mountain Natural Foods		GVF Maple		Hoagies Newport
Hobo's Café		JB Colton Hardware		Jay Peak
Kingdom Trails		Kinney Drugs		Koenigsbauer Family
Lapierre's Home Decorating		Lines and Designs		MY Salon and Spa
M & T Bank		Nature by Design		Newport Village Market
Northeast Kingdom Processing		Olney's General Store, Orleans		Orleans Country Club
Price Chopper	Roasters	Shaw's	Subway	Sunny Side Maples
Sunreed Instruments	Sweet Scoops	The Tavern		Thibault's Market, Orleans
Thompsons		Three Branches Bakery		ELPA Merchandise
Walmart		West Charleston Corner Store		Wright's Sport Shop

**Thank you to everyone who donated to our Color Challenge fundraiser. Please patronize these businesses and thank them for supporting ELPA.**



Great group of volunteers at the Color Run Challenge!  
Jim Brophy, Holly Bull, Elaine Carpenter, and Ian Carpenter  
Photo Credit Susan McKenna

Congratulations to newlyweds Rebecca Wilson and Quinn Connell  
of White Salmon, Washington!



Photo Credit Bob Wilson



Photo Credit Susan McKenna

## Lake Wise Program: Submitted by Tom Wagner

2024 was a very busy year for our Lake Wise program. Alison Marchione, the Vermont State Assessor visited in June and conducted assessments on 4 properties. All four properties were granted Lake Wise status: Matt Breton and Lori Kempton; Pam and Karl Koenigsbauer; Cindy and John Stevens; and Linda Studer, an upgrade from the Lake Wise Certificate.

As part of the Lake Watershed Action Plan, five properties were assessed by Bevin Barber-Campbell of the Orleans Natural Resource Conservation District. All 5 properties received Lake Wise Status: Diane Colburn, Beth Mallary, Pat Moulton, Terry and Jean O'Brien, and George Thompson. Alison returned at the end of August and assessed five properties. All five received Lake Wise status: Jeffrey and Nancie Fernandez, Dawn Tischbein, Sarah Mallary, The Allen Camp West Echo Lake Road, Danny and Yvette Marsh.

With these additions, Echo Lake has 41 properties with the Award totaling 13,957 feet of frontage or 64.05% of our shoreline. We have 21,792 feet of frontage on Echo.



The photo is of Ted Jewett's property on Seymour Lake and his 60-foot-wide buffer that covers about 400 feet of frontage. He enjoys how this looks, so he intends to expand the buffer another 15 feet deep in 2025.

Our Lake Wise Garden Tour was in late July. It was a joint effort with Seymour Lake and, by all accounts, a great success with 20-ish attendees. We toured two properties on each lake, learning of the improvements the owners made to these properties to qualify for the LakeWise Award while creating a beautiful property. For three out of the four, it meant fine-tuning improvements using Best Management Practices over a 3–4-year period before qualifying. One property qualified on its first assessment, because the new owners had consulted with Vermont's Lake Wise Assessor and enacted her recommendations. In most situations, the path to a Lake Wise Award includes following Best Management Practices to control erosion and runoff and planting a shoreline buffer.



## **LAKE WATERSHED ACTION PLAN (LWAP): Submitted by Tom Wagner**

Tom Wagner, Susan Czerepak, Steve Gratton, Peggy Stevens, Debbie Zuaro

Our LWAP is winding down. This 2-year assessment of the threats to the lake ecosystem in the Echo-Seymour Watershed from our tributaries, shoreland, and roads is now in the design planning stage. The LWAP will be completed in December, but first there will be a public presentation by Bevin Barber Campbell, of Orleans County Natural Resource Conservation District, and Patrick Hurley of Memphremagog Watershed Association. This will be a virtual meeting on December 4 at 3:30PM, and open to all community members.

The purpose of this meeting:

- Share with the watershed community the outcomes of the LWAP process and the next steps.
- To build buy in and engagement opportunities as we close out the development of the plan and work towards implementation. Make sure the actionable nature of the plan is understood and that it makes sense how to take the next steps as a community.
- Provide a space for Q&A and feedback about the plan; to communicate results and next steps; to inspire community members to take next steps.

In August, during a public meeting held at the Morgan Community Center in front of 50 plus interested community members, Patrick Hurley and Bevin Barber Campbell presented their findings of the LWAP. 94 projects were identified between our two lakes, and they announced their prioritized list and the top projects that will be completed to a 30% design stage. The public presentation and the projects identified will be posted to our web site.

There were 4 projects identified as having significant impact on the watershed, with 2 on each lake. Echo Lake's major project is West Echo Lake Road. Our second project is the Fish & Wildlife boat access. A restoration plan to address drainage issues and lakeshore improvements will be designed to a 30% conceptual design stage by Patrick Hurley.

Patrick also presented the West Echo Lake Road restoration plan to the Town Of Charleston, during the October 24 Selectboard Meeting, which Karl, Peggy and Tom attended. The Town is not averse to doing the work, and the Town affirmed their willingness to support and work on the project. Issues confronting the Town will be manpower, time, funding, and a long list of other needed work. However, they agreed in principle that West Echo Lake Road was an area that needs attention.

Our committee's work, however, will not end, as we will need to ensure that the road project and F&W area are completed. Additionally, several other projects (40 or so) were identified and prioritized around Echo Lake. Some are minor, some are much more involved, and all will need to be addressed. The LWAP Committee and ELPA Board will have to develop a plan on how to complete these projects.



Photo credit Karl Koenigsbauer

### **Request for Continued Support – Submitted by Nick Dibble**

All of us have our own unique connection with the lake and the people we share it with. My first memories from forty years ago are fishing for trout with my father in the lake, a pastime I am now happy to share with my children. I hope one day they will be enjoying the lake with their children as well. As caretakers of our lake's history it is also our responsibility to protect the lake so that it can be enjoyed by future community members. Many years ago ELPA established a contingency fund to be used to remove invasive species from the lake. After studying the remediation techniques that may be necessary it became apparent that this would be an expensive endeavor. A goal of raising \$100,000 was set. Although no invasive species have been found in the lake to date, it is likely only a matter of time until the contingency fund will be needed. I am happy to report that through years of hard work by our members we are on the precipice of reaching this funding goal.

While reading this newsletter highlighting our group's active protection of the lake as well as our shared fifty-four-year history, I ask you to consider making a donation to the ELPA contingency fund so that we can reach this milestone and continue to enjoy the lake for generations to come.



# ECHO-SEYMOUR LAKE WATERSHED ACTION PLAN FINAL REPORT

## VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DEC 4, 2024

3:30-5PM

Join us for a public presentation of the FINAL REPORT for the Echo-Seymour LWAP. Hear summary of our findings & discuss NEXT STEPS for implementing restoration projects in the Echo Watershed. Zoom meeting link: [tinyurl.com/Echo-SeyLWAPFinalReport](https://tinyurl.com/Echo-SeyLWAPFinalReport)



Orleans County  
Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
District



### Lay Monitor Report: provided by Tom Wagner and Mike Vinton

2024 was a repeat of 2023. Heavy rains and washouts made for a very turbid lake. In June our Secchi disc readings were 12 meters with the naked eye and 13 meters with the view tube. By July these readings dropped to 5.5 meters and 6.5 meters. By August 6th when our Limnologist, Mark Mitchell, spent the morning with us conducting his own additional testing, these depths were 4.25 meters and 4.6 meters. He informed me that the previous day Seymour's readings were 2.5 meters. Water quality test results will be available for release perhaps by year end. During the three-month sampling time we received 34.94 inches in 2024 vs 25.08 in 2023. We had 17.47 inches in July of this year compared to 11.2 in 2023. Ed Borden admirably substituted for Mike Vinton as our boat pilot for a late July collection.

## Membership Update: submitted by Elaine Carpenter

We are so grateful to so many of you who have continued your membership in the Echo Lake Protective Association (ELPA)! We are pleased that we have 90 members to date. Of those 72 are family memberships, 12 are individual and 6 are friends. 41 of our members have very generously given an additional donation. Maintaining our membership is ongoing work. Letters to renew memberships are sent out throughout the year. New home owners on the lake are contacted and made aware of our work. We also sign up members at our annual meeting in July and the membership picnic in August. Contributions go towards maintaining our greeter program, school educational program, the Color Run and other activities.

If you have not yet been able to join, you may pay electronically or by mail.

Thanks so much for your ongoing support!

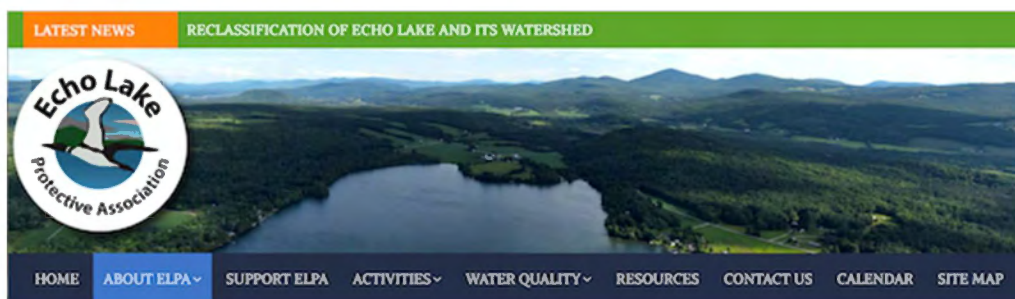
Elaine Carpenter, ELPA Membership

## New On Our Website!

Check It Out! We've added two new items to the ELPA website. The first is a Rapid Response Plan to address Aquatic Invasive Species of the plant variety. If we were to get an infestation, this plan lays out the steps that the association would take in order to eradicate the invasive plants. You can find the plan on our website under the Water Quality tab. The other new item is the History page. Our resident historian, Greg Carpenter, has put together some awesome articles all about Echo Lake. These articles have appeared in our newsletter and now have been compiled on our website. Go to ELPA's website ([www.echolakeassociation.net](http://www.echolakeassociation.net)) and click on "History", which is located at the top of the toolbar. (Submitted by Holly Bull)

Visit our website and explore! <https://www.echolakeassociation.net/>

Thank you to Kristen Wilson for updating and maintaining the website!



## Echo Lake Shore Trail



NorthWoods has made some updates to the Echo Lake Shore Trail!!

Photo Credit John Wall

### Photos? Stories?

Do you have a photo that captures a special moment on the lake that you'd like to share – a sunset, a fish, a cookout, a dive from a dock? Perhaps a poem or story? Some adventure or observation or special event or concern or reflection? We love contributions for our ELPA newsletters. Our goal is to have this newsletter be informative and reflect a sense of community. Any contributions may be sent to [EchoLakePA@gmail.com](mailto:EchoLakePA@gmail.com)

## Light Pollution by Matt Breton

The shortest days of the year are just ahead of us. Darkness descends around us and changes our daily rhythms. We slow down and pause, with a chance to ponder the wonder around us. The moon and snow, if we're lucky, give us enough light to enjoy an early morning walk through the crisp landscape. Sometimes eerie, often magical, these moments are brought to us by darkness.

Interestingly, darkness is under threat. Light pollution is a real and pervasive concern, with impacts on human health as well as on many of the creatures we share the world with. These impacts aren't just in winter, either. Humans lighting up the night sky influences entire ecosystems negatively: bird migrations in spring and fall can be disrupted, night time predator-prey relationships are impacted, bats foraging for insects experience issues, hatching turtles get thrown off in their pursuit of water, and even fish behavior changes.

If any of us head north on the Morgan-Charleston Road after dark, we see a lovely glow in the direction of the border in Derby Line. Turn west on Route 111 and Newport lights the sky. You can see how things look across the country, and in our region, by going to [www.lightpollutionmap.info](http://www.lightpollutionmap.info). While it will take a lot of work to change those areas, we can have a small island of darkness here in our corner of the world if we do a few small things.

Turning off outdoor lights when they're not needed is a simple step. Need lighting for safety? Maybe install a light triggered by a motion sensor (we're shifting to this at our place). If a light needs to be on, consider covering the glow so that there is light only where needed instead of it being broadcast out into the world. Consider turning off inside lights, as well. You'll sleep better!

Many of us fear the dark, but it can and should be a place of peace and quiet (I'll mention noise pollution in another newsletter). I hope next summer I can stand by the lake looking at the stars and see them even better than I do now, due to the beautiful darkness all around.



## Water Quality Report: submitted by Holly Bull

Water Quality Update:

Our Lake Watershed Action Plan, which is an assessment tool to identify problem areas throughout our watershed, will be completed by December. It will be posted on the Department of Environmental Conservation's website: (A link will also be available on ELPA's website.)

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise/lake-watershed-action-plans>

The Echo Lake Protective Association has filed a petition with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to prohibit wake boats and wake sports on Echo Lake. This petition will be reviewed in November to determine if it has validity to move forward. We will keep our members updated.

The buoy educational project that was initiated this summer appears to have been a success. We hope everyone has learned the importance of the 200 foot buffer. Respect this buffer by adhering to Vermont's boating law of the "no wake" zone (less than 5 m.p.h.). It will help protect our lake's shoreline, property, and lake users.

For the summer of 2024, the Echo Lake Protective Association implemented an educational program to remind motorized boat operators about the established "200' Rule". Operating a vessel (except sailboats) at greater than "no wake speed" within 200 feet of: the shoreline, a person in the water, a canoe, rowboat, or other vessel, an anchored or moored vessel with a person on board is a violation of Vermont boating laws. "No wake speed" is the operation of a vessel that does not produce a wake, not to exceed 5 miles per hour.

Keeping motorized boats 200' or more from shore not only protects Echo Lake's water quality, but it also reduces shoreline erosion and keeps lake users safe. So, please respect Echo Lake by respecting Vermont boating laws.

Note: The new rule for wake boats operating in wake sport mode supersedes the established rules for conventional motorboats.

The "200 feet from shore" rule is an important and protective law. Because it may be difficult to gauge how far 200 feet is, ELPA helped our lake users and property owners by deploying 2 buoys. These buoys were placed at various spots on the lake and moved throughout the summer. ELPA wanted to target the most vulnerable areas, like shallow areas that are more susceptible to the stirring up of legacy phosphorus, which is phosphorus that rests on the lakebed.



## Water Quality – How You Can Help

- Stop Invasives: Clear ALL plant and animal matter from your boat, kayak, paddles, anchor, fishing gear, etc. BEFORE entering the water.
- Don't Foul the Lake: Keep trash and plant clippings out of the lake. Avoid gasoline spills. Don't bathe in the lake.
- Check Fishing Gear: Ensure your fishing tackle is lead-free.
- Scoop the Poop: Put all pet waste in the trash. Prevent pathogens, such as round worms, E. coli, Giardia, and salmonella from entering the lake.
- We are in need of more Lakebed plant surveyors!! If you would like to help keep the lake pristine for years to come by keeping an eye on the plant growth on the lake bottom (a great reason to get out on the lake in any form!), please contact us at [EchoLakePA@gmail.com](mailto:EchoLakePA@gmail.com)
- We are in need of more Boat Access Volunteer Greeters!! If you would like to help keep the lake pristine for years to come by greeting boaters at the access, please contact us at [EchoLakePA@gmail.com](mailto:EchoLakePA@gmail.com)

## Vermont Conservation License Plates

A reminder that half of the proceeds derived from the sale of Vermont Conservation License Plates goes towards funding the Vermont Watershed Grant Program, of which we are a recipient. If you are a Vermont resident, please consider purchasing a Vermont Conservation License Plate to support this program.





## 2024 Echo Lake Loon Observations from Laurie Gee

This was an unusually busy loon summer on Echo!

Nest Number One: Our faithful pair that use the nesting platform each year began sitting full time on May 30, and there were two eggs. One hatched on June 26. Mama and chick kept returning to the nest for a couple more days, but the second egg never hatched. (Eric Hansen has told us that one chick is a much more common outcome than two.) Eventually, our grandchildren collected the unhatched egg so that the Vermont Center for Eco-Studies could send it off for research being done on mercury levels in our lakes. The loon family thrived, and all was well until the flood of July 10-11. We never saw the chick after July 10. On July 11, after that night of torrential rain, the parents swam slowly along very close to the shore, one with a piece of fish in its mouth, as if they were looking for their chick so they could feed it and reunite. They cried out, made their quiet familial cooing sound, seeming to stare and stare at the shoreline, swimming way into the rocks nearby. A few hours later, they came by again, equally close to shore. Same thing the next day. No luck.

Nest Number Two: In early June, another loon pair began sitting on an egg on Cedar Point, an area that hadn't been used by a loon pair in about 20 years. The pair sat faithfully for the usual 28 days or so, but the landowners never saw a chick. They did find eggshell fragments in the nest once the loons had abandoned it. There had been a night of very rough waters and big waves, but no one knows what happened.

Nest Number Three: In late July, seemingly way too late to allow a chick to grow and be able to fly off the lake before the lake freezes, we were told that there was a loon sitting on a nest where Dickey Brook flows into Echo. The next morning, we paddled over to take a look since we could not see anything with binoculars. There was no sign of a nest, a loon, or the beach that had been created by the earlier flooding. It occurred to us then—we'd had a whole lot more rain the night before, so anything would have been washed out.

Gatherings: In addition to having at least two separate pairs nesting on Echo Lake this summer, a first as far as I know, we also had some huge gatherings. One evening in early August, friends saw and photographed 12 loons lined up in the middle of the lake. On August 20, I counted 22 in a line up...and I could see one more down the lake in front of Simsarians'! Stay tuned for next year...

## IN REMEMBRANCE: TOM WORTH

Submitted by Tom Wagner

Tom Worth, age 83, passed away on August 10. He was born in Charleston on Valentine's Day in 1941. He lived most of his life on Echo Lake, and even when living away, he and his family made long treks to be on the lake as much as possible. He was fond of telling people that he was conceived on Echo Lake in the camp his grandfather dragged across the ice as a wedding gift for his mother and father.

Tom graduated from Island Pond High School in 1958 and enlisted in the US Air Force, via a buddy program with his good friend, McGee, (an oft mentioned character in Paul Lefebvre's articles.) The two of them served two years together in Japan where they managed to survive a tsunami in Japan which filled their taxicab with cold water!

After leaving the Air Force, Tom moved to Waterbury, Connecticut where he worked as a conductor on the Hartford New Haven Railroad. Tom and Sandra, who was from Island Pond, married in 1965, and they were married for over 57 years until her passing in 2022. He is survived by two children, Lory Wright and Steven Worth and 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

In 1965 the family moved to Catskill, NY, where Tom began his career with the New York State Carpenters' Union under Dockworkers Local 1456. In the late 1990's while working New Years Eve on Boston's Big Dig, Tom fell off an abutment into Boston's Harbor's icy water and was severely injured. It was typical Tom, remaining alone after the workday had ended and in the dark of evening checking on work to make sure it had been completed properly. Fortunately, a couple of women happened to be on a nearby dock and heard his cries for help. As a result of his injuries Tom took an early retirement, meaning he could now spend most of the year at his beloved Echo Lake.

In retirement Tom and Sandy split their time between Echo Lake and their home in Port Charlotte, Florida, although by the first of January, Tom was on his way back to Echo, so that he could spend hours every day on the snowmobile trails. If he got back in time in January, he was usually the first snowmobiler to test the ice conditions on Echo, making the first crossing to the trail on the Moulton Farm, which he did at 60 mph just in case there was some bad ice. Tom loved winters on Echo, but he reluctantly returned to Florida in early March to be with Sandy.

In his earlier years Tom had a pilot's license and loved to fly. He had a pontoon plane which he flew in and out of Echo Lake, tying it up to his dock.

Tom was a generous person, always willing to lend a hand to whoever needed assistance, but never asking for any return favor. He was a member of the American Legion in Island Pond and member of its Honor Guard, marching in parades and participating in veterans' funerals. Tom played the bugle and performed taps. He also loved his dogs, and dogs loved him. He and his dog cruised around Echo Lake on his pontoon boat almost every late afternoon, no matter the weather or temperature. He tried to be the last boat remaining in fall, and usually exited the lake in November.

## Charleston Elementary School Program: submitted by Peter Bestenbostel

For many years now ELPA has sponsored two environmentally focused programs at Charleston Elementary School. One integrates lake and watershed studies into the third grade curriculum (SISKIN), the other works with older kids in a more hands on approach after school to explore Echo Lake and the surrounding watershed (NorthWoods). Both the Siskin program for third grade students at the school and the after school program provided by NorthWoods for older students are underway this coming school year! The two programs have submitted budgets which have been approved by the ELPA board, and new water bottles for each student have been ordered for the school year.

I usually have stopped by at the school for the fall open house and in recent years Holly has joined me and we've set up a table with hands on lake stuff (jars of native water plants, loon videos with calls, a magnetic fish matching game, and candy, of course). The kids love it and to my surprise the parents do as well. It generates good conversation about keeping our lake healthy, what fish everyone caught and where they caught them. It seems a good way to connect lake protection with the broader community of Charleston.



Photo credit Peter Bestenbostel

## Autumn at Echo Lake



Photo credit Elaine Carpenter

## Lakebed Survey Fall 2024 Report: Peggy Stevens

First, thanks to our surveyors: Susan Czerepak, Tom and Amy Wagner, Lori Kempton, Holly Bull, Mary Kenison, Steve Gratton, Peter Bestenbostel and Ann Hunsicker, Hugh Hawkins, Peggy Stevens.

Now that the Lakebed Survey season is coming to a close, we can report no AIS have been sighted in our lake. Yea! This after a near-miss intercepted in September by our first line of defense Access Greeter staff. Thank you, Ryan!

Even though we were short on surveyors after we lost three veterans (Larry Martin, Patti Lennon and MaryAnne O'Brien) we have four new volunteers who will participate in VIP training next spring so they can be certified to take on sections that need coverage. Meanwhile, Peggy provided informational resources to Marc Shattuck and Alan Brouillette to orient them to our effort. Additional resource packets will be requested from Kim Jensen, our Lakes and Ponds Coordinator, and provided to Beth Lecours and Debbie Zuaro, who have most recently offered to become lake bed surveyors.

Peggy will request a schedule of VIP trainings from Kim Jensen for next Spring. As always, we encourage all property owners to become VIPs and to become familiar with and monitor their own lakebed for any changes in or unusual vegetation. Peggy will continue to be available to consult on any questions that may arise.

Holly Bull and Mary Kenison have covered much of the lakebed again this year, including sections once surveyed by Larry, Patti and MaryAnne; thank you!

In summary, vegetation has been reduced in some areas and has increased in others, notably in the Big-leaf pondweed (BLP) beds around the N, W and S shores of the lake. Eastern end of the lake is strangely much less vegetated in areas previously more dense.

Water clarity has improved since July flooding events, but increase in lake depth and turbidity in July and August may have suppressed growth on the lakebed from the Access around to the inlet on the S/E bed of the lake. Peter B. reports a healthy forest of BLP and clasping leaf on his end that seems to be turning color like the fall leaves? Curious!

Holly also continues to monitor water quality, including LaRosa grant sampling and cyanobacteria testing. Tom has been doing lay monitoring with Mike Vinton with assistance from Ed Borden, along with managing Lakewise. These projects complement our Access greeter and lakebed survey projects. Huge thanks to all for their efforts to preserve our A1 water quality.

Petitions to upgrade Echo's classification to A1 status and to have a permanent ban on wake boats in our lake have been endorsed by the Charleston Selectboard and both await a decision by DEC/ANR. This petition process has been prolonged, and it is hoped the outcome will be favorable for Echo. Our Water Quality Committee has been diligent in seeing these petitions through, thanks especially to Holly and Tom.

Buoys work, need more! Two buoys were deployed in the lake this year in hopes of indicating where the 200 foot "no wake zone-5mph" is. The no-wake zone is essential to protect recreational use and reduce shoreline erosion and disturbance of the lakebed which releases legacy phosphorus. Peggy observed that when the buoys were set on the Northwoods to Moulton Bay end of the lake earlier in the summer, boats were moving more slowly, consequently stirring up less of the lake bottom phosphorus in these relatively shallow waters.

Once removed to the Duck Rock end of the lake, motor boats returned to going too fast in water too shallow. We need more buoys, in both places mentioned as well as on the shallow section between Birch Point and Thompsons and probably over in the Dickey Brook area.

We recommend extending the Access Greeter and lakebed survey season to end of September since traffic has been steady at the access. These efforts will require increased funding.

## Power Outage Postpones ELPA Annual Picnic: submitted by Holly Bull

High winds knocked out power around Echo Lake delaying our annual picnic. Luckily, one week later and with the power restored, association members were able to gather and enjoy a wonderful evening on the Engels' property. While the kids ran about playing games and creating driveway art with chalk, the adults chatted and caught up with each other. Everyone indulged on the delicious food prepared by our talented association cooks. One particular dish that is always a hit and is usually the first bowl to be scraped clean is Nancy Engels' Kale Salad. With a bit of prompting, Nancy agreed to share it with us. The recipe is below – enjoy!



Photo Credit Nancy Engels

The key to the KALE Salad is the dressing. This recipe will make more dressing than you need for one salad. But it is good on other salads and things.

Dressing:

1/2 cup lemon juice (can exceed 1/2 cup a little)

2 Tablespoons Dijon Mustard

6 or more pressed garlic cloves

1 cup, plus 2 Tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil (I use Kirkland, from Costco)

Salt and pepper to taste

Mix all this with a blending stick (immersion blender or whisk) until thoroughly homogenized.

Store in glass jar(s)—do not refrigerate or it will separate

Basic Kale Salad:

Strip leaves from stems and then gather leaves in bunches and use a sharp knife to slice in shreds—like coleslaw

Add sprinkling of golden raisins

Pine nuts (carefully browned)—or use chopped walnuts, also browned

Options at this point: grated radish, coarsely chopped red onion, or chopped tart apple.

A few hours before serving add dressing to the Kale mixture—probably about 1/4 to 1/3 cup and toss thoroughly—I use gloves and do it by hand. Adjust amount to your taste.

Leftover salad is pretty good for a couple of days.

Mark your calendars for the 2025 ELPA Annual Picnic on Saturday August 9, 2025!

## ELPA ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you to NorthWoods Stewardship Center for again hosting the ELPA Annual Meeting 2024 after flooding issues prevented the Annual Meeting from being held at the lake as previously planned. Mark your calendars for the ELPA Annual Meeting on Saturday July 19, 2025!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025:

Green Up Day -- Saturday May 3, 2025

Color Run Challenge – Sunday July 6, 2025

Annual ELPA Meeting – Saturday July 19, 2025 at 9:00 am at NorthWoods Stewardship Center

Annual ELPA Picnic – Saturday August 9, 2025 at 4:30 pm

2025 ELPA Board Meetings –

January 16, 2025

May 15, 2025

September 18, 2025

**Echo Lake Protective Association**  
**PO Box 41**  
**East Charleston, Vermont 05833**

For more information, visit our  
website -  
<https://www.echolakeassociation.net/>



*Photo by Doug Gimler*

Submitted on November 4, 2024 by Lori Kempton, ELPA Secretary