



Lake Champlain Basin Program

CASIN' THE BASIN E-NEWS

October 2009 | Issue #9

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APPLY NOW: \$145,000 IN LCBP LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS AVAILABLE!

The LCBP is currently seeking proposals for four grant categories:

- 1 - Pollution Prevention or Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention
- 2 - Organizational Support
- 3 - Education and Outreach
- 4 - 2009 Pollution Reduction on Small Farms in the Missisquoi and St. Albans Bay Basins

These grants support local community and farmer involvement with the implementation of the comprehensive management plan, *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin*. To learn more and to access grant guidelines and applications visit our [Grants webpage](#). For grant related questions contact Eric Howe at ehowe@lcbp.org or call (802) 372-3213 ext. 18. *All applications are due on December 4, 2009.*

Since 1992, the LCBP has awarded nearly \$3.6 million in grants. See what's been funded in our [Grant Database](#).

STAY TUNED: The LCBP will issue a request for proposals for approximately \$100,000 in **Local Habitat Restoration and Connectivity Grants** later this year.

INVASIVE VARIABLE-LEAVED WATERMILFOIL FOUND IN LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Variable-leaved watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) was confirmed in Missisquoi Bay in September 2009. Like Eurasian watermilfoil, variable-leaved watermilfoil can be difficult to control once established. The plant was also found in Vermont's Hall Lake in fall 2008. It spreads by stem pieces,



roots, and seeds, and "hitchhiking" on boats and recreational equipment. For more information on variable-leaved watermilfoil visit [the Vermont DEC website](#). For information on other aquatic nuisance species, visit the [LCBP's Aquatic Invasive Species webpage](#) or contact Meg Modley at (802) 372-3213 ext. 15, or email mmodley@lcbp.org.

IMAGE: A comparison between Eurasian watermilfoil (left) and Variable-leaved watermilfoil (right), VT DEC Photo.

WAYSIDE EXHIBITS ONLINE

Explore the unique local stories of the Lake Champlain region through the LCBP's Wayside Exhibits. The exhibits feature nature trails, heritage walks, tales of battles that shaped our region, and recent projects to clean-up the Lake, restore rivers and prevent pollution. The new exhibits are located at Clinton County Community College, Otter View Park in Middlebury, Potash Brook in South Burlington, and along Lake Champlain Byways in Chittenden County. A total of 169 exhibits have been created to date in the Basin. Check out [LCBP's Wayside Exhibit Website](#) to see them all online!

To learn how to create a wayside exhibit in your area, contact LCBP Cultural Heritage and Recreation Coordinator, Jim Brangan at jbrangan@lcbp.org. Or call (802) 372-3213 ext. 13.

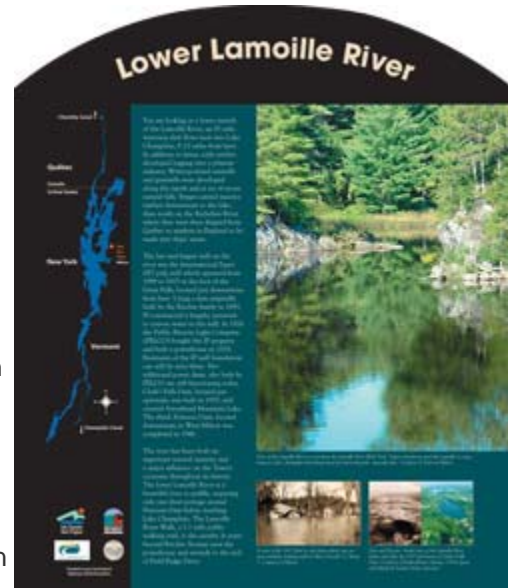


IMAGE: A Wayside Exhibit along the Lamoille River--part of Lake Champlain Byways.

WATCH US ON YOU TUBE AND READ OUR BLOG!

Check out the LCBP's new [YouTube Channel](#).

The YouTube Channel shows basin-related videos including a "Don't P on Your Lawn" public service announcement.

Have a question about the watershed? Hundreds of questions asked by Resource Room guests have been recorded and a selection of questions and responses are available on the [Lake Champlain Questions Blog](#). More will be posted regularly.



While you're on YouTube, be sure to check out [ECHO's Voices for the Lake](#) videos. ECHO recently recorded a film about invasive plant removal by the Lewis Creek Association, which was funded by an LCBP local grant.

IMAGE: The "Don't P on Your Lawn" PSA.

A BUSY SUMMER IN THE RESOURCE ROOM

More than 10,000 visitors came to the Resource Room this summer--our busiest summer yet! The LCBP Resource Room extends a heartfelt thank you to all of our volunteers and staff that helped broaden guests' knowledge of Lake and Basin issues. Guests asked hundreds of watershed questions, viewed our new *Indigenous Expressions* exhibits, made observations in the Brown Snake's diary, and enjoyed our Basin Box exhibits and puzzles. The LCBP Resource Room is located on the second floor of ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain in Burlington. Drop in for a visit or call (802) 864-1848 ext. 109 for more information.



IMAGE: Guests enjoy the hands-on Discovery Cabinet exhibit in the LCBP Resource Room.

ATTENTION TEACHERS! WATERSHED MODEL DEMOS AND FREE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

It was a busy spring and summer with LCBP staff completing 52 watershed presentations to school groups and community groups. The LCBP provides opportunities for teachers and students to learn more about the Lake through: [CBEI Teacher Education programs](#), free school programs, and with the help of our Resource Room staff at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain.



For more information visit our [Educational Resources webpage](#) or contact Colleen Hickey at chickey@lcbp.org or call (802) 372-3213 ext. 11. Contact the Resource Room at (802) 864-1848 ext. 109.

IMAGE: Education staff Laura Hollowell explains the watershed model on at rainy day at Ethan Allen Field Day.

MICHIGAN STUDY SHOWS PHOSPHORUS-FREE FERTILIZERS DECREASE "P" RUNOFF

While phosphorus is an important nutrient for crop growth, too much of a good thing causes undesired algae blooms in the Lake. Agricultural sources of excess phosphorus are commonly cited; however, urban and suburban sources are also large contributors of phosphorus. A recent by the University of Michigan looked at phosphorus levels before and after a ban on phosphorus-based lawn fertilizer was enacted. Phosphorus levels in the Huron River dropped by 28% after the 2006 ordinance. Details of the study are available on



the [University of Michigan website](#).

Although phosphorus-based fertilizers are legal in Vermont and New York, local studies have shown that they are not needed for a healthy lawn and lawn care experts recommend using phosphorus-free products. To find places to buy phosphorus free fertilizers and learn other lake-friendly lawn care tips, visit [Lawn to Lake website](#).

IMAGE: Using phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer.

BAIKAL GUESTS VISIT CHAMPLAIN

Twelve representatives from the Lake Baikal region visited the LCBP to learn about phosphorus, aquatic nuisance species, and cultural heritage programs. The group included government officials, teachers, scientists, and lake managers--all with a special interest in working across political borders and understanding how the democratic process influences policy. LCBP staff shared their expertise in managing Lake issues across state and federal borders. Lake Baikal is located in the south-central region of Russia north of Mongolia. It is the world's oldest and deepest lake and contains over 20% of the world's fresh water.



IMAGE: Lake Baikal is home to the freshwater Baikal seal. LakeNet photo.

CBEI TEACHER ALUMNI EVENT

"Watershed for Every Classroom" alumni are invited to a talk by Dr. Dave Franzi about Lake Champlain Valley /Adirondack geology and the glaciers that once covered our region. Dr. Franzi is a Distinguished Teaching Professor at SUNY Plattsburgh's Center for Earth and Environmental Science Department. He and his students discovered seal bones this fall while studying shoreline geology. The event will be held Friday, December 4th from 5-7pm in Burlington. A formal invitation will be sent to CBEI alumni soon.

To RSVP contact Colleen Hickey at chickey@lcbp.org or call (802) 372-3213 ext. 11. Learn more about [CBEI here](#).

LCBP REPRESENTED AT GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY MEETING

Meg Modley, the LCBP's Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator was recently invited to present at the Biennial International Joint Commission (IJC) Boundary Waters Treaty meeting in Windsor, Ontario. The IJC is developing a bi-national Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plan for the Great Lakes and wanted to learn from the LCBP's interjurisdictional experiences in developing a rapid response plan. Download the [Lake Champlain rapid response plan](#) or call Meg Modley at (802) 372-3213 ext. 15 or email mmodley@lcbp.org for more information.

CONTACT US!**Main Office in Grand Isle:**

54 West Shore Road
Grand Isle, VT 05458
(802) 372-3213 or (800) 468-5227 (toll-free in NY & VT)



LCBP Resource Room: The Resource Room at The Leahy Center for Lake Champlain (top floor of ECHO Lake Aquarium & Science Center) is open to the public seven days/week. Call (802) 864-1848 ext. 109 for more information.

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