

CASIN' THE BASIN

VOLUME XI

W I N T E R 2 0 0 4

NUMBER 1



Lake Champlain
Basin Program

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GREAT NEWS ON 2009
PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION
TIMELINE! (see page 5...)

The ABC's of Stormwater...

from Classroom to Community

Amy Picotte, VT DEC



Sixth graders from Edmunds Middle School stenciled Burlington, VT stormdrains for the Project Wet Make-A-Splash! day in September.

Urban storm water runoff is a hot topic these days. While much attention had been paid to legal battles among state agencies, developers, and environmental groups, progress is being made towards informing the public about this tricky issue...

Continued on page 4.

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A New Year, New Look, New Work to Do!

A lot has happened since our last edition. First of all, *Casin' the Basin* has a sharp new look to start 2004! We've shortened and reformatted it to save costs, while still providing the latest news about cleaning up (and enjoying) Lake Champlain. As always, we welcome your suggestions.

Last October, we had a great turnout at four public meetings in Plattsburgh and Ticonderoga, NY and in Vergennes and St. Albans, VT. More than 200 people attended, providing feedback, insight and guidance about how we can best implement *Opportunities for Action*. I thank everyone who participated, the organizations who brought displays, and all those who sent written comments. The comments and the messages were presented to the Steering Committee.

We're delighted with the US Environmental Protection Agency's 2004 appropriation of \$1.7 million for the Basin Program, part of a \$7.2 million funding program announced by Senator Patrick Leahy in late January. The Steering Committee, with advice from public meeting participants, and the LCBP advisory committees, has developed and approved the budget that allocates these funds. Many other US Federal programs also have FY 2004 funding for essential Lake Champlain projects (see page 10).

Vermont, New York and Québec also have expanded their support for cleaning up Lake Champlain. In September, Governor Jim Douglas unveiled Vermont's aggressive new Clean & Clear Water Action Plan to accelerate the reduction of phosphorus pollution and focus on the problems in Missisquoi Bay (see page 9). In November,

Governor George Pataki announced funding through the New York Drinking and Clean Water State Revolving Funds to several Basin communities for vitally important wastewater treatment plant upgrades. Québec has greatly expanded its commitment to cleaning up Missisquoi Bay with new treatment plant upgrades; vigorous farm inspections; and the revitalization and funding of its partnership with the citizens group, Corporation Bassin Versant Baie Missisquoi (see page 7).

Cleaning up the Lake takes far more than government funding, essential though that is. We will restore Lake Champlain's water quality only when we work together to learn about the problems, learn what we as individuals can do to solve them, and then take the right steps to make it happen. Learn about this and other important Lake issues at the Lake Champlain Basin Program Resource Room at ECHO in Burlington or check our website, www.lcbp.org.

- Bill Howland, Program Manager

LCBP



Bill Howland shares an update on the implementation of the Lake Champlain management plan with citizens at the St. Albans public meeting last October.

About the Lake Champlain Basin Program

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) was created by the Lake Champlain Special Designation Act of 1990. Our mission is implementing the Lake Champlain management plan, *Opportunities for Action*. Program partners include New York, Vermont, and Québec, the US Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies, local government leaders, businesses, and citizen groups. The Lake Champlain Steering Committee (sidebar) leads the LCBP. The LCBP receives annual US federal appropriations. Many sources fund Plan actions including federal, state, local, and provincial agencies, and local communities, businesses, and individuals. Visit our website at www.lcbp.org to learn more, or call (800) 468-5227 in NY or VT.

Local Grants Awarded by LCBP for 2003

The Lake Champlain Basin Program awarded \$142,000 in 2003 through its grant programs, but more funds could have been spent if funds were available. Eighty-three application requests totaled \$555,253. An additional \$25,000 will be awarded to Education and Outreach projects later this winter.

Annual Priorities

Missisquoi River Basin Association:

MRBA Water Quality Improvement Program. \$8,700

Lake Champlain Committee:

Bi-lingual Boating Publication. \$7,000

Town of Williston:

Step Pool Implementation in the Tributary of Sucker Brook in Williston, VT. \$5,000

Lewis Creek Association:

Watershed Based Planning for Pollution Prevention in Lewis Creek Watershed. \$10,000

Richmond Recreation Path Committee:

Johnnie Brook Bridge Project. \$2,522

Washington County SWCD:

Poultney-Mettowee Watershed Agricultural Nutrient Management Planning. \$9,000

Intervale Foundation:

Vermont Riparian Project. \$4,000

Winooski NRCD:

Brown's River Watershed Assessment - Phase II. \$5,930

Boquet River Association:

Two Towns & County: Semi-Aquatic Invasive Plant Best Management Practices. \$14,950

City of St. Albans:

Stevens Brook Floodplain Terrace and Riparian Buffer. \$6,000

Organizational Support Grants

Friends of the Mad River:

Friends of the Mad River Watershed Coordinator. \$3,000

Lamoille County NRCD:

Creation of the Lamoille Watershed Association. \$3,000

Mirror Lake Watershed Association:

Mirror Lake Watershed Association Organizational Support. \$1,483

AuSable River Association:

Organizational Support for the AuSable River Association. \$3,000

Missisquoi River Basin Association:

Missisquoi Watershed Organizational Support. \$3,000

Poultney-Mettowee Watershed Partnership:

Organizational Support for the Poultney-Mettowee Watershed Partnership. \$3,000

Lewis Creek Association:

Lewis Creek Association. \$3,000

Richmond Land Trust:

Richmond Land Trust Stewardship Intern Project. \$3,000

Clinton County SWCD:

Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of NY Support Grant. \$3,000

Central VT Regional Planning Commission:

Development of the Cross Vermont Trail in 11 Basin Towns. \$3,000

About LCBP Grants

More than 500 communities, school programs and non-profit organizations have received LCBP grants since 1991. Grants are made possible through our annual USEPA appropriation, and in some instances, National Park Service funding was also available. For each grant round, an advisory panel of informed volunteers from New York and Vermont reviews and ranks the proposals, and provides recommendations to LCBP's Executive Committee.

Partnership Grants

Lake Colby Association:

Eurasian Water Milfoil Control Project on Lake Colby. \$4,500

Cornell Cooperative Extension-Clinton County:

Maintaining & Improving the Environmental, Economic and Social Benefits of Farmland by Improving Access to Needed Information. \$3,500

Boquet River Association:

Integrated Environmental Protection Actions for the Public. \$4,500

Friends of the Winooski:

Winooski River Stream Teams. \$3,000

Middlebury Area Land Trust:

Champlain Valley Clayplain Forest Project. \$4,500

Poultney-Mettowee NRCD:

Water Quality Monitoring and Education. \$3,500

Otter Creek Audubon Society:

Dead Creek Wildlife Day. \$1,500

City of Winooski, Parks & Recreation Dept:

Gilbrook Natural Area Education/Enhancement. \$2,000

Trout Unlimited:

Saranac River Temperature Study. \$2,000

South Hero Land Trust:

Round Pond Phragmites Removal Project. \$3,000

Essex County Historical Society:

On the Trail of John Brown: What Mary Brown Saw, Interpretive Material. \$3,000

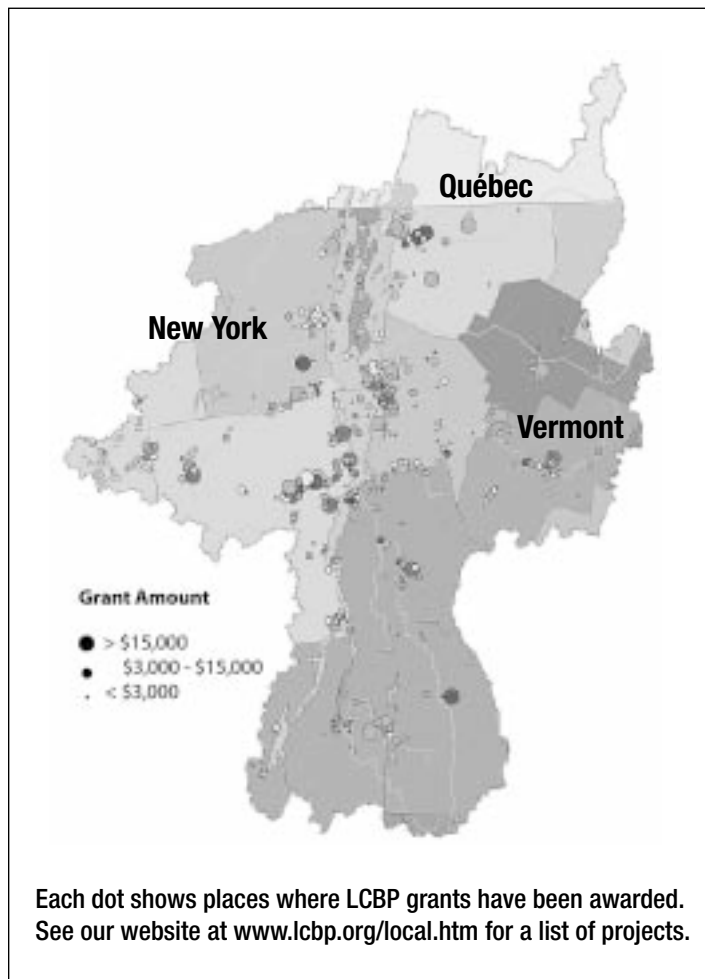
Local Motion:

Cycle the City Guided Tours. \$2,000

Adirondack Watershed Institute:

Adirondack Lake Assessment Program: Building a Citizen Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Network. \$2,500

LCBP



Continued from page 1.

In communities and classrooms the message is growing louder—everyone can help prevent polluted runoff to Lake Champlain.

Drains to Lake! Don't Dump!

This message is increasingly common on storm drains, especially in Burlington and Plattsburgh. First started in this region by the Lake Champlain Committee, stenciling is now done by many watershed groups, such as Voice for the Potash, and by local students. The simple phrase, "Drains to Lake! Don't Dump!" reminds residents of the connection between our driveways, streets, and waterways.

Last September, 150 fifth and sixth-graders from Edmunds Middle School and the Renaissance School took part in the "Make a Splash" festival, sponsored by Project Wet of the Vermont DEC and ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. The LCBP provided teachers and students with educational materials. Students cleaned up trash and stenciled 80 drains in downtown Burlington.

"Involving the kids in storm drain stenciling provided them with a great hands-on experience preventing pollution," said Amy Picotte, Vermont DEC Project WET Coordinator. "The kids got the point that toxics and other pollution washed into the drain can flow directly to the Lake, and had fun spreading this pollution prevention message."

To learn more about Project Wet, contact Amy Picotte of the Vermont DEC at (802) 241-3789, or visit www.vtwaterquality.org/lakespwet.htm.

Watershed Science Goes to High School

Local high school students are learning the science of water quality and monitoring through an innovative program called The Watershed Alliance. The program links water resource college students as mentors to high school educators who want to explore water quality monitoring. Twelve Vermont and two New York schools are investigating water quality in nine watersheds. The Watershed Alliance in Vermont is a partnership among Lake Champlain Sea Grant, the University of Vermont Extension, and The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources. Plattsburgh State University and Lake Champlain Sea Grant form the New York Watershed Alliance.

"Thanks to these inquisitive students, drinking water contaminated with *E. coli* was found in one town, which led to a boil water notice," said Caitrin Noel, the Vermont Watershed Alliance Coordinator. "The town was then able to quickly address and fix the water problem."

The Watershed Alliance is creating an online database for fall 2004, called the Vermont Water Quality Gateway. The website will feature data collected by participating schools and citizen monitoring programs. Learn more by visiting the Watershed Alliance online at www.uvm.edu/~watershd, or contact Caitrin Noel for the Vermont Program at (802) 656-5428 and Susie Trzaskos at (518) 564-3038 for the New York program.

Survey Says: Adults Need Stormwater Education

While students are fast becoming water quality experts, a recent survey shows that Chittenden County residents are mostly unaware of how household activities like washing cars and fertilizing lawns can impact waterways. For example, nearly two-thirds of respondents did not know that water from their lawns and gardens runs untreated into storm drains, creeks, rivers, or Lake Champlain. The Lake Champlain Committee (LCC) and the Regional Stormwater Education Program (RSEP) surveyed four hundred Chittenden County residents last fall.

"Sediment is the leading cause of water quality problems in urban streams," said Mike Winslow, staff scientist for the LCC. "Sources of sediment include runoff from impervious surfaces and lawns. These survey results tell us that people aren't connecting their personal actions to problems in local waterways."

Additional survey results showed that 40% of residents use fertilizers on their lawns or gardens, 32% use pesticides, and 32% use herbicides. Of dog owners, 27% do not pick up pet waste on walks and 38% do not dispose of it from their lawns. Pet waste can contaminate surface waters with bacteria and viruses and is one cause of beach closures.

RSEP will launch a stormwater education campaign in Chittenden County this spring designed to change some of these behaviors that impact water quality. Funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, the goal is to help communities of more than 100,000 raise public awareness about polluted runoff. The outreach is required by Phase II stormwater regulations for municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).

VT Watershed Alliance



Students from the SUCCESS school, an alternative school in Rutland, collected benthic macroinvertebrates from Moon Brook with the Watershed Alliance. Moon Brook is currently on Vermont's 303 (d) impaired waters list.

Burlington, South Burlington, Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction, Winooski, Shelburne, and Williston are involved in the stormwater project. Burlington International Airport, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and the University of Vermont also come under the new regulations. Currently these are the only towns in the Lake Champlain Basin that meet the population requirements of the Phase II regulations.

"The RSEP will use simple messages that focus on small steps people can take in their daily lives," said Dennis Lutz, Chair of the RSEP and Director of Public Works/Town Engineer for the Town of Essex. "We will use printed materials, television, radio and the Internet to help people learn how they can improve water quality in the Lake with basic changes in their everyday lives. Greater awareness of stormwater issues and a commitment to changing behaviors will go a long way to improving the water quality of our local waterways."

For more information about the RSEP or survey results, please contact Dennis Lutz, RSEP Chair, DPW Town of Essex at (802) 878-1344 or Bryan Osborne, DPW Town of Colchester at (802) 654-0716.

Linking Clean Water with Community Planning

While changing individuals' behavior will make great strides towards helping the Lake, communities must adopt more Lake-friendly planning and development as well. A new program, called the "Smart Growth & Stormwater Roundtable," is linking the hot topic of smart

growth, which attempts to curb sprawling development with stormwater issues. The roundtables are designed to help municipalities deal with the Phase II US Environmental Protection Agency stormwater regulations.

"We're involving town planners, town officials, transportation groups, businesses, developers, environmentalists, and others to explore creative uses of design and development density to improve water quality, as well as revitalize neighborhoods and town centers," said Jan Mueller of the National Wildlife Federation.

An LCBP grant of \$26,000 to the Lake Champlain Committee, National Wildlife Federation, the Vermont Forum on Sprawl, and the Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board is supporting the project. Three workshops for stormwater and land use professionals were held last fall in Burlington, Plattsburgh, and Lake George Village. Future workshops will present the findings to a wider audience of professionals and decision-makers. Issue briefs will also be produced for local officials that describe priority land use strategies for stormwater management, and recommend actions for conflict resolution between smart growth and stormwater management.

To learn more about the project, contact Jan Mueller of the National Wildlife Federation at (802) 229-0650.

More Local Initiatives

The LCBP has also supported several other local initiatives related to stormwater runoff. A policy options and economic analysis for reducing phosphorus loads in Lake Champlain will be finalized this spring. This study, which was supported by a \$40,000 LCBP grant, will result in much needed information about how phosphorus load reductions can be achieved.

Other recent LCBP-funded projects in New York include a storm drain filter demonstration project in Lake George (\$2,200, Lake George Association); and a stormwater management guide (\$2,500, Town of North Elba and Village of Lake Placid). In Vermont, funded projects include Bartlett Brook stormwater evaluation and outreach (\$13,500, City of South Burlington); volunteer stormwater monitoring (\$2,500, Burlington Eco-Info); and storm drain stenciling of the Potash Brook watershed (\$3,000, Voice for Potash Brook). Contact the LCBP at (802) 372-3213 for more information about these projects.

LCC



Help the Lake
Take the Pledge

Local residents can take action for a clean lake now by taking LCC's free Lake Protection Pledge. Contact the LCC at (802) 658-1414, or visit www.lakechamplainpledge.org.

Vermont & Québec Adopt 2009 Phosphorus Reduction Timeline

After another summer of wide spread blue-green algae problems on Missisquoi Bay, Québec and Vermont decided to accelerate the phosphorus load reduction timeline for the Lake Champlain TMDL to 2009 in every way possible. The original phosphorus loading goals in *Opportunities for Action* were to be achieved by 2016. The Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee and the Lake Champlain Committee have long advocated achieving this goal by 2009.

Last fall, Vermont Governor Douglas and Québec Premier Charest, whose jurisdictions share the troubled Missisquoi watershed, decided to adopt the ambitious 2009 target! The Clean and Clear Action Plan, issued by Governor Douglas in September, is described on page nine. The LCBP appreciates the initiative of the Vermont CAC and leadership of Vermont and Québec in addressing this aspect of phosphorus reduction so directly.

Champlain 2000 Captures NALMS Award!

Champlain 2000, the news story partnership among WPTZ, the LCBP, and KeyBank won the national North American Lake Management Society's (NALMS) Technical Excellence Award in recognition of extending effective and creative education in lake restoration, protection and management. In its fifth year of production, *Champlain 2000* airs every Monday at 6pm on News Channel 5. Check out www.lcbp.org/cham2000.htm or the champlainchannel.com for more information.



Algae Investigators

Health advisories for swimming in July and August were posted by Québec and Vermont again this past summer for Missisquoi Bay and St. Albans Bay. To help understand this trouble-maker, researchers from UVM's Rubenstein Lab continued monitoring Lake Champlain for blue-green algae blooms and toxicity levels from June to October. Volunteers from the Lake Champlain Committee watched for shoreline blooms. A team from the Québec Ministry of the Environment also tested Missisquoi Bay. Learn more about blue-green algae at: www.lcbp.org/bgalgae.htm, or contact the Rubenstein Lab at (802) 859-3086.

Check out more Basin Bulletins about current Lake projects on display at ECHO in Burlington. Lake exhibits are also on display at the Champlain Centres North in Plattsburgh (see page 9).

Basin Bulletin

An eye on what's new on a

New Farm Heritage Trail

Explore the history of Heart's Delight Farm in Chazy, NY, which was owned by the wealthy industrialist W.H. Miner, the founder of the W.H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute. The trail features ten signs designed by the LCBP using the popular wayside exhibit template. Heart's Delight Farm was once a large diversified farming operation with 800 employees and 300 buildings. The trail is on the grounds of the Miner Institute and is open to the public. Call (518) 846-7121 for more information. Visit www.lcbp.org/wayside.htm to learn more about the exhibits or call the LCBP's Jim Brangan at (802) 372-3213.



Biodiversity Exhibit at ECHO!

Biodiversity 911: *Saving Life on Earth* opened January 31st at ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. This traveling exhibit highlights the urgency of biodiversity loss, and helps people learn how they can help protect biodiversity. The exhibit introduces visitors to six major threats to biodiversity: over-fishing, illegal wildlife trade, global climate change, unsustainable forest use, soil depletion, and toxic chemicals. Visitors are left with a positive message: There are steps they can take to help protect biodiversity in their community and around the world! Visit www.echovermont.org to learn more about ECHO or call (802) 864-1848.

Lake Champlain Sea Grant News

Lake Champlain Sea Grant (LCSG) received \$202,000 in 2004 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for its activities in education and public awareness; coastal communities and economies; and fisheries and aquatic resources. Matching funds from the University of Vermont and Plattsburgh State University support the LCSG-managed Watershed Alliance (see page 4).

For 2004 and 2005, \$150,000 of annual NOAA funds will support applied research in the Basin. Projects include developing a population model to improve lamprey control; researching improved cormorant population management; investigating using ultrasound for water chestnut control; and studying the effects of lampricides on stream communities.

LCSG also supports a local graduate student in the Washington DC-based Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program. The program is for students interested in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources, and national policy. Contact Jurij Homziak, Executive Director and Watershed Specialist, LCSG, at (802) 656-0682 for more information, or visit www.uvm.edu/~seagrant.

u l l e t i n

n d a r o u n d L a k e C h a m p l a i n !

CACs Tour New York Farms

The New York and Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee (CACs) toured several New York farms last October. Stops included Giroux Poultry to learn about composting; the Gravelle Farm to see a runoff improvement project; and Adirondack Farms to see how a large dairy handles animal waste. At Northern Orchards, participants heard about integrated pest management and were treated to a farm fresh apple. The NY CAC and the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York (CWICNY) hosted the tour to show how farmers are doing their part to help Lake Champlain. Contact Art Stemp, NYSDEC, at (518) 897-1211 for information about the NYCAC. CWICNY's contact is Steve Mahoney, (518) 561-4616.

Sea Grant Offers Fisheries Leadership Institute

Lake Champlain Sea Grant is participating in a regional Great Lakes effort to equip businesses, tourism interests, elected officials, and others with a better understanding of aquatic biology, fisheries habitat, fisheries management, aquatic nuisance species, and other issues as they effect Lake Champlain's sport fishery. Participants in the Lake Champlain Fisheries Leadership Institute must attend two intensive training sessions in March and a June follow-up meeting of field and lab sampling. Participants will be selected from a pool of applicants. To receive an application package, contact the LCSG Extension Office at (518) 564-3038.

Chris Maron



Tour participants learned about a swale built to control runoff on the Gravelle Farm in Beekmantown, NY.

Québec Update

Our northern neighbors have been busy with Missisquoi Bay Projects. The Québec Ministry of Environment (QCMENV) and the Missisquoi Bay Basin Corporation have a draft of their *Phosphorus Reduction Action Plan* in Missisquoi Bay (*Plan d'action sur la réduction du phosphore dans la baie Missisquoi*) underway. Four meetings will be held this spring for public input: March 20, Agriculture and Forestry; April 17, Municipalities and Industries; May 15, Recreation, Tourism, and Cultural Heritage; and June 19, Water Resources and Water Quality.

The Corporation has also been coordinating several new research projects on the Bay. Projects include a shoreline erosion study, vegetation survey of the bay, and sediment sampling for phosphorus and organic matter.

The QCMENV is nearing completion of a French translation of *Opportunities for Action*, the Lake Champlain management plan. Titled *Perspectives D'Action*, it will be printed later this winter. The Lake Champlain Basin Program thanks the QCMENV for taking on this monumental task, which will lead to greater awareness of Lake Champlain issues on both sides of the border.

Finally, Martin Mimeault of the QCMENV, who has served on the LCBP's Technical Advisory Committee, is now the staff person for the new Regional Director, Lorraine Goyette, who serves on the Lake Champlain Steering Committee.

For more information on Québec activities and the location of the public meetings, please contact Chantal D'Auteuil of the Missisquoi Bay Basin Corporation at (450) 446-9510 or cdauteuil@videotron.ca.

Chantal d'Auteuil



Gilbert Prichonnet of the University of Québec at Montreal takes a sample from Missisquoi Bay.

Our Unique Clayplain Forests

In the lowlands between the Adirondack and Green Mountains surrounding the southern end of Lake Champlain live the clayplain forests. Clayplain forests are unique to Vermont because they host more tree species than any other forest type in Northern New England, including red oak, white oak, swamp white oak, burr oak, and shagbark hickory. In 1996, the Vermont Nongame and Natural Heritage Program identified the Clayplain Forest as one of Vermont's most threatened natural communities. It provides habitat for state-endangered and state-threatened plants, a state-endangered bird (loggerhead shrike), and several other rare plant species.

Clayplain forests are the result of Vermont's recent geologic history of glaciers and glacial lakes. Over time, fine-grained sediments, predominantly clay, settled out of the glacial lake bottoms. The rich clay soil was then exposed when the lakes dried up, which provided prime agricultural lands. Once covering 230,000 acres in the southern Champlain Valley, the forest is now fragmented into 20-30 acre parcels. Just a few 100 acre parcels remain.

The Champlain Valley Clayplain Forest Project formed to study the forests, further public awareness, and preserve the clayplain forest. One objective is to work directly with local land-use decision-makers to meet the conservation priorities of multiple agencies and organizations, even if their goals are in conflict. They also provide information about conservation stewardship to town planning boards, conservation commissions, and the public. Since 1999, the Lake Champlain Basin Program has provided \$18,000 to the Middlebury Area Land Trust to further the goals of the Champlain Valley Clayplain Forest Project.

For more information about the Clayplain Forest Project, forest field trips, and volunteering, please contact Mark Lapin, Coordinator, at (802) 462-2514 or email mlapin@shoreham.net. Visit www.clayplain.org online.

• *Contributed by Meg Modley, LCBP Education & Outreach Intern*

Meg Modley/LCBP



Mark Lapin, of the Clayplain Forest Project, checks on seedlings growing in protective covers. These seedlings will eventually reforest the field and increase the size of the forest.

On-Farm Composting Project Begins

Animal waste, if not managed properly, can contribute phosphorus, pathogens, and odors to nearby waterways, neighboring properties, and eventually Lake Champlain. On-farm composting is one solution that benefits both farms and water quality. Compost can supplement farm income through compost sales, and it is a better soil amendment than raw manure. Turning manure into compost also reduces phosphorus runoff and ground water contamination from pathogens.

To help more small farms start composting, The Composting Association of Vermont (CAV) received an EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction grant from the Vermont Water Quality Division last summer. Using this \$17,000 grant, CAV will demonstrate composting on different farm types, such as a small pasture-based dairy, medium-sized dairy, large confined dairy, or a poultry farm. The projects will all be sited in the Mill Brook, Stones Brook, and Lower Browns River watersheds. These small watersheds flow into the Lamoille River, and eventually Lake Champlain.

The foremost goal of the project is reducing nutrient pollution (primarily phosphorus and secondarily nitrogen). Nonpoint source runoff from agricultural land uses contribute about 56% of the phosphorus load to Lake Champlain. The CAV will also assist farmers to better utilize compost for increasing nutrients in soils. By documenting the benefits and drawbacks on the demonstration farms and communicating results to other farmers, CAV hopes that this initial step will ultimately evolve into a replicable program across Vermont. The initial project is slated to be done over the summer of 2004.

For more information, contact Program Director, Lucinda Newman, at (802) 223-1903 or ldn@pshift.com, or visit www.compostingvermont.org.

Compost At Home!

Home composting is an inexpensive way to make some great fertilizer for your garden, instead of buying chemical fertilizers. It also reduces the amount of food scraps and yard waste that needlessly clogs landfills. Get some backyard composting tips at: www.cswd.net/composting.

LCBP Resource Room Tops 13,000 Guests!

The LCBP is thrilled with the great public response to our new Resource Room with ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. We've greeted more than 13,000 guests since opening May 31st, an average of about 13% of all visitors to ECHO. Congratulations to ECHO too, for having already welcomed more than 100,000 visitors through their doors!

LCBP part-time employees Stephanie Larkin and Laura Hollowell, who do a terrific job representing the program and answering Lake-related questions, most often greet visitors. Our intern, Meg Modley helps cover weekends and is fast becoming a Lake expert herself. In addition, volunteers and LCBP staff from Grand Isle occasionally cover the room, and Nicole Ballinger and Colleen Hickey manage operations.

We'd also like to thank ECHO for providing us with space on the ECHO floor for updateable

exhibits about Lake projects. Fall 2003 topics included alewives, nuisance species control, Leave No Trace wilderness programs, the Intervale conservation tree nursery, and constructed wetlands for storm water control. A new "Research News" exhibit within the Resource Room highlighted the important blue-green algae monitoring on Lake Champlain by Rubenstein Lab researchers.

ECHO guests may visit the Resource Room during ECHO's normal operating hours. The room is also available for free by advance appointment only to explore our collection of Lake-related materials (does not include ECHO admission). Please call (802) 864-1848 ext. 109 to make an appointment.

Laura Hollowell of the LCBP helps high school students with a lake-related project.



Champlain Centres North Hosts LCBP Exhibits

The LCBP is expanding its New York outreach through a new partnership with Champlain Centres North in Plattsburgh. Vicki Libertini, Marketing Director for the mall, has offered LCBP free exhibit space since last July. To date, watershed information, nuisance aquatic species and cultural heritage projects have been featured. We've had very positive public feedback on the exhibits and our outreach materials have been flying off the shelves.

Current exhibits include Lake Champlain's Underwater Preserves and Lake Champlain Wayside exhibits. The LCBP has also featured the work of other organizations, which are addressing the issues covered in *Opportunities for Action*, the long-term plan for Lake Champlain. Lake Champlain Sea Grant, the Adirondack Park Agency, Lake Champlain Bikeways, and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum are just a few of the organizations that have been featured. For more information, contact Colleen Hickey at (802) 372-3213 or chickey@lcbp.org.

Clean and Clear Funding Request Unveiled

In his budget address on January 21st, Vermont Governor Douglas announced plans to request more than \$6 million in state funds to support his Clean and Clear Action Plan. The state funds will be used to leverage \$8 million in federal funding. The plan is intended to improve water quality statewide, and accelerate the implementation of the Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL.

The combined state-federal funding plan includes \$3.5 million for on-farm water quality protection projects and \$3.9 million to create easements along streams adjacent to agricultural lands, with an emphasis in the St. Albans Bay and Missisquoi Bay watersheds. A request for \$1 million will be used for phosphorus treatment at wastewater plants in the Missisquoi Bay watershed. For a complete list of the Clean and Clear Action plan funding request, contact Michaela Stickney, Vermont Lake Champlain Coordinator, at (802) 372-3213.

Good News for Basin Farms

U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy's office announced that \$12 million will be available to Vermont in 2004 through the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Regional Equity Program. All U.S. states, except Rhode Island will receive a minimum of \$12 million this year. The Vermont USDA office plans to spend more than \$7 million on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, about \$3 million on Farmland protection, and the remainder on statewide agricultural programs. A significant amount of the total dollars will be spent in the Basin. New York will also receive substantial funding.

FY 2004 Federal Lake Champlain Appropriations

US Environmental Protection Agency	
Lake Champlain Basin Program	\$1.7 million
ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain	\$750,000
Chittenden County Stormwater Assistance*	\$1.5 million
Allen Brook Watershed	\$200,000
Waitsfield Wastewater Infrastructure*	\$1.0 million
University of Vermont Stormwater Initiative ⁺	\$250,000
US Geological Survey	\$485,000
National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration	
Lake Champlain Research Consortium	\$250,000
US Army Corps of Engineers	
Aquatic Nuisance Species Control	\$400,000
Lake Champlain Watershed Initiative*	\$500,000
Waterbury Dam Repairs*	\$6.0 million
Burlington Harbor Oil Bollard Removal	\$250,000
Sea Lamprey Barriers	\$100,000
US Department of Agriculture, NRCS	
Alternative Manure Management	\$290,000
Constructed Wetlands Treatment at the University of Vermont ⁺	\$149,000
Great Lakes Fisheries Commission	
Sea Lamprey Control	Report Language
US Department of Transportation	
Missisquoi Bay Bridge*	\$4.0 million
Department of Defense Legacy Program	
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum	Report Language
US Department of Housing and Urban Development	
Lake Champlain Navy Memorial ⁺	\$100,000

Source: Office of Senator Leahy

* Joint Leahy-Jeffords Initiatives

⁺ Jeffords Initiatives

Army Corps Provides New Local Funds

New funding from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) is starting to flow into the Basin for watershed restoration. Senators Leahy and Jeffords from Vermont and Senators Clinton and Schumer from New York amended the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to include a \$20 million authorization for environmental assistance to Lake Champlain Basin communities. In FY 2004, \$500,000 has been appropriated for this program, called the Lake Champlain Watershed Initiative.

Two pilot projects will commence this spring—a riparian buffer and streambank remediation project on the Tyler Branch of the Missisquoi River (Vermont), and a parking lot stormwater runoff control project in Lake George Village, New York. Future projects will be done through requests for proposals to local communities. The program cost-share is 65% federal and 35% local. For more information, contact Jason Shea, USACOE Watershed Specialist, at (212) 264-1097.

Thanks to Resource Room Volunteers!

Our LCBP Resource Room volunteers bring a wealth of diversity and knowledge to our crew!

Heidi Albright
Drew Brooks
Ethan Dropkin
Cynthia Norman
Rachel Ogden
Joseph Resnick
Amy Shedrick
Ellen Thompson
Alan West

Please contact Laura Hollowell at
laura@lcbp.org or 864-1848 ext. 109
if you would like to volunteer.

Staff News



Jennifer Shepherd

Jennifer Shepherd joined the LCBP last summer as a Technical

Fellow working primarily on phosphorus reduction issues. Jennifer recently completed a Master's degree in geography at The University of Arizona. Prior to that she studied environmental studies at Middlebury College and coordinated stream bank restoration work with the NRCS Americorps program and at the Green Mountain Audubon Nature Center in Huntington, VT. Jen has returned to Arizona and we wish her well!



Meg Modley

Meg Modley is on board as our Education and Outreach Intern. She received a BA in Environmental Studies

from the University of Vermont in '01 and received a Masters in Public Administration in '03 from UVM as well. Meg is excited about outreach education and working with community members to better understand Lake Champlain issues. She also teaches geology labs at the University of Vermont. In her free time, Meg enjoys traveling, scuba diving, hiking, and playing outdoors.



Welcome Dylan Severson!

On August 19, 2003, Lisa Windhausen, the LCBP's Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordi-

nator, gave birth to baby Dylan. Lisa and husband, Jeff Severson, are enjoying this wonderful addition to their family!

Visit the LCBP Resource Room!

Located with ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, the room is loaded with Lake information, including online resources, books, maps, videos, and kid's activities. Open daily from 10am to 5pm with ECHO admission, or FREE with advance appointment. Call (802) 864-1848 ext. 109. One College Street, Burlington, VT.

Contact the Lake Champlain Basin Program

Our main office is centrally located near the Grand Isle, VT ferry landing. Additional staff supporting the program work in New York, Vermont, and Quebec and at regional offices of the US EPA.

Main Office

Gordon Center House
54 West Shore Road
Grand Isle, VT 05458
Tel. (802) 372-3213 / (800) 468-5227 (NY/VT)
E-mail. icbp@icbp.org
www.icbp.org

Staff Supporting the Program

Call (802) 372-3213, unless otherwise noted

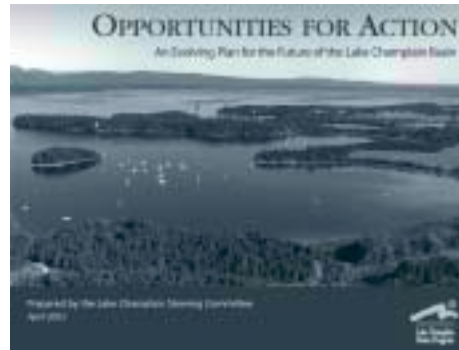
- Nicole Ballinger - Communications & Publications Coordinator
- Erik Beck - LC Coordinator, US EPA New England, (617) 918-1606
- Jim Brangan - Cultural Heritage and Recreation Coordinator
- Terry Faber - Coordinator, US EPA Region 2, (212) 637-3844

- Colleen Hickey - Education and Outreach Coordinator
- Laura Hollowell - Resource Room Specialist, (802) 864-1848 ext. 109
- Bill Howland - Basin Program Manager
- Kathy Jarvis - Administrative Assistant
- Stephanie Larkin - Resource Room Specialist, (802) 864-1848 ext. 109
- Chris Lassell - New York Circuit Rider, NYSDEC, (518) 897-1367
- Miranda Lescaze - Technical Coordinator
- Martin Mimeault - Quebec Ministry of Environment, (450) 928-7607
- Art Stemp - NY Lake Champlain Coordinator, NYSDEC, (518) 897-1216
- Michaela Stickney - VT Lake Champlain Coordinator, VTDEC, (802) 241-3619
- Lisa Windhausen - Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator

R E S O U R C E S

Tourism Toolkit

Interested in promoting the Lake Champlain region's rich heritage in your community? Then don't miss the new Cultural Heritage Tourism Toolkit published by the Vermont Arts Council and the Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing. The 86-page toolkit is chock full of tips to make heritage come alive in your community for vital tourism initiatives. The LCBP funded \$9,000 towards this project and it was designed by staff member Maja Smith. Contact the Vermont Arts Council at (802) 828-3291 for a free copy.



The update to *Opportunities for Action* is hot off the press! Contact the LCBP for a free copy, or read it on our website. Go to www.lcbp.org/viewofa.htm.

Local Project Resources

Several new resources have resulted from LCBP grants...

- *A Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians in the Winooski Valley Park District Natural Areas* by the WVPD. Contact WVPD at (802) 863-5744 for a copy. This project received \$2,000 through an LCBP Partnership Program grant in 2002.
- *Feeding Strategies to Reduce Phosphorus Inputs from Dairy Sources* by the Miner Institute. This summary highlights results from a research project that received \$28,500 from the LCBP. Contact Kurt Cotanch at the Miner Institute for a copy at (518) 846-7121 ext.123. (An LCBP Technical Report on the study has also been published.)
- *Caring for Our Rivers & Roads: A Homeowner's Guide to Erosion Control in the Adirondack Park* by the Au Sable Watershed Association. Contact ASRA for a copy at (518) 873-3752. This project received \$4,000 through an LCBP Education grant in 2000.

**More resources online at:
www.lcbp.org click on
Publications/Reports**

Lake Champlain Basin Program

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