

SPRING 1999

## Friends of Green River Reservoir Newsletter Update

### 1. Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation adopts Interim Management Plan for GRR

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (DFP&R) adopted its AInterim Management Plan≅ for GRR State Park in May of this year. The Interim Plan=s highlights include:

- X A commitment to continue recreational uses that have been traditional at GRR including nonmotorized boating, fishing, remote camping, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling on designated trails. ATV use is prohibited.
- X Sustainable forestry on the majority of the lands surrounding GRR but not within 150' of the shoreline. The DFP&R anticipates that due to past harvesting practices, in general future timber resources will not be available for at least 20 years over most of the property.
- X A commitment to inventory natural features, unique resources and cultural and historic features.
- X There will be a staff presence at GRR State Park May through September ( See part 2 below) to Ainform, educate and assist visitors and to work on projects that rehabilitate and/ or protect the resources.≅(See part 3 below)
- X The DFP&R existing policies for remote areas (copy enclosed) will be in effect at Green River Reservoir in 1999 except there will be no fees for camping or day use. Camping will be restricted to between 38 and 48 (this means closing between 10 and 20 existing sites) designated campsites with a limit of 8 persons per site. The maximum stay will be 14 days.
- X Fishing, hunting and trapping in accordance with Vermont Fish and Wildlife laws and regulation will be allowed. Existing VAST and Catamount winter trail systems will be continued in their present location until the long-range management planning process is completed. (Note the FGRR are trying to determine what the time frame is for this planning process.)
- X **For a complete copy of the 8 page GRR State Park Interim Management Plan contact Bill Bartlett at 888-5591 or [pairfarmbb@aol.com](mailto:pairfarmbb@aol.com)**

### 2. Manager of Green River Reservoir State Park Named

The manager of the GRR State Park for the 1999 season at least, will be Heather Thomas. Her assistant will be Zachary Casey. They will be working out of the Department of Forests,

Parks and Recreation offices in Morrisville (888-5733). They are expected to spend most of their time at the Reservoir.

### **3. Friends of Green River Reservoir volunteer work day scheduled**

The Friends have been asked to provide a volunteer workforce to help the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation get the Green River Reservoir State Park ready for the summer season. **The date picked for this volunteer work day is Saturday May 22 (rain date May 23) beginning at 9:00 am.** At the main access area. We'd like to have a good turnout both to help the Department

get ready for its first season and to show the level of support for their efforts to manage recreational uses at the Reservoir. **Please make an extra effort to help out.** If you can help for part or all of that day, **please call Milford at 888-3362 (leave a message) by Thursday May 20** so we have some idea how many volunteers will be coming.

### **4. Dedication of Green River Reservoir State Park**

The official dedication of Green River Reservoir State Park possibly by Governor Dean is tentatively scheduled for an as yet undetermined date, probably in June. Governor Dean is scheduled to visit GRR for the first time and perhaps go for a paddle. Anyone who wants to attend should call the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation's Barre Office (476-0170) to determine when the ceremony will occur.

### **5. Friends of Green River Reservoir Annual Meeting**

We have scheduled the FGRR first ever annual meeting for **Sunday July 11, 1999**. There will be a potluck lunch that will begin at noon followed by a brief business meeting beginning at 1:00 PM. The lunch and meeting will be held at the Green River Reservoir State Park at a location at or near the main access area. We need to elect the FGRR Board of Directors for the next year. Currently Milford Cushman from Hyde Park, Don Avery from Morristown, Chuck Mitchell of Wolcott, Bill Bartlett from Hyde Park and Gary Cole from Morrisville are serving as the Interim Board pending our first annual meeting. The main purpose of this gathering will be to provide an opportunity for the Friends to meet one another and perhaps brainstorm regarding how we will provide further input to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation as it develops its long term management plans for Green River Reservoir State Park. We hope to have a brief program with family and adult oriented events in the early afternoon.

If you are planning on attending, **please call Bill at 888-5591 by Wednesday July 7, 1999** so that we will have a rough idea of how many people to plan for. However please come whether or not you've called.



# Friends of Green River Reservoir Spring 2000 Newsletter

## 1. More an legal proceedings involving Barry Singer - This is your chance to speak out!

As the enclosed press release from the Attorney General's Office and newspaper article from the Stowe Reporter explain in more detail, Mr. Singer has been convicted of two counts of being an accessory before the fact to Unlawful Mischief in connection with the unauthorized cutting of trees and other damage to State owned land adjacent to Green River Reservoir.

As part of this court judgement, Mr. Singer will be required to appear before the Lamoille County Reparative Justice Board. **His public hearing before that Board has been scheduled for 8:00 AM on June 6, 2000 at the Vermont Department of Corrections Offices at 63 Professional Drive in Morrisville (off Route 100 opposite the Manosh car wash).**

The Reparative Justice Board, after hearing from the victims of Mr. Singer's actions, will determine what actions it will require to make restitution to the community. This Board encourages public input from the community so please make every effort to attend. This is your opportunity to be heard and to offer constructive input as to what needs to be done to restore the visual character and integrity of the Green River Reservoir.

The FGRR intend to testify before this Board and while we are still formulating specifically how we will make our presentation, our goals are to have Mr. Singer agree to a legally binding commitment to reduce visual impacts to users of the Reservoir by:

- (1) Extensive tree planting on the hillside Mr. Singer cleared to reduce the visual impact of his development from the GRRSP.
- (2) Protection against exterior night lighting being visible from the GRRSP.
- (3) The use of earth tone colors for buildings and the use of non-reflective roofing and other building materials.

**We would strongly encourage members of the FGRR, and others who care about the effective mitigation of the visual impact that Mr. Singer has had on the Reservoir, to make every effort to attend this public meeting on June 6, 2000 beginning at 8:00 AM in order to demonstrate to the Lamoille County Reparative Justice Board, and Mr. Singer, how important this issue is to all of us. We'd ask everyone to be polite, respectful and constructive but at the same time be prepared to offer, however briefly, your comments about how you feel your enjoyment of GRR has been impacted by Mr. Singer's actions.**

## 2. Funding for Student Ranger at Green River Reservoir State Park

In our winter newsletter the Friends of Green River Reservoir (FGRR) Board of Directors announced that they had made a commitment to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to fund a student ranger position at Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) during the summer 2000 recreational season, for a period of roughly 10 weeks. This would add a

third person to the GRRSP staff at a critical time when the State's efforts to manage and control recreational uses at Park are really just beginning. This summer they hope to limit camping to only 30 or so designated sites.

Funding this position will cost the FGRR approximately \$3000. To date we have raised about half that amount thanks to the generosity of many old and new members of the FGRR. However we would like to raise the balance of our commitment as soon as possible. This is our second, and last appeal for your help.

If you haven't already contributed, or could make a further contribution, your help would be most appreciated. Donations of \$25 or more are encouraged, but donations of any size are welcome. **Please make your checks payable to FGRR and send them to PO Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655.** If you've already done so, thank you very much. Feel free to share this request with other users of GRR whom you may know, but who may not be known to us.

### **3. Need for Loon monitoring volunteers**

We received a request from Eric Hanson, the Vermont Loon Recovery Project biologist, for help in finding volunteers to work with him this summer monitoring the breeding loon pair and other loon activity on Green River Reservoir. Eric would like to train and schedule one or more volunteers to monitor the loons on Green River Reservoir on a weekly basis.

Eric would also like to find a couple of additional volunteers to work with him on a two or three day project to determine whether the Zack Woods Pond loons are the same loons using Green River Reservoir. To do this he needs a sufficient number of volunteers to monitor both bodies of water simultaneously.

If anyone is interested in helping with this very important and interesting project, please contact Eric at PO Box 22 Craftsbury, VT 05826, 802-586-8064 or by email at [vtloons@hotmail.com](mailto:vtloons@hotmail.com). Enclosed in this mailing is a copy of the 1999 Breeding Status of Common Loons in Vermont courtesy of the Vermont Loon Recovery Project.

### **4. We need help building our membership base - please help**

If you know of one or more friends who make use of Green River Reservoir and whom you think would be interested in joining the FGRR, please help expand our membership base. Send us the names of prospective members and/or send copies of this newsletter to your friends.

### **5. FGRR Annual Meeting in July**

**The annual meeting of the FGRR has been scheduled for July 29, 2000** at Greg Paus's residence on Davis Hill in Hyde Park (within walking distance of the Reservoir). More information about the annual meeting will be provided in our Summer Newsletter which will be mailed in mid-July, but please mark your calendars now and plan on attending our annual meeting, perhaps followed (or preceded) by a visit to GRRSP.



# Friends of Green River Reservoir

July 2000

## Friends of Green River Reservoir Notice of Annual Meeting and Mid-Summer Update

### 1. Second annual meeting of the Friends of Green River Reservoir

As required by the FGRR by-laws (copies available upon request, call Bill at 802-888-5591) and as announced in our summer newsletter, **our second annual meeting will be held on July 29, 2000 beginning at 10:00 AM at Greg Paus's house on Davis Hill in Hyde Park (see enclosed map or call 888-6719 for directions).**

The current Board of Directors consists of: Chuck Mitchell, President (term expires 7/02), Milford Cushman (term expires 7/02), Gary Cole (term expires 7/01), Bill Bartlett, Secretary/Treasurer (term expires 7/01) and Don Avery (term expires 7/00). The Board will report on the activities of the FGRR over the past year, most of which has been reported in recent Newsletters, and will answer any questions members may have. This is your chance to get your questions answered and to provide input as to how you'd like your organization to focus its energies in the coming year. The annual meeting will be as long (or as short) as those who attend want it to be.

At this meeting we need to elect a new Board member to replace Don Avery. As Don indicated as a possibility at the time he was elected to the Board last year, he has decided not to seek reelection to the Board for another term. His fellow Board members want to express their appreciation to Don as a founding member of this organization for his many contributions to the FGRR over the past year and for many years previously.

The agenda for the FGRR Annual Meeting is as follows:

1. Report from Board of Directors on the past year
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Election of one member to the FGRR Board of Directors
4. Other business

## 2. Membership renewal

Its time for those who would like to remain members of the Friends of Green River Reservoir, and thus remain on our mailing list, to renew their membership by completing the enclosed membership form and returning it with the appropriate membership fee. Please note that we have kept the fees as low as possible to encourage membership. If the fees are a financial burden for anyone who would otherwise like to join, simply send in the form without the fee.

**We hope everyone will renew their membership and if possible recruit new members!**

## 3. Student Ranger

The Student Ranger position at GRRSP, which is being funded by the FGRR, has been filled this year by Eric Uhlir, a student at nearby Johnson State College. Eric has been working since early June with the two seasonal Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation staff assigned to GRRSP. With Eric's help, the Department has been able to mark all active campsites, close sites in need of rehabilitation and in general establish a stronger management presence at GRRSP.

Due to the need to drain Waterbury Reservoir this summer, this added management capability at GRRSP may be tested as recreational users are displaced from Waterbury Reservoir to Green River Reservoir.

## 4. Other news

Earlier this year, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has made significant improvements to the access road and parking facilities at GRRSP. The planning effort to determine any additional changes and develop a long term management plan for GRRSP, after a summer break, will resume in September with a continued strong presence by members of the FGRR as well as other users.

Eric Hanson of the Vermont Loon Project reports that again this year there was a successful nesting pair of loons on GRR who have fledged a single chick. On nearby South Pond in Eden and on Wolcott Pond in Wolcott loons have also successfully nested again this year, fledgling two chicks on each pond! Eric is always on the lookout for volunteers to help with the Vermont Loon Project. Anyone interested in helping with this worthwhile effort is encouraged to contact Eric at 802-586-8064 or at [vtloons@hotmail.com](mailto:vtloons@hotmail.com).



# Friends of Green River Reservoir Winter Newsletter January 2001

Friends of Green River Reservoir P. O. Box 359 Hyde Park, VT 05655

Board of Directors: Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Milford Cushman, (888-3362) Sally Laughlin, (644-5651), Chuck Mitchell, President (888-5441) and Mike Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365).

## 1. Membership renewal

Membership renewal for the year 2001 is now due. To remain an effective voice for the preservation and protection of the traditional recreational uses and wilderness-like character of Green River Reservoir and its environs, the Friends of Green River Reservoir needs to expand its membership base. The more members we have, the more we can do as an organization.

Enclosed is a second membership form that we'd ask everyone to pass on to a friend who shares our goals.

Also enclosed is a decal so that you can proudly show that you are one of the many Friends of Green River Reservoir!

## 2. FGRR Membership Survey

Please take the time to complete and return the enclosed survey form to help us better serve your interests.

## 3. Funding for a Student Ranger Position in 2001

For the first time last year, the Friends of Green River Reservoir funded a Student Ranger position at Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) to assist the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation's (DFPR's) regular two person staff. Erik Ulhir, a student at Johnson State College majoring in recreational management was hired for the period between June 11 through August 19, 2000 to assist the two seasonal DFPR staff. Funding the Student Ranger position in 2000 cost the FGRR about \$2600.

In a recent lengthy letter to the Friends of Green River Reservoir, Susan Bulmer (the DFPR's Parks Regional Manager for Northern Vermont) made it clear that the continuation of the Student Ranger position in 2001 will greatly assist the Department's efforts to continue to improve their management capability at GRRSP. Here are some key points Susan made in her letter:

- *Vermont State Parks operate on funds generated from user fees and ski area lease fees receiving no tax dollar support, expect for capital improvements. As we are self-sufficient, the operation needs to be fiscally attentive so as to not overstaff*

near the new parking lot discussed above, will be well screened from the Reservoir.

### **3. Green River Reservoir State Park Operational Update**

#### a. Summer 2001 Visitor Information

Statistics for the months of May through September have been compiled and have been shared with us by GRRSP ranger Heather Thomas. The figures indicate that a total of 11,085 people came to enjoy the park during those five months for both day use and overnight stays. The number of day users for June through September was 7107, with July the peak month for 2312 day-use visitors.

The figures for camping were compiled beginning in mid-May. Overall, 3978 people came to the park for an overnight stay. August was the most popular month with 1418 campers registered. The total occupancy rate for the park season through September 30 was only 33%, with an average of 9.8 sites occupied each night during the season. During the peak camping month of August, the average occupancy rate increased to 14.5 sites per night out of a total 30 sites. Of course on weekends the occupancy rate was much higher.

The ratio of in-state to out-of-state users shows that by far the largest proportion of people served by the park live in Vermont. Anywhere from 83.2% (in August) to 89.6% (in May) of the campers were Vermonters. Day users were also predominately from Vermont. In the month of August, 76.7% of the day users were from our state; in all other months, more than 80% of the day use was by Vermonters. Day users of the park were tallied for the months of August and September only.

There were daily averages of approximately 17 new day-use visitors to the park in August and 6 new day-use visitors in September, representing 24.2% and 17.7%, respectively, of the average daily number of daytime visitors for those two months. No similar figures for campers were provided.

#### b. Park Staff Summer Projects

Green River Reservoir State Park was honored by the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation as the Region IV State Park of the Year. This honor was bestowed upon the park based on several factors, including teamwork of the park staff, going the extra mile and initiation of a fee system for camping, according to park ranger Heather Thomas.



The 2001 summer staff, included Thomas, several full-time employees and FGRR funded Student Ranger Doug Lacoss, a student at Sterling College. One of the park's full-time employees last summer was the previous summer's Student Ranger, Erik Uhlir from Johnson State College.

The work to rehabilitate overused sites continued this summer. Park employees undertook two site rehabilitation projects that involved planting approximately 250 balsam seedlings. Student Ranger Doug Lacoss worked with Johnson State College's Upward Bound students this summer to relocate site #2 and to build a new site. Three sites that were closed last year for rehabilitation were reopened this year, and several more pit toilets were also installed.

**4. Lamoille River Watershed Planning Update** By Jim Ryan  
Watershed Coordinator, VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation

We have recently completed holding 8 public forums to hear residents concerns and visions for the Lamoille River Watershed. The results of the forums will be used to guide the watershed planning process. This process will be directed by the Lamoille River Watershed Council. The Council is composed of a diverse mix of interested stakeholders within the watershed. Council members represent the interests of the business community, loggers, farmers, environmental groups, utility companies, anglers, lake and river organizations, teachers, municipal officials, and regional planning offices, among others. Issue Groups will be formed to address the major water quality issues brought out at the forums. In the coming months strategies will be developed to address these issues and draft the Lamoille River Watershed plan.

We have recently completed an upper Lamoille River Watershed stream stability assessment that will help identify unstable stream sites for restoration projects as well as reference stream reaches to target for protection. Other projects include watershed outreach to several local schools, a stream stabilization project in Johnson, and formulating a plan to improve an impaired stream in Georgia. For more information about the Lamoille River Watershed planning process please contact me at (802) 241-3679.

**5. Need to build our membership base**

Please help us continue to build our membership. Enclosed is a copy of a brochure about the Friends of Green River Reservoir which we have been distributing at GRRSP for most of the past summer/ fall. Our goal is to build our membership base to include a larger percentage of those who use and enjoy the Park. Please help spread the word about joining the FGRR to your friends and

acquaintances. The more members we have, the stronger our voice will be in helping to shape the Long Range Management Plan and the day-to-day operations of the Park.

Please use this information to help spread the word. If you need more brochures or if you know of people you think we should send copies to, please let us know by mail at PO Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655 or by e-mail at *FriendsGRR@aol.com* .

11/01



# Friends of Green River Reservoir

P. O. Box 359 Hyde Park, VT 05655 or *FriendsGRR@aol.com*

Board of Directors (term expires in July of year indicated): Bill Bartlett, Secretary (04), Milford Cushman, Vice-President (02), Dave Hallquist (03), Sally Laughlin (03), Chuck Mitchell, President (04), Karen Uhlendorf (02), Mike Wickenden, Treasurer (02).

## 1. Green River Reservoir State Park Planning Update

Working with recommendations provided by the Public Planning Advisory Group which includes members of the FGRR, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (DFPR) was to complete its natural communities and wildlife resources inventory of the Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) property during the summer of 2001 and develop its draft Long-Range Management Plan (LRMP) by the fall of 2001 with public hearings to be held in early 2002 prior to adoption of the plan by April 2002.

However, the DFPR has fallen behind its original schedule according to a report given by Susan Bulmer, Regional Parks Manager, at a Public Planning Advisory Group (PPAG) meeting held in Morrisville on October 22, 2001. The natural communities and wildlife resources inventory is almost finished and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The DFPR's schedule for completing the Long Range Management process remains a bit up-in-the-air. The only commitment made at the October meeting was that the first draft of the Long Range Management Plan would be completed in January 2002.

**Assuming that DFPR sticks to something close to the original process and schedule, the public review of the draft Long Range Management Plan (LRMP) would be something like:**

January 2002	draft Long Range Management Plan completed by DFPR
Feb/ March 2002?	PPAG Review of Department's Draft LRMP
April 2002?	Public Meeting on Initial Draft LRMP
May 2002?	Public Meeting on Revised Draft LRMP
June 2002?	Agency of Natural Resources Approval of Final LRMP

Once the Department's draft Long Range Management Plan and public review process and schedule are known, we will advise members of the FGRR regarding this information and provide our analysis of the draft Long Range Management Plan.

## 2. Status of improvements to Green River Reservoir State Park

FGRR Board member Milford Cushman has been volunteering his time and talents to facilitate the DFPR's efforts to carefully design necessary improvements to Green River Reservoir State Park. Working with Department staff, Milford is working to ensure that needed construction activities proceed in a way that minimizes any environmental and aesthetic impacts.

### a. New parking lot

Planning for a new 25 car capacity parking lot is nearly completed. The new parking lot, which is expected to be built next year, will be located between the upper parking lot built in 1999 and the boat unloading area. The new parking lot will be on the left as you approach the boat drop off/loading area. The new lot, combined with the upper lot and parking next to the boat unloading area, will bring parking capacity to approximately 60 cars which is the limit imposed by the Town of Hyde Park zoning permit. The Town's ban on parking along the Town highway providing access to GRRSP is expected to be enforced next year.

### b. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Milford has worked with state officials to design a boardwalk/path from the boat unloading area to the boat launch area that will be ADA compliant. In addition there are tentative plans to develop two or three ADA accessible campsites on the Reservoir. This will probably be done by making modest modifications to existing campsites.

### c. Improvements to the boat launch area

Planning for the rehabilitation of the boat launch area using natural boulders to reduce erosion due to wave action and foot traffic is nearly completed. Construction of these improvements is expected to occur sometime next season.

### d. Ranger cabin

Plans for locating a small ranger cabin capable of year round occupancy are progressing although it is uncertain when such a facility will be built. The location under consideration, near the new parking lot discussed above, will be well screened from the Reservoir.

### 3. Green River Reservoir State Park Operational Update

#### a. Summer 2001 Visitor Information

Statistics for the months of May through September have been compiled and have been shared with us by GRRSP ranger Heather Thomas. The figures indicate that a total of 11,085 people came to enjoy the park during those five months for both day use and overnight stays. The number of day users for June through September was 7107, with July the peak month for 2312 day-use visitors.

The figures for camping were compiled beginning in mid-May. Overall, 3978 people came to the park for an overnight stay. August was the most popular month with 1418 campers registered. The total occupancy rate for the park season through September 30 was only 33%, with an average of 9.8 sites occupied each night during the season. During the peak camping month of August, the average occupancy rate increased to 14.5 sites per night out of a total 30 sites. Of course on weekends the occupancy rate was much higher.

The ratio of in-state to out-of-state users shows that by far the largest proportion of people served by the park live in Vermont. Anywhere from 83.2% (in August) to 89.6% (in May) of the campers were Vermonters. Day users were also predominately from Vermont. In the month of August, 76.7% of the day users were from our state; in all other months, more than 80% of the day use was by Vermonters. Day users of the park were tallied for the months of August and September only.

There were daily averages of approximately 17 new day-use visitors to the park in August and 6 new day-use visitors in September, representing 24.2% and 17.7%, respectively, of the average daily number of daytime visitors for those two months. No similar figures for campers were provided.

#### b. Park Staff Summer Projects

Green River Reservoir State Park was honored by the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation as the Region IV State Park of the Year. This honor was bestowed upon the park based on several factors, including teamwork of the park staff, going the extra mile and initiation of a fee system for camping, according to park ranger Heather Thomas.

The 2001 summer staff, included Thomas, several full-time employees and FGRR funded Student Ranger Doug Lacoss, a student at Sterling College. One of the park's full-time employees last summer was the previous summer's Student Ranger, Erik Uhlir from Johnson State College.

The work to rehabilitate overused sites continued this summer. Park employees undertook two site rehabilitation projects

that involved planting approximately 250 balsam seedlings. Student Ranger Doug Lacoss worked with Johnson State College's Upward Bound students this summer to relocate site #2 and to build a new site. Three sites that were closed last year for rehabilitation were reopened this year, and several more pit toilets were also installed.

**4. Lamoille River Watershed Planning Update** By Jim Ryan  
Watershed Coordinator, VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation

We have recently completed holding 8 public forums to hear residents concerns and visions for the Lamoille River Watershed. The results of the forums will be used to guide the watershed planning process. This process will be directed by the Lamoille River Watershed Council. The Council is composed of a diverse mix of interested stakeholders within the watershed. Council members represent the interests of the business community, loggers, farmers, environmental groups, utility companies, anglers, lake and river organizations, teachers, municipal officials, and regional planning offices, among others. Issue Groups will be formed to address the major water quality issues brought out at the forums. In the coming months strategies will be developed to address these issues and draft the Lamoille River Watershed plan.

We have recently completed an upper Lamoille River Watershed stream stability assessment that will help identify unstable stream sites for restoration projects as well as reference stream reaches to target for protection. Other projects include watershed outreach to several local schools, a stream stabilization project in Johnson, and formulating a plan to improve an impaired stream in Georgia. For more information about the Lamoille River Watershed planning process please contact me at (802) 241-3679.

**5. Need to build our membership base**

Please help us continue to build our membership. Enclosed is a copy of a brochure about the Friends of Green River Reservoir which we have been distributing at GRRSP for most of the past summer/ fall. Our goal is to build our membership base to include a larger percentage of those who use and enjoy the Park. Please help spread the word about joining the FGRR to your friends and acquaintances. The more members we have, the stronger our voice will be in helping to shape the Long Range Management Plan and the day-to-day operations of the Park.

Please use this information to help spread the word. If you need more brochures or if you know of people you think we should send copies to, please let us know by mail at PO Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655 or by e-mail at [FriendsGRR@aol.com](mailto:FriendsGRR@aol.com) .



## Friends of Green River Reservoir

Friends of Green River Reservoir P. O. Box 359 Hyde Park, VT 05655

Board of Directors: Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Milford Cushman, (888-3362) Sally Laughlin, (644-5651), Chuck Mitchell, President (888-5441) and Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Dave Hallquist (888-6877) and Karen Uhlendorf (888-6624)

### May 2002 Newsletter

#### 1. GRRSP Long Range Planning Update

The long-range management plan for Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) that was initially scheduled to be completed by January of 2002 has been delayed because the critical natural communities and wildlife resources inventory is unfinished. The new expectation is that the long-range management plan will now be completed this coming winter. The FGRR will continue to monitor and report on the status of this important plan.

#### 2. Time for membership renewal

Unless your newsletter has a sticker identifying you as already having paid your membership dues for 2002, its time to renew your membership. The enclosed brochure contains a form for renewing your membership. We have kept the basic membership at \$10 per individual and \$15 per family. However we hope those who are able will be more generous so that we can fully fund the GRRSP Stewardship Fund for 2002. The projects that we hope to support with the Stewardship Fund in 2002 include the restoration of "Blueberry Island" (see section 4 of this Newsletter below) and the provision of communications equipment for GRRSP to improve both Park management and public safety.

#### 3. GRRSP Facilities Update

In late December 2001, Vermont State Facilities engineers did the survey work to produce a topographic survey, with 2-foot contours, of the area beginning at the canoe and boat landing and extending up the access road to just below the upper parking lot. Using this survey, the design and contract documents for the middle parking lot have been completed and are being sent to contractors for cost proposals. Construction is scheduled to begin sometime in June of this year. The new parking lot will add 26 spaces including 3 spaces for vehicles pulling trailers. GRRSP is proposing to permit a total of 75 parking spaces for day users and for over night campers.

The topographic survey allowed for the accurate planning of the ADA compliant trail from the loading area down to the shoreline. The trail will consist of a boardwalk for 90% of the approximate 420-foot length with the remainder being constructed from compacted gravel. The location of the trail will be flagged within several weeks for the final fine-tuning of the design process. The construction phase is proposed for the summer of 2003.

The Hyde Park Development Review Board will review the parking lot and the ADA trail plans tentatively scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, May 21, 2002.

Also scheduled for construction this summer is the stabilization of the shoreline at the current canoe and boat landing. Boulders and rocks will be installed creating a series of gravel terraces along a section of shoreline to the left of the existing gravel and dirt ramp. The ramp will be left for dam maintenance and emergency boat access to the water.

#### **4. " Blueberry Island Restoration"**

This small 8/100th acre (.08 ac.) island only a 7 minute paddle from the boat launch has been the camping destination for years by throngs of misguided "Thoreau's" seeking solitude. The island has been more abused than Central Park. The "Friends" are taking on the job starting this spring to give the island a jumpstart back to health. After years of abuse by people and waves this delicate sandy/gravel outwash terrace, a remnant of past glacial action will be difficult to heal. We will be starting with native grasses such as bluestem, switch grass and Indian grass to restore some ground cover and will be later following with an assortment of low growing woody shrubs including its namesake.

If you are interested in helping with this project contact Chuck Mitchell at 888-5441.

#### **5. Wilderness Birds at Green River Reservoir by Sally Laughlin**

The "Spirit of Northern Waters," as the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) is often called, is doubtless the most memorable bird of Green River. Listening to the haunting call of the loon is one of the joys of camping at Green River Reservoir, and the one of the strongest memories. Even during the years when the loon population was at its lowest in the northeast, Green River was a stronghold for the state-endangered species. There has been territorial pair of loons present for all 24 years of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science's loon surveys (I remember seeing the pair there in 1977, when I conducted the first Vermont Loon Survey, and doubtless they have nested there since the reservoir was first created).

This remarkable species was once much more widespread in North America, but now occurs only in Canada and the northern tier of states. Here in Vermont, protection from Vermont Fish and Wildlife, careful management by VINS, and the protective watchfulness of lake groups such as ours has led to a doubling of the loon population over the last quarter century. Visitors to Green River are almost always respectful of the loon family, keeping far enough away to not alarm the parents as



they nest and raise their young, and are rewarded with wonderful glimpses of their lives: watching them dive, or sink gradually below the surface in their incredible disappearing act (they can force air from their bodies, thus changing their specific gravity); listening to their wild eerie calls, as the pair proclaim their territory and stays in touch as they fish for themselves and their chicks.

It is interesting to think of where "our" loons winter, where they spend the half of the year that "their" lake is locked under ice and snow. Common Loons winter along the Atlantic Coast to the Gulf of Mexico, and researchers speculate that perhaps they winter in family groups along with friends and acquaintances from neighboring lakes and ponds. Sounds similar to Vermonters wintering together in certain parks in Florida, doesn't it?

Barred Owls (*Strix varia*) are often heard at twilight and dawn and during the hours of darkness. The Barred Owl is Vermont's commonest owl species, a large (height about 20" and wingspread about 50"), black-eyed owl with an impressive call that sounds like "*who cooks for you, who cooks for youuuuuu-all?*". Pairs mate for life, and occupy their territory summer and winter. Both the male and female hoot, often back and forth up and down the ridges as the evening hunt progresses; the male's voice is deeper and lower (although the males are smaller than the females, as in all the owl species).

Barreds catch rodents and other small creatures, including frogs and salamanders, and need to be excellent hunters to feed their rapidly growing and ever-hungry young during the summer. Barreds prefer to nest in old hollow trees (they will also use old hawk nests), and we can hope that there will always be good nest sites for these beautiful birds at Green River.

Other wonderful sounds identified with Green River are the high, flute like calls of the thrush, especially at dawn and dusk. These birds are nature's finest singers, and thrive on the shores of the Reservoir. Small birds (smaller than Robins, who are the largest member of the thrush family), these great singers are shades of rich brown. The Veery especially likes damp woods, and has a haunting call like a flute being played down a hollow tube.

The Vermont State Bird, the Hermit Thrush, often can be heard in the spruce woods as you paddle up the river. The Swainson's Thrush is an uncommon bird of spruce, fir, and balsam woods, always to be heard on summer days in the woods by the canoe access, singing his flute like song, which spirals upwards out of our hearing range.

Once the State finalizes the Management Plan for the Park, the Friends hope to establish a Forest Bird Monitoring site in a section of woodland designated to remain in natural condition. We will conduct yearly surveys of the nesting bird species, using the VINS protocol for the survey.

Meanwhile, the Friends welcome your notes on your bird sightings. We will publish a list of the bird species reported at GRRSP this season in the fall. Mail your sightings to the Friends address on this newsletter, or email Sally Laughlin at [laughlin@sover.net](mailto:laughlin@sover.net).

## **6. Annual Meeting of the Friends of Green River Reservoir**

Our annual meeting will be held on July 10, 2002 beginning at 6:30 PM at Dave and Pat Hallquist's house very near the Reservoir (see directions on next page). Call Dave 888-6877 if you need further directions.

The agenda for the annual meeting will be:

- a. Report by the Board of Directors
- b. Treasurer's Report
- c. Elections to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors
- d. Other business

### Directions to Dave and Pat Hallquist's

If coming from the Hyde Park Area (Trombley Hill Road) continue going straight instead of making a left up the Green River Reservoir Access Road.

If coming from the Wolcott/Morrisville area (Garfield Road), make a right and do not go up the Green River Access Road

From the Access Road, continue 2.5 miles (you will pass the access road to Zach Woods Pond) and you will see a pond on your right (Clear Pond), immediately after the pond (.1 mile), take a left turn into a driveway with "Private", "Keep Out" signs (Stevens Lane). Stay to your left behind the garage/shop. Follow this driveway to the end (.7miles). Stay straight when you see the woodshed, and stay straight when you see the "Singer" sign. Hallquist residence is at the very end.



# Friends of Green River Reservoir

Friends of Green River Reservoir P. O. Box 359 Hyde Park, VT 05655

Board of Directors: Chuck Mitchell, President (888-5441), Milford Cushman, Vice President (888-3362), Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Dave Hallquist (888-6877), Sally Laughlin (644-5651), and Karen Uhlendorf (888-6624)

December 2, 2002

## GRRSP Facilities and Planning Update

### Middle Parking Area

The construction phase of the new parking lot located to the north of the access drive has been completed. This lot adds 26 spaces including 3 spaces for longer vehicles or vehicles pulling trailers. A few mid-construction design adjustments enabled the preservation of two 8" diameter DBH<sup>[1]</sup> hardwood trees located within the island. The DFP&R<sup>[2]</sup> is proposing to plant numerous softwood saplings in the woods to the north and west of the parking area to increase screening of the parking lot area from the water. With the new parking area there are now a total of 75 permitted parking spaces for day users and for over night campers.

### Shoreline Stabilization

As permitted, the shoreline stabilization construction phase has been completed. The earth work contractor worked very closely with the State Facilities Engineering Division, Jason, the GRRSP<sup>[3]</sup> 2002 Ranger and with Milford to utilize rock and ledge found on GRRSP property to construct low stone terraces to the left (facing the water) of the existing ramp area. This previously steep area was highly prone to erosion due to foot traffic. The terraces have created a stable area for launching kayaks and canoes. Additionally, the ramp and the adjacent wide access trail have been reshaped to control erosion from foot traffic and water runoff. Several log water bars have been installed to slow the speed of runoff and the ditch on the right side of the ramp has been reshaped and lined with stone. All areas located above the waterline that have organic soils have been seeded, mulched and fenced off to allow the seed to catch.

### ADA<sup>[4]</sup> Trail

As reported in the spring newsletter, the topographic survey completed in December 2001, allowed for accurate planning of the ADA compliant trail leading from the loading area down to the shoreline. The trail will consist of a boardwalk for 90% of the approximate 420 foot length with the remainder being constructed from compacted gravel. The general location of the trail was flagged last winter and will be specifically flagged before the start of construction, tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2003. Milford will be working with Ann Holmblad an ADA consultant, the DFP&R, the State Facilities Engineering Division and members of the GRRSP staff to develop the plans and specifications for the project. The Hyde Park Development Review Board (DRB) reviewed and approved ADA trail plans in May 2002.

--Milford Cushman

### Ranger Report

The ranger this past season at Green River Reservoir State Park was Jason Kelley. He has an extensive amount of experience in the state park system, because he has worked at the Elmore, Burton Island, and Little River State Parks before working at the Green River Reservoir State Park. Including this season at the Green River Reservoir State Park, he will have worked for the state park system for six years. His educational experience includes an associate's degree from Paul Smith's College in Forest Recreation. He has also recently graduated from Johnson State College with a Bachelors degree in Environmental Science: Natural Resources. Along with his academic education, he has a working knowledge of first aid, he is a certified wilderness first responder and is CPR certified. Jason is an Eagle Scout and lives locally with his wife and two young children.

The 2002 park season went very well, possibly better than years past, due to in part, no incidences of vandalism. The staff believes that park use was up this year from use over the two previous years. Day use was very high because the

weather during this past operating season was so exceptional. On any given Saturday or Sunday during the months of July and August, the parking lots were full by 11:00 AM. The parking lots would continue to be full until late afternoon. The new parking lot built in August did reduce the time that the park was full, but parking was still a problem. The planned parking that is now available at the park reflects the carrying capacity of the park. There were many different projects that were completed this season at the park.

First, was the installation of the camper trailer located where the tent was set up last year. These trailers aided the staff by providing a good, safe and secure place to stay on the weekends and holidays.

Second, campsites # 8, 20, 28, 30, 32 were planted with balsam trees and grass. Other open sites were planted, as needed, with grass. Along with the grass and balsam planting, hazardous trees were cut down and rendered into firewood. This was done to reduce the number of live trees that are cut down by users for firewood. At any campsite where firewood was provided, the number of trees cut down by users was found to be low to non-existent.

Third, at the end of September and beginning of October, staff placed an "iron ranger" at the sign-in area. The purpose of the "iron ranger" is to receive donations and camping fees if the ranger is not around to register campers and the collect appropriate fees. Any additional fees and donations will help in the general funding of the park.

The final project completed this year was the shoreline stabilization project at the boat launch area. Three terraces were built to aid in the launching of boats, kayaks and canoes while providing a seating area for people. The stone terraces will primarily aid in the longevity of the boat launch area by reducing erosion and creating a stable and safe launch site for Green River Reservoir State Park visitors.

--Jason Kelly

#### **Do You Have an Interesting Story to Share?**

We are looking for tales of your times at GRRSP. Send us your anecdotes about a memorable visit to this beautiful place. Mail your stories to David Hallquist, 554 Patnoe Farm Drive, Hyde Park, VT 05655 or email at [dhallquist2@earthlink.net](mailto:dhallquist2@earthlink.net).

#### **Dancing Lights at Green River Reservoir**

On Saturday, September 7, I was camping with students in my Introduction to Outdoor Education class at the reservoir. As we sat talking around our campsite that night, someone noticed a red glow in the sky above us. Northern Lights! We quickly got into our canoes and rafted up away from the shore for a better view and to revel in Nature's brilliant display. At first we talked excitedly while we watched the various waves, beams, and curtains of color pulse above us, sometimes so bright they dimmed the stars. Then we suddenly fell silent in contemplation of this awesome phenomenon as the lights danced in the sky above us. As the light show ended, we all agreed that we had truly been fortunate to just happen to be at this wonderful place to witness this unique event.

--Karen Uhlendorf, Johnson State College

#### **Maintaining the Character of the Green River Reservoir Viewshed**

The Friends have been working on a voluntary plan to develop the Green River Reservoir Shoreline, Hillside, and Ridgeline District (GRRSHRD) to protect the scenic and ecological resources associated with the Green River Reservoir. Wilderness waters, steep slopes, and visual splendor characterize the resources of this district. The plan's goal is to encourage any development of these resources in a carefully designed, low impact manner that will provide mutual benefit to the landowner and the public. The plan is now in draft form, and is available for review and comment ([dhallquist2@earthlink.net](mailto:dhallquist2@earthlink.net)). Once the plan has been completed, members of the Friends will meet with landowners in the view shed to obtain voluntary commitments to follow the guidelines in the plan.

--David Hallquist

#### **Blueberry Island Restoration**

Just as Ellis Island, NY was inundated with immigrants searching for a better world, the reservoir's Blueberry Island, a scant 10-minute paddle north-east from the launch, has been inundated for years by eager immigrants to a very fragile environment. This gravelly, 0.1-acre remnant of a glacial outwash terrace, has taken a beating to foot traffic and waves from a constantly changing water level. We cannot do much to address the waves, however the area is now posted against visitation and we performed a vegetative analysis this past spring. Susan Warren (State of Vermont Lakes and Ponds Division of the Department of Environmental Conservation), Chuck Mitchell, and Don Avery came to the conclusion that adequate woody material exists, although roughed up by beavers and campers. Only minor supplementation with native

## FGRR Fall 2002 Newsletter

### Page 3

hardwoods would be needed. We also jump-started the re-vegetation of native grasses with a September planting of 100 plugs and five pounds of switch grass seed, little bluestem and Indian Grass. We had the thankful assistance of three park rangers. This degradation was 40 years in the making and due to the delicate soils will be 100 years in the remaking.

*--Chuck Mitchell*

### **Membership Update**

The 2002 Friends of Green River family consist of fifty-nine families and individuals, down slightly from last year's total of seventy-seven. Members range from far and wide with five different states represented: Vermont (54), California (2), Florida (1), New Jersey (1), and Pennsylvania (1). Membership fees raised \$1200 and an additional \$2,065 was donated towards the Island Restoration fund and Communications gear. Consequently, we were able to purchase three Motorola two-way radios for \$1911 and initiate the restoration project on Blueberry Island. Elsewhere in the newsletter is information about the role the radios played in assisting the 2002 park management and the island restoration project.

Thank you for your generous support. Without it, these projects, our newsletters, and various other projects designed to protect our park's future would not be possible.

Since the membership base is expanding, the Board has given some thought to formalizing its structure and have decided to change from a calendar year basis to a July 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup> basis. Thus, this year's membership will run through June 30, 2003. The spring newsletter will be the beginning of the 2003 membership drive. We look forward to your continued presence.

*--Chuck Mitchell*

### **Stewardship Project 2002 – 2 Way Radios**

In February 2002 the FGRR Board met with Susan Bulmer to review the 2001 GRRSP operating season and to discuss the ways in which the FGRR could assist the DFPR with the 2002 GRRSP operating season. It was determined that better communications were needed for more efficient and effective operation of the GRRSP. As a result, the FGRR purchased three Motorola CTR Series, two way radios, for a cost of approximately \$1,900. Before the actual purchase, Jason, the 2002 Park Ranger, tested the performance of the radios by calling from the Park Headquarters in Morrisville to numerous wooded and water locations within the GRRSP. Throughout the operating season, several FGRR members checked in with Jason and received consistent reports of greatly improved communications among staff including: traffic and parking control during peak use times, evening shoreline patrols, coordination to and from the Park Headquarters, and coordination of work projects. *--Milford Cushman*

### **The Manosh Bridge**

As reported in the last newsletter, the H. A. Manosh Corporation has obtained a state permit to build a bridge over the Green River some distance downstream of the dam that creates the Reservoir. The bridge, which has not yet been constructed, is located within the GRRSP boundaries and is in a right-of-way the DFPR considers to have been conveyed to Manosh by Morrisville Water and Light just prior to the sale of the property to the state.

The bridge, in theory, is being built to provide access to timberlands owned by either Howard Manosh or the H. A. Manosh Corporation. While we are concerned that there may be larger long-term development implications, we have been reassured by the DFPR that the use of right-of-way granted to Manosh is limited to forestry access and access to a single hunting camp. At this point, the FGRR is simply monitoring this situation and will keep the membership informed if future develops warrant.

### **GRRSP Long-Range Management Plan - Status Report**

The Long-Range Management Plan for Green River Reservoir State Park was initially scheduled for completion by the spring of 2001. The goal was not met in part because the DFPR was concentrating on completing other long-range management plans.

Based on conversations with Susan Bulmer, the Regional Parks Manager who is supervising the Long-Range Management Plan for Green River Reservoir State Park, we are told the this plan is a top priority for the winter of 2002-03. The DFPR hopes to complete this plan by the spring of 2003 but that is not guaranteed.

The FGRR have offered to assist the DFPR in any way possible with this effort. We will provide a further update in the spring newsletter.

*- Bill Bartlett*

**Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2002**

**Green River Reservoir State Park**

The new green gate is installed at the top of the access road leading us down to the landing. From the middle parking lot it appears as if the landing bay is mostly frozen now. Perhaps the broad deeper waters are still open. Where the Ranger trailer lived for the summer is the picnic bench covered with ten inches of snow. Memories of meals and conversations outdoors linger in the leafless branches above. We portage past the silent contact station, with the fading summer notices still stapled to the walls and door. The sign-in box is empty, no pencil or paper today. The snowy trail to the day use swimming point is unbroken except where snowshoe hares have crisscrossed here earlier in the morning. Brittle ice covered braches rake and scrape along the gunnels and sides of our canoe. We emerge through the hemlocks edging the swimming point to find open water reflecting the steely, gray blue, thinly clouded late November sky. Yes, there will another last paddle at the reservoir.

*--Terri and Milford*

---

[1] dbh : diameter of a tree at breast height, or 4.5 feet above ground level, the accepted point of diameter measurement for most trees. The abbreviation generally is written without capital letters or periods

[2] DFP&R : the State of Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation

[3] GRRSP : Green River Reservoir State Park

[4] ADA : Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 336 of the 101st Congress, enacted July 26, 1990.



# Friends of Green River Reservoir

Friends of Green River Reservoir P. O. Box 359 Hyde Park, VT 05655

Board of Directors: Chuck Mitchell, President (888-5441), Milford Cushman, Vice President (888-3362), Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Dave Hallquist (888-6877), Sally Laughlin (644-5651), and Karen Uhlendorf (888-6624)

May 1, 2003

## COMMON LOONS LAST SUMMER AT GREEN RIVER (Sally Laughlin)

Last summer, the Green River loon pair did not produce any chicks. Their nests were washed out twice by high water, once in the flooding in late June and then their re-nest after a torrential downpour in July. Loons prefer to nest on the edge of natural islands, which keeps them safe from most predators, but at risk from high water. The Friends will work with the VINS Loon Biologist Eric Hanson and follow his recommendations on placing floating nesting platforms or recommending a lower water level to increase their success in future years. Despite the Green River nest failure, statewide loons had a very successful summer.. The following summary is reprinted by permission from the Vermont Loon Recovery Project Annual Report.

### THE 2002 BREEDING STATUS OF COMMON LOONS IN VERMONT

Vermont Loon Recovery Project: a program of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD)

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) and the Nongame and Natural Heritage Program (NNHP) of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD) continued their statewide monitoring and management program for the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) for the 25th year. Vermont's breeding loon population reached a record high of 38 nesting pairs in 2000. The Common Loon was designated a state endangered species in 1987 after documenting low breeding success in the early 1980's. Vermont's breeding loon population gradually increased from 1984-1989, stabilized during the early 1990's at 13-16 nesting pairs annually, and increased substantially over the past 8 years. Of the 39 pairs that attempted nesting in 2002, 34 successfully hatched 52 eggs, with 40 chicks surviving through August. This represents the highest number of nests since record-keeping began in 1978. The number of chicks fledged is down from 2001. Three new breeding pairs were identified. Seven nest failures were documented. Two of these pairs re-nested successfully. Four nest failures were caused by flooding plus 2 re-nests, and 1 may have been caused by human disturbance. The causes of mortality of 6 of 12 chicks were unknown. Five chicks likely died from attacks by intruder loons, and 1 other may have died from a thunderstorm. Over 270 volunteers surveyed lakes throughout Vermont on 15 July as part of the Loonwatch program, an annual statewide loon count. Assessing the same group of 100 lakes surveyed over the past several years, volunteers counted 136 adults, 4 subadults, and 34 chicks, an increase in the number of adults from previous years (79 in 1996, 99 in 1997, 104 in 1998, 112 in 1999, 108 in 2000, 122 in 2001). An assessment of loon activity on Lake Champlain was conducted, but the results are still being reviewed. An initial assessment indicated that at least 30 adult loons and 19 subadult loons were located on Lake Champlain in the summer of 2002. Loons were distributed widely throughout the lake with some possible territorial pair activity. However, no nesting attempts or chicks were observed.

**Threats to Loons:** Mortality from fishing gear was less in 2002 compared to the previous 5 years with only 1 adult reported with a fishing hook on the bill, and the hook likely fell off after several weeks. As of September 1, 2002, only 1 adult loon death was documented as a result of flying into power lines and crash

landing on a wet road at night. Two other loons crash landed, one on wet pavement and the other during take-off. Both appeared healthy and were released. Concerned citizens and VFWD game wardens contributed greatly in stopping and reducing harassment on several other ponds. Harassment, both intentional and unintentional, was reported on lakes with high levels of canoe and motorboat activity (Groton, Island, Maidstone, Peacham). Several near collisions were reported with jet skis, water ski boats, and other high speed boats.

*Eric Hanson, Vermont Loon Recovery Biologist  
P O Box 22, Craftsbury, VT 05826*

## **Leave No Trace Camping (Karen Ulendorpf)**

Recreational lands and natural areas are being used by increasing numbers of people every year. Many wilderness areas are being loved to death, showing the effects of multitudes of recreational users unaware of their impacts: fragile vegetation trampled, soil compaction and erosion, damage to trees, campfire scars, improper disposal of human and animal waste, litter, and crowding. These impacts can negatively affect the quality of our recreational experiences, disturb wildlife, and create other changes to the natural environment that will take generations to repair.

Green River Reservoir is no exception. In order to maintain the pristine nature of this and other natural areas, visitors must strive to minimize their impacts on the land, its inhabitants, and other visitors. A movement started in the 1970s called Leave No Trace provides helpful guidelines for methods we can use to help preserve the very characteristics of the natural areas that draw us to them. Leave No Trace, Inc., is a non-profit educational organization that aims to help recreational outdoor users to avoid or minimize their impacts on the natural world. The following summary of the seven LNT Principles has been excerpted from the LNT website. For more detailed information on each of these, visit [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org).

### ***Plan Ahead and Prepare***

- *Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.*
- *Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.*
- *Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.*
- *Repackage food to minimize waste.*

### ***Dispose of Waste Properly***

- *Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods*
- *Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished. (In areas with established latrines, use those instead.)*
- *Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.*
- *To wash yourself or your dishes, use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.*

### ***Leave What You Find***

- *Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.*
- *Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.*
- *Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.*
- *Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.*



**Minimize Campfire Impacts**

- *Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.*
- *Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.*
- *Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely.*

**Respect Wildlife**

- *Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.*
- *Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.*
- *Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.*
- *Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.*
- *Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.*

**Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

- *Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.*
- *Be courteous.*
- *Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.*

**Blueberry Island Restoration Project Update (Chuck Mitchell)**

Blueberry Island is a small 0.1 acre sandy, gravelly glacial deposit approximately 2500 feet east of the boat launch area. For years prior to state management it was a popular destination for boaters to make a short paddle and have their own island for a short period of time. Wave action, foot traffic and various camping activities have severely damaged the natural vegetation.

This sensitive site has been closed to both day users and campers since June of 2001. During the spring and summer of 2002 FGRR volunteers and state officials evaluated the site and agreed on a restoration plan to be paid for and implemented by the FGRR. In the fall of 2002 with help from GRRSP rangers the fall phase of the restoration plan was implemented. In May of 2003 the plan is to complete the restoration plantings under the supervision of FGRR volunteers.

**GRRSP Visitor Information for 2002 Season (mid-May thru September)**

The following information was compiled by the GRRSP staff .

<b>Month</b>	<b># Day Users</b>	<b># Campers</b>	<b># sites Occupied</b>	<b># Total Users</b>	<b># Pets</b>
<b>May*</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>1698</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>1882</b>	<b>1305</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>3187</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>2612</b>	<b>1814</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>4426</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>1038</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1591</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,795</b>	<b>4,569</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>11,364</b>	<b>558</b>

- *May data is for second half of the month only.*

**Weekend (Friday thru Sunday) Use at GRRSP 2002**

<b>Weekend</b>	<b># Day Users</b>	<b># Campers</b>	<b># Total Users</b>
May 17-19	35	40	75
May 24-26	103	121	224
May 31 – June 2	95	44	139
June 7-9	184	125	309
June 14-16	28	48	76
June 21-23	137	139	276
June 28-30	299	181	480
July 5-7	167	183	350
July 12-14	324	241	565
July 18-21	272	181	453
July 26-28	182	147	329
Aug 1-3	283	206	489
Aug 9-11	321	232	553
Aug 16-18	554	218	772
Aug 23-25	284	227	511
Aug 30 – Sept 1	273	232	505
Sept 6-8	402	182	584
Sept 13-15	115	113	228
Sept 20-22	75	85	160
Sept 27-29	65	56	121

**Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Efforts**

During the past winter, the FGRR Board meet with officials from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding how to protect GRR from the risk of infestation by aquatic nuisances including Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels and others. While we believe that GRR is currently free of any such aquatic nuisance species, to keep things that way, we need to assistance and cooperation of all users of GRRSP. There are several nearby lakes that are infested with one or more aquatic nuisance species.

Enclosed in this mailing are copies of watch cards provided by DEC to help identify aquatic nuisances (**Check on this**). These watch cards also describe common menthods by which each aquatic nuisance is spread and where to get answers to any questions you may have.

In response to this issue the FGRR has, with advice from DEC officials, developed a plan to reduce the risk of GRR becoming infested with aquatic nuisance species. A major portion of this effort will be educating users of GRR of how to reduce the risk of inadvertently spreading aquatic nuisances.

In addition the FGRR, in cooperation with the GRRSP rangers, will conduct monthly surveys of the bay at the boat access area during the summer months looking for evidence of Eurasian watermilfoil, Vermont's most widespread aquatic nuisance. Finally the FGRR will be supporting an effort this summer by DEC to conduct a comprehensive aquatic plant survey at GRR to establish some baseline information.

Anyone interested in learning more about this effort or wishing to volunteer there time to assist, should contact Bill Bartlett at 888-5591.

### **Work on Voluntary Guidelines Continues**

FGRR has been working on a set of voluntary guidelines for development that are intended to help maintain the pristine character of the Green River Reservoir view-shed. This view-shed is divided up into 50 parcels of land held by a variety of public and private owners. The development guidelines will help create a body of knowledge that can give the owner help with land management and building construction to ensure that the value of the property, to the landowner, the reservoir, and the citizens of Vermont, can be sustained for an indefinite period of time. The guideline document is based on the experiences of stewards of other environmentally important districts in New England as well as the knowledge of land management professionals. Landowners that follow the guidelines can expect their property to continue to provide the unique reservoir experience for generation after generation of owners and visitors alike. The next step for the FGRR is to begin discussions with the landowners to determine just how to obtain agreement on both the document contents, as well as plans for voluntary adoption of the guidelines. Discussions with landowners will take place starting in 2003, with the goal of holding public presentation and educational forums early in 2004.

