



Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.

P. O. Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655

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Board of Directors: Milford Cushman, President (888-3362), Sally Laughlin, Vice President (644-5651), Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Dave Hallquist (888-6877), Paul Moody (888-4908)

Spring, 2006

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Update on Long Range Management Plan

Once again we are reporting that the Long Range Management Plan (LRMP) for Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) has not yet been adopted. Our understanding now is that the LRMP will be adopted in the next month or so.

The LRMP's adoption has been delayed due to the consequences of a last-minute decision in March of 2006 by Jonathan Wood, Commissioner of the DFP&R, to delete all uses of the phrase "wilderness-like" from the LRMP. This phrase has been used for the past 7 years to generally describe the goal of preserving GRRSP as a primitive state park. "Wilderness-like" is currently in the Department's vision statement of how GRRSP is to be managed.

While we are not aware of any written explanation of why this is being done at this very late stage in the LRMP adoption process, Commissioner Wood has stated that this change reflects his personal views and he feels the phrase "wilderness-like" is inaccurate and potentially misleading.

The FGRR have indicated our objection to this change in a detailed letter dated March 31, 2006 to Commissioner Wood (copies available upon request). In summary we have argued that the phrase "wilderness-like" is in the current Interim Management Plan for GRRSP adopted by DFP&R in 1999 without incident or problem.

(continues on page 2)

Annual Membership Renewal Time

Thank you for your generous support last year. FGRR Memberships run from July 1 to June 30. Please renew now. We need your support.

Your 2006 renewal form is included on page 8

Chuck Mitchell – Thank You

The FGRR Board has recently accepted the resignation of Chuck Mitchell from the Board of Directors. He is one of the Initial Members of Corporation of the FGRR, Inc. which was signed December 16, 1998. Chuck has contributed his technical expertise and his deep care for the Green River Reservoir beginning many years before joining the Board of the FGRR.

While a member of the Board and along with Don Avery, he has worked to help restore Blueberry Island through the planting of stabilizing vegetation. Chuck was instrumental in the FGRR's successful application to the New England Grassroots for a grant that helped pay for pictorial educational materials the FGRR used to assist the Town of Hyde Park in creating the Green River Reservoir Viewshed Overlay District.

We thank you Chuck for your dedication and contribution the Board and we look forward crossing paths with you along the way.

The Board of the FGRR is now seeking to interview interested candidates to serve on our board. We are a hard working, dedicated group that meets monthly through-out the year to serve the best interests of the Green River Reservoir. If you, or if you know of anyone who might be interested, please call Milford at 888-3362 (home) or 253-2169 (work) to discuss the opportunities.

Friends of the Green River Reservoir: Our Mission

To serve as a source of information and as a voice for those who value the Green River Reservoir and would like to protect its important wildlife habitat, its wilderness-like character and the variety of its historical recreational uses as an important part of Lamoille County and Vermont's heritage for current and future generations.

(continued from page 1: Long Range Management Plan)

of the LRMP including the proposed version that Commissioner Wood himself approved prior to it being proposed for public review and comment just over one year ago.

While we are disappointed at Commissioner Wood's decision to interject his personal views at the very end of a lengthy public process, we have urged adoption of the LRMP as soon as possible. Our understanding is that the balance of the LRMP presented for public review and comment in early 2005 will be adopted without any additional substantive changes. Overall we believe that the near-final LRMP developed by a dedicated team of natural resource and recreational management professionals within the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and its parent agency, the Agency of Natural Resources is very well done. We look forward to the adoption and implementation of this LRMP in the very near future.



ADA Access Trail Plans

The Friends have been working with the State of Vermont and the Village of Morrisville to help the disabled enjoy the solitude and beauty of the Green River Reservoir Park. Most board members know, or have met, people with disabilities who have been able to use kayaks and canoes with special equipment and accommodations. The FGRR board has decided that to help provide access to the park for people with disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is the civil rights guarantee for persons with disabilities in the United States. It provides protection from discrimination for individuals on the basis of disability. The ADA extends civil rights protections for people with disabilities to employment in the public and private sectors, transportation, public accommodations, and services provided by state and local government. This act has raised awareness and sensitivity to issues for people with disabilities.

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Interpretive Nature Field Guide Project

This summer, FGRR is sponsoring the development of an interpretive nature field guide for the Reservoir. The guide will be an educational tool for visitors to the Park and will be identifying five natural communities and describing some of the most important species of each. Illustrated by color photographs of these flowers, trees, and animals, the guide will help paddlers identify key species, provide information on the natural communities, and include learning activities for children. The guide will consist of a twelve page booklet with photos, and will be available both for loan and for sale.



Danielle Owczarski is carrying out the project. She is a senior at Johnson State College, majoring in biology and is in the Field Naturalist program; this will be her fourth season of

working at Green River Reservoir State Park. Danielle's internship will be supervised by JSC Professor Robert Genter and Susan Bulmer of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, with the FGRR Board providing technical and nature interpretation guidance.

Besides educating people about the natural resources of the Park, the guide will stress conservation and how to be a responsible park user. The Friends will publish the booklet and will update and reprint it as needed through the years. The nominal price of the booklet will provide funds for reprinting as needed. We have applied for a grant from the Vermont Recreation Trails Grant Program administered by VDFPR and if granted would cover part of the cost.



Annual Meeting of FGRR at the Reservoir July 6 2006

Each year, the Board holds a meeting at the Green River State Park and invites members to join us for the evening. This year the meeting will be held on Thursday, July 6th at campsite 21. Please join us around 5pm.

(continued from page 2: ADA Access Trail Plans)

Milford Cushman, the FGRR President is also a well-known and long-standing architect in Stowe, Vermont. He has volunteered his services to help design an access trail, ramp and dock that will help people with disabilities and their equipment move from the parking area to the reservoir body. The Friends have met with the state and the Village of Morrisville, who have given the concept support and approval.

The State of Vermont, Department of Forest and Parks, has agreed to make a few campsites accessible to people with disabilities. At this point, the Park management has not determined how to ensure these sites are available. Campsites are fully booked and to take any out of circulation would not be a good policy. One thought is to keep them set aside for people with disabilities access for up to two weeks prior to the occupancy date, and then make them available to everyone if the site(s) has not been reserved.

The next steps are to finalize the details and get final approval with the Village of Morrisville. That is scheduled for May 23, 2006. Once this final approval has been obtained, the FGRR board will work with the State of Vermont to make the ramp and campsite access a reality.



FGRR Places Nesting Boxes

On a wintry day, an intrepid group of your FGRR Board set out to provide nesting opportunities for hole-nesting ducks and songbirds near Schofield Pond and the remote beaver ponds nearby by putting up seven new nesting boxes.



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Many species of birds can nest only in natural hollows or old woodpecker holes. Being unable to create such spaces themselves, reproduction for them is dependent on finding a natural or man-made spot to lay their eggs, incubate them at the required temperature (about 100 degrees) for c. 30 days, and thus produce another generation!



Above: (from left to right) Board members Milford, Michael, Sally and Bill along with member Terry Gregory stand in front of an installed nesting box. Left: The nesting box party snowshoeing into the park with sleds full of tools and nesting boxes.

There is a shortage of mature trees for both natural hollows and enterprising woodpeckers as the Green River Reservoir area was pretty thoroughly cut over in past years. Hopefully, the large nest boxes will be used by Common or Hooded Mergansers or Wood Ducks, and the smaller ones by Tree Swallows and Black-capped Chickadees.

Thanks to Peter Krusch for building the nesting boxes for us! 

**Have a comment about the FGRR newsletter?
Email us at fgrr@earthlink.net**

2006 State Park Operational Plans



Camping and group reservations for campsites will be taken beginning on May 1, 2006 at the Park's office in Morrisville (888-1349). Jason Kelly, Park Ranger will be taking reservations. As with last year, GRRSP will have five full time park staff in 2006, four of whom (Jason, Victor, Tara and Danielle) are returning from last year.

Park staff will be working on improvements to Camp site # 8 and plan to install two additional pit toilets as well as relocate active pit toilets as needed. Staff will also be monitoring beaver activity in the Green River upstream of the Manosh Bridge (a new bridge on the west side of the Access Road) to determine if the beavers are flooding the sedge meadow. The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (DFP&R) installed beaver baffles in 2005 to prevent this problem. DFP&R plans to mow roadsides and openings along interior Park roadways.

DFP&R plans to build a new bridge and relocate about 200 feet of road to improve the road on the west side of the Reservoir and to repair and upgrade the access road on the east side of the Reservoir. The extent of this work in 2006 will in part depend on budget decisions currently being made in Montpelier.

Park staff and others in the Department will also be working with the Friends of Green River Reservoir in developing and interpretative trail and related nature guide (Note to Paul, cross reference to Sally's article on Danielle.) as well as in finalizing the design and permitting of an American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant Reservoir access path and small dock as well as an ADA compliant campsite. At this time the ADA compliant facilities are tentatively scheduled for construction in 2007 depending on funding availability.



History of the Green River Reservoir: Bud LaClair

Our last issue covered the development and construction of the Green River Reservoir, this time we present a personal recollection of GRR by long time reservoir and Hyde Park resident Bud LaClair.

One recent rainy spring day, Bud began his recollection with memories of playing at his grandfather's place "up there". His grandfather was born near the Garfield side of the reservoir in 1911. Bud recalls how beautiful the area was with seven ponds and nearly continuous forests.



Garfield Corners when Bud LaClair was growing up.

As a kid, he remembers the reservoir's development with a year of cutting trees and the bonfires manned 24hr a day to get rid of the branches and stumps. The trees became lumber, and the saw dust pile from this was easily 30 feet tall and could be seen for years when they drained the reservoir each spring. It took nearly 10 years ('46-'56) for the reservoir to initially fill up, and in no time people began visiting the reservoir for boating,



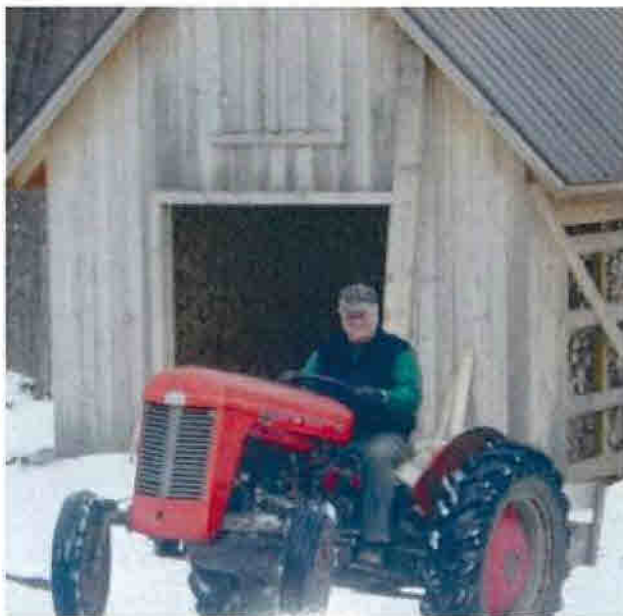
The newly constructed dam as the reservoir fills.

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(continued from page 4: History of GRRSP)

Some old-time visitors complain about how the reservoir was better before it became a state park. Bud feels differently. He had bought 100 acres abutting the reservoir and experienced first hand the effects of uncontrolled access. Beyond the temporary noise and trash from hell-raising college kids, they cut and stripped trees for campfires and overused the sites destroying their original beauty. One day, as shots rang out and bullets whizzed past his camp, he came upon a guy floating empty beer bottles which he was shooting with a pistol. The guy didn't care about the broken glass settling on swimming area popular with local kids, leaving it for Bud to clean up.

Bud's love for the area was clear in his purchase of land there and carefully developing out-of-sight narrow access roads, and when selling land, placing covenants limiting their development. Not everyone foresaw how special the area would become. Bud recalls how one local bank didn't consider the land valuable enough to secure a loan to build an access road and install power.



Bud on his tractor putting away wood for sugaring.

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He continues to own land adjacent to the reservoir on the western side of umbrella hill overlooking the main body of the reservoir.



Bud's log cabin sugar shack on Umbrella hill.

Bud kept this particular site for his log cabin styled sugar shack because of the old growth rock maples that in a good year can produce a half a gallon of syrup per tap.

Thanks to Bud for his stewardship of the lands around the Green River Reservoir and for taking the time to share his personal history with all of us.



**Have a comment about the FGRR newsletter?
Email us at fgrr@earthlink.net**

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Friends of Green River Reservoir Merchandise

The two-tone baseball cap (one size fits most) is 100% cotton with "Friends of Green River Reservoir" embroidered on the front of the cap. The t-shirt has our special logo silk-screened on the front, is 100% cotton and offered in a medium green color with the logo in black. Sizes available: SM, MED, LG, XLG, XXLG.



Order Form:

Waterproof maps (\$4 each + \$1 shipping)	Qty _____	Subtotal for maps _____
T-shirts (\$20 each + \$5 shipping) Sizes: SM, MED, LG, XLG, XXLG	Qty _____	Subtotal for shirts _____ Size(s) _____
Number of Hats (\$20 each + \$3 shipping)	Qty _____	Subtotal for hats _____
Amount enclosed for T-shirts, Hats and/or Maps	Total (including shipping) _____	
Address to ship to: _____ _____ _____		

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.**

Friends of Green River Reservoir Membership Survey – Spring 2006

Please take a few minutes to give us your feedback on how we are doing...

On the Friends of Green River Reservoir Newsletter:

- a. Frequency (circle best response)
About right more frequent less frequent
- b. On the content of the newsletter, what do you like best?

Is there anything else you would like to see in the newsletter?

Issues affecting the Green River Reservoir State Park:

- a. Do you feel we are not paying sufficient attention to issues important to you?
(please be as specific as possible)
- b. Do you think we are spending time and resources on issues we should not be focusing on?
(please be as specific as possible)

Day Use Fees at the Green River Reservoir State Park:

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation has a significant structural deficit in its budget. Under pressure to deal with this issue, the DFP&R is considering charging day use fees at GRRSP (common at most state parks). **Please circle the option** you feel the FGRR should encourage the DFP&R to take:

- a. No change in the status quo, I oppose day use fees at GRRPS.
Comments _____
- b. I Support reasonable day use fees including modestly priced season passes.
Comments _____

2006 Membership Renewal Form



Thank you for your membership support last year.

In 2005 our membership rose by 24% over our 2004 membership to an all-time high of 103 individuals and families. Membership fees and donations were up 26% and also rose to a all-time high. Well done Friends!

Strong membership enables the Friends to continue to provide critical support for many ongoing and new projects planned at the Park. By being a Friend of Green River Reservoir, you stay informed about important milestones and events that effect this beautiful park. We hope that you will continue to support the Friends of Green River Reservoir with a 2006 tax-deductible donation. Your generosity is an invaluable investment in the future of the park

FGRR Memberships Run from July 1 through June 30 each year.

Please renew your membership at this time.

All members will get a copy of the newly published map of Green River Reservoir. Contributions to the FGRR are tax deductible. FGRR is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

Yes, I will renew at:

- Noble Loon \$1000
- Patron \$500
- Associate \$100
- Sustaining \$50
- Supporting \$25
- Basic Membership \$15
- Other \$ _____

I also include a contribution of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc**

Send your membership renewal, merchandise order and survey to:

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



Friends of Green River Reservoir

P. O. Box 359 Hyde Park, VT 05655 Email; fgrr@earthlink.net

Board of Directors: Sally Laughlin, President (644-5651), Milford Cushman, Vice President (888-3362), Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Paul Moody (888-4908), Dave Hallquist (888-6877)

The Friends of Green River Reservoir is a non-profit membership group. We are dedicated to educating and acting to protect the wilderness-like character and wildlife habitat of Green River Reservoir State Park while preserving its heritage and historical uses for future generations.

This newsletter is normally distributed in the fall – The Friends decided to wait for the Long Range Management plan update which was presented at the November board meeting.

Long-Range Management Plan

The Green River Reservoir Long Range Management plan is finished and ready for public comment. The Green River Reservoir State Park, opened in 1999, is an outstanding example of how the Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation seeks to mix recreation and wildlife habitat protection. The 5,153-acre park has the longest stretch of undeveloped shoreline in the state and is the largest body of water dedicated solely to non-motorized recreation. The park is also home for moose, white-tailed deer, black bears, bobcats, river otters, mink, coyotes, loons, and osprey. The Department is managing the park to allow for recreation while minimizing human impacts on wildlife and habitat.

The plan addresses park activities and how those activities will be planned and controlled to ensure the park will remain in its wild and undeveloped condition, with low-impact, compatible recreational use allowed on and around the Reservoir. Management activities will be only those necessary to maintain the property's character, protect the environment and critical resources, demonstrate sustainable forest and wildlife management, control excessive recreational use, and ensure high-quality outdoor experiences for visitors. These management activities specifically identify how to control access to minimize the impact, and include specific guidelines on tree cutting to ensure that forest management is done in a way to preserve the wilderness-like character of the park.

Susan Bulmer, the Green River Reservoir park director has been diligently working on the plan for over three years. The Friends of Green River Reservoir has been working closely with Susan to provide assistance and feedback. The Friends will send details on how to access the plan as soon as it becomes available.

- Dave Hallquist

Update on the Green River Reservoir Viewshed Overlay District

It has been just over a year since the Hyde Park Selectboard voted unanimously in support of the Hyde Park Planning Commission's proposal to create the Green River Reservoir Viewshed Protection Overlay District (GRRVOD).

At the September 20, 2006 Selectboard's meeting held specifically to publicly review how the GRRVOD functioned during the past year, there was again, unanimous praise from about 20 people in attendance for the process, the by laws and the way the Town's Zoning and Planning Office and the Development Review Board Town has been supported by the FGRR thru educational meetings and the publishing of the Visual Guide and the Muted and Earth-tone Exterior Color Samples documents.

At this meeting, Julia Compagna, the Town's Zoning Administrator announced that the Vermont Planners Association has awarded the Hyde Park Planning Commission along with the citizens of Hyde Park who participated in the GRRVOD planning process and the FGRR for the citizen based efforts that accomplished the GRRVOD. The FGRR are proud to be acknowledged for our contribution towards the preservation of the Green River Reservoir viewshed both for landowners and users of the Park. Mike Miller from the Hyde Park Planning Commission and a participant in the GRRVOD planning process, nominated the HPPC, the landowners and the FGRR for this award.

Still ahead is the testing of the use of the viewshed by-laws and their ability to protect the viewshed by giving landowners describable development guidelines.

Milford Cushman, a FGRR founding Board member is committed to working with landowners or their representatives towards this end. For example, the Gilbert family is currently proposing to sub-divide their land holdings into six parcels. Milford has walked the land with the owner and the DRB to assess the proposal. He has supplied public

testimony with supporting graphic documentation as to how the proposed sub-division could comply with the GRRVOD by-laws and thereby set an excellent example of how the GRRVOD by-laws work for both the landowner and the protection of the viewshed.

-Milford Cushman

A Review of FGRR Projects

Part of the fabric of an organization like the FRGG is it's history and for the FGRR with our mission in mind, we take a look back over our shoulders in order to better understand who we are and how will we define our future goals. The following list is abbreviated from seven single spaced pages of projects, activities and actions that we accomplished or embarked upon:

1. Projects accomplished by FGRR from 1990 to July 2001
 - Commenced conversations with The Nature Conservancy -1990
 - Contacted and researched Vermont Housing and Conservation funding for Natural Area Projects – 1991
 - FGRR “organized” in May 1995
 - The Village of Morrisville votes to sell the GRR to the State of Vermont on Monday, August 24, 1998
 - FGRR adopted by-laws and incorporated on December 16, 1998 as a 501(c)(3)
 - Dedication of the GRRSP occurred Monday, June 21, 1999 at the GRRSP
2. Projects accomplished by FGRR July 2001 – June 2002
 - Provided student ranger funding in 2001
 - Blueberry Island Restoration Plan – 2002
 - Assisting the Dept of Forest, Parks and Recreation with planning and permitting the middle parking lot, the ADA board walk
 - Assisting the DFP&R long range planning process by sponsoring the continuing life of the Green River Reservoir State Park Public Planning Advisory Group..
3. Projects accomplished by FGRR July 2002 – June 2003
 - 2-way radio funding for 2002
 - Blueberry Island Restoration– Phase III - 2003
 - Funded binoculars for use by the GRRSP staff
 - Worked on the View-shed Project
 - Assisting the Dept of Forest, Parks and Recreation with planning, permitting and the construction of the middle parking lot (completed Sept 2002)
4. Projects accomplished by FGRR July 2003 – June 2004
 - Co – published with the DFP&R a map of the Green River Reservoir to be used for the 2004 and 2005 operating seasons. The FGRR have funded this project with sales proceeds (\$1.00/map) to return the GRRSP
 - Initiated and developed the Forest Bird Monitoring site
 - Worked on the View-shed Project and met with the Hyde Park Planning Commission and two members of the Hyde Park Select Board regarding view shed protection of the GRRSP and reservoir.
 - Assisted the DFP&R with the Hyde Park Development Review Board's periodic permit review
5. Projects accomplished by FGRR July 2004 – June 2005
 - Published the FGRR 2005 Spring – Summer - Fall Brochure for information about the GRRSP and for recruiting membership. (started in 2001)
 - Completed a final report to the New England Grass Roots Fund Grant regarding the FGRR use of the \$1,500 grant for the viewshed protection
 - Coordinated the availability of the VYCC to work at the GRRSP for 1 week
 - Worked extensively on the View-shed Project. Met with the Hyde Park Planning Commission and GRR landowners regarding view shed protection of the GRR. Produced visual impact studies of the GRRSP west ridge. Produced visual guides for clarification and the understanding of the proposed GRRVOD zoning standards.
6. Projects accomplished by FGRR July 2005 – June 2006
 - Worked extensively on the GRR Viewshed Protection Project. Met with the Hyde Park Planning Commission and GRR landowners regarding view shed protection of the GRR. With public input revised visual guides and exterior color guides for clarification and the understanding of the proposed GRRVOD zoning standards.
 - Celebrated the unanimous Hyde Park Selectboard vote to accept the GRRVOD By-laws as written by the HPPC..
 - Assisted the DFP&R with the planning and design for the ADA trail, landing and dock and two accessible campsites.(Construction in 2007). We met with Craig Myotte of MW&L to gain approval from MW&L for the

- construction of these accessible public facilities.
 - Assisted the DFP&R with the Long Range Management Plan including: meeting with Susan Bulmer, Jonathan Wood.
 - Accepted donated land from the Sanbar Corporation and resold to Duff Robitelle for the FGRR actual costs. The land will be preserved in its undeveloped state.
7. New projects that are either underway or are under consideration as of May 2006:
- Discuss the role the FGRR can play with other "friends" of State Parks.
 - Publish a GRRSP Bird List for distribution to members and users
 - Record and document oral history of GRR area
 - Interpretative flower guide – Danielle
 - Interpretative brochure on historic and cultural resources
 - Meet with MW&L and DFP&R to complete the ADA trail and dock
 - Re publish GRRSP map in 2007
- Milford Cushman

Interpretive Trail Guide – FGRR Summer Intern

This summer, the Friends sponsored a Johnson College Environmental Studies student, Danielle Owczarski, to develop an Interpretive Natural Field Guide of Green River Reservoir State Park. The Friends purchased a digital camera, a UV filter, a polarizing filter, a tripod, two memory cards, and accessories to provide resources for the project. The friends also sponsored Danielle as a summer intern and provided support and oversight on the project.

Danielle presented the results of her work this fall to the FGRR Board of Directors this fall, and we were all very impressed.

The pictures of the many plant species that inhabit the Green River Reservoir State Park was impressive. We now have over 1500 pictures available for use, as well as an excellent educational tool. The friends plan to publish the guide and make it available for the users of the reservoir for the summer of 2007.

The board wants to thank Danielle for her hard work and looks forward to working with her in the future.

-David Hallquist

Loon Update

Summer 2006 was a good season for the pair of Common Loons nesting on Green River Reservoir. They were on the nest by 8 June, and produced one chick, their first successful nesting in several years. Watching the pair with their baby (from a respectful distance) was a great pleasure for paddlers this summer past.

According to the Eric Hanson of the Vermont Loon Recovery Project, 2006 was a good season for loons statewide: (quote follows):

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science and the Nongame and Natural Heritage Program of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department continued their statewide monitoring and management program for the Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) for the 29th years. Vermont's breeding loon populations reached a record high 58 nesting pairs and 77 territorial pairs. The Common Loon was designated a state endangered species in 1987 and removed from this list in 2005. Vermont's breeding loon populations gradually increased from 1984-1989, stabilized during the early 1990s at 13-16 pairs nesting annually, and increased substantially since 1995... This past summer, five new breeding pairs were identified.

Much of the success of Vermont's loon population is because of the support given to the species by the Vermont Loon Recovery Project, working closely with volunteers statewide. Loons are much more likely to succeed in nesting on islands, and the artificial nesting platforms play a major role. Last year, 22 of the 58 breeding pairs nested on platforms, 20 on natural islands, and 16 on shorelines. Another factor in their success is the dedicated commitment of volunteers, park rangers, and visitors to protecting loons from harassment, so that they can nest and raise their young in peace.

Could more than one pair nest on Green River? There is enough territory it would seem, but the loons need a quite bay to nest in as well as a shallow area to use as a 'nursery' for the growing chicks. It is not clear that Green River has the proper habitat for a second nest, but with all the additional loons around, and what seems to be a second pair in residence, it will be interesting to see what the future brings.

- Sally Laughlin

Membership Update

The strength of an organization can be measured by the size and diversity of its membership and the 2006 Friends of Green River membership year (July 2006 - June 2007) was a strong one! There were 97 paid memberships donating a total of \$5,915. In addition, 9 of the members purchased hats, shirts and/or waterproof maps, the proceeds of which go to

further benefit Friend's educational and preservation activities.

Of the 97 paid memberships, approximately 21% were individuals with the remaining 79% being family. The vast majority of the members were from Vermont (88%) but California, Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York were also represented. There were also 32 different Vermont towns represented. Hyde Park lead the list with 22% of the membership, followed by Morrisville (8%) and Stowe (6%).

With your continued support, the Friends are able to financially provide for Park activities that both educate and act to protect the wilderness-like character and wildlife habitat of Green River State Park while preserving for future generations its heritage and historical recreational uses. Thank you!

- Michael J. Wickenden

GRRSP 2006 Season Report

The following report on the 2006 season at GRRSP is based on a discussion between Susan Bulmer and the FGRR Board on November 27, 2006. The GRRSP staff reported only a couple of complaints in 2006. The number of paid camping visitors in 2006, and therefore Park revenue was down slightly from 2005. This is attributed to a rainy late spring and early summer as camping use was strong in July, August and September.

Year	Paid # camper (nearest 100)	GRRSP Revenues (nearest \$100)
2001	4100	\$21,000
2002	4400	\$23,200
2003	4600	\$21,200
2004	5900	\$25,400
2005	5800	\$26,600
2006	5500	\$25,900

GRRSP experienced a major problem this summer with six of its pit toilets. This problem required significant remedial action by the GRRSP staff and caused concerns by the Hyde Park Town Health Officer. Eventually Park staff was able to devise an effective way of correcting the problem at the six problem toilets. Subsequently the Department has developed a most robust pit toilet management plan for the future. The FGRR will continue to monitor this situation working with both the Department and the Town of Hyde Park.

In the 2006 season the following improvements were made at GRRSP:

- Campsite # 8 has been roughed in and is expected to be open in 2007.
- Progress has been made on the ADA Trail, with assistance from the FGRR. This project will be put out to bid in the late spring 2007 with expectation that construction will be done in the fall of 2007.
- The Ranger Contact Station has been completed.

Susan Bulmer reported that the Department is discussing internally whether to increase camping fees statewide, including GRRSP, by raising the basic camping fee from \$4 to \$5 per person, per night and raising the Group Camping Fee by \$1 per person per night. These possible fee increases have not yet been decided upon and any changes in the fee structure will need to be adopted as a rule change under the Vermont Administrative Procedures Act. There are no plans at this time to charge Day Use Fees at GRRSP however future consideration of such fees has not been ruled out by Commissioner Wood (see related article below).

Finally, Susan reported that the trailer that has been at GRRSP for the past few years has died and that a 12' x 12' storage building would be moved to GRRSP in 2007.

Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Budgetary Problems – GRRSP Implications;

GRRSP continues to lose roughly \$30,000 per year and fiscally is one of the half dozen “worse performing” (from a fiscal aspect) Parks statewide. The Department estimates that approximately two-thirds of this shortfall could be recouped if Day Use Fees were collected, assuming no decline in actual Day Use. There will not be Day Use Fees in 2007 but for the future, this option, among others, is under consideration.

We will continue to monitor this issue and plan on providing a more in-depth report in the Spring 2007 FGRR Newsletter.

- Bill Bartlett

MPK/TJA/CL



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P. O. Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655

fgrr@earthlink.net

Board of Directors: Sally Laughlin, President (644-5651), Milford Cushman, Vice President (888-3362), Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Dave Hallquist (888-6877), Paul Moody (888-4908), Heidi Rich (851-1268)

Spring, 2007

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Long Range Management Plan – Completed!

The Long Range Management Plan (LRMP) for the Green River Reservoir State Park (GRRSP) is complete. The Friends want to thank Susan Bulmer and the State of Vermont Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation for giving the Friends the opportunity to review and provide input to the plan.

The vision of the park is that the Green River Reservoir and surrounding park lands will remain in its wild and undeveloped condition, with low-impact, compatible recreational and forest uses. Management will include those activities necessary to maintain the property's remote and wild character, protect the environment and critical resources, provide sustainable forest and recreation management, control excessive use by visitors, and ensure high-quality outdoor experiences for those at the Reservoir and surrounding park lands.

The GRRSP will be managed as a state park with minimal facility development. The amount and types of recreational uses and facilities will be balanced with the need to protect the remote and wild character and the unique natural resources. The park will also be managed in a way that it will be a good neighbor and community asset.

As part of the plan, a complete resource assessment was performed, and provides an inventory of the wildlife, forests, fish, endangered species, and the soils. The resource assessment also provides a history of the area, dating back to the first occupants several thousand years ago.

(continues on page 2)

Annual Membership Renewal Time

Thank you for your generous support last year. FGRR Memberships run from July 1 to June 30. Please renew now. We need your support.

Your 2007 renewal form is included on page 8

Nature Field Guide to Green River Reservoir

The Friends of Green River Reservoir are publishing a "Nature Field Guide to Green River Reservoir."



The guide cover and one of its beautifully illustrated sections designed to guide visitors to the treasures of the Green River Reservoir. The booklet and the photography were sponsored by the members of the FGRR.

The 20 page booklet is intended to help visitors learn about the flowers and wildlife of the Park, and to help visitors become more aware of the role they play and their connection to the wildlife and plants that are found here.

The Nature Field Guide contains color coded guide maps, a history of the area, and richly illustrated sections on the park's Natural Communities, Water Resources, Wildlife, Nutrient Cycling, and Conservation.

This striking full color booklet is the work of Danielle Owczarski, a Johnson State College student who worked three summers as a park ranger at GRR State Park. Danielle researched, wrote and designed the booklet, and personally took most of the beautiful photographs used to illustrate it.

(continues on page 2)

(continued from page 1: Long Range Management Plan)

There are no archeological sites in the GRRSP, so actual evidence of inhabitants to the area does not exist until the late 1800's. Since the soils are somewhat poorly drained, and have low productivity for both agriculture and forestry, the area was sparsely populated. There was a brief period of mining activity during the 1860's, which resulted in the areas called the "Lower and Upper Diggings."

Three rare species of plants have been identified. Those are Gibbous bladderwort, the Narrow-leaved glade fern, and Greenish sedge. The Common Loon and Osprey are regular visitors to the area.

The plan details how the State of Vermont will:

- **Provide opportunities and manage the continuation of high quality, remote and primitive recreational experiences and activities within the wild character of the park.**
- **Protect biological diversity**
- **Manage the forest resources to contribute to the local and regional economies**
- **Maintain or enhance critical wildlife habitats and aquatic ecosystems**
- **Protect the cultural and historic resources on the property**
- **Provide educational and research opportunities on the natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the park.**

The Friends of Green River Reservoir will work closely with the Department of Forest and Parks to help achieve these goals. Maintaining the wild character of the park is a challenging goal. Key to this goal is limiting access and ensuring that the users of the park comply with park rules and guidelines, and doing this with limited financial resources.

The Friends recognize this challenge, and will continue to work closely and provide assistance to the state. We also ask the FGRR members and the park users to recognize this challenge and to provide help in any way that you can.

Copies of the plan can be obtained by contacting:

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0601
802-241-3650

(continued from page 1: Nature Field Guide)

The FGRR is proud to have sponsored this educational effort, and thanks our members whose donations provided the funding. The Guide will be for sale at area bookstores, at the Park Office at the Reservoir, and though the FGRR by mail, for \$5.00 each.



Danielle and Sally during the final editing of the guide.

Our thanks to Danielle for the great job she did in creating it, and our best wishes to her on her May 19 graduation from Johnson State College and her move west to work for the National Park Service in Oregon!

Friends of the Green River Reservoir: Our Mission

The Friends of Green River Reservoir is a non-profit membership group. We are dedicated to educating and acting to protect the wilderness-like character and wildlife habitat of Green River Reservoir State Park while preserving its heritage and historical uses for future generations.

Annual Meeting of FGRR at the Reservoir July 12 2007

Each year, the FGRR Board holds a meeting at the Green River State Park and invites members to join us for the evening. This year the meeting will be held on Thursday, July 12th at campsite 21. Please join us around 5pm

GRRSP Operations in 2007



GRRSP will have five staff during the 2007 season. Park Ranger Jason Kelley will be back for his 6th year at GRRSP as will Victor Veve. The trailer previously used by Park staff has been retired and may be replaced with a building being recycled from another location.

Call 802-888-1349 to reserve campsites

Reservations are taken on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

There will be no day use fees in 2007 however the DFRP has told us they may consider requiring such fees in the future, perhaps as early as 2008 in order to help reduce GRRSP's annual operating deficit. Camping fees will remain unchanged in 2007 at \$4 per person per night with a \$12 minimum per campsite. There is also a charge of \$5 for each vehicle after the first two per campsite.

The FGRR are working with the Department of Forests Parks and Recreation to improve the reservation system in years to come. Please offer us your suggestions at fgrr@earthlink.net.

An access trail and dock that is required to bring GRRPS into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is scheduled for construction this fall beginning after Labor Day. The FGRR is providing assistance in the design and cost of this project in part to ensure that this is done in a manner compatible with the character of the Park. (See previous article on the ADA Trail in the Spring 2006 FGRR newsletter)

**Have a comment about the FGRR newsletter?
Email us at fgrr@earthlink.net**

The 'Friends' Board Members

In this article, we would like to introduce the seven board members of the Friends of Green River Reservoir. The board members have a wide range of backgrounds, interests and goals in serving on the Board. All share a passion for protecting and enjoying the beauty of the Green River Reservoir.

Sally Laughlin

FGRR Board President

Sally (Sarah) lives in Cambridge, Vermont, in a house her husband Peter Krusch built on land he has owned since 1959, which stretches from the Lamoille River to the edge of the ancient Cambridge Pines.



Sally has been a member of the Vermont Endangered Species Committee for 24 years (currently Vice Chair) and is Chair of the ESC's Scientific Advisory Group on Birds. She directed the first Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas and co-edited the book *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Vermont* (University Press of New England, 1985). She was one of the founders of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science and served as executive director for 18 years. She has served on many boards, including the Association of Field Ornithologists and NORAC (the North American Ornithological Atlas Committee), which she chaired for 20 years. She compiled and edited *A Guide to Bird Education Resources: an Annotated Bibliography* (published by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the American Birding Association, 1997). This is the 31st year that she has been Woodstock Christmas Bird Count coordinator or co-coordinator.

In 1992, she and Peter married and she moved to Lamoille County. They have traveled widely, including an around the world trip and a recent trip to Vietnam. In her non-birding life, she is Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Johnson State College.

Paddling, swimming, and camping at Green River Reservoir has been a great joy since the early 1970s, when she visited for the first time, while doing the first Vermont Loon Survey.

(continues on page 4)

(continued from page 3, FGRR Board Members)

Milford Cushman

FGRR Board Vice President

Milford had been paddling canoes on USA and Canadian lakes and rivers since 1962 and began exploring the Green River Reservoir in 1973 when he first moved to the Morrisville, Hyde Park, and Johnson area. Milford and Bill Bartlett began discussing the need to form a grass roots Green River Reservoir preservation organization in 1994 as they had become concerned with the uncontrolled annual increase in visitor use of the Reservoir. Along with the unchecked proliferation of new campsites, the high seasonal wear and tear on the existing sites and often 90 - 110 cars parked randomly on a July weekend, it was clear to them that the positive attention and education was required to control the impact of people's interest and discovery of the Reservoir.



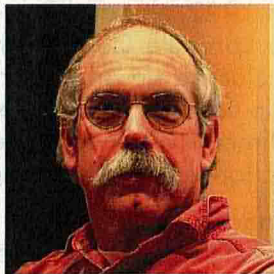
From the incorporation of the 'Friends', Milford served on the Board of Directors first as Vice President for several years, then as President from July 2001 until July 2006 and now again as Vice President. Since 1981 Milford has been as a designer specializing in site and client specific buildings, landscape design, interior design and master planning.

Milford and his wife Terri are often found paddling on the Green River Reservoir just before ice prevents them from making headway and then again just after the ice breaks. The reservoir is supremely quiet at these times of the year and is reminiscent of the early seventies in terms of the quality of the experience.

Bill Bartlett

FGRR Board Secretary

Bill and Milford are the original founding members of the Friends of Green River Reservoir. They were quickly joined by a number of other users of Green River Reservoir who helped form the FGRR in 1998. Since the incorporation of the 'Friends,' Bill has served on the board as the Secretary. Prior to becoming involved with the



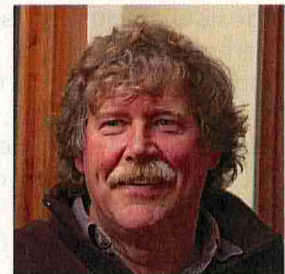
FGRR, Bill had been active in the Hyde Park Planning Commission as a member and eventually Chair, representing Hyde Park on the Solid Waste District and serving one term on the Hyde Park Selectboard. From 1977 until 2002 Bill worked as the Executive Officer of the Vermont Water Resources Board responsible for the adoption of Vermont's Water Quality Standards, its Wetland rules and the rules regulating Recreational Use Conflicts on Vermont's waters.

Bill first discovered GRR in 1974 when he and his wife Susan moved to Lamoille County. He remembers being told to take Garfield Road and turn left "where the covered bridged used to be" and take that road to the end. Still good directions IF you happen to know "where the covered bridge used to be." Bill's favorite part of GRR is the north arm because it's often a private place to paddle early in the morning when there's a good chance of see moose in the wetland at the north end of the lake.

Michael Wickenden

FGRR Board Treasurer

Michael has been on the board and served as it's Treasurer since 2000. He and his wife, Linda, live in Hyde Park where they raised their two children, Michael and Maggie. Michael is presently employed as a private consultant for the Vermont Public Service Board overseeing the State's Energy Efficiency Utility, Efficiency Vermont. In his spare time, he plays an open-back banjo in the band "Clean Fill", performs with the Rim Rock Cloggers, and is Board President of Lamoille Housing Partnership, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality affordable housing.



Michael and his family are active canoeists and campers and have many fond memories of reservoir paddles. They can frequently be found having a late summer supper and swim around Picnic Island. After twenty-five years with a beloved sixty-pound MadRiver Explorer, they recently lightened-up with a new Bell Seliga Tripper canoe and bent shaft paddles. Happy Paddling!

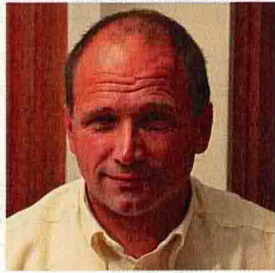
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(continued from page 4, FGRR Board Members)

David Hallquist

FGRR Board Member

David and his wife Pat have been long-term residents on the Green River Reservoir. They purchased their home from the Leclair family in 1984, when there were only two homes on then private reservoir.



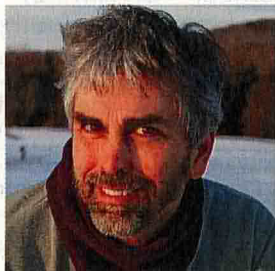
Dave and Pat have three children, whose lives have been enriched by the beauty of the surroundings. Derek is now a film-maker, traveling the world for this History channel; Kiersten is at Dartmouth College in Environmental Studies; Jillian is at the University of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff studying marketing.

Dave's background is in electrical engineering, where he spent the first half of his career in computer power system design and manufacturing and now is the CEO of Vermont Electric Cooperative. Pat coordinates the mentoring program at Lamoille Union High School.

Paul Moody

FGRR Board Member

Paul discovered the GRR in 1999 when he moved into his home across from the Diggins the same week that GRR became a state park. He became a board member in 2004. Paul uses his art and design background to publish this newsletter and other 'Friends' productions. His goal with the 'Friends' is to help educate visitors on how to enjoy the park while protecting its natural beauty.



Paul is a researcher for IBM in Cambridge Mass, and telecommutes from Hyde Park. He has one son who is a junior at Ringling School of Art and Design and another son who is a senior at Lamoille Union HS and who will study Arts & Media at Johnson & Wales University in the fall. Paul likes to kayak the reservoir at sunrise and sunset with his camera. Smile :))

Heidi Rich

FGRR Board Member

After spending a number of years doing field work for the United States Forest Service in Wyoming, Idaho and Oregon, Heidi Rich returned to her home



state of Vermont. She moved to Lamoille County ten years ago when she began teaching seventh and eighth grade science at Lamoille Union Middle School. Heidi particularly enjoys the opportunities to see her students 'come alive' when she takes them out to learn of the endless wonders of the natural world.

When not teaching, Heidi is happiest outdoors pursuing the peace of gardening, birding, hiking and kayaking in Vermont. She stays busy volunteering for citizen-science projects including the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas, the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program and is the Aquatic Nuisance Species Monitor for Green River Reservoir.

Heidi loves kayaking calm summer evenings at the Reservoir. She also enjoys exploring the early morning woods with Sally and Bill as part of the park's Forest Bird Monitoring Program.

GRRSP Water Quality Monitoring Results



Nine consecutive years of data collections confirms it: **the waters of Green River Reservoir are in fabulous condition.** Under the direction of the Water Quality Division of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, a cadre of volunteers and State Park employees collect annual data on water bodies throughout Vermont, measuring clarity and amounts of phosphorus and chlorophyll. Yearly averages on each of the three indicators

(continues on page 6)

(continued from page 5, Water Quality Monitoring)

show that GRR is well within acceptable ranges for a lake of its type. The purpose of the monitoring is to determine whether land uses in watersheds are accelerating the natural aging process of lakes and if so, why. GRR has relatively little in the way of human use around it, but dirt roads, logging, construction and camping can all lead to changes in the water's chemistry and clarity.

With continued efforts by the 'Friends', the State and all recreation users, it is hoped that GRR's waters will remain clean and clear far into the future.

Water Quality at Green River Reservoir

Clarity is measured by lowering a black and white disk, called a Secchi disk, into the water until it is no longer visible. Clarity influences how much sunlight is available to photosynthesizing organisms at different depths. Acceptable clarity for GRR's mesotrophic type of lake range from 3.7 to 5.6 meters (12 to 18 feet). GRR's average clarity is 4 meters (13 feet).

Phosphorous is a necessary nutrient for all living things, but too much can cause problems such as algal blooms and proliferation of certain aquatic plants leading to an imbalance in the ecosystem and accelerated aging of the lake. Acceptable phosphorous levels range from 11ug/l to 14ug/l. GRR's overall average is 12ug/l.

Chlorophyll levels in lakes and ponds indicate the amount of phytoplankton present. Generally speaking, low levels of chlorophyll indicate a healthier body of water. Typical chlorophyll levels range from 3.5ug/l to 7.0ug/l. GRR's average chlorophyll level is 3ug/l – a very low level. As a lake ages, the levels rise, and the young GRR will likely also see its low chlorophyll level rise as it ages.

Color: The brownish color of the GRR's water is not pollution. It is caused by tannic acid produced by partially decomposed leaves and evergreen needles in the lake and its feeder streams. The cold waters of GRR add to the levels as decomposition rates are slowed by limited warmth.

Reporting illegal ATV use at GRRSP

The use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) for recreational purposes at Green River Reservoir State Park is illegal for two reasons. First, state policy does not allow ATV use in state parks. Second, under the terms of a conservation easement retained by The Nature Conservancy (which helped Vermont purchase this property), ATV use is prohibited.

If you observe ATV activity on GRRSP lands, please help by reporting this by e-mail or by phone. If a serious crime is being committed, the preferred method of reporting is by telephone. In all other circumstances reporting by e-mail is preferred.

Primary responsibility for dealing with ATV violations at GRRSP rests with the local Game Warden. The County Sheriff can also be contacted. It is important to report all ATV usage at GRRSP in order to document the frequency and approximate location of any such activities both to create an official record and to help inform future enforcement and educational efforts.

Please take the time to report all observed violations providing: date, time, location, number of ATV's, any ATV registration numbers and any other information you think is relevant to the following:

Please report illegal ATV use to these people
(please try in this order – all numbers are area code 802)

1. **Dennis Reinhart, Game Warden**
dreinhar@dps.state.vt.us
635-7036 or 253-0974
2. **Susan Bulmer, Regional Parks Manager**
susan.bulmer@state.vt.us 496-0181
3. **Lamoille County Sheriff's Office**
emerrill@dps.state.vt.us 888-3502
4. **Lynn McNamara, The Nature Conservancy**
eseifert@tnc.org 229-4425 x-119
5. **Friends of Green River Reservoir**
fgrr@earthlink.net



Friends of Green River Reservoir 2007 Merchandise

We have updated our logo and printed new hats, t-shirts and have added two sizes of canvas tote bags. The shirt has a smaller logo, and the hat now has "Vermont" across the back (yes we heard you!)

We have a limited number of old logo merchandise (hats, t-shirts in various sizes). Please contact us if you would like to order from our previous stock.



Item:	Price:	Quantity:	Total:
Waterproof GRRSP Map	\$4	_____	_____
Nature Field Guide	\$5	_____	_____
T-shirt (list quantity for each size)			
Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XLarge _____ XXLarge _____	\$20	_____	_____
Hat (one size fits all – adjustable)	\$20	_____	_____
Medium Tote (11" x 5" x 12")	\$20	_____	_____
Large Tote (14" x 7" x 14")	\$25	_____	_____
		Subtotal:	_____
		Shipping and handling:	\$3
		Total:	_____



Please make check to and mail order to:
Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.
P.O. Box 359
Hyde Park, VT 05655

2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Friends of Green River Reservoir Memberships run from July 1 through June 30 each year. Your membership is due July 1, 2007 - Please renew now!

Members of the Friends of Green River State Park share enthusiasm for 'Friends' projects and provide financial support to ensure that these programs continue. Thank you for your membership support last year!

Yes, I will renew at:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Noble Loon | \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Basic Membership | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional contribution of | \$ _____ |

Contributions to the FGRR are tax deductible. FGRR is a 501(c)(3) organization.

**Mail to: Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.
P.O. Box 359
Hyde Park, VT 05655**

Milford Cushman & Terri Gregory
149 Paus Lane
Hyde Park, VT 05655



Your 2007 membership is due July 1 - thanks!



Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.

P. O. Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655

fgrr@earthlink.net

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New Ranger Contact Station

A new ranger contact station is currently under construction on the left side of the access drive. The new contact station is a joint project of the Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation (DFP&R) and the Friends.



Two years ago the DFP&R decided the green trailer that had served as a temporary contact station for 3 years was worn out.

The Friends and DFP&R worked to design a proper and permanent contact station. Additional discussions revealed that the DFP&R would need financial assistance to be able to afford an efficient and professional contact station in the near future. The Friends have provided that assistance and the project is well underway.

(continues on page 2)

Fishing on Green River Reservoir

Fishing on the Green River Reservoir is a religious experience. The quiet beauty of an early morning venture through the gentle mist that holds close to the water will cause you to give thanks and praise. The silence will only be broken by the rhythmic sound of your lure breaking the water. The sound becomes an adoration song for the creator.

(continues on page 4)

A Great Summer for Loons!

This past summer Green River Reservoir had a second breeding pair of loons for the first time!



The new pair successfully raised one chick, and the established pair on Loon Island raised two chicks, for a record three chicks produced on GRR. The two pairs did a great deal of territorial calling, making sure that their claim to their part of the lake was well established and well known. GRR has a good history of visitors respecting the loons, staying away from the posted nesting areas to allow the brooding adults to hatch their eggs, and keeping their distance from the vulnerable young and protective parents as the chicks develop.

(continues on page 2)

Forest Bird Monitoring Project

Not everyone gets excited about getting up at 4:00 in the morning on a day off to trudge through dense forest undergrowth and swat mosquitoes.



But, with the promise of encountering some of Vermont's most lovely songsters, a small cadre of FGRR board members do just that a few times each June.

(continues on page 3)

Check out the Friends merchandise on page 6

(Contact Station - continued from page 1)

By the time you read this article, Tell Gregory, a local builder, will have completed the structure and exterior of the building.



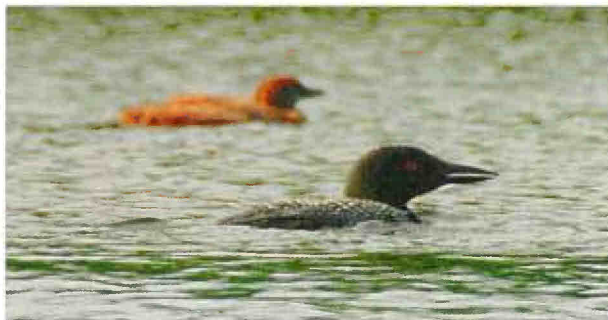
Overall, the building size is 12' by 21'. A 9' by 12' porch provides cover for a small 4 person picnic table, and a visitor check-in window. In the 12' by 12' interior room, rangers will greet and check in visitors, store visitor contact materials such as maps, nature guides and other dry goods. There is room for a small gas refrigerator to keep water samples and food cool. Counters will provide the rangers with computer and writing work stations

Lumber for the timber frame, porch and the buildings rafters is from M.B. Heath & Sons of North Hyde Park. Dark brown stained siding and dark asphalt roof will help tuck the building naturally into the wooded site and meets the GRR viewshed by-laws.

By the 2008 operational season, the DFP&R will have completed the fit up with Eastern White Pine paneling and trim. The building will be wired for future photo-voltaic panels and inverter for off-the-grid power for lights and a computer. An existing underground telephone line will be extended to the new building.

The design, construction and funding of the contact station is another great example of the collaborative efforts between the Friends and the DFP&R. In response to our appeal for special donations to be used specifically to pay for the labor to build and complete the exterior of the contact station has resulted in 25 generous contributions totaling more than \$3,500. Thanks to all who have contributed!

(Loons - continued from page 1)



Eric Hanson of the Loon Recovery Project reports a very successful summer for Vermont loons. Eric shares his report below and has offered to do a loon program with the Friends in the spring of 2008 – we will let members know the time and date as soon as it is set.

The Loon Recovery project is sponsored by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the research arm of VINS, now the independent Vermont Center for Eco-Studies. *Eric shares the following from his 2007 report:*

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 30th year. Vermont's breeding loon population reached a record high 62 nesting pairs and 83 territorial pairs. The Common Loon was designated a state endangered species in 1987 and removed from this list in 2005. 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 since 1995. Population numbers and results from the annual statewide loon count, Loonwatch, are presented below.

Vermont Loon Summary

	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Nesting pairs	26	30	33	38	38	40	44	43	53	58	62
Successful nests	21	23	25	36	34	34	38	34	47	44	47
Territorial pairs	37	40	42	48	49	59	64	64	72	77	83
Chicks (thru Aug)	25	30	36	44	47	40	45	44	57	56	56
Chick survival	78%	81%	88%	79%	84%	77%	73%	81%	84%	85%	79%
Loonwatch adult loons	99	106	127	126	135	166	179	184	191	201	218

(Forest Bird Monitoring - continued from page 1)

Hearing the ethereal song of a Hermit Thrush or the Winter Wren's energetic explosion of rapid notes coming through the early morning mist is, in and of itself, reward enough for the effort involved. However, there is another reason Sally, Bill and Heidi have chosen to rise before dawn and bush-whack up the forested slopes northeast of Schofield Pond in the Upper Diggings area of GRRSP: Some of our resident and migratory forest birds are in trouble.

It would be impossible for anyone to go for a paddle on the Reservoir and not be immediately struck by the intricacies of the shoreline, the clean water, the panoramic views, the lovely quiet... What is less obvious to the average user of GRRSP is the quality of some of the forest which surrounds the body of water. Up on those tree-covered slopes is an increasingly uncommon resource: A large tract of protected, non-fragmented mature hardwood forest. Just the kind of habitat that VINS biologist Steve Faccio needs to conduct his Forest Bird Monitoring Project.

The Forest Bird Monitoring Project (FBMP) was established in 1989 and is intended to provide base-line data on breeding birds in undisturbed forest habitats. There are approximately 20 monitoring sites in Vermont which each consist of a route with five point-count stations. Since 2004 Green River Reservoir State Park has provided a monitoring route and the FGRR board has provided volunteers to do the monitoring. In 2004 Sally, Bill and Mike, along with Steve Faccio, established the permanent 5 point monitoring route in the Upper Diggings area. From 2004-2006 Sally and Bill worked as a team to listen for, look for and record bird species at each established location in accordance with a strict protocol. During 2007 Sally passed the baton to Heidi and she and Bill teamed up, continuing the effort to make a contribution to bird conservation on behalf of the Friends of Green River Reservoir.

The FBMP survey route at GRRSP has only been established and monitored for four years so any apparent changes in bird populations are not statistically significant at this point. Such changes could be reason for concern reflecting wide-spread declines or could simply be the result of normal fluctuations in populations due to weather, insect outbreaks etc. However, in 10 years, data should reveal results that are statistically significant and after 15 years changes in populations as small as 2% will be detectable. It will indeed be interesting to know how our study site compares with regional trends.

(continues next column)

(Forest Bird Monitoring - continued from previous column)

Since a number of sights have been monitored for 18 years the FBMP has revealed significant declines in a number of forest birds including Wood Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo, Canada Warbler and Black-capped Chickadee. On the other hand, certain bird species have shown an increase in numbers such as the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The possible explanations for the declines and increases in our song-birds are numerous and complex. What is plain and simple, however, is the need to continue monitoring our forest bird populations.



GRRSP Operations – Season Wrap Up



As we have for many years now, the FGRR Board met recently with Susan Bulmer, District Park's Manager and Jason Kelly, GRRSP Park Ranger to review how the recently concluded park season had gone and to compare notes about the future. We very much appreciate and value this opportunity to communicate directly with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

The Department of Forests Parks and Recreation recently successfully completed their zoning permit review meeting with the Hyde Park Development Review Board. This is an annual meeting between GRRSP officials and the local DRB.

Governor Douglas has created a Commission on the Future of Vermont State Parks to evaluate and make recommendations on a number of issues, which may include the future funding of the State Parks System. Susan reports that this Commission has had one meeting to date. The issue of day use fees for GRRSP could be proposed for the 2008 operating system but Susan is not aware of any decision on this.

GRRSP had an overall camping occupancy rate of 49% in 2008 and was full on most weekends during July through early September. The total number of campers in 2007 was nearly 6000 with about 6500 recorded day users. Allowing for variations in weather, these numbers are generally consistent with the figures from 2005 and 2006 seasons.

(continues on page 4)

(GRRSP Operations – continued from page 3)

(Fishing – continued from page 1)

Preliminary attendance figures for 2007 (thru 10/8/07)

2007 by Use	Camping In State	Camping Out of State	Day Use In State	Day Use Out of State
May	194	21	318	71
June	850	66	1060	145
July	1446	223	1200	170
August	1648	448	1380	442
September	767	110	944	380
October	111	18	255	131
Totals	5016	886	5157	1339

Last 5 years	Camping In State	Camping Out of State	Total Camping
2007	5016	886	5902
2006	4612	947	5559
2005	4833	966	5799
2004	4793	1145	5938
2003	4108	839	4947

Also in 2007 at the park, campsite # 8 was opened and five campsites (#'s 4, 8, 14, 21 and 24) received new, red worm composting toilets to replace the older pit toilets.



Friends of the Green River Reservoir: Our Mission

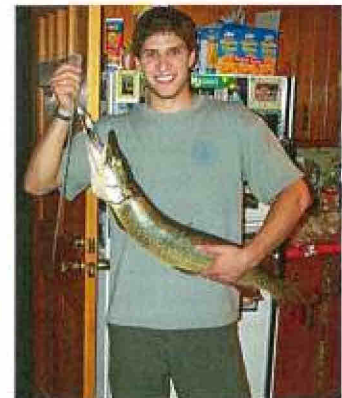
The Friends of Green River Reservoir is a non-profit membership group. We are dedicated to educating and acting to protect the wilderness-like character and habitat of Green River Reservoir State Park while preserving its heritage and historical sustainable recreational uses for future generations.



I grew up fishing Lake Champlain, which is considered one of the best fishing lakes in North America. I would not try to compare the two, as the experience is so different. What the reservoir lacks in variety, it makes up for in style and grace. However, the fishing techniques that worked well in Lake Champlain, do not necessarily work well here.

One must learn the way when relating to the environment of the Reservoir. Fishing this body of water requires behavior that is synonymous with the surroundings. One must become quiet and calm. The fish do not accept those who are aggressive and loud. I have seen many who have tried to fish these waters with their all-knowing skills and bait leave with only frustration, never to come back. They are not missed, as their hostility is incongruent with this environment, and is justly punished.

Once you become one with this body of water, you will be rewarded generously. While the lake does produce other fish (such as the nice Pike seen here), this water has some of the finest smallmouth bass fishing in the state of Vermont.



The bass are plentiful and fun. They are a challenge to catch, and once caught, they provide a fight that has no equal. Each day is a new experience. What worked great yesterday, or this morning, may not work at all now. Arrogance to think that you know these fish, even after spending decades relating with them, is not tolerated. There is no formula, just a relationship.

In general, keep moving slowly and cast to the shore. You want your bait to appear that it fell from a tree, or is moving away from shore. Cast as close as you can, as this is a challenge in itself. Many a lure has been lost to the trees that are just above, or just below the water.

(continues on page 5)

(Fishing – continued from page 4)

(Fishing- continued from previous column)

The fish like the structure and often will sit underneath a sunken log or inside a rock.

When the air is warm and quiet, a surface lure works great. The surface lure is most fun because the bass will come underneath with its jaws wide open and break the surface to take the bait. My favorite is the Torpedo lure, although broken-back Rapala's work well.

When you cast, allow the bait to lie still for a few moments when it lands on the water. I count to five before I begin to I start to reel. Bring it back to you slowly and calmly. While you may have been trained to make surface noise on other bodies of water; only quiet works here. If you don't catch something, keep moving. When fishing the surface, if you don't catch the waiting fish on your first cast, then you won't catch it at all.

If surface casting is not working, then the bass may be deeper. The bass tend to be deep when the water and the air are colder. When you fish deep, you should try about 15 feet of water. Sudden drop-offs work well. Crayfish (*Procambarus*) is excellent bait. It is clear that they like this bait, as 90% of the stomach contents of the fish in the spring and the fall are Crayfish. You place a hook through the skeleton the second section from the tail, with no weight, and simple let the crawdad walk on the bottom. I always keep my tackle-box stocked with two other good bottom baits; First-quality (fresh from the packet) 3-1/2" Tender Tube baits that are a classic feast for hungry bass; and rubber worms that are best hooked "whacky" (but can be hooked "weed-less" for fishing the lily pads). Both of these sport a tantalizing action guaranteed to draw the strike.



Fishing the reservoir is one of the most rewarding and existential experiences that you can have. A morning of fishing will typically result in the catch seen above.

(continues next column)

Sometimes the fish simply are not biting, and nothing will work. We have spent many a morning without any action for hours, and then, suddenly, the fish strike on every cast. It is another way the Reservoir keeps us humble.

While there are many other techniques that can work, I would not want to give away all my secrets in this article. One thing, if you catch the state record out of GRRSP, tell them you caught it somewhere else, and, tell them that fishing at the reservoir is lousy.

Update on the ADA Trail

Construction of a portion of the upper section of the long planned ADA trail commenced in October. Final aspects of permitting and cold weather have revised the completion date from this fall until the early summer of 2008.

Earlier this summer, as part of the required state and federal permitting, Shannon Morrison (VT Wetlands Office) and Mike Adams (US Army Corps of Engineers) reviewed an updated delineation of the Class III wetlands that the proposed ADA trail would be intersecting with. On the basis of their review, the trail was redesigned to include longer sections of elevated boardwalks when crossing important sections of the wetland. Bill and Milford have regularly participated in design review meetings and in consulting with Susan Bulmer (Regional Parks Manager), John Roman and John Guilmette (both from Facilities Engineering) to assist with the design and implementation of the ADA trail.

When complete, the trail will meander from a two space parking area, newly constructed by the information Kiosk for exclusive use by persons with disabilities, down to the waters edge for transfer to a canoe or rowboat. Along the trail will be interpretative signage to illustrate the bio-diversity of the Class III wetland and the adjacent upland woods.

The long-term plan is to then convert two of the existing campsites on the reservoir to be assessable in a similar way that the ADA trail will provide. This work may happen during the 2008 operating season.

**Have a comment about the FGRR newsletter?
Email us at fgrr@earthlink.net**



Item:	Price:	Quantity:	Total:
Waterproof GRRSP Map	\$4	_____	_____
Nature Field Guide	\$5	_____	_____
T-shirt (list quantity for each size)			
Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XLarge _____ XXLarge _____	\$20	_____	_____
Hat (one size fits all – adjustable)	\$20	_____	_____
Medium Tote (11" x 5" x 12")	\$20	_____	_____
Large Tote (14" x 7" x 14")	\$25	_____	_____
		Subtotal:	_____
		Shipping and handling:	\$3
		Total:	_____



Please make check to and mail order to:
Friends of Green River Reservoir, Inc.
P.O. Box 359
Hyde Park, VT 05655



Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.

P. O. Box 359, Hyde Park, VT 05655 (new email address) fgrr@pshift.com

Board of Directors: Sally Laughlin, President (644-5651), Milford Cushman, Vice President (888-3362), Bill Bartlett, Secretary (888-5591), Michael Wickenden, Treasurer (888-3365), Dave Hallquist (888-6877), Paul Moody (888-4908), Heidi Rich (851-1268)

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New Ranger Contact Station Dedication

Construction of the new Contact Station was completed late last fall replacing a series of temporary structures in use over the past few years.



Dedication of the new Contact Station will be held 10:00 am Saturday, June 21 at the GRRSP. The Governor, the local Legislative delegation, the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of the DFP&R have been invited as are all those who use and value Green River Reservoir State Park

The Contact Station is located on the left side of the access road on the existing gravel pad where the old green trailer used to be. It features an entry porch that will provide cover for a four-person picnic table and a visitor check-in window. The interior of the building is 12 feet by 12 feet providing space for rangers to work assisting visitors, a computer workstation, a small gas refrigerator, storage of visitor materials including maps and nature guides.

This year the interior will be finished and photovoltaic panels for off grid lights and computer capability will be installed. An underground telephone line will be extended to the new building.

(Contact Station - continues on page 2)

Annual Membership Renewal Time

Thank you for your generous support last year. FGRR Memberships run from July 1 to June 30. Please renew now. We need your support. **Your 2008 renewal form is included on page 8**

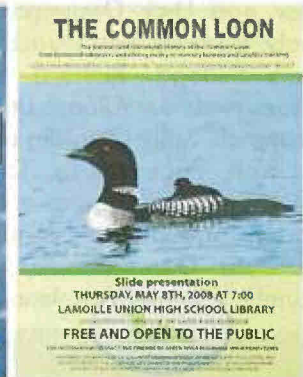
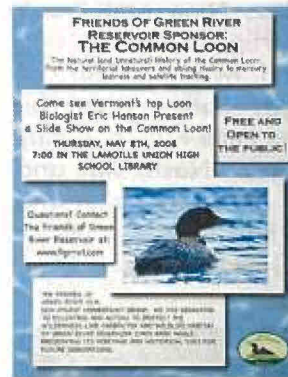
Calling All Birders!

Wouldn't it be nice to have a list of birds known to use the Reservoir? We think so and would love to have your help in creating one. On Memorial Day Weekend, the Friends of Green River Reservoir is hosting a Spring Bird Count event as part of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). There are many reasons to participate and many levels at which one can take part.

(Calling All Birders! - continues on page 2)

The Man Behind Vermont's Loon Recovery

For the last two decades, The Vermont Loon Recovery Project (VLRP) has relied on volunteers to monitor loon activity and assist with conservation efforts. As the loon population expands, this volunteer assistance has become even more critical, especially in educating fellow lake users about the loons and what they need to be successful. As dependent as the VLRP has been on a large cadre of volunteers, the Friends of Green River Reservoir would like to introduce you to a key person behind the many successes in Vermont's loon population comeback, the man many have come to refer to as "The Loon Guy"; meet Eric Hanson.

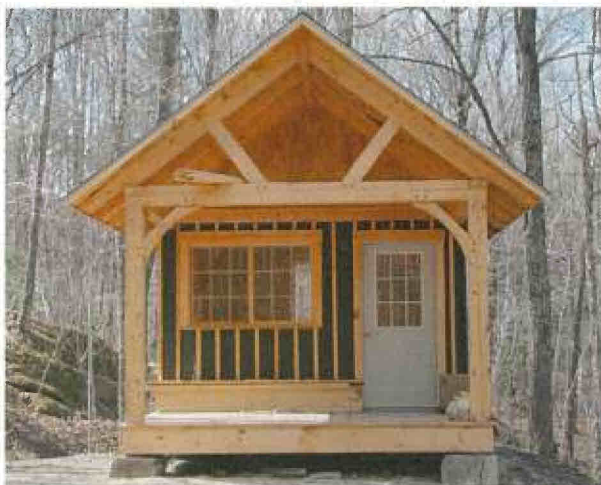


Over a dozen posters were created by the Green Mountain Technology & Career Center's Design class to announce Eric's May 8th talk.

(Man Behind Vermont's Loon - continues on page 2)

(Contact Station - continued from page 1)

The design, construction and funding of the Contact Station is the latest in a series of successful projects at GRRSP due to the collaborative efforts of the Friends and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation.



The new Contact Station funded in part by FGRR

Last but not least, we want to thank the many members of the Friends of Green River Reservoir who in response to a fall appeal contributed to this project by helping us to raise over \$4000 toward our share of the cost of this worthwhile project.

Special thanks to our Contact Station Fund contributors: John Allen, Bill and Susan Bartlett, Larry and Dorothy Bliss, Sam and Dusty Boyton, John Brodhead, Lars Bruns, Rod Carr, Brenda and Peter Christie, Nina Church, Terri and Gary Cole, Trim and Sandra Conklin, Milford Cushman and Terri Gregory, Dick Finlay, Judy Geer and Dick Dreissigacker, Nina and Frank Healy, Barbara and Duncan Higgins, Marion and Frank Kellogg, Richard and Mary LaFleur, S. Lahar and J. Allen, Briggs Larkin and Phil Fitzpatrick, Sally Laughlin and Peter Krusch, Ginny McGrath, Paul Moody, Duncan Nash, Jim and Doreen Noyes, Eugene and Jane Sevi, Edith and Warner Shedd, Dale and Eric Smeltzer, Victor Swenson, Dan Viafore, Gaetano and Susan Vicinelli, Thomas Vogelsang.

*The Friends have a new email address.
You can write us at FGRR@pshift.com*

(Calling all Birders! - continued from page 1)

The purpose of the IMBD Spring Bird Count is to provide a continent-wide snapshot of migratory bird status and distribution during the annual spring migration. By recording the bird species that you encounter on this one weekend in May you will be contributing valuable scientific information to a national database managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. At the same time, you will also be part of our fledgling efforts to establish a bird list for the Green River Reservoir State Park.

Participants may survey for birds in a number of different ways for any amount of time that they are willing to. Basically, while canoeing, kayaking, picnicking, camping or strolling around the parking area, just keep an eye and an ear out for the birds that are around and record sightings on a simple data form that will be provided to you. Depending on your preferred way of using the reservoir, there is a style of survey that would be best. A participant can do a stationary count (while sipping lemonade at your picnic or campsite), a traveling count (while paddling up the shoreline), an area count (thoroughly surveying a small area adjacent to your picnic or campsite) or simply making casual observations and recording noteworthy sightings.

Typically, participants in a Spring Bird Count would enter their data directly into Cornell's eBird database. But, since the Friends have a special interest in the data also for the purpose of creating a bird list, all data will be handed to the event coordinator for compilation and then entered into the on-line database.

If you are a birder and are interested in participating in this event, please contact Heidi by email (hrcassiope@pshift.com) or phone (744- 5496) for more information. If emailing, please put Spring Bird Count in the subject line.

(Man Behind Vermont's Loon – continued from page 1)

Since 1998, Eric has been the biologist for the VLRP., a joint program of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. He has conducted research on the Common Loon since 1992. His early work in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota focused on basic biological questions...do loons mate for life, how old are loons when they first breed, what is happening when groups of loons gather, are male and female roles in raising young similar? To begin

(Man Behind Vermont's Loon - continues on page 3)

(Man Behind Vermont's Loon - continued from page 2)

answering these questions Eric spent two years as part of a team capturing loons and placing color bands on their legs for identification purposes. When the loons were captured, blood and feather samples were also taken to determine if the birds were susceptible to environmental contaminants. Researchers have found that the loons in New England have some of the highest mercury levels in North America.



Two more posters from GMTCC design class announcing Eric's talk

Eric has now shifted his focus to loon conservation, including educational programs, management efforts to promote breeding loons, and studies on potential threats to loons. In graduate school, he spent 3 years at the University of Minnesota setting up a volunteer-based monitoring program for Minnesota's 12,000 loons. He now lives in northern Vermont with his son and wife and heads up the program to bring back Vermont's loons. When not chasing loons or working with Vermont's several hundred loon volunteers, he teaches courses on animal tracking, winter predators, hawks and owls, and the literature of conservation. As a side interest, Eric and his wife spent 2 years working on sheep and cow dairy farms gaining an understanding of how all parts of life are deeply interconnected...people, food and sustenance, wildlife, farmland, forests, lakes, ponds and loons.

The Friends host a talk by Eric on May 8th, at the Lamoille Union High School Library at 7:00. The presentation titled "The Natural (and Unnatural) History of the Common Loon: (from territorial takeovers and sibling rivalry to mercury laziness and satellite tracking)". Mark your calendars for what promises to be a fascinating and entertaining evening!

Keep the Reservoir Free! (milfoil free that is)

Green River Reservoir is unique in so many ways, one of them being that it is among an ever diminishing number of Vermont lakes that is not currently infested with the problematic invasive plant known as Eurasian watermilfoil. With everyone's diligence we hope to keep Eurasian watermilfoil (and other aquatic nuisance species) out of the Reservoir forever. By choosing to practice a few simple routines each time you put your boat in the water, you can do your part to keep the Reservoir free of this noxious (and obnoxious!) weed.

Shallow waters are especially vulnerable to Eurasian watermilfoil where it where it can take root, spread quickly and form thick mats. Once established this weed is problematic to swimmers, boaters and fishermen. The invasive plant also displaces native vegetation impacting the fish and other wildlife. There are several areas on the Reservoir that are shallow enough to host an unwelcome population of this weed including the boat launch area and areas where loons have been known to nest.



Photo by Travis Shinabarger

Milfoil reproduces vegetatively as small pieces of it get broken off and are transported to a new site. Pieces of milfoil can travel far on surface currents dispersing itself throughout a large body of water. Small bits can also get caught on boat hulls, propellers, fishing gear and canoe or kayak paddles. Once Eurasian watermilfoil is established it is nearly impossible to eradicate. Prevention, therefore, is the very best approach.

(Milfoil - continues on page 4)

*(Milfoil - continued from page 3)***Things you can do to prevent milfoil from spreading:**

- Rinse off your boat after paddling in another body of water that may be infested with milfoil. (Or, wipe the hull of the boat down with a towel kept for that purpose).
- Inspect all gear after using it in potentially infested waters
- Know what milfoil looks like and report any sightings to park officials
- Be diligent and spread the word about not spreading milfoil

We all would hate to see the day that we must wade through knee deep ankle grabbing ropy nasty weeds to launch our kayaks and canoes. So, please be proactive in protecting this special body of water for the sake of all users present and future, human and non-human. The implications are huge.

GRRSP Operations for 2008

Green River Reservoir Park staff will begin taking reservations for the 2008 camping season on May 1st. Call early for your favorite campsite!!! The telephone number to call for reservations remains 802-888-1349.

Once the new contact station is fully functional, estimated to be mid-summer, reservations will be able to be made at the park contact station. Camping fees are the same for 2008 with a minimum of \$12.00 per site and then an additional \$4.00 per person up to the site occupancy. Group permits are still needed for any party of eight to twelve people using the park together. There will be no day use fees for 2008.

Our understanding is that the gate at GRRSP will be unlocked as of May 9, 2008. The Park will officially open on May 23, 2008. There will again be a total of five rangers at the Park this year under the leadership of Park Ranger Jason Kelly.

Site #8 was completed last summer and was used by campers towards the end of the season. This year it is available from the beginning of the season.

The new universally accessible trail (ADA Trail) will be under construction this summer and all visitors to the park are asked to be patient and considerate to the construction workers, park staff and other visitors as the access area will be congested with materials, heavy equipment, and, of course, cars offloading boats to be used on the reservoir.

**Have a comment about the FGRR newsletter?
Email us at fgrr@pshift.com**

Update on the ADA Trail

As reported in the Fall 2007 Newsletter, the construction of the long planned ADA trail commenced in October by the creation of 2 parking spaces for persons with disabilities near the upper end of trail. Additionally, a short section of the upper section of the trail was started. With all permits in place and the funds for construction available, Susan Bulmer, the Regional Parks Manager for The Department of Forest Parks and Recreation (DFP&R), has told the FGRR that construction will begin soon after the spring run-off time period and the ground has stabilized.

When complete, the trail will meander from the two space parking area and the existing vehicle turnaround, down to the waters edge for transfer to a canoe or rowboat. Along the trail will be interpretative signage to illustrate the bio-diversity of the Class III wetland and the adjacent upland woods.

The long-term plan is to then convert two of the existing campsites on the reservoir to be assessable in a similar way that the ADA trail will provide. This work may happen during the 2008 or 2009 operating seasons.

After the trail has been completed, the FGRR, DFP&R and Morrisville Water & Light will jointly announce a public ceremony to celebrate the completion of this phase of the ADA trail and to acknowledge the collaboration among the many participates in the design, permitting and construction phases of the ADA trail. Please check the FGRR web site and local media for details.

Friends of the Green River Reservoir: Our Mission

The Friends of Green River Reservoir is a non-profit membership group. We are dedicated to educating and acting to protect the wilderness-like character and habitat of Green River Reservoir State Park while preserving its heritage and historical sustainable recreational uses for future generations.

Angling Etiquette – Fishing at the Reservoir

The fishing experience at the Green River Reservoir is unique in many ways. To keep this experience unique requires sensitivity and respect from everyone who uses the reservoir.

First let's talk about some general advice on simple respect. I am sure that most people who come to spend the night are looking forward to

(Angling Etiquette – continues on page 5)

(Angling Etiquette – continued from page 5)

serenity and privacy. When fishing, use good judgment. You may really have a hot spot that is located down below someone's campsite. However, if there is a single person, or couple, that is sitting quietly, peaceably enjoying the setting, skip the spot and move on.



For you who are out enjoying a paddle, go around the person fishing on the water side. I am amazed how many paddlers simply keep right on paddling and blissfully cross between my canoe and the shoreline. One time, while I was on a particularly good spot, an older gentleman (not quite as old as I am) kayaked between the shore and me, and started practicing roll-overs. There were only a few of us on the water that evening. I couldn't imagine the odds of this happening, when the entire reservoir was available for him to practice. I figured he was either incredibly dense, or he was someone bent on revenge for something that happened to him in his past. However, in order to maintain the serenity of Reservoir, I simply moved on peacefully.

Another statement of the obvious, do not fish near swimmers. I cannot imagine why anyone would fish near swimmers, not only does it create a danger to those swimming, you simply won't catch anything.

(Angling Etiquette – continues next column)

(Angling Etiquette – continued from previous column)

If you lose a lure high in a tree, don't get out and try to climb the tree. I have seen this happen a few times, and often the tree ends up broken. Nature pays back, the climber ends up in the water. One time I witnessed a fisherman cutting a tree to get his lure. It was too late to stop him. He told me that this lure was expensive. If you are not willing to risk losing the lure, don't fish it so close to the shore.

In 2005, a new fish disease known as Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) was discovered in Lake Ontario, after a fish kill involving thousands of freshwater drum, round goby, and muskies. In just two short years between the spring of 2005 and the fall of 2007, the VHS virus spread rapidly to the St. Lawrence River, Lake Erie, the Niagara River, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, Lake Huron, and Lake Michigan. It has also spread to several inland waters (waters without any direct connection to the Great Lakes) in Wisconsin, Michigan, and New York. Dozens of fish mortality events have now occurred in these areas resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of fish. Unfortunately, there is no vaccination or cure for the disease, thus it cannot be controlled - only contained. Containing the spread of this deadly fish virus and preventing it from entering As a result, Vermont requires restrictions on the movement of live fish and water.

The following Vermont rules apply;

- **The personal harvest and use of wild fish as bait is prohibited, with the exception of yellow perch and rainbow smelt, which only can be used on the waters from which they were caught.**
- **A person may buy, possess, transport, and use only approved species of baitfish.**
- **Anyone purchasing baitfish must keep and show upon request a receipt for purchases of baitfish from a state-approved commercial bait dealer. Purchased baitfish can only be used on a single waterbody, and cannot be transported to other waters for use. Receipts are valid for 48 hours from time and date of sale. After this, the baitfish cannot be used and must be destroyed.**
- **Anglers must not depart waters of the state with baitfish in their possession.**

Get rid of your lead sinkers and hooks. Vermont has banned the use of lead on Vermont

(Angling Etiquette – continues on page 6)

(Angling Etiquette – continued from page 5)

waterways. Lead is a toxic metal. To reduce human exposure, we no longer allow it in our gasoline, paint, or plumbing. Many wildlife species are harmed by lead. Loons, ducks, and other waterbirds can die of lead poisoning after swallowing lead sinkers. Since 1989, 60% of analyzed loon deaths in Vermont were directly related to lead ingestion, entanglement with fishing line, or other impacts with fishing gear; 19 of 38 (50%) adult loons died of lead poisoning from ingesting lead sinkers. An additional four loon deaths (10%) were caused by entanglement or because of swallowing hooks or lures. In New England, from 1985-2005, over 176 of 381 (46.2%) adult loons died from lead fishing gear.

Finally, lakes are like people. Just like you and I get sick from others who cough or sneeze near us, a lake get sick from illnesses and plants carried on boats and fishing gear. A lot of attention has been given to the spread of Eurasian Milfoil, however, we are learning that there is a lot more danger from bacteria, as well. A good practice is to rinse your canoe, kayak and gear after you leave a body of water. Even a pair of waders can carry disease or plants from one body of water to another. For those of you who use an electric motor, remove the propeller and clean out the junk. Not only will this prevent the spread of disease, your battery will last longer. It is also good etiquette to never transfer water from one body to another.

I look forward to another great season. I must give you a final piece of advice on how to maintain the lovely setting. If you see me fishing, feel free to come over and offer a glass of wine.

New Map of Green River Reservoir

The FGRR and the DPF&R are cooperatively publishing a revised and updated edition the map of the Green River Reservoir. The new edition features addition information about the Loon Recovery Project and excerpts from the Nature Field Guide written by Danielle Owczarski and published by the FGRR last summer. The map will be given free to all camping and day visitors to the Park. Important campsite occupancy limits, campsite closures for restoration and seasonal off limits bird nesting areas are also shown on the map.



A printer's proof of the updated and now completed 2008 GRRSP park map

A Bit of History

It might come as a surprise that there were a number of people who were opposed to the sale of the reservoir to the state. Some felt the prices was too low – as compared to what developers were willing to pay – others were opposed to the limited uses permitted in a state park. Fortunately for most of us, the Morrisville Village leaders were interested in creating a recreational area that has become a jewel in the Vermont state park system.



2008 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Friends of Green River Reservoir Memberships run from July 1 through June 30 Each Year. Your membership is due July 1, 2008 - Please renew now!

Members of Friends of Green River State Park share enthusiasm for 'Friends' projects and provide financial support to ensure that these programs continue. Thank you for your membership support last year!

Help us Grow our Membership

The Friends are embarking on an effort to grow our membership for a number of reasons, most importantly, to give us a larger base to call on when opportunities to protect and provide for the park arise. We would like to ask you, our members, to consider who you know that might be candidates for new members of the Friends. The space below can be used to help us identify new members (we will contact them once by post and only for this reason).

Possible new member:

Address (or at least Town)

Yes, I will renew at:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Noble Loon | \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Patron | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Associate | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Basic Membership | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional contribution of | \$ _____ |

Contributions to the FGRR are tax deductible. FGRR is a 501 (c) (3) organization.



Mail to: **Friends of Green River Reservoir Inc.**
P. O. Box 359
Hyde Park, VT 05655

Your membership is due July 1, 2008 – thanks!

**Stock up on
FGRR gear !**



Detail of canvas Tote bag



Detail of Hat front



Detail of Hat back



Detail of T-Shirt chest

Item:	Price:	Quantity:	Total:
Waterproof GRRSP Map	\$4	_____	_____
Nature Field Guide	\$5	_____	_____
T-shirt (list quantity for each size)			
Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XLarge _____ XXLarge _____	\$20	_____	_____
Hat (one size fits all – adjustable)	\$20	_____	_____
Medium Tote (11" x 5" x 12")	\$20	_____	_____
Large Tote (14" x 7" x 14")	\$25	_____	_____
		Subtotal:	_____
		Shipping and handling:	\$3
		Total:	_____



Please make check to and mail order to:
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 P.O. Box 359
 Hyde Park, VT 05655