

# Vermont Lake Seminar

## From Policy to Action

Friday, June 3, 2016 • Education Center at Kehoe GMCC, Lake Bomoseen

### Agenda

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome

9:15 Keynote Address:

#### ***Volunteer Monitoring – Achieving Outcomes for Natural Resource Policy and Management***

**Kris Stepenuk, UVM Sea Grant**

*Kris Stepenuk is currently Extension Program Leader for Lake Champlain Sea Grant. Prior to this position, she managed Wisconsin's volunteer stream monitoring program for nearly 15 years. Her PhD research, focused on improving credibility and understanding outcomes of volunteer water monitoring, built upon her previous aquatic sciences education and experience. With Extension partners, she helped support a national network of volunteer water monitoring programs for over a decade. Their efforts included developing a collection of web-based learning modules that integrate resources from numerous sources to promote best practice across the field of citizen science. She serves as secretary of the Citizen Science Association.*

9:45 Break

10:00 Presentations

#### **Track 1:**

##### ***Tactical Basin Planning and the Vermont Clean Water Act—Ethan Swift, VT DEC***

*The Vermont Clean Water Act was passed in 2015. Though Lake Champlain issues were a major driver of the legislative discussion which led to the passage of Act 64, this legislation is about clean water for all of Vermont. Tactical Basin Plans will encompass all planning and implementation activity for each basin. Input from lake residents and associations is essential for successful planning. Come learn about how you can participate in the planning process and support your lake.*

##### ***Introducing the Implementation Team Approach— Marli Rupe, VT DEC***

*The Watershed Management Division is embracing the team approach to implementation of water resource protection and management activities around the state. Teams are comprised of state staff, local non-profits, and local residents. Together, they will determine how to keep protection and management projects moving through to completion. We'll explain the new team approach in this presentation.*

##### ***Grant Opportunities in the DEC and Beyond— Marie Caduto, VT DEC***

*Watershed management and lake protection activities need funding to move forward. What are the funding opportunities for partner organizations to get project work implemented. How are DEC grants being evaluated and prioritized? Partnering with the Watershed Management Division is an important step in the new grant process. Learn how the process works and where to look for grants.*

#### **Track 2:**

##### ***The Shoreland Permit's Two Year Anniversary—Misha Cetner, VT DEC***

*In January, the permitting program provided an overview of the Shoreland Permit's first year to the Legislature. Misha's presentation will share that information as well as an overview of year Two.*

##### ***On the Doorstep: AIS Threats to Vermont Waters—Josh Mulhollem, VT DEC***

*For years, invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels have been managed for in Vermont, and many Vermonters have become all too familiar with these aquatic pests. Unfortunately, there are many more invaders that pose a real threat to Vermont, and at this point are relatively unknown. These new species will be discussed along with our most recent confirmed aquatic invaders: spiny waterflea and starry stonewort.*

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## **Track 2 continued:**

### ***Cyanobacteria Monitoring In Vermont and the Northeast—Angela Shambaugh, VT DEC***

*The Lake Champlain Cyanobacteria Monitoring Program has been active since 2003. Four other lakes in VT also have begun routinely monitoring for cyanobacteria. This presentation will introduce you to cyanobacteria, the health concerns associated with them, and the simple visual assessment tool used by the citizen volunteers who are the backbone of these monitoring programs.*

### ***11:30 Opportunities for Citizen Scientists in Vermont***

*Five minute overviews of opportunities for volunteer involvement in citizen science initiatives*

### ***12:00 Lunch***

### ***1:00p—3:00 pm Workshops***

#### ***Track 1 (outside, weather permitting)***

#### ***1pm—Septic System Social for Everyone’s Lake or Pond—Mary Clark, VT DEC***

*Come experience a Septic System Social and take the idea back to your favorite lake or pond. We’ll visit 2 nearby camp properties that have 2 different innovative/alternative treatments (I/A systems) combined with bottomless sand filter leachfields. These state of the art systems are used for existing camp lots where the standard options won’t work due to soil and site conditions. We’ll talk about the components, learn why upgrading your old system is important, and why maintenance is key for onsite system longevity and performance.*

#### ***2pm—Boat Decontamination Demo—Josh Mulhollem, VT DEC***

*Don’t just wash the boat—make sure you’ve cleaned off any invasive hitchhikers who may be lurking out of sight. This workshop will show you where invasive species may hitch a ride on your boat and how best to make sure you aren’t carrying them to the next waterbody you visit.*

#### ***Track 2 (inside)***

#### ***1pm—The Spiny Softshell Turtle: a threatened species in Vermont - Steve Parren, VT F&W***

*The presentation will focus on site management where multiple species of turtles nest in sometimes large numbers in a few undeveloped beaches on northern Lake Champlain. In addition to the endangered Spiny Softshell Turtle, other nesting species include Painted, Map, Snapping and sometimes Musk turtles. Mammal predation, human disturbance, fly parasites and unpredictable lake levels are all challenges to successful nesting. Come prepared to see some cute baby turtles.*

#### ***2pm—Using a Watershed Approach to Address Lake Quality Challenges - Ethan Swift, VT DEC***

*Healthy lakes depend on healthy watersheds. Using case studies from Vermont, learn how to use a multi-partner approach to coordinate and implement water management activities for your lake. If you would like to become more familiar with the terms ‘master planning’ and ‘multi-sector’, this will get you started.*

### ***3:15pm Wrap-up and Evaluations.***

***For more information and directions to the Education Center at Kehoe Green Mountain Conservation Camp, visit their webpage at***

***[http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/learn\\_more/conservation\\_education/education\\_center\\_at\\_kehoe\\_qmcc](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/learn_more/conservation_education/education_center_at_kehoe_qmcc)***