

Star Lake Update – June 2012

1. **Weed Control:** For over a decade the Friends of Star Lake (FOSL) has been implementing an annual program to control invasive Milfoil, and more recently, nuisance native weeds. Last year we treated the Lake with the herbicide, “Sonar,” and the results showed significant Milfoil knock-down, although herbicide wash-out from Irene set us back somewhat, especially along the northeast shoreline.

NEW FOR THIS SUMMER...FOSL has submitted a permit application to the VT DEC to use mechanical harvesting to remove all weeds in selected areas of the Lake. This is an important change since in the past we have only treated for Milfoil, however, nuisance native species have also limited our swimming, boating and fishing. Initially the harvesting will focus on the beach and boat launch areas and extend along the shoreline for as far as our funding allows (from membership dues, special gifts and State grants). The out-of-pocket cost for this year’s treatment program will range between \$15,000 and \$20,000 (this does not include the “credit” that FOSL gets for its volunteer in-kind contributions of over \$5000).



Mechanical harvester

2. **Dam Repair:** This multiyear project, funded in large part by the awesome \$500,000 gift of the late Patricia Nye, was begun this May with the assistance of the VT DEC and a grant from FEMA. This initial work is a flood and hydraulic evaluation of the Star Lake watershed, and is a first step for determining a full design for the dam and spillway re-construction. Further engineering and design work will continue this summer and fall, and depending on the timing for permits and construction season, repairs to the dam will hopefully begin in either 2013 or 2014.

3. **Funding – Annual Maintenance:**

a) **State of Vermont Grant**

As in prior years, FOSL submitted a Grant-in-Aid Application to the Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Control Program, and we have just been notified that Star Lake will be receiving \$4450. This is especially gratifying since the DEC budget has been cut this year.

b) **2012 Annual Membership Drive:**

Our thanks to all of you who joined FOSL last year in our first annual membership drive.

Your contributions make it possible for FOSL to continue its annual program to maintain Star Lake as an open water body, recreational area, and beautiful natural habitat.

Please renew, or become a new member, with your tax deductible contribution

Annual Membership Levels (checks payable to "FOSL"):

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Other |

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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