

## **Miles Pond Invasive Species Monitoring Report – 2015**

### **Report by Robert Briggaman of the Miles Pond Campers Association**

The Town of Concord, Vermont, in association with the Miles Pond Campers Association (MPCA), was awarded a grant in the amount of \$9,350 from the State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation for the period of 2015. This amount represented a significant increase from the \$8,680 that we were awarded in 2014.

This increased the number of hours that we were able inspect watercraft at the boat launch area.

The purpose of this grant was to allow the Town of Concord and the MPCA to continue with its Invasive Species monitoring program for its tenth year. The monitoring program is principally located at the boat launch area located at Miles Pond in North Concord. The area is maintained and controlled by the VT Fish & Wildlife Department. Other areas of the pond are inspected and monitored by volunteers, from the shore and/or by boat.

The Town of Concord, working with the MPCA, hired seven individuals to monitor and greet members of the public using the fishing/boating access area. The greeters put in a total of 756.75 hours at the access area, representing an increase of over 9% from the previous year. These individuals (greeters) were trained by Nancy Darrah, of the MPCA.

In order to maximize the use of the funds available to the program, Michael Regan developed a schedule that would cover the busiest days of the week. By carefully monitoring rainy days throughout the summer, Mr. Regan was able to extend the schedule into the month of September. We witnessed an increase of 25 boats inspected during the 2015 season vs the 2014 season. This year we examined, upon retrieval and launch, 389 boats, including motor boats (120), kayaks (229), canoes (27) row boats (5), sail boats (1), jet boats (2) and various raft/dock type units (5).

The greeters identified themselves to the boaters and explained the reason for their presence at the access area and asked permission to inspect the boats and trailers. The boaters were offered the use of the boat wash station to clean their boats if so desired. The use of the wash station is provided as a service by the MPCA. All boaters were offered the "Eurasian Water Milfoil Watch" card. The greeters also completed a "Greeter Program Data Sheet" for each boat that used the access site. We noted that three boats upon launch had plant fragments adhered to them. These fragments were identified as being grass clippings.

This program continues to be well received by the public, with many individuals showing an interest and appreciation for the efforts being made to control the introduction of invasive species. One of the keys to a successful program is educating the public to the dangers inherent in the possible introduction of an invasive species into a body of water. We feel that after ten years a strong effort continues to be made towards the operation of a successful greeter program and its intended effort to educate the public.

The Town of Concord and the MPCA are looking forward to the summer of 2016 when we hope to continue with this very worthwhile endeavor. The MPCA and the town of Concord wish to thank Ann Bove, David Pasco, and other staff members of VTDEC for their support and encouragement over the past year.