

Miles Pond Invasive Species Monitoring Report - 2017

The Town of Concord, Vermont, in association with the Miles Pond Campers Association (MPCA), was fortunate to have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,840 from the State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation, Water Quality Division, for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, to allow the Town of Concord and the MPCA to its Invasive Species monitoring program initially started in 2006. The monitoring program is primarily 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, either from the shoreline, by boat or a combination of both. This is the twelfth consecutive year that we have been awarded this grant.

The Town of Concord, working in conjunction with the MPCA, hired a total of six individuals to monitor and greet members from the public who were using the fishing and boating access area. These individuals put in a total of 397.50 hours at the public access area located at the eastern end of Miles Pond. These individuals (greeters) were provided training by George Carpenter, a local volunteer. George has attended invasive species seminars provided by the Vermont DEC.

In order to maximize the use of the funds available to the program, volunteer George Carpenter of Concord, VT, developed a schedule that would cover the busiest days of the week. By carefully monitoring rainy days throughout the summer, Mr. Carpenter was able to extend the schedule through the long Labor Day weekend. There was a total of 371 watercrafts inspected during the 2017 season. This year we approximately examined, upon retrieval and launch a total of 103 motor boats, 228 kayaks, 17 canoes, 18 row boats, 3 sailboats and 2 other water crafts.

The greeters were instructed to identify themselves to the boaters and to explain the reason for their presence at the access area. They would ask for permission to inspect the boats and trailers. The boaters were offered the use of the boat wash station to clean their boats if needed. The use of the wash station is provided as a service by the MPCA. All boaters were offered the updated Aquatic Invasive Species Transport Law flyers. The greeters were instructed to complete a "Greeter Program Data Sheet" for each boat that used the fishing access site, which were then included with the final Grant Award Detail paperwork.

In our initial application for 2017, we identified four tasks that we aimed to accomplish during the season. I am pleased to report that we have accomplished all four tasks. In addition, this program continues to be well received by the public, with many individuals showing 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 twelve 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 2018 when we hope to continue with this valuable endeavor. The MPCA wishes to express their thanks to Maria Davies, David Pasco and other staff members of the VTDEC for their support and encouragement over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn McConnell
Grant Application Contact
Miles Pond Campers Association