

LAKE PARKER, FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2022 ANNUAL MEETING.

The Committee has been involved in various endeavors this year including:

1. Facilitating the State's stocking of Lake Parker with 904, one year old., 9.9" rainbow trout which occurred on 27 April 2022; please let me know at FishWildlife@lakeparker.org if you have caught any!!
2. Viewing and reviewing reports by others of eagle sightings on the Lake. This May, we saw an eagle dive for, and catch, a fish!!
3. Viewing busy beavers at the south end of the Lake as well as loons, mink and painted turtles at various locations. A beaver dam was partially removed and drainage piping was installed by Tim Plastridge and Steve Cutler along the walking trail...thanks, guys!
4. Participating in the Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) volunteer committee meetings and reviewing the State's progress regarding the use of wake boats on VT lakes and ponds and their detrimental effect on lakeshores, docks, swimmers, canoers, kayakers, sailors and stand up boards. The RWVL group consists of interested parties from various lake and pond watersheds in VT; it meets several times a month via zoom with the purposes of 1) educating boaters about the effects of large wakes and 2) providing input to VT State authorities who may restrict wake boats from smaller and/or shallow lakes and ponds. Wake boats are especially damaging to smaller lakes and ponds as their "wakes" are typically several feet in height and can travel 1000 feet! These boats churn up the bottom of shallow lake areas, dislodging aquatic plants and weeds, some of which are invasives. After reviewing many scientific studies on wake boat waves, the group submitted its 160 page Petition to change the rules for wake boat sports to the VT Agency of Natural Resources in March 2022; the Petition can be viewed at the dec.vermont.gov website, search for lakes and ponds rulemaking.

In December, 2021, the Lake Parker Board of Directors voted to submit a letter of support for the Petition, and this Spring the Town of Glover Selectboard did the same.

Thank you to those who have signed the Letter of Support online, those who sent in individual letters of support, and those who attended and supported the public hearings on 29 June and 7 July 2022, much appreciated.

The ANR is expected to issue its findings later this year.

We are hopeful that wake boat sports will be managed and limited on Lake Parker.

5. Monitoring the VT Fish and Wildlife website at <https://vtfishandwildlife.com> which provides lots of interesting and educational information as well as the requirements for fishing and hunting licenses.
6. After consultation with Eric Hansen of the Vermont Center for Ecological Studies, the floating loon nest from last year was deployed in the cove just south of Stevens Brook on the west side of the lake. The loons, however, decided to nest in the marsh in this same area. Six loon warning signs have been installed and we are hoping that boaters and swimmers respect the loons and signs, staying away from this area. As most of you know, we had and lost a loon chick last year, the first loon chick in recent memory on Parker.
As we did last year, we will be keeping an eye on the loon situation and will report back to our membership and the VT Center for Eco Studies.

HOPING ALL ARE KEEPING SAFE AND ARE ENJOYING THIS SUMMER,

Respectfully Submitted, John Wooten, Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Committee
Email: FishWildlife@lakeparker.org