MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Good News for Lake Champlain

The efforts of Senator Patrick Leahy, Vermont's senior senator, have paid off for Lake Champlain. Earlier this year, Senator Leahy was able to amend the National Sea Grant Program Act language to include Lake Champlain. This modification will give Vermont's scientists with interests in Lake Champlain access to ecological research funds. Such funding will underwrite research activities designed to better manage the lake. University scientists will now have access to the resources needed to tackle such issues as the invasion of the lake by zebra mussels, enrichment by nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, and pollution by toxic substances.

The National Sea Grant Program encourages the wise stewardship of marine resources through research, education, outreach and technology transfer. Sea Grant is a partnership between the nation's universities and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that began in 1966. Today, there are 29 Sea Grant colleges. Director of the program, Dr. Ronald Baird, discussed the program and its benefits to Vermont in a recent presentation at a symposium on Lake Champlain research held at the Sheraton in Burlington. The advent of the Sea Grant Program in Vermont will have a major impact on our efforts to understand and protect the lake. We hope to see the first Sea Grant funds in Vermont by the end of 1998.

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NEW SOFTWARE FOR FARMERS

Jeff Carter and the rest of the UVM Extension agronomy team have just released a new version of computer software for farmers to help with crop record keeping and financial analysis for field crops. The Vermont Crop Management Database (CropMD) uses a series of files to capture, process, and report field crop information. This database was originally developed by Jan Pruss at Penn State University and has been refined to reflect current Extension recommendations for Vermont conditions. Entering test results from a UVM soil and manure analysis enables the program to generate field-specific nutrient recommendations and credits for a particular crop and soil type.

Farmers and advisors using the software have already completed 16 hours of instruction in the Integrated Crop Management Course on crop production. As part of a four-day ICM class, farmers are expected to develop and implement a whole-farm integrated crop management plan. The computer software helps with writing a plan, recording events, and evaluating the results of farmer management decisions. This 4-year series of workshops was carried out with funding help from the USDA water quality and the Pesticide Applicator Training programs. As a result of ICM programs, over 200 farmers have attended training and started using the Vermont Crop MD system. The software program is currently being used by crop consultants, farmers and private and public agricultural advisors throughout Vermont.

For more information contact Jeff Carter, UVM Extension Regional Specialist in Middlebury at (802)-388-4969 (jcarter@sover.net) or Craig Altemose at the South Burlington Extension office at (802)-656-5433.

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Desdemona’s SPLASH is a CD-ROM game for elementary students. The game combines fun and education about protecting the water quality of their lakes. Students visit an area in the watershed: the farm, neighborhood and city. In each scene they see and hear people and actions that affect water quality. By clicking on them, they see and learn which improvements need to be made. Desdemona the dragonfly will show them how their choices affected the lake’s water quality. The game runs on MAC, Windows 95 and 3.1. $12 for the first copy and $7 for each additional. Order from: Conservation Technology Information Center, 1220 Potter Drive, Room 170, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1383. Call 765-494-9555, E-mail ctic@ctic.purdue.edu or visit http://www.ctic.purdue.edu. Click on Desi to see a preview.

Adopt-A-Watershed for grades K - 12, is an integrated science program where students engage in hands-on experience. Students apply science concepts to field studies, restoration, and community action programs. For more information call 916-628-5334, fax 916-628-4212, or e-mail aaw@tcoe.trinity.k12.ca.us.
WEB PAGES

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board has established a site on the World Wide Web to provide agriculture producers and landowners with information on how to address potential agricultural and forestry related water pollution problems. Found at http://waterhome.tamu.edu/tssweb. The page includes new and innovative techniques designed to control and prevent nonpoint source pollution.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Information System can be accessed at http://mountain.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis_query.html. This is a database that stores information about drinking water systems and their violations of EPA’s regulations.

PUBLICATIONS

Manure management proceedings available. Proceedings of more than 70 papers from the conference on “Manure Management: In Harmony with the Environment and Society” is available for $25.00, contact: Paul Miller, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, state office in Iowa at (515) 284-4370. This 417 page publication offers cutting edge case studies.

“How to Identify and Control Water Weeds and Algae”, $9.95 from Cygnet Enterprises, 1860 Bagwell Street, Flint, MI 48503, 800-359-7531. Published by Applied Biochemists. Over 100 drawings and photos illustrate common, nuisance aquatic plant species and algal types. Includes chemical control and other methods. Often used as a supplemental information book for Aquatic Pesticide Applicator License training.

“On-Site Wastewater Treatment, Volume 8”, proceedings of the eighth national symposia on individual and small community sewage systems. This 576 page 6x9 inch softbound publication is available for $59.00 from ASAE, 2950 Niles Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085-9659, phone 616-429-0300, e-mail: hq@asae.org, web: http://asae.org/.

The National Small Flows Clearinghouse is offering 50% off the regular price of all products for orders placed by phone, fax, or e-mail June 22 and 23, 1998. This is in celebration of Earth Day. NSFC has more than 250 educational products about wastewater technologies and issues for small communities. The 1997 Products Guide is available by phoning 800-624-8301, or on the web at http://www.nsfc.wvu.edu.
MEETINGS

June 26-28 The Fifth Annual New England Lakes and 2nd New England Regional Volunteer Monitoring Conference, University of New Hampshire, Durham. This conference will cover New England waters and watershed issues, focusing on the role of individuals and organizations in protecting and enhancing water quality throughout the region. Contact: Jeff Schloss, UNH Cooperative Extension, 108 Pettee Hall, 55 College Road, Durham, NH 02824-3599, or e-mail: jeff.schloss@unh.edu. Fee is $30 for a single day or $55 for both days. Check out the UNH Cooperative Extension website for more info: http://ceinfo.edu.

July 7-9, National Monitoring Conference, Silver Legacy Hotel, Reno, Nevada. The National Water Quality Monitoring Council was established in May 1997, to implement a nationwide strategy to improve water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting activities essential to answering the questions asked by the public. The conference will offer a variety of issues including science, policies and management. Cost is $130 if registered before June 30. Contact: http://gwpc.site.net or mail: GWPC, NWQMC Conference, 827 NW 63rd, Suite 103, Oklahoma City, OK 73116. Fax: 405-848-0722.

July 14 -15 Water and Wastewater Privatization Summit at Hotel Inter-Continental, New Orleans, LA. Attendees will include mayors, city managers, wastewater treatment officials, water division managers, project managers, etc. This is a pricey conference at $1,195. Contact: phone: 800-599-4950 or e-mail: info@srinstitute.com.

July 21-24 Watershed Ecology, a course for educators, youth leaders and others, at Exeter High School, Exeter, NH. Contact: UNH Cooperative Extension, 108 Pettee Hall, 55 College Rd., Durham, NH 03824-3599, phone 603-862-1029. If taken for graduate credit, cost is $615 non-resident. If taken for non-credit, cost is only $250.

August 30 - September 1, Training and Development Symposium, New Orleans, LA. This symposium is sponsored by the American Water Works Association and the target audience includes: water and wastewater utility managers and supervisors, education and training professionals, human resources managers and staff, and consultants who provide training to the water community. Cost for nonmembers is $445. Contact: American Water Works Association, www.awwa.org.
AQUACULTURE CORNER

PUBLICATIONS

Murky Waters: Environmental Effects of Aquaculture in the United States, 1997, Environmental Defense Fund. This book takes a critical look at aquaculture, the fastest growing sector of U.S. agriculture. The report examines chemical, nutrient, and biological pollution caused by various types of fish farming. The report discusses the technologies and practices now available to make aquaculture environmentally sound. The report makes eight major recommendations to make aquaculture a more sustainable industry: 1.) Aquaculturists should adopt management strategies and technologies that make aquaculture environmentally sound, 2.) The aquaculture industry should move away from raising finfish in netpens, 3.) Fish farmers should preferentially chose to raise, and consumers should preferentially chose to purchase, fish that require little fishmeal in their diets, 4.) Organic certification and potentially other “eco-certification” programs should be established that empower consumers to chose aquaculture products grown in an environmentally sound manner and that give aquaculturists incentives to produce products which can bring higher prices, 5) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should implement the Clean Water Act for aquaculture by developing effluent limitations, 6) The federal government should develop a comprehensive oversight framework for introduction of potential biological pollutants from aquaculture and other human activities, 7) The federal government should develop a regulatory framework for open-ocean aquaculture that includes strong environmental protections, and 8) Government research and other support programs for aquaculture should emphasize environmental protection and the development of aquaculture operations that provide long-term social and economic benefits to economically distressed communities. Copies of this report can be downloaded from EDF’s website: http://www.edf.org/pubs/Reports/Aquaculture/. Printed copies can be ordered for $20 for the entire report or for $5 for the executive summary only. Phone orders: 800-684-3322; e-mail orders: members@edf.org; mail orders at: EDF Publications, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

Farming Salmon: A Briefing Book, by Michael L. Weber, October 1997. This report provides an overview of aquaculture and salmon, its marketing, farming operations, and impacts, including sustainable aquaculture and its future. The report challenges leaders to transform salmon farming into an ecologically sustainable and economically viable activity. This report is distributed by SeaWeb, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit organization, working to increase awareness, education, and concern about the marine environment. SeaWeb, 1731 Connecticut Avenue, NW, 4th floor, Washington, DC 20009; phone 202-483-9570; website http://www.seaweb; e-mail seaweb@seaweb.org.
National Fish Strain Registry - Trout, Species Tables of Reported Strains and Broodstocks, December, 1997, published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. This 165 page book is available in electronic format for Windows-95 capable machines or CD disk while supplies last. Contact: USGS, BRD, R&D Laboratory, ATTN: NFSR-T, Library, RD 4, Box 63, Wellsboro, PA 16901. To recommend strain/broodstock for inclusion in the trout registry contact Dr. Harold L. Kincaid at the address above.


Trout Recipe book available from the USTFA at 304-728-2189 or e-mail: ustfa@intrepid.net. Cost for the 36 recipe book is $2.50 plus shipping for USTFA members and $5.95 plus shipping for non-members.

This newsletter is prepared by Linda Marek Howe, Extension Water Resources Specialist, University of Vermont Extension System, RR #4, Box 2298, Comstock Road, Montpelier, VT 05602-8927, (802) 223-2389; and Dr. Alan McIntosh, Director, Vermont Water Resources and Lake Studies Center, School of Natural Resources, University of Vermont, George D. Aiken Center, Burlington, Vermont 05405-0088, (802) 656-4057. This newsletter is published with funds provided in part by the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, as authorized by the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 and by the University of Vermont Extension System and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Vermont Water Resources and Lake Studies Center
University of Vermont Extension System and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status

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Extension Water Resources Specialist