Hello, LCRI has had a busy year this past year with several new projects and new additions to our research staff. We continued several projects such as plankton identification for the Lake Champlain Monitoring program and West Nile Virus Monitoring for Clinton County. Shelley Bouyea, a MALS graduate student has completed her Master's thesis work titled “A comparison of Lake Champlain Phytoplankton Community Composition and Distribution from 1970 to 2005”. We also lament the departure of Carrianne Pershyn after she spent a post-graduate year working on LCRI projects from plankton to MERHAB. Carrie will be missed a great deal in LCRI. New projects include LCRI laboratory support for a detailed watershed study of nutrient dynamics, hydrology and riparian zones in the Little Chazy River by Drs. Franzi, Fuller and Martine. The Institute also began a large scale study this year of Aquatic Insect biodiversity throughout the Adirondack Region as part of a State Wildlife grant award to Tim Mihuc, Luke Myers and Boris Kondratieff who is from Colorado State University. LCRI students led by Carrianne Pershyn and Casey Bingelli developed a new method to determine zooplankton biovolumes in collaboration with three math students from the Education Department (Kelly Garrand, Amanda Trombley and Debbie Trombly). All in all it's been a good year with some new faces in the lab too.

Sea Grant Update
Mark Malchoff, Lake Champlain Sea Grant

As part of its outreach and extension mission, LC Sea Grant conducts non-formal education for various aquatic resource audience stakeholders in the Champlain Basin. Three in-depth outreach efforts are profiled below.

During the spring and summer of 2007, fifty-three law enforcement officers (including VT State Police, NYSDEC Conservation Officers, and NYSDEC Forest Rangers) received training to assist them with various transport and possession regulations related to invasive species, during several workshops hosted jointly by VT/ NY state agencies, Lake Champlain Basin Program and Lake Champlain Sea Grant. Ninety-seven percent of the law enforcement personnel reported an increase in AIS identification skills as a direct result of the training. Ninety-six percent of the VT State Police and 73% of the NYS DEC Conservation Officers indicated a 50% to 75% likelihood that they would implement this knowledge in the next 6-12 months.

Each year Lake Champlain communities are visited by dozens of tournament anglers, including several hundred professional bass anglers that participate in 6 to 8 nationally promoted bass tournaments. In response, Malchoff attended a pre-tournament meeting (Wal-Mart FLW Series, Sept. 4), to survey anglers and provide information about invasive species threats to Lake Champlain. Nearly 200 professional bass anglers received training about current and future invasive species threats to Lake Champlain. In total, the anglers had visited 28 water bodies as recently as two weeks prior to their arrival on Lake Champlain.

Eighty-six percent of these anglers indicated that their knowledge of AIS issues (including spread prevention) had increased following the presentation on current/future AIS threats. In late 2007, Malchoff planned a Fish Passage Workshop targeting fisheries managers, DPW, DOT, Trout Unlimited, staff at town, county, and state levels. The work was part of an LCRI project (funded by
**Sea grant— continued**

USFWS) to Tim Mihuc, Ed Romanowicz, Mark Malchoff and Eileen Allan to assess fish passage impediments in the Champlain Basin. One of the project “deliverables” was a workshop to disseminate results and develop procedures for future fish passage projects. Assembled experts in the fields of hydrology, engineering and fisheries presented research and technical findings. Audience members learned about the scope and seriousness of the fish habitat problem, learned new/correct passage technologies for fish species endemic to Lake Champlain Basin and how to document impediments. Over 95% of the workshop participants indicated that their knowledge of fish passage issues had increased as a result of this workshop. More importantly 71% of the respondents reported a 75% likelihood that they would implement at least some of this knowledge in the next 6-12 months. Additional narrative and verbal feedback from workshop participants was overwhelmingly positive. Of particular note is one testimonial that read… “I am “new” to this field and today’s workshop was very informative. I will never look at a culvert the same way again!”

**LCRI focus— Dr. Chris Martine**

One of the most recent additions to the LCRI research affiliates is Dr. Chris Martine, Assistant Professor in the Biology Department. Since his arrival Chris has been a great source of collaborative energy in LCRI. As the lone botanist in the Department of Biological Sciences, Dr. Martine has a wide swathe of ground to cover when teaching or advising students who are interested in the biology of higher plants but this suits him just fine.

Dr. Martine’s scientific interests are varied and his record of publications bears that out. Recent journal articles delve into the biology of invasive species, the evolution of reproductive systems, phylogenetic relationships of Australian wild eggplants, and the interrelationships of plants and the animals who disperse their seeds. Dr. Martine has recently published new editions of two field identification guides for New Jersey plants that were illustrated by his wife and collaborator, Rachel Figley Martine. His current projects include a riparian vegetation survey on the Little Chazy River (with graduate student Matt Soranno), the establishment of a long-term study of pollinator activity in local flatrock barrens communities, the writing of grants to support his next research trip to Western Australia in 2009, and continuing efforts to curate and increase the holdings of the Plattsburgh State University Herbarium.

**News from the Office**

**Janet Manor, Office Manager**

Ron Tucker (2004) was the lone responder to my plea for information to “hold my corner” of the newsletter. Ron has completed his Animal/Science and Natural Resources M.S. at Montana State University. His thesis was “The Effects of Prescribed Fire on Riparian Groundwater”. Congratulations Ron!! Ron has happily relocated to the east coast and is currently employed at the Marine Environmental Research Institute (MERI) in Blue Hill Maine monitoring water quality within the Blue Hill Watershed.

Kristin Spring (2008) – Kristin recently completed her Adolescence Biology (7-12) MST at Plattsburgh State. She has accepted a position as a high school biology teacher in NY. The LCRI office is preparing for the departure of our fearless leader as Tim will be leaving in early July to go to Yellowstone for a sabbatical. Guess who he is leaving in charge…………….!

For my next newsletter I’d like to add a column of marriages and births – anyone have anything to contribute??? Please send it along to me at: janet.manor@plattsburgh.edu.