

# Newsletter

## November 2016



### President's Message

by Chuck Nichols

What a wonderful summer and fall we have had at our beautiful lake and surrounding area. Many people I have talked with cannot remember better weather. Other than some dreary days in early June, it has been spectacular. It reinforces for all of us, our decision of choosing Seymour Lake and Morgan as our year-round home or vacation home.

This issue of the Seymour Lake Association (SLA) Newsletter highlights the two most important areas of concern to the Association: That of invasive species (mostly Eurasian water milfoil but increasingly others) and the threat of industrial solar and wind development around our lake.

#### Invasive Species

You will find two articles dealing with invasive species. A report is on page 5 by Beth Torpey of the status of our efforts at the State Fishing Access to inspect and intercept boats and trailers which may bring invasive species into Seymour Lake. This is the area of largest expenditure by SLA (with state and town contributions, being over \$21,000 per year). Seymour Lake was a leader in initiating this program before most lakes in Vermont had such programs. The result has been that no invasive species have entered our lake. This is a tribute to the efforts of many to make this program so successful. Special thanks to those of you who are members who pay dues and make contributions which fund our reserve to deal with a potential outbreak of invasive species.

For many of us who have not seen the impact of milfoil on a lake, please read the WPTZ article on the last page of the newsletter. While the photos are not as clear due to the video, you can read about and see the awful devasta-

tion caused by milfoil. That is why SLA is so intensely concerned about water quality and the impact of milfoil. I think you will agree.

#### Industrial Wind/Solar

A more recent concern is that of having industrial wind and solar developments being located in the vicinity of Seymour Lake. While there maybe advantages for these two types of energy, there are offsetting disadvantages which can adversely impact residents of Morgan and Seymour Lake. When you live in such a beautiful setting as we do, preserving that beauty is foremost in most of our minds. Interestingly, Vermont has many other efforts ongoing in the state to preserve its beauty not only for residents but for tourism—two very worthy goals. Yet inappropriate siting of industrial wind and solar development projects can dramatically downgrade Vermont's beauty and environment. This is what SLA is against and is doing many things to fight for a beautiful Vermont, Morgan, and Seymour Lake.

Please refer to two articles on pages 3 and 4 which deal in greater depth about these possible industrial developments which when placed in the wrong location can greatly diminish the enjoyment for us all, harm our lake environment, and decrease the property values of our homes.

#### Board and Committees

One of the things I am most happy about is the quality of our board and the many endeavors we have been able to accomplish. Please read about the changes to our board on page 2 which while losing excellent contributors, has allowed us to gain the talents of more. The long term success of SLA depends upon the contributions of talented and hard working people. I encourage you to

volunteer to be part of our many committees and board. Not only is this a very satisfying contribution to our lake and area, but it is socially an enjoyable group. I have met many of my closest Morgan and Seymour Lake friends by my involvement with committee and board members. You can experience that as well by merely raising your hand. We'd love to have you.

#### Northwoods Stewardship Center

We are also pleased to have a synopsis of what Northwoods Stewardship Center does for our area. Jayson Benoit who is the Operations Director has written an informative article on page 7 which you will find interesting. They are right in our midst and doing all kinds of good things for our area. If you are in the area during the winter, Northwoods has some great cross country skiing trails.

There are other exciting things in this issue of the newsletter. This summer SLA and the Town of Morgan with the state grant purchased a hot water pressure decontamination unit for the boat greeters to do more to protect against invasive species. See the article about Millfoil Update and our concerns about the need for dredging on page 5. Read on page 6 about SLA's efforts to get Seymour Lake designated as a "Lake Wise Lake." The SLA Fishing Committee met with the state biologist about concerns with the size and quantity of fish in the lake—more about this in the spring. And finally, SLA is going to share an intern with Northwoods Stewardship Center. It is hoped that this intern's efforts along with other efforts by the state will help to identify many ways our Seymour Lake water quality can be improved—see article on page 6. There is a lot going on. Enjoy the newsletter. Hope for lots of snow. □



This Newsletter is a semiannual publication of the Seymour Lake Association, a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of Seymour Lake and the surrounding locality for the benefit of lake users, property owners, and residents of Morgan, Vermont.



### Seymour Lake Association

P.O. Box 36

Morgan, Vermont 05853

Telephone: (802) 766-8895 Website: [www.seymourlake.org](http://www.seymourlake.org)

#### Officers

President:	Chuck Nichols	<a href="mailto:craynichols@me.com">craynichols@me.com</a>	723-4976	cell 802-917-4282
Vice President:	Ted Jewett	<a href="mailto:tnmjewett@comcast.net">tnmjewett@comcast.net</a>	895-4871	cell 802 864-7697
Treasurer:	Jean McKenny	<a href="mailto:jmckenny@together.net">jmckenny@together.net</a>	895-2942	802-766-8895
Secretary:	Linda Buzzell	<a href="mailto:t-lbuzzell@comcast.net">t-lbuzzell@comcast.net</a>	895-4175	home 603-448-3245

#### Directors (Term Ends)

Tim Buzzell '17	Bruce Barter '18	Alan Franklin '19
Peggy Barter '17	Bonnie McWain '18	Erik Lessing '19
Rhonda Shippee '17	Charles Woods '18	Frank Antonelli '19

Tom Bonneville—Town of Morgan Select Board Liaison

#### Committee Members

- Activities.....Frank Antonelli
- Audit .....Doug Gimler
- Boating.....Tim Buzzell
- Dam/Lake Level.....Tim Buzzell, Ron Kolar, Dave Anderson, Chuck Nichols, Erik Lessing
- Development/Education. Lyman McWain, Peggy Barter
- Fishing .....Ron Frascoia, Charles Woods, Bill Bilowus
- Grants .....Beth Torpey, Peggy Barter, Linda Broadwater
- Loons .....Charles "Woody" Woods, Eric Hanson, Bonnie & Dave Potter, Ruby Jenness
- Maps .....Ron Kolar
- Membership .....Ted Jewett, Bruce Barter, Tim Buzzell, Gerry Cahill, Erik Lessing, Ann Torpey, Tom Adams, Chris Blais, Bonnie McWain
- Milfoil .....Chuck Nichols, Beth Torpey, Peggy Barter
- Newsletter .....Erik Lessing, Bruce Barter, Maggie Griffith
- Nominating .....Tim Buzzell, Ted Jewett, Bonnie McWain
- Water Quality.....Peggy Barter, Frank Antonelli, Linda Broadwater, Tom Emery, Bill Kilpatrick, Dan Barry, Gerry Cahill, Beth Torpey, Ron Kolar, Anthony Lazzara, Erik Lessing, Tracey Shadday, Rhonda Shippee, Charles Woods
- Website .....Karen Abada, Candy Moot, Chuck Nichols, Bruce Barter, Allan Wooley, Erik Lessing

Note: Name underlined is Committee Chair. Others are Committee Members.

Greeters at the Boat Launch: Reed Hubbard, Lisa Foster, Penelope Newcomb, Dan Griffith, Beth Torpey, Bud Bergh

**Town of Morgan [www.townofmorgan.com](http://www.townofmorgan.com)**

Selectmen—Larry Labor—Chair  
Robert Guyer  
Tom Bonneville

Town Clerk/Treasurer—TammyLee Morin

Asst. Town Clerk—Amanda Wright

North Country School Director—Kristin Mason

Listers—Diane Moore  
James Judd  
Joseph Malgeri

Zoning Officer: Steve Matson, 802-895-2886

**New Directors**
**by Linda Buzzell**

**P**lease welcome Rhonda Shippee and Bonnie McWain to the SLA Board of Directors replacing outgoing Lyman McWain and Dave Anderson. Dave is spending less time at Seymour Lake and hence his departure, and Lyman is relinquishing his post as Vice President. As always Dave's technical expertise and insight was appreciated by the whole board. We owe Lyman plaudits for years as President and his many significant contributions to SLA. Ted Jewett replaces Lyman as Vice President. We believe that despite the loss of two excellent contributors, we continue to have a strong board for the management of SLA. □

## Industrial Wind/Solar Developments

Candy Moot

### Industrial Solar Development:

In early September 2016, industrial renewable developer David Blittersdorf received a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) from the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB), which gave him the go-ahead to start work on the industrial solar development in Morgan for which he'd applied. This development is proposed on agricultural land about ¼ mile up Valley Road from Route 111. To see his original application and the Town of Morgan's formal Comments and Concerns about his proposal, see the link at NEWS/What's New (seymourlake.org) our website.

The issuance of this CPG without a technical hearing was not expected by Morgan residents, officials, and Seymour Lake Association (SLA) members who were present when the full PSB attended a site visit on July 14, 2016. During that visit, PSB Board Chair James Volz repeatedly stated to those present that the site visit was not the time to hear testimony or concerns; rather, those would be formally heard at "the hearing." So on September 12<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Morgan, through Middlebury attorney Cindy Hill, filed a Motion to Reconsider, accompanied by seven affidavits from those who were present at the site visit, all of whom heard Chair Volz's promise of a hearing. Many SLA members worked collaboratively with the Town and Attorney Hill to get this 55-page document and affidavits filed in Montpelier within the ten day period required by law.

One of many concerns for the town and SLA about this industrial solar development is the juxtaposition of nearly 42,000 square feet of impermeable surface (the solar panels) to two wet-

lands and Sucker Brook, which is the main tributary into Seymour Lake.

Should our Motion to Reconsider be granted and a technical hearing scheduled, the Town of Morgan and SLA will continue our collaborative efforts to get expert witnesses prepared to testify before the PSB. Should our Motion not be granted, a decision would have to be made whether or not to take an appeal to the Vermont Supreme Court.

### Industrial Wind Development:

As SLA has reported, developer David Blittersdorf has also bought a ridgeline near Beechnut Ridge on the north eastern side of Seymour Lake. At this time, no application for industrial wind turbines has been filed. See picture below:



Property and camp on 161 acres near Beechnut Ridge recently purchased by industrial wind developer David Blittersdorf. Wind measuring device is on the left side of roof. Seymour Lake is in background.

However, Town of Morgan officials and the SLA Board of Directors want to be prepared should an industrial wind application be submitted. To that end, the Town of Morgan held a duly warned informational meeting with a vote in July 2016. Mr. Blittersdorf and several other pro-industrial wind professionals

were invited to speak to explain their support; none came, but Annette Smith, the executive director of Vermonters for a Clean Environment came to share her concerns about industrial wind. (SLA did copy and distribute the "Wind Fact Sheet" from Renewable Energy Vermont's web site). To a standing-room-only crowd when the vote was taken, all present except one person voted to oppose an industrial wind development at Seymour Lake.

Additionally, the SLA Board wanted to be certain they understood the wishes of our members so in September 2016, an email survey was sent to our members. 92% voted to oppose an industrial wind development at Seymour Lake.

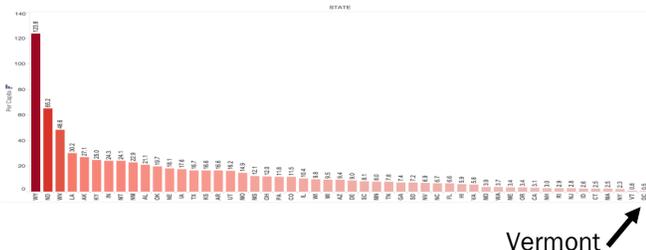
However, whether it's industrial solar or industrial wind, the siting process as it now stands affords very little (if any) deference to Vermonters or the towns where they live, and Mr. Blittersdorf has stated publicly that he will not defer to a vote of Morgan residents should it show there is not support for an industrial wind development. As a result, the Town of Morgan and the SLA Board are discussing ways to organize and raise money, should a substantial legal battle be in our future. The evidence of other towns shows that the environmental and human harm can be devastating; property values can be formally lowered, while the costs for this

energy are 300%-400% greater than what our utility currently pays for market priced power. □

Editor's Note: The following data on page 4 was compiled by Candy Moot.

## INDUSTRIAL RENEWABLES: Zero Benefit To Vermont and Vermonters

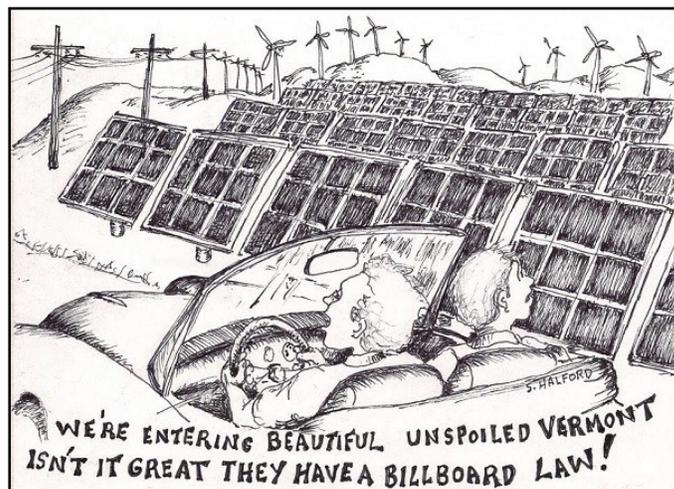
1. **Vermont consumers use zero renewable energy from industrial wind or solar:** With Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) sold out of state, Vermont is using no renewable energy from these industrial developments. (Vermont Law School study). This also allows the state purchasing the REC's to continue to use "dirty" energy.
2. **Property values have been diminished:** Property values are being diminished by industrial renewable developments. For example, in the Town of Georgia, Vermont, homes in proximity to the industrial wind development there have been devalued by the Town of Georgia by as much as 12%.
3. **Vermont Ratepayers pay the high price:** Utilities like VEC are required to pay 19-20 cents/kwh for industrial renewables, when the current market price for power is 5-6 cents/kwh. Obviously, those higher costs are paid for by us, the ratepayers. Interestingly, VEC can buy community scale solar power for 11-12 cents/kwh.
4. **Vermont is not part of the fossil fuel problem:** Per the federal Environmental Protection Agency (see graph below), Vermont ranks dead last in fossil fuel/energy related emissions.



5. **Human impact can be horrific:** There are many Vermonters who are truly victims of these industrial developments. Act 250 doesn't apply here, so these Vermonters have virtually no say. There are Vermonters for whom the situation got so bad that they were forced to abandon their home...while still paying their mortgage, taxes, etc. Can you imagine?
6. **Industrial Wind Noise Standard in Vermont:** The World Health Organization says that wind noise at night should be regulated to 30 dBA so that people can sleep. Vermont's standard is 45 dBA averaged over an hour (a huge difference!).
7. **Stacked political deck:** Vermont's current Speaker of the House is a partner in the law firm that represents one of Vermont's largest industrial renewable developers. The Speaker received considerable political contributions from this same developer. In total over recent years, this developer and his businesses made \$416,363 in political contributions to many Vermont politicians and Vermont political groups.
8. **CO2 reduction:** Vermont produces just over 8.3 metric tons of CO2 and 8.2 million metric tons are removed by trees. The remaining comes from transportation and home heating. So perhaps Vermont should plant more trees rather than stripping them from our ridge lines for

industrial wind towers. (Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation)

9. **Doyle Poll of Vermonters:** In the most recent poll of Vermonters, when asked, "Should cities and towns have a voice in siting industrial energy projects in their communities?" an overwhelming 90% of Vermonters answered "YES." Today, however, those decisions are still made substantially by the developer and the three-person Public Service Board (all of whom are political appointments). A Resolution has been signed already by 155 of Vermont's 251 cities and towns demanding more say in how and where these industrial developments get sited...but the Vermont legislature has yet to make meaningful reforms.
10. **Tourism/Aesthetics:** Vermont has been the fourth most dependent state on tourism. Wisely recognizing this decades ago, Vermont banned billboards. Do tourists want to come to and invest in Vermont to see industrial sized solar and wind developments?



Cartoon Courtesy of Steve Halford

11. **Environmental laws suspended:** In a proposed industrial solar project close to Seymour Lake and Sucker Brook, the solar panels would equal nearly 42,000 square feet of impermeable surface. Juxtapose this number to Vermont's new Shore Land Protection Act, which limits impermeable surface to less than 500 square feet. But fortunately for the industrial developers, they have special rules: Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources doesn't count the panels as impermeable surface...just the posts going into the ground that hold the panels. Storm water runoff, habitat destruction, harm to birds and bats are just a few of the harms sustained by our environment. These industrial developments do not come under Act 250 review either.
12. **Real cause of air quality issues:** According to the Air Quality Division of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), "The transportation sector accounts for highest share of both the greenhouse gas emissions and energy use in Vermont." (ANR website, 2016)

**Milfoil Update**

by Beth Torpey

**O**ur access greeters continue their excellent job of preventing boats from other lakes from bringing invasive species into Seymour Lake. As you know, this is mostly Eurasian water milfoil, a threat which SLA has identified and combated for many years and has kept our lake free from milfoil. To show you how bad this menace can be,

please read the article on page 8 of this issue to show you how two very unfortunate lakes in Vermont are trying to deal with this problem. The strong program we have at Seymour Lake is absolutely essential for preventing this from happening here. Your dues and contributions are critical to fund this endeavor and to build up our emergency fund in

case of an outbreak.

In 2016 from Memorial Day through October, these hard working people at the State Fishing Access inspected over 1,000 vessels and trailers and found 27 instances of milfoil which were removed before entering Seymour Lake. □

**Loons**

by Charles Woods

**S**eymour Lake had a greatly improved season this year in terms of our loon population. More loons were on the lake as well as in the state and other parts of New England. We had a mating pair which produced a chick and that chick has grown to adolescence. Norton Lake had 3 mating pairs and a total of 5 chicks but that lake has more areas for nesting and less lake activity, ideal conditions for loons.

Since the loon incubation period is 28 days, Seymour Lake loon watchers predicted a June 23rd hatching for the nesting pair on the south end of our lake. Here is a first hand report from Erik Lessing, who was there when the chick showed up:

“On June 24th I was invited to help put in

the Camp Winape dock. After arriving early, I decided to take my 20 – 60 power telescope to the Winape Hills dock to check on the nesting loons and found them still sitting on the egg. Two hours later, I returned and lo and behold, the adults were off the nest and a baby loon was in the water. I alerted Nancy Bowen and she joined me looking at the chick. She told me that by tradition the first observer of a loon chick gets to name it. I picked “Jake” the name of my daughter-in-law’s new Golden Retriever (Jacqueline had it been female). What a thrill!”

Our loon population grew during the summer and in the early fall as many as 20 loons could be seen. Many of them fly to Echo and return and if you have ever seen a loon take off or land, it is a spectacular event. They take about 200

yards to get airborne vigorously flapping their wings and land less gracefully than Sully on the Hudson. □



Jake 3 days old getting breakfast in bed.  
Photo courtesy of Doug Gimler

**Boat Parade**

by Tim Buzzell

**T**he annual 2016 Seymour Lake Boat Parade was held on Sunday, July 3rd this year. It was again a great success with about 25 boats participating. At the request of property owners along the eastern shore, an effort was made this year to slow the parade down and to keep further offshore to reduce the impact of large waves affecting the shoreline. The reduced visual effect

this caused was offset as Erik Lessing and Ron Kolar occasionally steered their beautiful antique Chris-Craft boats away from the parade line and scooted them closer to shore to the delight of dockside observers. Many thanks to Bonnie McWain and Cindy Kern, the organizers of this year's parade, and also to Colin Kwasnik who organized the first parade in 2010. □

**Recognition**

The newsletter is paid in part with support from VT Department of Environmental Conservation funds. □

**Boat Launch**

by Tim Buzzell

**T**he Seymour Lake Boat Launch area remains problematic. Silt bed load movement from Sucker Brook continues to deposit in the area in front of the ramps, making it impossible for boats to get away after launching without churning their props through mud. This is unacceptable both because it is not healthy for engines and their lower units and because it stirs up potentially nutrient rich sediments that might adversely affect water quality. Because of

the difficulty this is causing, a number of alternative boat launches have been created around the lake where boats can now be launched without the benefit of having been screened for milfoil and other invasive species as is standard at the official access. The state has so far refused to dredge the area in front of the launch ramps. We suggest that boaters write to the State with your concerns, and demand that action be taken to alleviate this problem. You

can contact them by writing to:

Mike Wichrowski  
Vermont Lands & Facilities Administrator  
1 National Life Dr., Davis 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620  
802-917-1347  
mike.wichrowski@vermont.gov

## Lake Water Quality

by Water Quality Committee

### Water Quality, Fishing and Property Values:

All land owners in the watershed can help keep Seymour Lake's water pollution at a minimum and improve the fishing! Please do your part in maintaining or restoring buffers of native vegetation on your property. Those not directly on the lake can provide buffers of natural vegetation on the downhill slopes of their property, especially along ditches or streams. In Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, studies on the impact of water quality on lakefront property values demonstrate a significant loss in property value as water quality degrades. See SLA's website, seymourlake.org, for more information.

**Lake Wise** Nearly 50 Seymour Lake shore owners have participated in the volunteer Lake Wise program. Benefits to property owners are increased property value, knowledge of best management practices and receiving technical help with difficult situations which are compromising water quality. These situations include eroding lake shores, slippery paths to the shore, septic questions, directing storm water into vegetation and access road issues. We invite you to participate by contacting Peggy Barter at [sla.newsletter.wq@gmail.com](mailto:sla.newsletter.wq@gmail.com) for more information.

Lake Wise has another significant advantage for the Lake's water quality. Properties with model lake shore management practices are recognized with a sign designating their property as receiving the Lake Wise Award. These properties can serve as models for others who wish to protect the lake and improve their own properties. Seymour Lake has 12 award winning properties at this time.

### Help Seymour Lake Gain Recognition as Vermont's First Lake Wise Lake:

The Lake Wise program recognizes lakes which have 15% of developed shorefront properties meeting Lake Wise standards as a "Lake Wise Lake". That means we need a total of 44 properties to earn the Award in order for Seymour Lake to be designated a Lake Wise Lake. As mentioned above, we currently have 12 and adding 32 more will take us to the goal. Many of our properties would likely meet the standards but have not been evaluated. If we could add those properties to

the program, we think Seymour Lake could become the first "Lake Wise Lake" in Vermont. If you have a property that you think already meets the standards, we encourage you to have your property evaluated for Lake Wise and to recommend to your neighbor or friend to volunteer their property. Contact Peggy Barter for more information.

### Morgan Applies for and Receives Better Back Roads Grant:

The Town of Morgan has been awarded a State of VT/Better Back Roads Road Inventory Capital Budget Plan Grant to improve drainage on several back roads surrounding Seymour Lake in an effort to improve water quality. Work funded by this 5-7 year grant would include, as necessary, the following improvements: roadside ditching, upgrading all undersize culverts to 18" diameter, rip rap stonework, installation of splash guards, etc. The back roads that are included in this project are all part of the local watershed. The roads getting upgrades will include: Jordan Road, Morgan/Charleston Road, Wayesses Road, Oxbow Road, Sunset Road (East Side) and Dumas Road. There is also a separate grant to repair the header piece on a vintage stone culvert on Oxbow Road. This drainage improvement work over the next several years will be completed by Shawn Austin Construction of Morgan, VT.

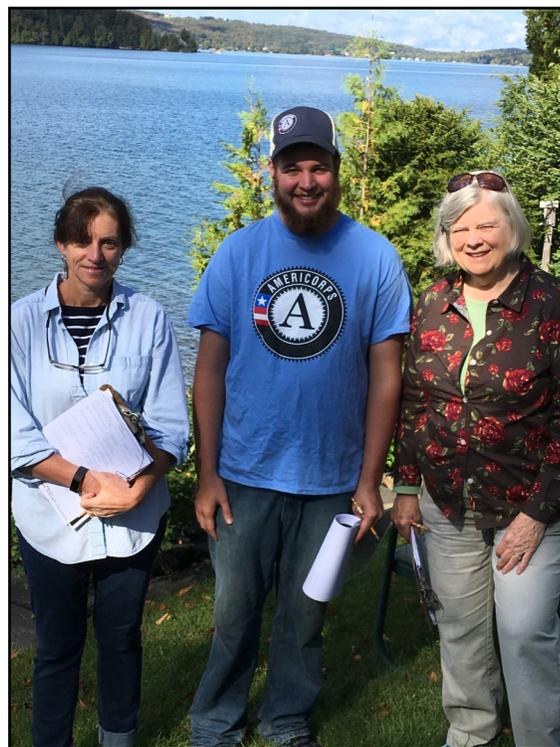
### Certification Course for Landscapers, Contractors, and Site Workers:

This Certification Course covers shoreland Best Management Practices, including techniques for erosion control, storm water management, bioengineering and wildlife habitat protection. Lakeshore owners often rely on professional contractors, landscapers, engineers or other site workers to advise and help them manage their property. The course teaches contractors both the science for using BMPs and the science of how they work to protect the lake while remaining attractive and appealing to homeowners. All workers certified through this six hour training course will be listed on the Agency of Natural Resources

web site, and the list will be shared with lakeshore property owners. Those certified through this course will also be given preference for grants and contracts awarded through the new [Vermont Clean Water Initiative](#). Morgan Town Hall has a flyer and application form for the course for those interested. Training for our area was done on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury, VT. For a list of workers presently certified, visit the SLA website, seymourlake.org.

### SLA Collaborates with Northwoods Stewardship Center to sponsor an ECO AmeriCorps Intern:

Chuck, Rhonda and Peggy met our intern, Trevor Banister, in September. He is supervised by Meghann Carter at Northwoods Stewardship Center (see adjacent article) and will be mentored by VT-DEC's Mark Mitchell who manages the state's Lay Monitoring Program. He will also be working with Watershed coordinator Ben Copans as well as other Northwoods personnel. We look forward to Trevor's work helping us identify the source of silt entering the lake from Sucker Brook and our Lake Wise program. □



AmeriCorp Intern Trevor Banister flanked by Rhonda Shippee, left and Peggy Barter, right.

## Northwoods Stewardship Center

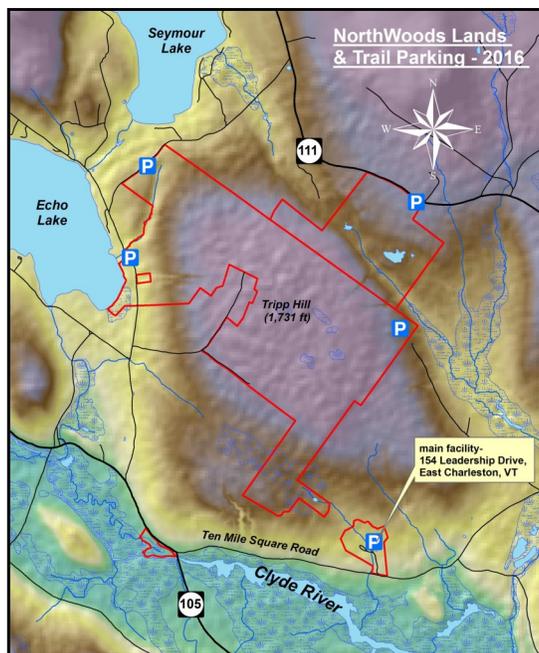
by Jayson Benoit

If you've spent much time in the Northeast Kingdom—especially in its trails, waterways, forests, or schools—then you've probably heard about the NorthWoods Stewardship Center. Understanding all that NorthWoods does, though, can be a challenge. Before I try to remedy that, here is a brief explanation of where and who we are. NorthWoods is a non-profit organization based out of a lodge and offices located on the Ten Mile Square Road in East Charleston just north of the Clyde River wetlands. The Center now owns nearly 1,500 acres of land which stretch from its main campus over Tripp Hill to frontage on Echo Lake, the Jordan Road, and Route 111 in Morgan. We were started in 1989 by former Sterling College president Bill Manning and became a non-profit in 1995. Much of our work takes place in our own backyard—Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, but over the years the geographic extent of our projects has grown to include all of the New England states.

NorthWood's work begins with our mission of "connecting people and place through science, education, and action." We deliver on this mission through three core areas: a Forest Stewardship Institute (FSI), an education department, and a NorthWoods Conservation Corps. The first of these, FSI, specializes in sustainable forestry and conservation science work. Our FSI staff manage the 1,500 acre Lydia Spitzer Demonstration Forest at NorthWoods which is certified by the American Tree Farm program and recognized as a Forest Guild model forest. Ongoing forest management employs the latest science and sustainable management techniques and is shared through guided tours and interpretive signs at locations around the property. Licensed FSI foresters also provide a range of consulting services to landowners—forest management plans, invasive plant control, wildlife habitat improvement, general management recommendations, timber harvest oversight, etc. We now serve over 50 private, municipal, and non-profit landowners owning 15,000+ acres. Other

staff within our FSI area focus on conservation priorities within our region—most notably water quality though past work has included plant and wildlife conservation projects as well. Land owners around Seymour Lake are most likely to have been involved with our water quality education and lakeshore planting programs in the past.

NorthWoods is probably most well-



known for our educational programs. These seek to engage students of all ages with the natural world and to make curiosity and affinity for the outdoors life-long pursuits. Our emphasis and



strength is hands-on active learning, and our teaching staff provide a full schedule of after-school and daytime learning programs both at schools and at our campus serving more than 4,000

students annually. Education content includes team challenge activities, outdoor survival and recreation programs, and scientific inquiry in water, forest, and wildlife ecology to augment classroom study. Our winter and summer camps and expeditions on-site and to local rivers and mountains inspire young people to explore nature on foot, use our cross country ski trails, snowshoe, and canoe, and to fortify a sense of place as they connect with the landscape, people, and history that has shaped the Northeast Kingdom.

A third flagship area for NorthWoods is our Conservation Corps which has completed many thousands of hours of trail building and other conservation work since its inception in 1995. This program includes local crews that focus on trail projects (often funded by the state of Vermont) and crews in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service across New England that focus on a variety of wildlife and public access projects. Our Conservation Corps program provides conservation training and leadership development and summer employment for teenagers while completing projects that enhance our natural and community environments.

In 2014, NorthWoods celebrated 25 years of service to local communities and the environment and kicked off a capital campaign to plant the seeds for our next quarter century. That campaign will wrap up this fall and has led to many improvements in our campus and programs including most visibly the construction (nearly completed) of a 16-bed bunkhouse that will greatly increase our educational capacity. Our programs continue to grow and evolve, and one specific example that will impact Seymour Lake land owners is the addition this fall of an ECO-AmeriCorps member who will focus on local water quality issues. We are very excited to expand our work with the Seymour Lake Association membership over the coming year and beyond, but please come visit in the mean time. □

Seymour Lake Association  
P.O. Box 36  
Morgan, VT 05853

## Williston, VT : Lake Iroquois, Lake Carmi and Milfoil Issues

Excerpt from WPTZ

It's called Eurasian water milfoil, said Jamie Carroll, director of the Lake Iroquois Association. "We've been working on it, but it's been getting worse." The fern-like invasive species can grow up to 14 feet underwater; clogging up lakes, sticking to swimmers and boats. "Not only do we want to get the milfoil out, but we want to prevent its continuing to come in," Association President Pat Suozzi said.

Lake Iroquois is not the only lake struggling with the issue. "Having grown up spending summers at Lake Carmi, I remember how it once was," said Diane LaRose, a member of the Lake Carmi Campers Association who came to the meeting to learn about financing milfoil management. "The level of milfoil that we're now experiencing is making it difficult to navigate through the waterways," she said. But there are some ways to keep this pesky plant under control, including chemicals like Triclopyr (brand name: Renovate) or Fluridone (brand name: Sonar). They're both approved herbicides in the state of Vermont, and Carroll said those few residents who use the lake as a drinking water source don't need to worry.

"They don't bio accumulate, so they don't accumulate in a person's body," Carroll said. "They basically would wash through." The state would have to approve any new lake control techniques. If they do, the association will work with a company licensed to distribute milfoil-killing chemicals into the lake.

There's just one problem. "it's a fairly expensive undertaking," Carroll said. Using the herbicide could cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000, with touch-up treatments as years go by likely costing around \$50,000. But through state funding, and donations from Williston, Hinesburg and Iroquois Lake residents, Carroll said the project, "seems doable."

Association members said Williston donated \$20,000 this fiscal year to the

fight against milfoil. The town of Hinesburg donated \$5,000, and lake residents gave \$12,000. The state of Vermont donated \$13,000 which was used for this summer's suction harvesting, which takes out some milfoil, but not enough to keep the problem under control. The Association said the herbicide treatment is much more cost effective than suction harvesting and should keep the species contained. □

milfoil infestation. It also points up the old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."



Editor's Note: This recent video feature by WPTZ, NBC Channel 5 in Burlington, vividly shows the devastating impact of