

# Seymour Lake Association

[www.seymourlake.org](http://www.seymourlake.org)

## Newsletter February 2009

### Message from the President

From everything I have seen and heard, the SLA has completed another very successful season of promoting improved water quality standards for Seymour Lake and we have had some great experiences with the membership in the process, making new friends and finding new people to support the cause. In reflection, it always comes down to what a great place Morgan, Vermont really is and how lucky are we to have such a wonderful lake to enjoy. As with any complex set of issues everything is not perfect for us. We have many concerns and a significant backlog of projects to bring to fruition on a limited budget. The good news is we have many good folks that care and continue to devote significant time and effort and leadership to make things better for all of us and our children in the future.

To put things in perspective, I would like to randomly review the highlights of the season for us in the SLA. Since water quality is what we are really about, we had a good year with new projects like the LaRosa testing program which has begun sampling at our major tributaries as a way to build up

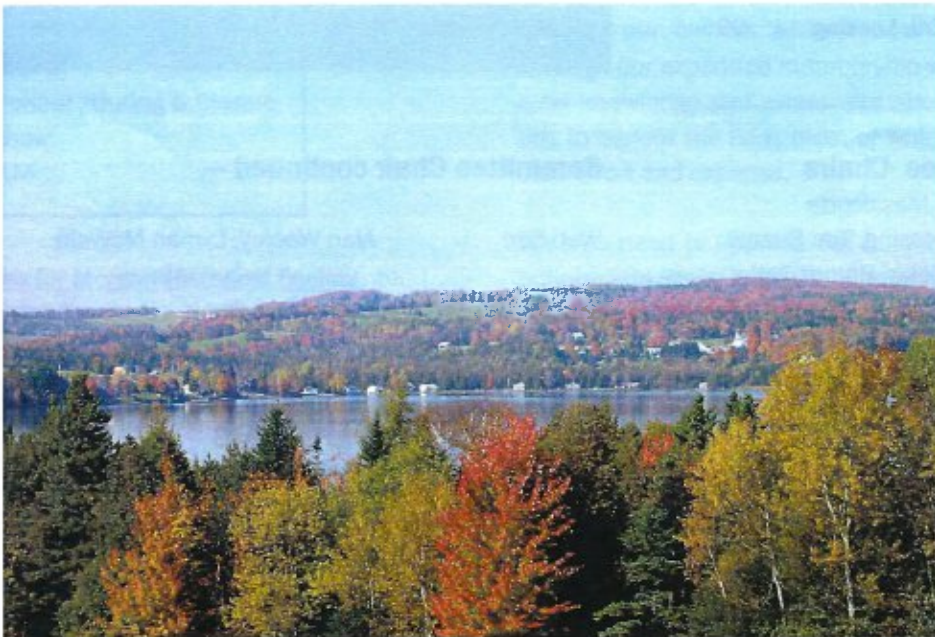
our base of knowledge on how our streams may impact the lake. We started a project with the property owners in the Wayeeses area and the town to request a Back Roads Grant to improve the road drainage to divert water away from the lake. At our Annual Meeting we were pleased to have Peggy Merrell from the State make a very professional presentation which substantiated the case that the de-

owners had accomplished, or needed to accomplish, landscaping their property to avoid soil erosion and the contribution to increased phosphorus levels in the lake. It was an interesting day for all of us with many supportive and creative ideas discussed with the conclusion that we would do it again next year.

On the membership effort Ted Jewett has reconstituted our membership committee and has plans to reach out to the lake owners and town members to join our efforts by becoming a member and participating in our efforts to improve our Seymour Lake. Alan Wooley has continued to expand our website, [www.seymourlake.org](http://www.seymourlake.org), and we now have some very interesting educational information with links to even more knowledge on the State and other Association web sites. He has built up our photo gallery, and I encourage everyone to continue to submit their pictures for all of us to enjoy in the off season.

One of the year's real highlights was our SLA Outing and Boat Show hosted at Camp Winape by the Kolar family.

**(President's Message  
continued on page 3.)**



crease in water clarity was to a great extent related to the property development around the lake and the increase in hard surfaces which increases water run into the lake rather than into the ground as it would in a undeveloped environment. With that knowledge in hand, Peggy Barter organized a property walk with a group of owners, Susan Warren from VT DEC, and others from Morgan and the State. The purpose was to see first hand what

**Please use the attached forms for Dues Renewal and Donations**

## Association Officers & Directors for 2009

### Officers

President	Lyman McWain	895-4438
	lmcwain@aol.com	
Vice President	Ron Kolar	723-4400
	rkolar@eagle-harbor.com	
Secretary	Jean McKenny	895-2942
	jmckenny@together.net	
Treasurer	Janet Selby	895-2915
	hjselby@surfglobal.net	

### Directors (Term ending)

Ted Jewett	11	Peggy Barter	10
Alan Wooley	11	Kalman Samuels	09
Steve Massicotte	11	Jim McWain	09
Tim Buzzell	10	Erik Lessing	09
Linda Broadwater	10		



### Committee Chairs

Audit	Steve Massicotte
Boating/PWC	Erik Lessing, Tim Buzzell
Dam/Lake Level	Ron Kolar, Homer Selby
Development	Lyman McWain, Kal Samuels
Fishing	Homer Selby, Ron Frascoia
Grants	Janet Selby, Peggy Barter Beth Torpey, Linda Broadwater
Ice Out	Homer & Janet Selby
Loon Watch	Kal Samuels
Maps	Ron Kolar, Nancy Gilmond
Membership	Ted Jewett, Jim McWain, Bruce Barter, Anne Moore, Erik Lessing, Ann Torpey, Tim Buzzell
Milfoil	Janet Selby, Peggy Barter
Newsletter	Jim McWain, Alan Kolar
Nominating	Ron Kolar (Past Pres), Tim Buzzell, Jim McWain
Swim Program	Carol Pombar
Water Quality	Peggy Barter, Tom Emery, Bruce Barter, Ron Kolar, Linda Broadwater, Erik Lessing, Tracey Shadday

### Committee Chair continued —

Web Site                      Alan Wooley, Lyman McWain

Note: First Name is Committee Chair, others are committee members.

## Morgan Town Officers

Town Clerk/Treasurer	Tammy Lee Morin
Selectman-	Richard Miller Robert Guyer Brian Gray
School Board-	Tammy LaCourse Kelly Paul Danielle Blake
Assistant Town Clerk	Paula Keenan
North Country School Director-	Lenrick Gonyaw
Listers-	Jim Judd Diane Moore Deanna Keenan

## Save the Date 2009



### Seymour Lake Association

**July 25**— 9:00AM

SLA Annual Meeting  
Morgan Community Center

**August 1**— 5:00PM

SLA Cookout /Outing & Classic  
Boat Show  
5:00 P.M.

### 2009 Calendar Dates for Morgan Historical Society

- Spring Ham Fundraising Dinner — May 30, 6:00PM
- Annual Meeting — July 10, 11:00 AM  
Pot Luck Luncheon to follow.
- Morgan Meanderings — July 18  
“The Way We Were in Morgan 1930-1960”
- Fall Dinner & Program — September 19, 6:00PM
- Pancake Breakfast — October 10

### Morgan Circle of Friends

- Vermont Humanities Council Program — June 3, 1:00PM  
The public is invited to the Morgan Church for  
“Old Time Rules Will Prevail — The Fiddle contest in Vermont”
- Bazaar — August 5, 11:00AM to 2:00PM  
To be held at the Morgan Community House

*(President's Message continued from cover page)*

As you know by now, we had the pleasure of Governor Douglas, Secretary Crombie, and Commissioner Pelosi of VT DEC as our guests. We started the day with a visit to our inspection process at the boat ramp and later great food and informative and supportive presentations by our guests about the importance of Lake Owner associations to the outcome of improved water quality. It was a great opportunity to interface and promote our issues with the State leaders.

But for all the good things that we initiate and accomplish we still look forward to many difficult issues that work against our goals and that require us to press on. Here are a few that we will continue to promote next year and beyond with your continued support. We need to grow our property owner membership, not for the small amount of money that the dues bring in, but for the personal participation and increased awareness that I believe is the ultimate solution to keeping Seymour the wonderful place it is. With only about a third of our owners as members we have a way to go! Through our expanded membership we can improve our technical knowledge and awareness about improving our properties to benefit the lake, most of which can be done with very little effort and expense.

We also need to improve our funding through private contributions and State grants to continue our testing, inspections and educational promotions, and to increase our available funds to be able to quickly react to potential invasive species infestation as they occur without waiting for others to come to our rescue.

It is a pleasure being your President and working with a great group of people who are so dedicated to keeping our lake beautiful. If you are not a member please join, and if you have not yet contributed please consider an additional contribution if you can, and most of all please be involved and help us get your neighbors to also join. I am confident you will find it enjoyable, entertaining and educational while participating in making a positive difference in our community and lake environment.

Thank You

**Lyman McWain**

E-mail [lmcwain@aol.com](mailto:lmcwain@aol.com)

Home 203 421-4516

Seymour Lake 802 895-4438

## Kellie Merrell's Presentation Highlights Annual Meeting

As part of our dedication to expanding our awareness and education on Water Quality at Seymour, your Board and our Water Quality Committee, invited Vermont DEC's talented Kellie Merrell to present at our annual meeting on July 26, 2008. From all responses received Kellie's presentation was interesting, well documented and easily understood by all.

Kellie presented the water quality sampling statistics going back almost 10 years and explained that Seymour over the last six years has shown a very dramatic and disturbing increase in our total phosphorus readings. As a result of this trend Vermont's DEC has placed Seymour on a "Watch List" to more closely monitor our future testing results.

After reviewing the various potential sources of increased ph levels in a lake, Kellie showed in various slides how developed properties if not managed properly dramatically increase the speed in which normal rain and snow water run off enter the lake and bring with it increased phosphorous attached to soil erosion.

Since Seymour is now over 50% developed along our shoreline, our man made "hard surfaces" including roof area, driveways and lawns all add to our ph levels in our lake. What the lake needs is a buffer area of undisturbed vegetation ideally 25 feet from the shoreline. This "duff layer" slows the water and lets it enter the ground water rather than running directly into the lake, and as a consequence reducing the phosphorus contribution. The State's experts believe erosion is directly responsible for influencing our recent readings as supported by their data.

**Water Quality Committee**

## Loon Watch

I'm sure you are all aware that we had a very busy loon population this summer. I was amazed that many of them were quite close to shore and populated areas. At the South end of the lake there was an adult pair of Loons; an egg was laid on the nest, but the egg did not hatch. The egg was secured and sent to Eric Hanson who will have it tested to determine why it did not hatch.

This is Eric Hanson's report on the Loon situation in the state:

"Summer 2008 marked another record year for Vermont's Common Loon population. Lakes across the state supported 74 known territorial loon pairs. From the 61 nesting attempts, 75 chicks hatched (a record high), and 55 chicks survived to fledgling age as of September 1. Three new nesting pairs were confirmed in 2008: at Derby Pond, the south-eastern end of Maidstone Lake, and at the north end of Norton Pond. Despite a wet June, only three nests failed due to flooding. Two adults likely died from lead poisoning, and a third is awaiting necropsy at Tufts University. Volunteers counted a record high number of 225 adults loons statewide on Loonwatch day in July."



## Jones Road Educational Walk

On August 25, at five lakeside residences on Jones Road, ten Seymour Lake residents and four members of the Memphremagog Watershed Association spent two hours learning ways to minimize the amount of sediment and phosphorus entering Seymour Lake. Information was provided by four people. Each expert added information from his/her own specialty. All in attendance were disappointed when the allotted time had elapsed because there had been time to use only five of the seven properties offered by their Jones Road owners for this purpose.

At all times Susan Warren, the lead scientist, emphasized that their advice was not meant to limit residents' enjoyment of the lake, but rather to help us become good stewards of the lake. We began by visiting a section of undisturbed naturally vegetated land. Susan pointed out that this is the most effective way to protect the lake from pollution. All other lake protection techniques are designed to mimic the undisturbed natural vegetation. The four layers of plants (trees, shrubs, groundcover and decaying matter) act as both a sponge and a filter to absorb or slow down precipitation so that it cannot become runoff carrying sediment and phosphorus into the lake.

The remainder of the walk entailed looking at ways to maintain a small lawn area, access to the water and a view while allowing as much natural vegetation as possible to grow. Considered were how to mitigate runoff from driveways, grassy lawns, roofs, and downspouts. In addition to restoring the natural vegetation when possible, Susan made the following points:

1. Use water bars to divert runoff into heavily vegetated areas.

2. Grass roots are not deep enough to keep sediment and phosphorus from being washed into the lake. Tame roof water runoff by using downspouts to direct water into rain barrels, rain gardens or an area of natural vegetation.
3. Stop mowing steep grassy slopes. If natural vegetation is not an option, plant low shrubs such as blueberry shrubs or flowers with substantial roots.
4. Where the shore is lined with rocks, let plants cover or shade the rocks. This prevents rampant aquatic plant growth and provides habitat for fish.

Susan spotted two patches of an invasive shrub called Japanese Knotweed at the shoreline. She characterized this plant as being more problematic than Eurasian Milfoil is in the water. The Nature Conservancy recommends killing this plant by cutting it back and dripping an herbicide such as Round Up into the hollow stems. This may have to be repeated, because the plant is so vigorous.

Please visit the SLA web site to see photos and more information about Japanese knotweed. Also on the web site are links to the handouts that Susan provided to each participant. The handouts are titled [Go WILD! Stabilization Measures for an Eroding Lakeshore and Preventing Driveway Erosion](#) (Lake Protection Bulletins numbered 3, 3B and 5).

**Water Quality Committee**



## SLA Water Quality Monitoring Programs

The SLA supports two water quality monitoring programs. First, the Vermont Lay Monitoring Program, is currently done by volunteer Tom Emery who collects from designated points in the lake both clarity data and water samples to be tested for chlorophyll and phosphorus for about ten weeks each summer. Because of his love of the lake, Tom is dedicated to doing this work each year come rain or shine and around the schedule for his son's ball games. We all salute him and the fine work he does! The SLA has had volunteers collecting this valuable data for us every year starting in 1979 when the State of Vermont began the program. The record they have compiled guides our actions to care for the lake.

This year, on the advice of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and because of our concern about the steady decline in clarity and increase in phosphorus over the past twelve years, the SLA began a new monitoring program called the LaRosa Partnership Program. The purpose of the LaRosa Partnership is to test the waters from six tributaries that feed water into the lake. The purpose is to try to determine how much of the sediment and phosphorus that is in the lake's water comes from the upper watershed. Three of the tributaries we have sampled this year are on the east side of the lake and three are on the north side.

We have many people to thank for their contributions in carrying out this program. First, the DEC awarded us a grant that pays for the lab work and the training of our volunteers. Through the DEC, arrangements were made for our samples to be transported to Waterbury by the Watershed Coordinator, Ben Copans, as well as other DEC workers. We give many thanks to the landowners who have given permission for us to use their land to access the tributaries. Thank you to Walter & Leona Quigg, Claude Seguin, Dave & Genese Blanchette, Robert & Carol Cargill and Ken and Carlisle Whitehill for their help with access to the streams. Finally, thank you to the many volunteers who have contributed with enthusiasm and dedication to the collection of the samples. The LaRosa volunteers are Tom Pombar, Erik Lessing, Reed Hubbard, Ron Kolar, Mary Killian and Bruce & Peggy Barter.

We will have a report concerning the data collected this summer between 6/18/08 – 9/24/08 ready for you no later than February 2009. In the meantime, please do all you can to learn what you can do to keep sediments and phosphorus out of the lake by using the information available on the SLA web site.

**Peggy Barter, Water Quality Committee Chair**

## Town of Morgan Receives Better Back Roads Grant

With the support of the town of Morgan, the Wayeeses Road Association will be addressing erosion problems on its road. Linda Broadwater received an award notification from the Better Back Roads Program, which stated that the town will receive the amount requested, \$7,000, the maximum for this type of grant. The plan is to reshape and line a major runoff ditch and make culvert improvements in order to decrease sediment that is making a delta of silt and aquatic vegetation in the lake. The total cost of the project is expected to be just over \$9,000; the Wayeeses members will pay the matching portion over the grant amount, as required. The work will be completed by the town under the supervision of Shawn Austin. The enthusiasm and support of so many Wayeeses members led to the funding of this grant. The members are appreciative of the collaboration with the Lake Association which has agreed to assist with the matching portion. The commitment and expertise of the Department of Environmental Conservation have been invaluable. We look forward to similar grants to promote improved water quality in our beautiful and ecologically fragile lake.

**Linda Broadwater, Board member**



## Thoughts About Seymour Lake and Milfoil

Please read on, even though what I am about to tell you, you already know, and that is that milfoil, taxation without representation, and the man-eating shark are all Bad! Fortunately there have been no reports of aggressive fish species being introduced to the lake- so let's put that one aside for now. We lost an opportunity to address the tax thing when Linda wouldn't let me dump a couple boxes of tea off the boat access dock upon the arrival of the Governor in July. The prevention of milfoil introduction to the lake, however, is something the SLA has so far successfully managed to achieve, and is dedicated to continue with due diligence in the future. The importance of this activity, and what it means to you as a property owner, is what I'd like to address in this discussion.

Each year the SLA petitions the State for monies to continue monitoring for milfoil on boats and trailers entering the lake, and this petitioning has so far met with success with \$15,600 allocated this year. If this sounds like a lot of money being spent on a problem that doesn't yet exist, consider this - over the past three years, Bud and Reed have successfully intercepted over 60 contaminated boats before they could be launched. Had those boats been allowed onto the lake, Seymour would most certainly now be milfoil infested, along with Willoughby, Bomoseen, Carmi, Morey and countless other Vermont lakes. About \$85,000 is now spent annually in an attempt just to keep the weed from spreading out from the vicinity of the boat launch area on Lake Willoughby. About the same amount of money was spent last year on Lake Morey just to test the effectiveness of an herbicide on a small 5 acre control section of the lake. Well over \$100,000 is spent annually on Lake Bomoseen in an attempt to just keep that body from becoming a swamp.

I'm not sure a discussion is needed into the reasons milfoil is aesthetically and physically bad for a lake and for the people who enjoy it. Anyone who has tried to swim or boat on a badly infested lake can attest that the experience was less than pleasant. But the financial impact an infestation might have deserves some thought. There are about 470 properties on or near the lake, and these properties are quite valuable with a Grand List appraisal of about \$136,000,000, and a major portion of this value is derived from one single asset- the lake. Remove the lake from the equation and property values would plummet. Similarly, degrade the quality of the lake, and property values would likely decline as can be attested to by anyone with property on Lake Carmi or Bomoseen. A 10% reduction would result in a staggering \$14,000,000 loss to our aggregate assets.

So even neglecting the aesthetic and environmental impacts a milfoil infestation would have on Seymour, there are still strong economic reasons why we should remain diligent - which brings me to the sermon portion of this writing. There is only one reason Seymour hasn't suffered the same fate as our neighbor to the south, and that reason is because the SLA several years ago instituted a milfoil prevention program, and has successfully petitioned the State annually to help fund that program. In order to assure that State support continues, it is important that we, as an association, demonstrate our dedication to this effort, and the most visible and telling demonstration SLA President McWain can take with him to Montpelier is a membership list encompassing the majority of the lake users. So if you are not currently a SLA member, I would ask you to consider becoming one, and on behalf of the SLA membership committee, I thank you in advance for doing so.

**Tim Buzzell, Board Member**



### Gov. Douglas Visits Seymour

Governor Jim Douglas (front) with Seymour Lake Association Officers at the Lake Access Area where the Governor and Secretary Crombie were briefed on the Association's milfoil inspection program.

Ron Kolar - Vice President (left), Lyman McWain - President (left center), Governor Douglas (right center) and Janet Selby - Treasurer (right)

## Web Site

As I write this about one year after the website started, we are approaching two thousand visits to the site, and we have just undertaken our first major revision of the site. As a result I have a number of appeals:

- 1) Please let me know of any problems with the website (awooley@exeter.edu or 802-895-43221)
- 2) Please let me know about any vendors from the area who have done a good job for you (to add to SLA's Yellow Pages posted in Members' section).
- 3) Please send me any pictures that you have of well maintained shoreline or waterfront properties that we can use on our new page on property management- under Education.

There is already a pictorial and verbal report on Seymour's first educational walk on that page. The Education section also includes many new & helpful tips such as a list of phosphate-free products and where to get them. This is the section where we will continue to post tips on how camp owners can help to maintain or even improve Seymour's water quality.

The revision has mainly added or rearranged things; the basic structure and organization of the site, its look and feel, remains about the same. I hope that it is a little easier to use. In this regard I want to draw your attention to the new button or link on the front page of the site that will give you a list of links to the new things on the site. One of these is a place in the Members' section where I will put up graphics of suggested logos for the Association (one is already up); another is the camp owners' map of the lake which will have a demonstration of blow-ups by neighborhoods which will be image maps. With your permission your place can be clickable with a picture, your name, telephone number etc (as much or as little as you want). Again, if you are interested in having your camp clickable, please send me what you would like to have shown.

The members' page has been reorganized to allow the Board to distribute non-controversial reports and the minutes by the web. Things that need discussion and votes will obviously be done at meetings. Many of you have already looked at the pictorial account of this year's Outing and Annual Meeting in the Communication section, and also those of the Milfoil inspections and the La Rosa projects in the Education section; all of these are new this summer. And we are always eager to get interesting new views of the lake to add to the four albums we already have. If you have concerns about or suggestions for the web site, Lyman McWain and Allan Wooley are ready and willing to consider them.

Please visit us: [www.seymourlake.org](http://www.seymourlake.org)

**Allan Wooley, Web Site Chairman**



## Vermont's Governor and Secretary of The Agency of Natural Resources visit Seymour Lake

Gov James Douglas and Seymour Lake Association (SLA) members in front of the bulletin board at access area.

Pictured (left to right)

Ron Kolar - Vice President SLA, Gov. Douglas, Bud Bergh - Milfoil inspector, Janet Selby - Treasurer SLA, Reid Hubbard - Milfoil inspector, Homer Selby, Lyman McWain - President SLA, Jim McWain - SLA Board, and George Crombie - Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources.



## Our Goal—Lower Phosphorus Levels

There are many things we can individually do to assist in lowering lake phosphorus levels. For example:

- Reduce or discontinue use of pesticides.
- Use phosphate free dishwashing and laundry detergents. (See list, next column)
- Clean up after your pets so that the waste does not run off directly into the lake untreated.
- Wash your car on grass rather than pavement so the detergent can be filtered through the grass instead of running directly into the storm water system and into the lake untreated.
- Cut back on the amount of fertilizer you use on your lawn. Most established lawns need no additional phosphorus to stay healthy. Cut only a third of the length of the grass with a sharp blade leaving the cuttings to naturally fertilize the grass. If you must fertilize, use a phosphorus free fertilizer.
- If you live near or on the lake, landscape your property with native plants that will provide a buffer between your lawn, garden or road to filter out any pollutants including phosphorus before they reach the lake. Roots are great filters and they also keep soil (which phosphorus likes to cling to) in place.



Our stalwart milfoil checkers Bud Bergh and Reid Hubbard are shown here with George Crombie, Secretary of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources. The Secretary accompanied Governor Jim Douglas to the Association's annual outing and received a briefing on the milfoil inspection process. His Agency includes the Departments of Environmental Conservation, Fish and Wildlife and Forest, Parks and Recreation. Commissioner Laura Pelosi of the Department of Environmental Conservation also accompanied the Governor on his visit to Seymour Lake.

## Local Phosphate Free Products

### Morgan Country Store

- Laundry Detergent--All, Purex, Wisk, Tide
- Dishwashing Liquid--Joy, Ivory, Dawn, Ajax
- Household Cleaners--Softscrub, Lysol Toilet Cleaner, 409, Spic & Span
- Dishwasher Detergent-- Cascade  
(1 gram of phosphorous per tablespoon)

### Newport Natural Foods

- Ecover - Dishwashing (Liquid, Tablets, & Powder), Laundry Powder
- Bio Kleen Laundry Powder
- Lifetree Bathroom Cleaner
- Planet Ultra Powder Laundry Detergent
- Citra Solv

### RJ's

- Seventh Generation - Laundry Detergent, Dish Liquid, Dishwasher Gel, Dishwasher Powder
- All Purpose Cleaner - Borax, Bon Ami

### Shaw's

- Seventh Generation Dish Liquid and Dish washer Detergent
- Borax

### Price Chopper

- Seventh Generation Laundry Detergent, Dish Liquid and All Purpose Cleaner
- Arm & Hammer Essentials (natural, biodegradable, no phosphates)
- Green Works (natural, no phosphates) Cleaner and Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Sun & Earth (natural, non-toxic, biodegradable, safe for septic) Cleaner, Laundry Detergent, Fabric Softener, Dishwasher Detergent and Hand Soap
- Windex "Green List" (environmentally friendly)

### Agway

- Agway Greenlawn Fertilizer - 3 varieties (Spring, Fall, All-season) - zero phosphate

### Pick & Shovel

- Scotts Lawn Pro Weed & Feed, Scotts Lawn Pro Lawn Fertilizer
- Safer Houseplant and Rose and Flower Insecticidal Soap
- Borax
- Krud Kutter Exterior Siding Cleaner (no bleach, ammonia and biodegradable)

### Farmyard Store

- Safe and Simple Weed Control
- Safer Insect Killing Soap

## Dam and Lake Level

The spring runoff was handled very well by the new dam and spillway, and the State was very pleased on how the lake water level was lowered. Then the rains started and wow, was the summer of 2008 a real wet one. The excessive rains saturated the lands, and then when we received additional rains, there was basically no percolation of water into the ground, resulting in the majority of the rains running into the small streams and Seymour Lake. TV Channel 3 reported that we had more rain in Northern Vermont in the summer of 2008, than there has ever been since they started keeping rainfall records in the 1800's. In 2008, Lake Champlain was at the highest Level that has ever been recorded.

We normally have the lake level at 6 to 8 inches above the low pin. This summer the level was 10 inches above the low pin on July 5. With the heavy and continuing rains, the level rose to an height of 21 inches above the low pin on August 4. When some sense of normal weather returned after mid-August, the lake level retreated very well and was 7 ¾ inches above the low pin on September 4th.

The State of Vermont continued to ask that members of the SLA manually measure the lake level at the outlet (where the pins are located), and at the dam. Janet & Homer Selby, Nancy Bowen and myself performed this monitoring, and reporting to the State and Great Bay Hydro. It is good that we are doing the manual measuring, since the automatic data collection system was not working properly. Great Bay Hydro, who remains the owner of the dam, will have this corrected.

We want to thank Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and Great Bay Hydro, for their continued cooperation and guidance. Please contact me with any questions.

**Ron Kolar, Dam/Lake Level Committee**



## Outing, Cookout and Classic Boat Show

Our Annual Outing and Cookout, combined with the Classic Boat Show was held on July 19, which was one of the most beautiful days of the summer. Over 150 people attended this years event and they enjoyed good food, seeing the boats (two of which were 1934 wooden Chris Crafts) hearing of our Association's Programs, but mainly visiting with old and new Seymour Lake residents. We all realized the great people we have around our Lake.

The highlight of the outing was meeting and hearing talks from Governor Jim Douglas, Vt Agency of Natural Resources Secretary George Crombie, and Vt Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Laura Pelosi. In addition to short talks, they assisted us with presentations to three of our very hard working officers and board of directors – Jan Selby, Peggy Barter and Jim McWain.

We sent a thank you note to the three state officials as follows – “Having you at the Outing really meant a lot to our members and residents around the Lake. The good words we heard from you raised the level of interest of our Members about Water quality. You were very generous with your time and we appreciated you helping us with the presentation of awards to several of our directors.”

Secretary Crombie's reply was – “Thanks for your note and congratulations to your Board and members of your Lake Association for the tremendous work you are doing to protect Lake Seymour. It was gratifying to get out in the field and see state policies and programs being implemented. The Association's work will be held up for others to emulate. Thanks again for what you are doing to sustain Vermont's environment.”

We want to sincerely thank Ted Jewett and his Committee for job they did with the food, grill chefs, invitations, welcoming folks, and program to make the Outing truly outstanding! And our special thanks go to Ann Torpey for sponsoring the Cookout Food. Those burgers were sure tasty!

Our Outing and Cookout in 2009 will be on Saturday August 1, which is one week after the SLA Annual Meeting on July 25.

Governor Douglas (front right) arrived at Camp Winape for the Seymour Lake Association's Annual Outing. He was briefed on the Associations milfoil inspection process at the access area and was given a tour of the lake in Erik Lessing's (front left) 1950 Chris Craft. Accompanying the Governor (rear left to right) were Homer Selby, Secretary Crombie and the Governor's driver/guard.

## Milfoil Check Report and Ice Out Contest Request

This past season we checked 1,373 vessels and had 11 instances of milfoil. For reference, last year (2007) there were 1,339 vessels checked with 36 milfoil and 1 zebra mussel incidents. It is surprising that we checked more boats this year considering the price of gas and the less than perfect weather. We hope, and I would like to think, that the decrease in milfoil is due to the education boaters are receiving from us and other sources.

We would also like to thank all of the members of the Association who contributed money toward our milfoil project. Without your generous donations, the boat access checking would not be a viable component of the program.

Our fundraising was quite successful this year, as well as a lot of work and fun. We hope that you will consider a contribution next year and support our 2009 Ice Out Raffle.

Participation in the Ice Out Raffle for milfoil prevention is easy. All you have to do is make a guess, or five guesses, of when the Ice will go out of Lake Seymour.

I'm sure you understand that the size of the lake makes it difficult to determine an ice out date and time. The ice out

time and even date may not be perceived the same between east, north or west side residents. Consequently, Homer and Janet Selby have assumed responsibility for insuring a standard for the ice out time. In the Spring Homer places a pallet on the ice in front of his place. The pallet has a cinder block and timing device which indicates the exact time when the block sinks. Janet then surveys the applications and determines the three closest guesses to the actual time. This has solved the problem of a uniform time of the ice out on Seymour Lake. Thus the name "**Ice Out/Block Down**" Contest. Homer waits until the water is warmer to retrieve the block and timing device.

Your SLA Officers, Board Members, Milfoil Checkers, volunteers and contributors have worked very hard to make 2008 an extremely successful year.

Any year that we can report "NO MILFOIL" has to be considered a grand success.

**Janet Selby, Chair, Milfoil Committee**



### ICE OUT/BLOCK DOWN CONTEST SEYMOUR LAKE 2009

Guess	Date	Time	Circle One	
#1	_____	_____	A.M.	P.M.
#2	_____	_____	A.M.	P.M.
#3	_____	_____	A.M.	P.M.
#4	_____	_____	A.M.	P.M.
#5	_____	_____	A.M.	P.M.

\$5.00 each guess or \$20.00 for 5 guesses      Prizes of \$200, \$100, and \$50

*Benefit of Seymour Lake Association Milfoil and Other Projects*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

By March 20, please send ticket and check made payable to SLA at:  
 J.C. Selby, PO Box 43, Morgan Vermont, 05853

# Membership Committee

A re-organized membership committee for SLA has been formed this year under the leadership of Ted Jewett. Our goal is to meet and greet all lake property owners during the next three years, with the goal to expand membership to everyone. Our committee members will be providing information to all concerning the projects being undertaken by the SLA. We will take a look at the direction in which the organization is heading in the future. Our pristine lake needs the attention of all interested parties. We need to be concerned not only with milfoil, but also the overall quality of the lake. We are a working committee of 8 and will be looking for additional help. Please join the group.

## 2009 Seymour Lake Association—Membership Application & Renewal

Names (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Seymour Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from above)

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type (please check): Family (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Contribution—

Please consider an additional donation to support Milfoil Inspection and Education Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable to SLA

Mail to Janet Selby, Seymour Lake Association, P.O. Box 43, Morgan, VT 05853

Morgan, Vermont 05853

P.O. Box 43

Seymour Lake Association