



Seymour Lake Association Newsletter

Summer 2002

Notes from the President

This is the second Newsletter the Seymour Lake Association has published this year and is being sent to all property owners around Seymour Lake as well as Association members.

We wanted to try a new format in order to reduce printing costs and send copies to a wider audience of Morgan residents and Lake Association members. The first newsletter went to all residents of Morgan as well as Lake Association members and resulted in over 20 new member applications.

Seymour Lake is a natural resource that should be treated with respect.

The objective of the Association is to preserve the purity of our lake and promote safety for all residents and those who use it for recreational purposes. As you can see from the list of committees outlined below, the Association and its Board monitors a wide range of interests that affect Seymour Lake.

The Association is working on two issues: the lake level and eurasian water-milfoil. They are of vital interest to members, lake property owners, and every resident of Morgan and the surrounding towns.

The Eurasian Milfoil threat was first discovered in 1999. Since then we have had great support from the Town of Morgan and the State.

You only have to visit any of the lakes in Vermont that are infested with milfoil to understand that we do not want it in our lake. The best prevention for control of milfoil is to insure that it does not get started. Please read about the milfoil effort for this summer further in this newsletter.

The other area of interest is the lake level and dam. Our committee works closely with Citizens Utilities and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and has been able to keep the lake at a

consistent level from 6" to 8" above the low level pin embedded in granite at the outlet.

The efforts of the committee are becoming more important as efforts to rebuild the outlet dam approach actual construction. Their recent efforts are detailed on page 3.

I am extremely proud of the work that all our committees of volunteers are doing. It is vital to all property owners and everyone in Morgan and the surrounding communities, that these efforts to keep our lake beautiful are continued.

—WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT—

I ask every Association member to please renew your membership today and urge all Seymour Lake property owners to join with us in working to protect this natural treasure that is so important to all of us.

Membership is only \$5.00 per person, \$15 per family.

Annual Meeting of the Seymour Lake Association—July 27, 2002

The annual meeting will be held in the Morgan Community House beside the Town Hall on Saturday, July 27, 2002 at 9:00 A.M. All of the committees will provide re-

ports updating the Association Members on their efforts during the past year. Of particular importance to all property owners will be the reports of the Milfoil and Lake Level/Dam committees. Our

State Representative, Nancy Sheltra, who has been a tremendous support to the Association, has agreed to provide us an update and insight regarding the Seymour Lake Dam project. See you there.

MR. HOMER DEAN SELBY
P.O. BOX 43
MORGAN, VT 05853

Seymour Lake Association
P.O. Box 215
Morgan, Vermont 05853
Address Service Requested.

Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Project—2002

A grant from Vermont's Department of Conservation, along with matching support from the Town of Morgan and other sources will fund the 2002 season for the Seymour Lake Association's Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Project.

The project's staff have been busy attempting to fill the seasonal field monitoring position vacated by Lori O'Keefe.

Over seventy people responded to the ad placed in local newspapers. The pool was narrowed to roughly ten very enthusiastic and highly qualified applicants. Ryan Kilborn of Newport was selected to become the project's newest employee. Ryan will join Andrew Emery, returning for his third year, at the fishing access, speaking with boaters, fishermen and women and other lake visitors about Eurasian Milfoil and its ever increasing presence in the Northeast

Kingdom's lake ecosystems.

When not speaking with folks, Andy and Ryan will be in the water- via kayak and motor boat- searching for milfoil and making certain the invasive plant has not established itself in Seymour's waters.

Full-time employment, of the same sort as mentioned above, is available for the month of September as well. For the first time, the project will aim to staff the fishing access for this late summer/early autumn month. Boaters and their vessels are still prevalent on the lake at this time, particularly weekend mornings, and a monitor's presence may assist in keeping the milfoil at bay for yet another year.

The many hours volunteered by so many last year were, and continue to be greatly appreciated, and we'll be in search of volunteers for the 2002 season

as well. Fifteen people lent us 59 hours of their time last year- monitoring the fishing access, providing boat maintenance, and working on various other projects. If you have a day or even a few hours that you can donate to the Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Project's cause, we can put you to work and would love to hear from you.

Volunteers willing to donate 10+ hours assisting with the Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Project will be given a SLA/ANPP staff T-shirt. Please call Tamara at 802-626-4298 or email her at woodlark@sover.net.

We look forward to another great Vermont summer, thank you for your support, and hope to see you around the lake.

Ice Out/Block Down Contest

Date/Time

April 14th, 11:59 P.M.

Contest Winners

1st—Doug Gimler \$200

2nd—Tara Selby \$100

3rd—Daniel Benson \$50

The Ice Out contest was used this year as a fund raiser to support the Association efforts to keep our pristine lake free from milfoil.

The term Ice Out is often a point of discussion. Our lake is so large that the date and time the ice departs depends on your position on the lake.

To avoid confusion, a wooden pallet supporting a cinder block is placed on the ice in late winter. When the ice becomes non-supportive, the tethered pallet and block sink, setting off a timing device on shore.

The lake may not be entirely free of ice

but this is the fairest manner of determining an exact time for contest purposes.

The Association thanks Janet and Homer Selby for running the contest. Janet spent many hours collecting and arranging the guesses submitted. Homer spent an equal amount of time making sure the pallet, cinder block and timing equipment were okay and then retrieving them from the lake.

The contest generated \$1125 which will provide \$775 for our milfoil project.

Checks will be presented to the winners at the Annual Meeting on July 27th..

Seymour Lake Association—Membership Application 2002

Please Clip, Fill Out and Mail today

To: Marilyn Gray
Seymour Lake Association, P.O. Box 215, Morgan, Vermont 05853

Type of Membership— Family (\$15) _____ Individual (\$5) _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Names (s) _____

Seymour Lake Address _____

Mailing Address(if different than above) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Clip and send with check payable to SLA

New Seymour Lake Map and Directory

As this newsletter goes to press, the new Seymour Lake Map and Directory is being printed.

The format will be similar to the previous map. Numbered dots, indicating property locations, are on the map and the directory has both an alphabetical and numerical listing.

The Association's project leader, Nancy Gilmond, has spent hours with Diane Moore, one of the Town of Morgan listers, verifying property owners and locations and updating the map.

This version of the map will include the 911 emergency address numbers in the al-

phabetical listing of the directory.

The Map will be available at the Morgan Store and the Association will be selling them at the Annual Meeting on July 27th.

The Association appreciates the work done on this project and wishes to thank Nancy and Diane for their efforts to update the map and directory and the many local advertisers for their support.

Please note the advertisements on the new map and make an effort to thank them for their support of our Association.

Join the Association—Help Us in our Fight to Keep the Lake Great

The Association needs you. If you are a property owner on the lake, we need your support.

As the Lake Level Dam Committee was preparing to testify before Representative Nancy Sheltra's committee regarding the design for the new dam on Seymour Lake, we noted that only about one half of the property owners belonged to the Association.

We had a very successful meeting with Rep. Sheltra's Committee and received their sup-

port to include a means to control the level of the lake in the dam design.

As we move forward in our attempts to overcome the Agency of Natural Resource's pre-disposed opinions regarding the dam design, we need the support of every property owner.

Consider the effects of the lake level on your water front. The Agency's position is that the design of the new dam should not have a gate for water level control.

How high and low do you think the lake

Eurasian Watermilfoil

Milfoil is destroying many other lakes in Vermont.

It is a prolific, non-native, plant that interferes with boating, fishing and swimming and is easily spread from lake to lake when pieces of the plant are caught in boat trailers, propellers, anchors and other boating equipment or in wet cells.

If introduced to a non-infested lake, pieces of water milfoil can initiate new plants and become established.



level would fluctuate without a gate?

In mid-April the level was about 12 inches above the high pin with the gate wide open. The Agency supported design reduces the flow to one half of the current flow and does not have a means of high or low level control.

This will effect the lake level in the spring and in August.

This issue is important to everyone on the Lake.

Dam/Lake Level

Your committee was very active in 2001 – 2002. During the Summer and Fall we wrote several letters regarding the State 401 Water Quality Certificate and Federal FERC License. We attended and spoke at the November 2001 Public Hearing and wrote follow up letters,

In February, we met with CITIZENS UTILITIES and their Design Engineers to review and provide input for the design of the new dam and spillway. We reviewed in detail the construction sequencing and plans for maintenance of lake levels during construction. Based on our meeting, CITIZENS is changing their plans to provide a much better lake level during construction. Again we sent out many letters to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and our legislators. We were glad to see an e-mail from VT ANR where they agreed with our continued recommendation (starting in June 1999) to con-

struct the new spillway with "Flashboards" in order to have the optimum dam and spillway crest elevation to provide our members with the best lake level.

Your committee testified before a Vermont State House Committee on the design for the new spillway and dam, the need for an operable gate in the new dam and our continued request that the lake be maintained 6 inches to 8 inches above the low pin, and as much as possible, 8 inches above the low pin.

Nancy Sheltra, and our other legislators, have been most helpful in reinforcing to the State Agencies the need for a properly designed and constructed spillway and dam so that our lake levels will continue to be maintained at our designed elevations and consistent with what we have experienced over the past 40 years.

Current Schedule:

CITIZENS and their Geotechnical Engineers recently investigated the leakage thru the existing dam. They plan to make repairs early summer 2002.

VT. 401 Water Quality Certificate and FERC License are in final draft and should be issued shortly.

Our Committee meets with CITIZENS and their Engineers in the Summer of 2002 to work out procedures for Water Level Management of Seymour Lake during normal dam construction work including possible periods of unusual rainfall and runoff.

Construction of the new dam and enlarged spillway is now planned for the Summer of 2003.

Should you have any questions or concerns, call Ron Kolar after June 25th at 723-4400

Boating Safety

The boating season is almost upon us.

This year, everyone born after January 1, 1974, is required to take the Boat Safety Course if they wish to operate a boat.

The Lake Seymour Association is offering the course. It will be held at the Community House, Morgan, VT. Date and time to be announced. This course is approximately 8 hours long.

Write, call or e-mail your address, date of birth, and social security number to Ed Russell our Vermont Boating Safety Instructor (VT.B.S.I), and he will send you the books and papers needed for study at no charge.

His address, phone and e-mail are 200 Hanover St., Apt. 113, Manchester, NH 03104-6127 Tel. (603) 624-8275 E-mail: VTBSI@AOL.COM

Swim Program

Our swim program this summer will be July 8-19, at the public beach on Seymour. There will be three sessions: 9:40 A.M. for children 4-8 years; 9:45: 10:25 A.M. also for 4-8 years; and 10:30 11:10A.M. for those over 8 years.

Last year we had over 70 children from Morgan and surrounding towns each day for lessons offered by the Red Cross.

Penny Kesar is the swim program director for the Association. She can be contacted at 895-9917 for more information.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Morgan Country Store..

Association Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

President:	Jim McWain
Vice President	Fred Cummings
Secretary	Janet Jackson
Treasurer	Marilyn Gray
Directors	
Fred Jackson	Ruby Jenness
Ed Russell	Polly Caputo
Peter Morse	Jesse Nichols
Committee Chairs	
Boating	Ed Russell
Dam/Lake Level	Ron Kolar
Education	vacant

Association By-Laws

The Association's By-Laws have been revised.

As near as the Board could determine, the last time there was a significant revision to the By-Laws was in 1993

Last Fall the Association Board reviewed the By-Laws, past revisions, and concluded that current circumstances require that they be thoroughly reviewed.

This process produced two drafts. The Board has reviewed each of these with a critical view toward how the Association is positioned to deal with the changing dynamics and interests that have a potential affect on Seymour Lake and the surrounding region.

In the past the Association was concerned with fishing, water quality, boating, swimming, and personal watercraft.

In the past few years, the Association and your Board have become involved with milfoil, dam design, lake level, grant writing, and interaction with various Agencies at the State level.

These recent developments have pointed out the need for personnel on the milfoil and lake level committees being on the Board of Directors and the requirement for continuity on these key committees.

Copies of the revised By-Laws will be available at the Annual Meeting. The significant changes involve more comprehensive duties for the Officers of the Association, expansion of the Board to nine members with three being elected each year and more specific details regarding day to day management of the Association..

Fishing	Homer Selby
	Ron Frascoia
Grants	Peter Morse
Ice Out	Janet Selby
Loon Watch	Dennis Fortin
Maps	Nancy Gilmond
Membership	Fred Cummings
Milfoil	Peter Morse
Newsletter	Jim McWain
Personal Watercraft	Kalman Samuels
Swim Program	Penny Thomas Kezar
Water Clarity	Ping Puente

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 1/1/2001—	\$5923.50
Income	
Membership	\$2005.00
Swimming Lesson Dues	\$ 765.00
Map sales	\$ 30.00
Member Donation	\$ 300.00
Swim Program Donation	
Town of Morgan	\$ 500.00
Charleston	\$ 200.00
Circle of Friends	\$ 200.00
Other	<u>\$ 54.57</u>
Total Income	\$4054.57
Expenses	
Supplies/Misc	\$ 57.23
Newsletter Printing	\$ 724.24
Amer. Red Cross	\$2310.00
Assc. Insurance	\$ 314.00
Postage	\$ 145.80
Community House	
Rental 2 yrs.	\$ 150.00
VLC School	\$ 800.00
Ice out (Alfred Gioia)	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$4551.27
Ending Balance. 12/31/2001	\$5426.80

**Wanted to Buy-
Lakefront Property
ASAP**

**Please contact
Nancy or Scott
802-888-2056
Thank you!!!!!!!**

Morgan Town Officers

Moderator:	Stephen Marsh
Selectman	Brian Gray
	Richard LaFoe
	Samuel D. Curtis, Jr
School Directors	Robert Cargill
	Kelly Paul
	Cory Carpenter
North Country School Director	Mary Jo Rigby
Listers	Barbara Norton
	Diane Moore
	Ron Cook