

Newsletter

November 2013



www.seymourlake.org

President's Message

by Lyman McWain

One of the best parts of my job as President of the Seymour Lake Association is to get the opportunity to represent the SLA Board and our membership to others outside of our organization as I did this month in Montpelier in our excellent discussions with Secretary Justin Johnson. The details of those discussions are included in Tim Buzzell's report that follows in this issue.

Whatever the outcome of that meeting, one of the highlights for me is to get the chance to review who we are, what and whom we represent, what our current goals are, and the wonderful history and pride the current board represents and carries on with our stewardship of our great lake Seymour. The picture and article submitted for this issue by Pat Hunt bears clear witness to our long history of owners working together to keep Seymour a joy forever.

But Pat's story also makes the point that our involvement in this stewardship is limited and requires that we always

have an evolving and developing team to carry forward our enthusiasm and professional approach to our water quality responsibilities. The process is alive and well at the SLA and is aptly demonstrated by the new Board members we recently added in July to replace Ron Kolar, Janet Selby, Steve Massicotte, not to forget, Allan Wooley.

We have had the wonderful leadership of Ron Kolar and the experience, advice and personal knowledge of all that goes on in Morgan that Janet Selby brought to our efforts following in the steps of her father, Mel Carter, a past SLA president. Steve Massicotte's advice and professional managerial experience with banking and real estate has been a guiding force to be trusted in many of our deliberations and recommendations. Our great spirit, Yankee humorist and classical sage that keeps our web site operational,

Allan Wooley, a true joy to be with and an example of the historical "can do" attitude.

I am also very happy to report that each one of our retiring board members has committed to stay involved and will continue to lend their guidance. The association has developed a well recognized respect at all levels in the state for the job we do. I'm confident that with our new members, we have the capability to sustain our efforts on behalf of our lake and our families in the future.

This issue and next, Seymour Histories, will highlight two camps for boys, both of which ran for many years on Seymour in the 1900s. This issue features Camp Wayeeses, and the May 2014 issue will cover Camp Winape. I think you'll enjoy this unique part of our lake's history. □

New SLA Directors Added to Board

Chuck Nichols:

Native of Pittsburgh and lived in Vermont since 1971
Owned a restaurant near Sugarbush Ski Area for 18 years
Worked for Vermont Chamber of Commerce for 21 years
Now retired and with wife Candy Moot live on Camp Winape Road.
We have a daughter, age 23

Charles Woods:

Retired Professor and NH Museum Curator
Now farming Scottish Highlander cattle in Morgan (Bear Mountain Farm)
Long-time close association with NorthWoods Stewardship Center on Norton Pond, and now Seymour since 1978
Wife Missy, 2 sons and a daughter, 3 grandkids

Dave Anderson:

Recovering engineer
Winter home in Taftsville, VT
On Seymour since 1991
Former SLA Board member and on Dam/Lake Level Committee
Wife Karen, 2 daughters, 3 grandkids



Chuck Nichols New SLA Directors Charles Woods Dave Anderson

Seymour Lake Association

P.O. Box 43

Morgan, VT 05853

Telephone: (802) 895-2951

Officers November 1, 2013

President:	Lyman McWain	lmcwain@aol.com	895-4438	cell 203-676-0083
Vice President:	Chuck Nichols	craynichols@me.com	723-4976	cell 802-917-4282
Treasurer:	Jean McKenny	jmckenny@together.net	766-8895	Morgan 802-895-2942
Secretary:	Linda Buzzell	t-lbuzzell@comcast.net	895-4175	(home) 603-448-3245

Directors (Term Ends)

Ted Jewett	'14	Susan Davis	'15	Tim Buzzell	'16
Bruce Barter	'14	Erik Lessing	'15	Peggy Barter	'16
Charles Woods	'14	Frank Antonelli	'15	Dave Anderson	'16

Allan Wooley ex-officio

Committee Members

Activities.....Frank Antonelli
 AuditSteve Massicotte
 Boating.....Tim Buzzell
 Dam/Lake Level.....Tim Buzzell, Ron Kolar, Steve Massicotte, Homer Selby, Dave Anderson, Chuck Nichols, Erik Lessing-
 Development/Education. Lyman McWain, Tracey Shadday, Peggy Barter
 FishingHomer Selby, Ron Frascoia
 GrantsJanet Selby, Peggy Barter, Beth Torpey, Linda Broadwater
 Ice OutHomer Selby, Janet Selby
 LoonCharles "Woody" Woods, Eric Hanson, Bonnie & Dave Potter, Ruby Jenness
 MapsRon Kolar
 MembershipTed Jewett, Bruce Barter, Linda Broadwater, Tim Buzzell, Gerry Cahill, Susan Davis, Ilene Douglas, Erik Lessing, Janet Selby, Ann Torpey
 MilfoilJanet Selby, Peggy Barter
 NewsletterErik Lessing, Bruce Barter, Maggie Griffith
 NominatingDave Anderson, Chuck Nichols, Tim Buzzell
 Water Quality.....Peggy Barter, Frank Antonelli, Linda Broadwater, Susan Davis, Tom Emery, Bill Kilpatrick, Ron Kolar, Anthony Lazzara, Erik Lessing, Tracey Shadday, Gil Wierschke
 WebsiteAllan Wooley, Lyman McWain
 Note: Name underlined is Committee Chair. Others are Committee Members.
 Greeters at the Boat Launch: Bud Bergh and Reed Hubbard

Morgan Town Officers

Selectman—Larry Labor
 Robert Guyer
 Allan Wooley

Town Clerk/Treasurer—TammyLee Morin

Asst. Town Clerk—Erikasue Jacobs

North Country School Director—Kristin Mason

Listers—Diane Moore
 Jim Judd
 Joseph Malgeri

School Directors—Tammy Lacourse
 Kelly Paul
 Danielle Blake

Record Bass Caught

This small mouth bass was caught this summer by Manny Ste. Marie, seen holding the fish. He was ably assisted by Brendon Elie wielding the net, and they landed it into their paddle boat. The bass was taken in the "L" section and is believed to be a record bass for Seymour at 6.03 lb. The previous record was held by Ron Frascoia at 5.98 lb. 2,500 fish were added to the lake in 2013, but this one must have come from a previous year! Were they excited with this magnificent catch and showed it to everyone they could along the shores of Seymour. The boys are neighbors in Troy, VT, inseparable pretty much—and true partners in crime. □



Septic Social

by Tracey Shadday

This summer almost 50 people from 8 area lakes and ponds were treated to the first Vermont Septic Social, without benefit of expected odors to learn more about a part of the home that often goes unnoticed and unattended, the septic system. After hearing a brief description of how failing systems can affect water quality in the lake, attendees learned the ins and outs of how older and newer systems work to treat our wastewater.



Erik Lessing comments on one of his septic tanks

out of leach pipes and into soil for microbial clean-up and is located over 50 feet from the lake.

Homeowners who want to upgrade their system learned that they have several options, including a drip distribution system that uses tubing to distribute effluent in shallow areas, to

one that needs no energy to treat wastewater and requires minimal footprint on your property, good news for those with small parcels of land.

When the Wagners needed to upgrade, they looked for a system that could fit in a limited space on their sloping lot. They found their innovation in Wisconsin. The two-tank system sends effluent to a holding tank for settling; then a pump sends the discharge under high pressure to a sand filter located in a box insulated to prevent freezing. The Wagners took advantage



Tom Wagner shows attendees his sand filter.

of the level area created by the filter and designed a unique sitting area for sunning.

So what's best for your property? Whether you're subdividing a property, building a new house, converting a home to year-round use or replacing a failed septic system, you can call a designer who will offer design options that fit the geology of your area.

Thanks to the following collaborating groups for sponsoring this event: Echo Lake Protective Association, Memphremagog Watershed Association, Northwoods Stewardship Center, Salem Lakes Association, Seymour Lake Association, Shadow Lake Association and Westmore Association. □

Boat Parade and Committee Report

by Tim Buzzell

The fourth annual Seymour Boat Parade was held this year on July 6th with over 25 boats participating. As usual, the parade was organized by Collin Kwasnik with administrative assistance from SLA. The parade was a great success with most boats decked out with American flags to reflect the

Independence Day theme. Spectators on shore and docks waved and cheered as the boats passed.

A few participants reported that the wakes formed by the flotilla made handling the smaller crafts difficult at times.

We will make an effort next year to slow down the parade to well below wake speed to alleviate this problem.

In a fit of boredom, my brother, Jerry, and I went around the lake on July 1 and inventoried boat numbers: Along with 169 docks, we found

72 ski boats	32 rowboats	87 Kayaks	40 canoes	44 boat lifts
60 fishing boats	8 sailboats	26 party barges	24 rafts	23 paddle boats



Tom Emery and Seymour's Lay Monitoring Program

by Erik Lessing

Seymour is one of 55 lakes which participate in Vermont's Lay Monitoring Program. It is "Lay" because the individual lakes use volunteers to measure clarity and collect water samples which are then analyzed by the Department of Environmental Conservation laboratory chemists. Since the initiation of the program in 1979, the principal objectives have been to accumulate an accurate water quality database in terms of nutrient enrichment and to educate lake residents about lake protection.

Three parameters are monitored: Water Clarity, Chlorophyll-a Concentration, and Total Phosphorus Concentration:

Water Clarity is a measure of the absence of particulate matter, such as algae and silt and is measured using a Secchi (pronounced "sekē") disc lowered into the water on a rope. The deeper you can still see the disc, the clearer the water.

Chlorophyll-a Concentration is a measure which is directly proportional to the amount of algae living in the water. In general, higher chlorophyll-a concentration correlates with lower water clarity as measured using the Secchi disc.

Total Phosphorus Concentration is a measure of nutrients for algal growth and the potential for future algal growth. Phosphorus enters a lake primarily from



Tom Emery

rain, streams, and runoff. Its concentration tracks chlorophyll-a, both of which adversely affect water quality.

So meet Tom Emery. He is Seymour's volunteer Lay Monitor, and he's been doing this for ten years, following a long line of previous volunteers, all dedicated to monitoring our water's health. As Lord Kelvin said, *"When you can measure what you are speaking about, and express it in numbers, you know something about it, when you cannot express it in numbers, your knowledge is of a meager and unsatisfactory kind; it may be the beginning of knowledge, but you have scarcely, in your thoughts advanced to the stage of science."*—and knowing about the state and trends of our water quality is vital.

Each summer, Tom samples our water nine or more times, usually a week apart. He sets out in his hand-crafted pontoon boat and in about two hours measures and collects water samples from two locations: the middle of the main part of Seymour and the middle of the "L" section. He first lowers the Secchi disc, and when he no longer can see it, records that depth—8 meters this time in both locations. After rinsing a long hose, he lowers it to twice the Secchi depth (16 meters) and pulls up a representative sampling of Seymour water over those 16 meters. He bottles it in two containers to be picked up by the state scientists and tested.

Tom is a special education teacher in Burlington, lives in Essex Junction, VT and comes every summer week-end and more to his other home in Seymour East. He is just one of many, many relatives who live on Seymour and enjoy its benefits. Of course, with most of your family here too (parents, brothers, sisters, kids) how can you not like it!

One of Tom's recommendations to help Seymour Lake is to not feed the ducks. While cute, ducks, especially a lot of them, deposit bad things, which are not



Tom pulling up the hose with the water samples from the 16 meter depth



Tom lowering the Secchi disc into Seymour. Notice the black and white markings on the disc to assist Tom visually.

good for our lake. Feeding them only encourages more, so in addition to being illegal, it's something you don't want to do.

Tom is really passionate about his love of Seymour. You can tell it instantly in the way he talks about it and his desire to continue his contribution to the health of our lake. Concerned about the future when he no longer can continue to do his job? Not to worry—he has a son, James, who aspires to take over and continue a family tradition. □

Lake Wise

by Tracey Shadday

Armed with the news that Vermont ranks the worst in the nation for shallow water habitat due to the urbanization of the lakeshore, Amy Picotte, an environmental scientist working for VT DEC, researched Maine's highly successful Lake Smart program to learn if a similar incentive program could be launched on Vermont's lakeshores. The program rolled out this summer, and by the end of its inaugural season, ten Seymour properties were awarded Lake Wise certification, no easy feat considering the requirements.

The twenty-one Seymour homeowners who were willing to have their property scrutinized learned practical ways to reduce the flow of sediment and pollutants into the lake. Through the Lake Wise evaluation process, Ted and Mina Jewett learned that the filter on their septic tank needed to be checked regularly; the integrity of the leachfield could be compromised if accumulated sludge reached the filter. That tip led the Jewetts to get their septic system inspected. The local septic expert confirmed the need for maintenance and saved the Jewetts from expensive leach field repairs.

Chris and Danny Blais, along with their daughter and son-in-law, Natalie Blais and Luke Bussard, purchased their Seymour property in 2010 and fell in love with the rocks that would provide watery hiding places for their younger family members. The Lake Wise staff guidance has resulted in several innovations. Natalie and Luke designed a private outdoor

shower with stone and water bars that direct grey water to vegetated areas. The thought was to keep as much wastewater out of the septic tank as possible. Hostas planted downhill from the shower are a barometer to indicate that water is traveling in the right direction.

With the help of the VT Youth Conservation Corps <http://www.vycc.org/>, they recently added a rain garden in a depressed area of the yard and infiltration steps that will allow water to percolate through the soil rather than slide down a grassy embankment.

Lake Wise evaluations will resume in the spring. Interested parties can contact Peggy Barter or Tracey Shadday to be placed on a waiting list or receive a copy of the tool used in the evaluation process. The assessment includes observation of thirty-four parameters organized under four sections: driveway, structures and septic areas, recreation areas and shorefront. Each parameter represents a best management practice (BMP). Property owners can plan to hear advice to give some of their lawn back to the lake. The beauty of the process is that you'll gain the wisdom to begin when ready. □

The SLA Board Thirty Five Years Ago

by Pat Hunt

I wrote this article for the Newport Daily Express thirty five years ago and thought it would be of interest to many people on the lake and nearby. Those who have been in Morgan for many years will recognize many of the people in this picture. While the board now is better than ever, these directors were the cream of the crop also. □



SEYMOUR ASS'N DIRECTORS MEET — Members of the Lake Seymour Ass'n met recently to make plans for summer activities. Pictured here at the planning session are: Front row, left to right, I. Saville, E. Malinowski, P. Hunt, Mrs. Alice Gonyaw, G. Slade; second row, L. Breslin, Mrs. Rose Malinowski, Mrs. Breslin, Mrs. Lois Noyes, Roland Gonyaw. (Photo by Lynn Saville)

Dam and Lake Level Update by Tim Buzzell

On 10/9/2013, a subset of the Lake Level Committee, including Lyman McWain, Chuck Nichols, and I met with Deputy Secretary Johnson at his office in Montpelier. The meeting was set up by Jeb Spaulding who is the Vt. Sec. Of Admin. at the urging of Chuck. The meeting lasted an hour, and he was very attentive, took notes, and asked good questions. We presented our concerns about high spring-time lake levels causing shoreline erosion, impacts on septic fields in low lying areas, water quality degradation, and dam safety concerns. We also made him aware of our interpretation of the Supreme Court order and pointed out that the state's reasoning against manual lake level control relating to harming the littoral region is not a concern on Seymour due to the makeup and geography of the lake bottom around the periphery. We reiterated our previous suggestion that a pilot study involving manual dam gate change should be tried. Sec. Johnson indicated he will now meet with his staff to get their input and will get back to us within a couple weeks. □

Recognition

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

Lake Seymour Association Meets At Morgan

July 1978

MORGAN — Directors of the Lake Seymour Association met Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Saville to plan for the Association's summer activities.

An auction will be held at the Community House in Morgan at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 22. Those wishing to donate items for auction may call Miss Jean Gilliam in Morgan, who will arrange to have them picked up.

The annual dinner meeting of the Association will be held at the Community House at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 12. At this meeting, in addition to the regular reports of committees concerning fishing, pollution, protection, and water level, time will be available for a general discussion of the Association's goals and progress toward them. Besides verbal questions at the meeting, those interested are invited to give written questions to one of the directors, or place them in a special box at the Community House.

Appreciation was expressed for the excellent work on the Association's Newsletter by its editor, Mrs. George E. Noyes, and its publishers, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon W. Slade.

In addition to the hosts, those present were Mr. and Mrs. Leo B. Breslin, Mr. and Mrs. Roland W. Gonyaw, Paul H. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Malinowski, Mrs. George E. Noyes, and Gordon W. Slade. Those interested in joining the Association are urged to contact Mrs. Iver Russell, secretary-treasurer, in Morgan Center.

The directors will meet again at 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 8.

Camp Wayeeses

By Jim Judd as told to Erik Lessing

Charles A. Hill, Jr. was a professor at Kingswood School, a private prep school in West Hartford, CT. In years preceding 1923, he was able to purchase the properties of three farms located to the south and west of Wolf's Point, comprising almost three miles of lakefront and over 400 acres of land. In 1923, he opened a boys' camp and named it Camp Wayeeses, from the 1905 book *Wayeeses, The White Wolf* by William J. Long. Membership in the camp was "limited to fifty Christian boys, 8 to 18 years" and the eight week season cost \$250. Many of the campers attended Kingswood School, but others came from Boston and New York to be part of a first class summer experience.



Swimming instruction on Seymour Lake. Where are those great bathing suits now?



A view looking northwest from the center of the camp. Note the wide open spaces at that time, as contrasted to the more forested situation now.

There was a wide variety of activities available including swimming, boating, hiking, shooting, horseback riding, tennis, and even a billiard table to entertain the campers. The camp "...pioneered the development of individual responsibility by permitting each boy to arrange his daily program."



Bert Judd tending two steer calves that were trained to become oxen.

Two Morgan personalities, my dad, Bert Judd, and Arthur Jones were intimately involved with Camp Wayeeses. At age ten, Bert started out tending the horses while Arthur who also attended Kingswood School was a camper at the same time. They became fast friends, a relationship which



The same northwest view as above but showing the boys practicing shooting.

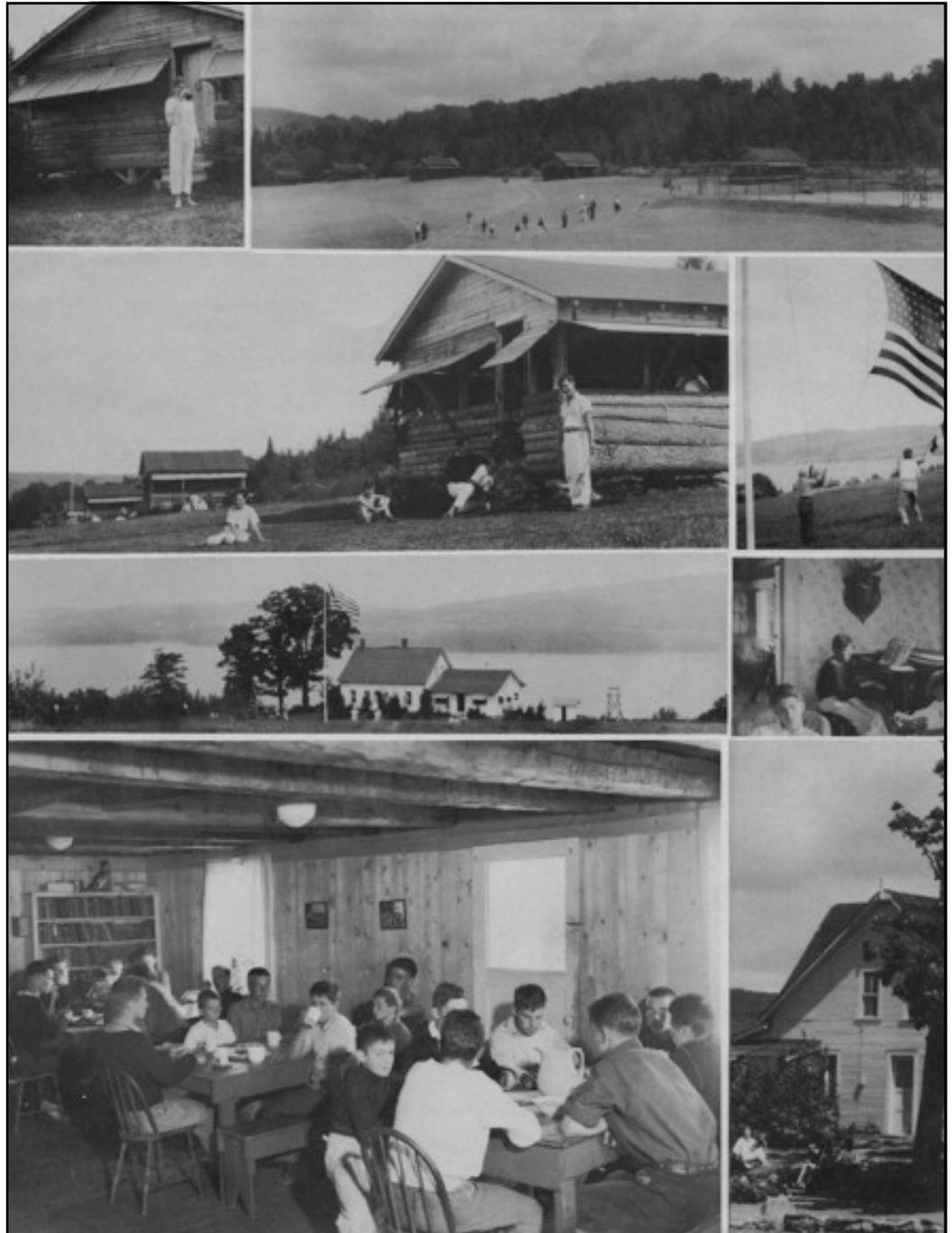


The main building at Camp Wayeeses.

lasted long after their time at Camp Wayeeses. Bert's relationship with Charles Hill continued as Bert became more active in the management of the camp. Charles Hill was too old for active service in WWII but served in the OSS, the forerunner of the CIA. Art joined the Army, and Bert enlisted in the Army Air Corps. That left Camp Wayeeses basically abandoned until after WWII. After the war Hill returned to the area to visit Bert and Art but lost interest in continuing the camp. Sadly, this wonderful boys' camp closed, and much of the land became Bert's, with Arthur obtaining part of the western part of the acreage. It was at this time (1955-1965) that Bert started harvesting trees and selling lakefront lots to pay taxes on the camp property. Approximately 50 lots were sold over the time period 1955 to 1990. Bert and Arthur also built homes on the Wayeeses property (currently the homes of Jim Judd and Rosemary and Richard Miller, respectively) and along with their wives, Alice and Arlene, continued their warm relationship. The part of the shore west of Wolf's Point, now Wayeeses Shore Road, has about 40 homes and was a major development area of the lake. These homes are owned by many people, I'm sure unaware of the rich history preceding them. □



Life saving instruction at the dock on Seymour.



Various pictures taken at Camp Wayeeses in the old days.

Whistlers on Seymour, then gone!

By Jerry Buzzell grbuzzell@gmail.com

For about six weeks during the late spring and early summer of 2013, the northwestern shore of Seymour was treated to a rare sight—a clutch of **Common Goldeneye ducks**, with their mom. It made a welcome change from the usual mallards and was a pleasure to watch their antics.

Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*) (a.k.a. “whistlers”, because of the sound of their flight) are not rare in northeastern Vermont, but this was the first time any of us had seen them on Seymour, in the twenty eight years we’ve been summer visitors. They are a type of diving duck, quite distinct from the usual dabblers (mallards) and from other divers (loons and mergansers). Similar to wood ducks, they nest in trees, typically in abandoned holes made by pileated woodpeckers (for instance), and the ducklings jump out at an early age and are led by their mother to the shore where they are taught to dive for their dinner.

I first noted them in early June and took my first photos on June 16 (top picture). I noted the seven ducklings, darker than mallards and with distinct white cheek patches, white spots on their backs and white stripes

on their shoulders. The mother has a reddish brown head and a lighter body, as well as diagnostic (and striking) golden eyes.



The family swam up to our dock and spent some time feeding there. They would typically put their heads under the water and then gracefully dive, pop-

ping back to the surface a few seconds later. Water was shallow there, and I presume they were feeding on mayfly or damselfly nymphs. They stayed in that area for five to ten minutes and then moved on.

No male goldeneye was seen, having abandoned the family soon after conception. I have seen male (and female) goldeneyes in British Columbia and regard the male as one of the prettiest of waterfowl, with black head with a white cheek patch, black back, white belly, white wings crossed by thin black stripes, and striking golden eyes.

One day I saw a lone female goldeneye swimming in front of our place; the mother came churning water out from the overhang near the shore and chased her away. She was then joined by her seven ducklings.

The last time I saw the family was June 29 (bottom picture). There were still seven ducklings, a little bit larger but still small and dependent on mother; certainly too little to fly. Then they were no longer seen.

Perhaps next year they will come again—I hope then, that we will see them grow up and fly away. □

Aquatic Nuisance

by Janet Selby

The Aquatic Nuisance Program for 2013 at Seymour was once again a big success with no reports of active milfoil or other nuisance species found. The Town of Morgan received a grant of \$7,800 from the State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation for our program which was a reduction of \$2,230 from 2012. Our total expenditures for the program continue to rise each year due in part to the cost of insurances and unemployment payments. Your association board is working very hard to keep these rising costs at a minimum without affecting the quality of our program.

Our two access greeters, Bud Bergh and Reed Hubbard, continued to check vessels as they entered our lake at the State Fishing Access from Memorial Day through October for a total of 1760 man

hours. This year they have reported that **1263** vessels and trailers were checked and **12** had some form of milfoil on them. A suspicious snail was also found by Bud Bergh, but when sent into the state for identification, it was found to be a native species and not a danger to our lake. Bud and Reed do an excellent job and are always on the lookout for anything that may harm water quality.

Our 20+ volunteer milfoil searchers spent approximately 100 hours surveying the shallow areas of the lake and reported no milfoil was found. Most areas were done at least twice during the summer, and several areas are done by more than one volunteer. We are very fortunate that so many have volunteered to spend their time, especially considering that it was a rather

rainy season. In addition, we were able to have two members from the Agency of Natural Resources, Misha Cetner and Bethany Sargent, help us with a plant survey of several areas of the lake that could be vulnerable to non-native plant growth. Peggy Barter, Janet Selby, and Dan Barry assisted them with the survey by kayak. It was extremely enlightening to learn that we have so many different species of plants in our lake and on our shores.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Department of Environmental Conservation and our local volunteers and greeters who continue to keep our lake free of all aquatic nuisances. □