

Newsletter

May 2017



President's Message

by Chuck Nichols

Hello everyone,

Winter is almost over, and spring and summer and warm weather aren't far away. I hope everyone had a fun winter, but I'm sure you're looking forward to sunshine, warmth, and fun around the lake.

Your Seymour Lake Association (SLA) board has been busy this winter setting up programs for the summer. The SLA Water Quality Committee will be helping to administer the Lake Wise program which provides property owners help to keep the lake clean. Also this summer there's going to be a water monitoring program on the various tributaries coming into Seymour Lake. We're also trying to determine what to do about the increasing sediment at the boat access. For more information, see Peggy Barter's articles herein. I commend Peggy and her committee for all the work they put in on these programs. Let's make Seymour Lake a "Gold Lake Wise" lake.

With regard to the lake level, I was very surprised last summer after doing numerous measurements at the lake pins (these are a standard measure of Seymour Lake's water level) that the water level remained almost in the middle zone between the pins for the entire summer even as dry as it was. So, our lake remained pretty consistent through the summer while other Vermont lakes saw considerable drops in their lake levels.

Enjoy Doug Gimler's article about the eagles. My wife, Candy, and I are lucky in that the eagles have chosen a tree near our property to sit sometimes for hours, and we get to enjoy their presence.

Let me give you a little update on the industrial wind and solar issues that have surrounded us over the last cou-

ple of years. The Town of Morgan asked the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) to reconsider their decision granting approval to the solar project off Valley Road. That request was made in September 2016, and the Town still has not received any word from the PSB. Meanwhile, the developer has proceeded with work at the site. The developer does this work at his own risk, and if the PSB were to reverse their decision, the developer would have to remove all that has been done.

No news is good news on the industrial wind front in Morgan. There has been no activity at all. Over 92% of respondents (with an unusually high response rate) to an SLA survey regarding industrial wind development in Morgan opposed industrial wind in Morgan.

However, in Holland it's a different story. The PSB has granted approval for a wind measuring device for the industrial wind project proposed in Holland. Amazingly, the applicant does not have to share any of the results of the wind measuring device with others so that they could evaluate the proposal.

The Town of Morgan at its March annual meeting did approve \$10,000 in the budget to use, if necessary, to protect the interests of the Town regarding any industrial wind or solar applications.

I hope to see everyone at the SLA annual meeting on July 22th at the Morgan Community Hall from 9 AM to noon. This year's SLA summer social will again be August 5th at Camp Winape—thank you Ron and Janet Kolar and family. The format will be the same with each member bringing an appetizer to share and what he or she would like to drink. Look in your mail for a postcard to be mailed in early July with more details.

As always, SLA can use your help. Look at the list of committees on the second page of this newsletter and please volunteer. It may be a little work, but there will be lots of fun. We need you!

I would like to thank the SLA board and officers and volunteers. They are a great group of people and work very hard for all of our interests. It is great fun being a part of the board and also getting to know more and more people around the lake. □

State's Bird Population in Decline



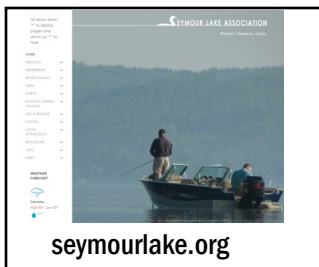
Common yellowthroat declined 79%

Fewer birds appear to live in Vermont today than 25 years ago, according to [recent research](#) by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.

The most dramatic declines in bird populations were seen among those that live off flying insects, scientists say. Known as aerial insectivores, this diverse group of birds has [declined 45 percent](#) in Vermont, according to the study & reported by [VTDigger.org](#).

The study focused on 11 species of aerial insectivores said Steve Faccio, one of the study's authors. This group of birds includes the tree swallow, the yellow-bellied flycatcher, the chimney swift and the eastern wood pewee.

Cf. quote on page 5 on insects.



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

Officers

President:	Chuck Nichols	craynichols@me.com	723-4976	cell 802-917-4282
Vice President:	Ted Jewett	tnmjewett@comcast.net	895-4871	cell 802 864-7697
Treasurer:	Jean McKenny	jmckenny@together.net	895-2942	802-766-8895
Secretary:	Linda Buzzell	t-lbuzzell@comcast.net	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.....	<u>Frank Antonelli</u>
Audit	<u>Doug Gimler</u>
Boating.....	<u>Tim Buzzell</u>
Dam/Lake Level.....	<u>Tim Buzzell</u> , Ron Kolar, Dave Anderson, Chuck Nichols, Erik Lessing, Candy Moot
Development/Education.	<u>Lyman McWain</u> , Peggy Barter
Fishing	<u>Ron Frascoia</u> , Charles Woods, Bill Bilowus
Grants	<u>Beth Torpey</u> , Peggy Barter, Linda Broadwater
Loons	<u>Charles "Woody" Woods</u> , Eric Hanson, Bonnie & Dave Potter, Ruby Jenness
Maps	<u>Ron Kolar</u>
Membership	<u>Ted Jewett</u> , Bruce Barter, Tim Buzzell, Gerry Cahill, Erik Lessing, Ann Torpey, Tom Adams, Chris Blais, Bonnie McWain, Brenda Wierschke
Milfoil	<u>Chuck Nichols</u> , Beth Torpey, Peggy Barter
Newsletter	<u>Erik Lessing</u> , Bruce Barter, Maggie Griffith
Nominating	<u>Tim Buzzell</u> , Ted Jewett, Bonnie McWain
Water Quality.....	<u>Peggy Barter</u> , 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	<u>Karen Abada</u> , 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: Bud Bergh, Lisa Foster, Penelope Newcomb, Dan Griffith, Beth Torpey, Ed Singer



Recognition

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

Seymour's Bald Eagles

by Doug Gimler

It was in November of 2011 that I was first able to capture a photo of an elusive bald eagle that had been hanging around Seymour Lake. A photo revealed a red band on his right leg with 2K engraved on it. Internet re-



Fledgling 2K at 8 weeks in his birthing nest in Maine. Photo by BRI

search yielded more about this striking bird of prey. 2K still had brown on his head so he was a juvenile. A bald eagle's head does not turn completely



white until they reach maturity at 4 to 5 years of age. During research to learn more about 2K, I discovered that the six New England states each have their

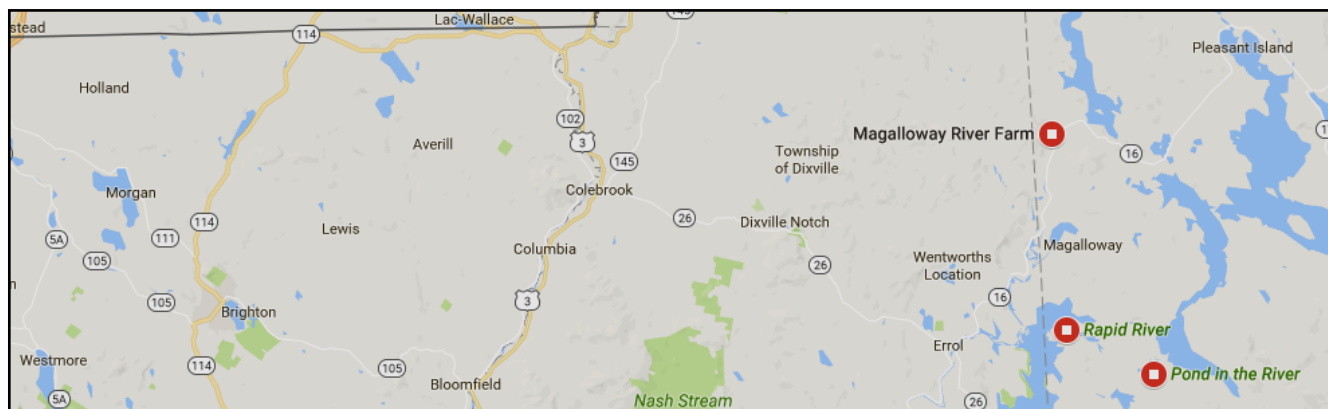
own leg band color. Red was the color for Maine. Contacting the Maine Fish and Wildlife Department put me in touch with an organization named Biodiversity Research Institute (BRI) out of Portland Maine. They provided me with some background on 2K:

Hatched: May 2008
Location: Rapid River, Pond in the River,
Oxford County, Maine
Banded by Dr. David C.
Evers of BRI

See map showing Pond in the River in Maine. Bald eagles fly at about 40 mph so a 52 mile trip as the eagle flies, is just a short hop away.

I finally took some decent photos of 2K in 2013 and in 2014 my neighbors noticed two bald eagles around. 2K had apparently found a mate, and in the fall of that year, I was able to get a couple of shots of a juvenile bald eagle and photos of another juvenile in 2016. Seeing the two of them together, you will be able to tell the female from the male (2K) by the difference in their size as the female is about 25% larger. We can only hope that these magnificent birds stay in the area and occasionally allow us a glimpse of them. See Doug's website and The Morgan Store for more excellent pictures. □

www.nekwildlifephot.com



Making Seymour Lake Wise

by Peggy Barter

Lake Wise is an optional Vermont DEC program to assist lake shore owners in learning how to maintain their lake shore in a way that reduces pollutant laden runoff into the lake. Reduced runoff prevents rampant aquatic plant growth as well as blue green algae blooms in a lake. The purpose of Lake Wise is to both provide services such as technical assistance to lake shore owners and to recognize model properties which have adopted practices to keep pollutants from degrading a lake. The program is based on giving lake shore owners examples of property management which enhances the water quality of the lake. Look for the Lake Wise sign on those properties which have already received the award to see for yourself.

Seymour Lake has 12 properties which have been evaluated and received the Lake Wise Award. There are several more which have been evaluated, received technical assistance, done work to qualify as Lake Wise and are awaiting reevaluation. In order for us to add to SLA's impressive history of protecting the lake's already good water quality, your help is needed to enable Seymour Lake to become Vermont's first lake to receive Gold Lake Wise status. If 15% of lake shore properties are identified as Lake Wise, then a Lake receives recognition as a Gold Lake Wise lake. Lake Wise status can protect the property values of all lake shore owners, so it is in everyone's interest to search out those properties which have not yet been evaluated, but appear to qualify for lake wise.

You can help by volunteering yourself or identifying properties you think can help SLA reach its goal. Please contact any of the Committee members as listed in this newsletter or Peggy Barter at sla.newsletter.wq@gmail.com to volunteer or provide information.

What is needed to receive the Lake Wise award? A well functioning septic system and a substantial buffer of native vegetation with the duff (accumulated material under the vegetation) intact is essential. The goal of Lake Wise is to establish a new normal; a new culture of lakeshore landscaping that is proven to help protect a lake. In the Water Quality Update article in the right column of this page, please note that the water quality data over the last few years shows a slight improvement in phosphorus.

Some actions which folks have taken include:

- Increasing lake shore vegetation with actions ranging from major replanting of native vegetation to leaving a no-mow zone at the water's edge.
- Farmers have allowed a bit more natural vegetation along their streams and also fenced those streams to prevent cattle from wading in them.
- Morgan has used state funding to help the Town of Morgan use more lake friendly road maintenance practices.
- Lake shore owners on several private dirt roads around the lake have applied for and received state funding and technical advice to add culverts and reduce runoff on those roads.
- Over 40 lake shore owners have participated in Lake Wise. Most of these have made some lake friendly improvements on their properties.

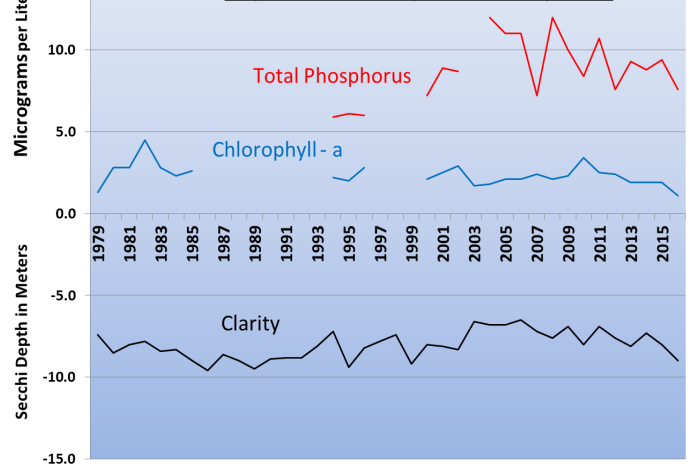
If you are a lakeshore owner and think you are or would like to become Lake Wise eligible, visit <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise> to learn about the program. Then contact a member of SLA's Water Quality Committee to schedule your Lake Wise evaluation. Through Lake Wise lake shore owners receive connection to cost sharing planting programs, technical assistance for fixing erosion issues, and landscaping plans using native shoreland vegetation. □

Water Quality Update

by Erik Lessing

Because last summer began with light spring runoff and was dry all summer, the 2016 data give a slightly false sense of greater improvement. Note Clarity is better as you can see to a greater depth. Thanks to Tom Emery for doing the hard work of collecting the many water samples each summer. It seems a reasonable conclusion that the improvement over the last 10 years may well be due to SLA's efforts to inform all in the Seymour watershed of actions they can take to protect the lake, □

Seymour Lake Lay Monitoring Data



Water Quality Sampling

by Peggy Barter

SLA is participating this summer in water quality sampling of the six largest tributaries of our lake as part of a program planned last fall by Ben Copans (Vermont's Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Program) and Dr. Fritz Gerhardt. Specially trained volunteers will be collecting samples on April 10, May 15, June 12, July 10, August 8, October 2 and on a heavy rain date to be determined. Landowner permissions have been received from Dana Seguin, Barbara Gildersleeve, Carol & Robert Cargill, Leona and Walter Quigg and Mary Lou & Bob Steenrod. In addition, Tim Buzzell and Beth Torpey have begun planning for a pilot program of sampling at the access to learn more about the increasing amounts of sediment collecting there. They will work with Ben Copans to have a plan along with the needed grants for funding in place by the following summer. □

Save The Dates:

May 26: 6PM. Morgan Historical Society (MHS) Spring Ham Dinner, at the Morgan Community House.

June 2: Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP), Vermont Lake Seminar at Canadian Club, Barre, VT.

July 2: Sun. 2PM. Boat Parade. Rain Date: Mon. July 3.

July 2: 10AM. Come walk or run a 5K course at the Color Challenge Run/Walk at Echo Lake! Access. Mail-in entry forms at echolakeassociation.net or register online at Active.com.

July 12: 11AM. MHS Annual

Meeting & Pot Luck at the Morgan Center Church.

July 22: 9AM. SLA Annual Meeting at Morgan Community House.

July 24: FOVLAP Annual Meeting at Steak House Restaurant, Barre, VT.

Aug 2: 9:30AM–2PM. Circle of Friends Bazaar at E. Taylor Hatton School and Morgan Community House.

Aug 5: 6PM–8PM. SLA Summer Social for members and guests at Camp Winape.

Aug 20: 1PM–4PM. MHS Morgan Meanderings at the Morgan Center Church.

Northwoods Cost Sharing Buffer Planting Programs

Northwoods Stewardship Center runs two effective and popular cost sharing programs as follows:

Lake Shore Buffering Program

Reparian Buffer Planting Program

These are for land owners who wish to protect the lake by planting native plants. Northwoods provides land owner's assistance with designing a planting plan and then Northwoods personnel plant the plants. The land owner pays 20% of the cost of the plants which is usually well under \$50 dollars. For more information see the brochure at Seymourlake.org or contact Meghann Carter of Northwoods at 802-723-6551 ext.113 □

Seymour Special Fishing Regulations Evaluation

by Ron Frascoia

Concerns over the quality of lake trout (LT) caught in Seymour over the past several years resulted in a well attended meeting held in Morgan on Oct 8, 2016 with Biologist Jud Kratzer and two Fish and Wildlife (F&W) Board Members.



A beautiful lake trout (LT) under discussion in this article

Numerous issues were discussed including but not limited to the following:

- The steep reduction in the percent of legal LT caught
- The reduced weight of the fish caught
- The lack of forage fish (smelt) in the stomach of harvested LT
- The lack of quality of (24" or larger) LT caught

Most attendees agreed the special regulations established in 1991 with the intent of improving the quality (size) of LT should be examined and modified where needed. Based on the meeting's consensus, SLA sent a letter to F&W on October 12, 2016 requesting that they open discussion on the special regulations.

Upon receipt of the request, F&W decided not to take up rule-making until after they had collected more data on forage fish, LT growth rates, stocking

rates and angler attitudes for both open water and ice fishing. Hence, F&W began collecting the pertinent data during the 2017 ice fishing season. The work will continue during the summer fishing and may include a creel survey. In addition, they plan to visit tributaries to confirm that there are smelt in the lake, and they are able to access quality spawning habitat.

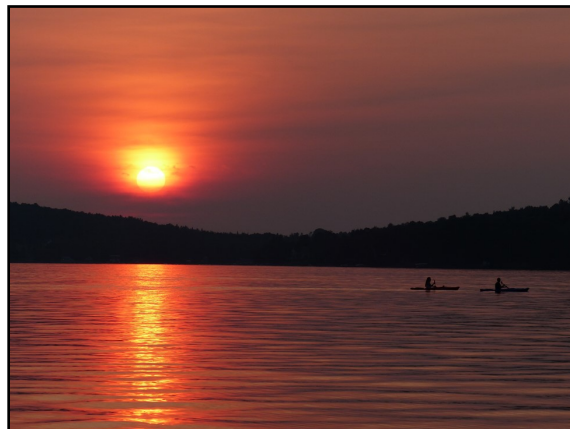
If F&W decides to change the regulations on Seymour, and given the work scheduled, the change would probably take effect in 2020 at the earliest. □

Quote from VTDEC's Lake Wise pages: Did you know that 60% of protein for fresh water fish species comes from terrestrial insects that fall from plants into the water?

Editor's Note

In each issue we try to include articles of information and interest for our readers. This isn't always as easy as it seems. To help us all we would like to hear from you about what you would like to see in the newsletter. This could be an article about something you did or witnessed recently or a long time ago. Or it could be a topic you would like to better understand and we could find an author. Please let us know. We would love to hear from you. Email me at the address below. Thanks. Erik

eriklessing@comcast.net



Thank You to the Following Seymour Lake Association Members for Your Support in 2016

Hamid & Karen Abada	Peter Bullock	William Drake	Dean Hamel
Adam & Louisa	Emily Bowser	Tracey Becken	Liz & Jason Harty
Avelina Abbiati	William & Karen Burgess	Rene Ducharme	William Hatton
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Bill & Molly Bilowus	Robert Szatrowski	Ronald & Dolores Frascoia	Ruby P. Jenness
Howard & Susan Birchard	Jack Clausen	Mark & Brenda Frazer	William Jenney
Wayne Bishop	Sandy Granchelli	Paul & Kenni Freire	Brian Jewett
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Maya & Chase	Elizabeth Denning	Dave & Greta Griffith	and Kali
David & Joan Briggs	Michael Denning	Marguerite Griffith	Kerry & Laurice Keegan
Kathleen Britch	Hazel V. Carby	Robert Guyer	Kelly and Ryan
Ernest & Linda Broadwater	Linda Dennis	Meghan Dubois	Jim & Charlotte Kenney
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Cate and Pete Bronson	David & Sylvia Detscher	John P. Hale	Sarah & Harper Kenney
Tara Brown	Tony & Kathy DiBari	Maureen Hall	Andrew George Kern
Stuart & Laura Brush	Paul Doyle	Daniel Brush	Dr. Robert & Cynthia Kern
Nancy & David Bullock and Family		David Hamel	Brian & Debi Kerr
Peter & Meghan			

Thank You to the Following Seymour Lake Association Members for Your Support in 2016

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Madison McKenny	William Portway	Michael & Debi Stevens	Alexander, Allyssa & Austin
Ian McKenny	Natalie Layer	Dean & Joanne Stratton	
Jean McKenny	Bonnie & Dave Potter	Casimer S. Sudol	

Morgan Historical Society

by Bev May

The Morgan Historical Society was founded in 2003 to preserve and protect the history of the Town of Morgan. In 2004 the Society was honored to be entrusted with responsibility for care and preservation of the Morgan Center Church and land while using the structure for the repository of historical items. We have maintained the altar and pews and respect the building as a place of worship while filling the walls, nooks and crannies with pieces of our past, archives, records, photos, news clippings, etc.

With all of our modern conveniences we enjoy today, it seems that our time is more crowded. One example is our use of efficient washers and dryers to clean our clothes. Compared with the laborious processes of the past that our ancestors used, we are blessed. We do have some of those items used in the early 1900s on display. Without the benefits of our present day devices, those in our past found time to volunteer their efforts to church and town efforts. Their charity, generosity, innovation, patriotism, commitment to education can be an inspiration to all. We ask that those interested in joining us in our efforts to preserve and record the history of Morgan to become a member. Our address is P.O. Box 113, Morgan, VT 05853 or

morganhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com

Membership application forms are available at the Morgan Town Clerk's office or on the town's website, townofmorgan.com or you can call 1-802-723-5907.

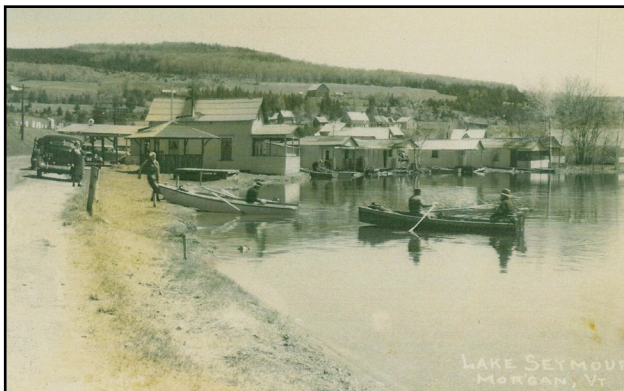
Please come visit us at "the church at the beach" from 9 AM-Noon on Mondays and 1 PM-3 PM on Wednesdays from July through September or by appointment. We welcome your suggestions and donations of pieces of Morgan's past. □



The Morgan Center Church as it looks today



The Morgan Center Church as it looked in 1913



A view of the beach area circa. 1935 to 1939

Here are some of the less than 50 camps on the lake in 1930:

Susan K. Wilson
Sarah Shields
W.S. Rossiter
Arthur Perry
W.H. Hatton
C.O. Moore
Fred Robertson
G.G. Kittridge
L.K. Wilson
Ray Vinton
Mr. & Mrs. J.P. Curry
Mary M. Daley
E.C. & Minnie Skinner
C.D. French
Fred Daggett
Carl W. Robbins
A. F. Lafoe
Earl Hackett
Charles Counter
Geroge Holland
Clifford White
R. McLoy
Ida Bishop
Harry Johnson
Mrs. Leon Currier
Ethel Danforth
Robert Hodsgen
Roy Hull
Mrs. J.A. Jackson
D.C. Lapointe
Fred Paquette
Middie White
Perley Brown
Leo Farrell
H.E. Rice
Lewis Brothers
Mr. & Mrs. George Buzzell
R. E. Martin
Dorothy Brown
Arabelle Parker
Walter Kipp
Mrs. Cyrus Miller
L.J. Henderson
Camp Winape
Camp Wayeeses