



Seymour Lake Association

Winter 2003

Notes from the President

This is the first Seymour Lake Association Newsletter of 2003 and is being sent to all property owners around Seymour Lake as well as Association members.

Last year we instituted a new format in order to reduce printing costs and send copies to a wider population of Morgan residents, property owners and Lake Association members. As a result, we provided information to a greater audience and gained new members.

I must admit that when I first became associated with Seymour Lake in 1947-48, I was not interested in the lake as a natural resource that should be treated with respect. My family had fun on the lake and we were unaware that other lakes were not as clean and clear as Seymour.

Fifty plus years later, I understand why my father was interested in the Seymour Lake Association.

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. The Association and its Board monitors a wide range of interests that affect Seymour Lake.

These interests range from boating

safety to the popular swim program and include the not so visible areas of monitoring and reporting the clarity of the lake, coordinating and reporting on the State fishing program, the Seymour Lake Map and watching and reporting on our Loon population.

Currently, the Association has two major issues: the lake level and Eurasian watermilfoil. 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 in our efforts to monitor and insure that this plant is not brought into our lake.

We are a member of the Vermont Federation of Lakes and Ponds. At the annual meeting last summer, a major topic of discussion was the damaging effect of milfoil and the near impossible task of eliminating it once a lake has become infested.

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.

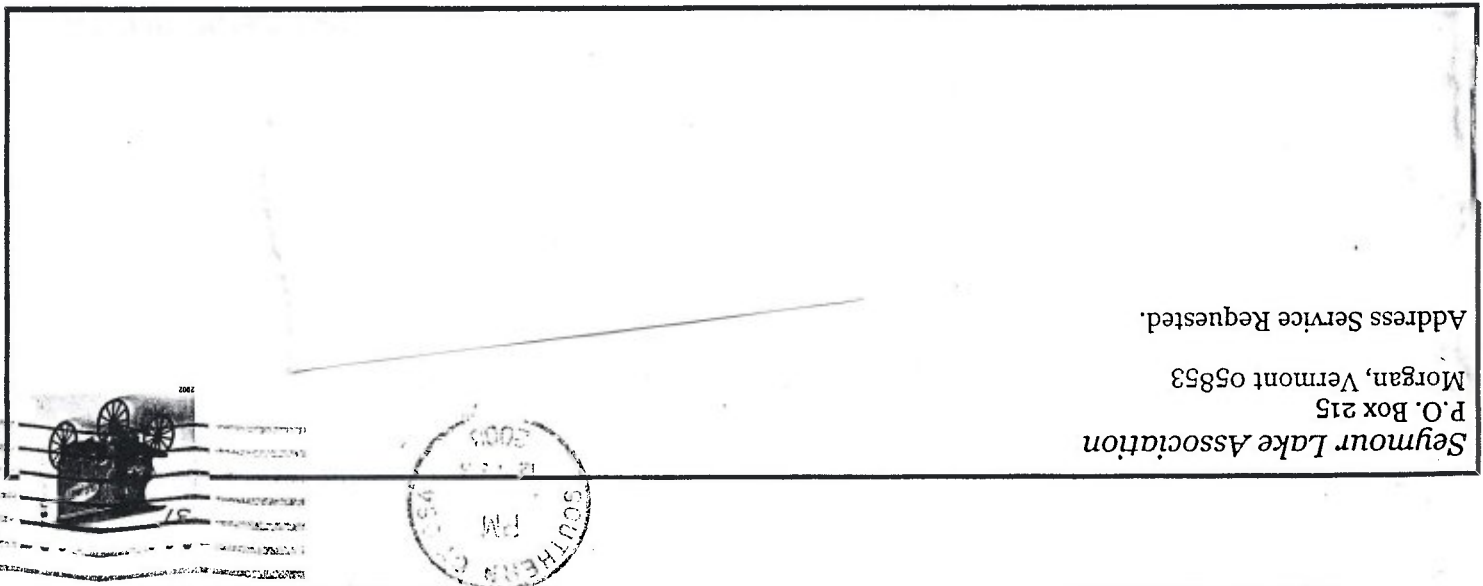
Last spring it was unusually wet and the lake was higher than usual even with the gate at the dam fully open. This is an area of concern as the current approved design for the dam does not include a gate.

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 —

Every Association member is requested to please renew your membership and I would 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.



Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Project

We had a successful year in our efforts to monitor milfoil and other aquatic nuisance elements in our lake. A grant from Vermont's Department of Conservation along with matching support from the Town of Morgan provided the major source of funds.

The project also received proceeds from the Ice Out/Block Down Contest. In addition, many members of the Association sent in donations with their membership dues specifically to support the Seymour Lake Association's Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Project. Our two employees, Andy and Ryan,

spent many hours at the access. When not talking to fisherman and boaters, they were in the water- via kayak and motor boat- searching for milfoil and making certain the invasive plant had not established itself in Seymour's waters.

For the first time, the project staff managed the fishing access for September. Boaters and their vessels are still prevalent on the lake at this time, particularly weekend mornings, and our monitor's presence greatly assisted in keeping the milfoil at bay for yet another year.

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

The Ice Out contest will be used again this year as a fund raiser to support 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 spends many hours collecting and arranging the guesses submitted.

Homer has the difficult task of making sure the pallet, cinder block and timing equipment are okay and then retrieving them from the lake.

Last year the contest generated \$1125 which provided \$775 for our milfoil project.

Checks for this years winners will be presented at the Annual Meeting on July 26, 2003.

ICE OUT/BLOCK DOWN CONTEST

SEYMOUR LAKE 2003

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 _____

Clip and send ticket and check payable to SLA to: J.C. Selby, PO Box 43, Morgan Vermont, 05853 by March 25

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

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

Our two major efforts this year are: our continuing fight to keep milfoil out of Seymour Lake ; and the dam reconstruction and its affect on the lake level.

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.

The Association believes that this design will adversely effect the lake level in the spring and in August.

Eurasian Watermilfoil

Milfoil is destroying many other lakes in Vermont.

It is a prolific, non-native, plant that grows quickly interfering with boating, fishing and swimming.

It 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 wells.



Dam/Lake Level

Your committee was very active in 2002. Members of the Association testified before a Vermont State House Committee on the design for the new spillway and dam. We stressed the need for an operable gate in the new dam in order to maintain a relatively constant lake level. Rep. 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 level will continue to be maintained at our designed elevations and consistent with what we have experienced over the past 40 years.

On August 1, 2002, the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources (VANR) issued a Water Quality Certificate to Citizens Communications Company for the

Clyde River Hydroelectric Project. This project includes the Seymour Lake Dam reconstruction. The Water Quality Certification **did not** include a gate in the dam as earlier designs and engineering studies had specified. The Seymour Lake Association immediately appealed the Water Quality Certification for the portion that pertained to the dam replacement. The board and the dam/lake level committee considered it prudent to hire a lawyer to represent us in the appeal process before the Water Resources Board. Mr. Gregory P. Howe of Newport has been doing an admirable job in the process of preparing for the hearings. We have had meetings with Citizens and the VANR to review studies done regarding the lake level as specified in the Wa-

ter Quality Certification. These studies were at our request to try and determine how high the lake would raise in the spring without an operable gate. The study indicated that, although the new dam would have less flow, the performance was almost equal to the existing dam. We pointed out that the current operation of the dam is to open the gate before major storms thus increasing the basin capacity and minimizing flooding. A revised study indicates that the current operation has better control of the Lake Level than the Proposed Dam. We will keep you informed on this important issue. Should you have any questions or concerns, call Ron Kolar at 904-278-5020 or at Camp Winape after June 25th at 723-4400

Seymour Lake Association—Membership Application 2003

Please Clip, Fill Out and Mail today

To: Marilyn Gray *(Include with the Ice Out Ticket if you wish)*
Seymour Lake Association, P.O. Box 215, Morgan, Vermont 05853

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

Names (s) _____

Seymour Lake Address _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address (if different than above)

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ phone _____

Clip and send with check payable to SLA

news letters

Fishing Update

Seymour Lake was stocked by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department in the spring of 2002 as follows:

Landlocked salmon 2000, 250 lbs, 7", April 9, right ventral fin clip;
 Lake trout 4000, 655 lbs, 7.8", May 5, adipose fin clip;
 Brook trout 1500, 500 lbs, 9", May 15, unmarked.

In addition it was stocked from the White River National Fish Hatchery in fall 2002 as follows: Atlantic salmon (broodstock) 100, ~20" - 28", December, left pectoral fin clip

In 1991 the Fish and Wildlife Department implemented fishing regulation changes at Seymour. The temporary Test Waters regulations were aimed mainly at bolstering the naturally reproducing native lake trout population, and improving the fishing. The Fish & Wildlife Department has been monitoring the effects of those changes since then, and has found them to be beneficial.

Last April the Fish & Wildlife Dept proposed to the Fish and Wildlife Board that it make the existing Seymour Test Waters regulations permanent. The Fish

& Wildlife Department made a presentation at the Legion Hall in Island Pond last June to describe its work and findings at Seymour, to explain its reasoning for the proposal and to hear public sentiment about it. The Fish & Wildlife Board member for this area, Byron Fish, was in attendance.

Members of the public attending confirmed that there is relatively solid support for the move. In response, the Fish & Wildlife Board continued in its rule-making process and enacted the Seymour regulations as permanent effective January 1, 2003. The existing rule structure therefore will remain in place indefinitely at Seymour.

The Fish & Wildlife Department will continue to monitor the status of fish populations and fishing quality at Seymour along with other NEK lakes, and will report to the Seymour Association Fishing Committee as work is conducted and findings made for Seymour.

Regulations applicable to Seymour

Lake (see 2003 Vermont Digest of Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Laws for complete, detailed listing):

Special Regulations:

20" minimum length for lake trout.

Lake trout creel limit 1 in a 2 trout/salmon combined limit.

4 lines ice fishing and 1 line openwater
 Some of the main General Regulations applicable at Seymour:

Ice fishing season: 3rd Saturday January - 2nd Sunday March

Angling season: 2nd Saturday April - last Sunday October.

Landlocked salmon minimum length 15".

Smallmouth bass minimum length 10".

For more information, you may contact District Fisheries Biologist Lenny Gerardi at (802) 751-0108 or at the Vermont Fish & Wildlife, Department 1229 Portland St, Suite 201, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

phone: (802) 751-0108, email: (work) len.gerardi@anrmail.anr.state.vt.us
 (home) laurenj@kingcon.com

Morgan Historical Society

The recently organized Morgan Historical Society is asking our Seymour Lake community to join in their purpose of preserving Morgan history.

Fund raising events planned are: May 17 Dinner; Northeast Kingdom Cookbook @\$12, which will include old time pictures and history related to Morgan; and an August family dance. They are presently seeking members and offer the following annual levels: Student:

\$1, Individual: \$5, or Founding Member: \$50 (available in 2003 only). A Lifetime Membership is \$200 and includes Founding in 2003. Mail membership checks, and/or Recipe book requests to Miriam Aiken, Treasurer, P.O. Box 97, Morgan, VT 05853. The annual business meeting is planned for July 16. For further information contact any of the officers or write to the His-

torical Society at P.O. Box 113, Morgan, VT 05853. President David Hockensmith, 895-5338, Vice President Ruby Jenness, 895-4144; Secretary, Rosemary Miller, 895-4839. Volunteers and any historical information or artifacts relating to Morgan will be welcomed.

Association Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

President: Jim McWain
 Vice President: Fred Cummings
 Secretary: Janet Jackson
 Treasurer: Marilyn Gray

Directors (Term end)

Fred Jackson 03 Derek Moore 04
 Ed Russell 03 Tom Emery 05
 Jesse Nichols 03 Dave Anderson 05
 Peter Morse 04 Janet Selby 05
 Kalman Samuels 04

Committee Chairs

Boating: Ed Russell
 Dam/Lake Level: Ron Kolar

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

Morgan Town Officers

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