

Seymour Lake Association Newsletter

May 2012

www.seymourlake.org



President's Message

by Lyman McWain—President

As we approach another summer season at Seymour, the board and committee members are busy with plans to continue our water quality improvement efforts. Our directions and goals are unchanged from prior years, and we have added a few new issues consistent with our prior goals. In almost every area the SLA Team has created programs over the last five years to gain the support of members to benefit our great lake.

Just to be clear, our goals have been to increase our membership, improve our communications and educational efforts, improve our available funds, expand our inspections including our VIP programs and expand our relationship efforts with the town, state, and other associations to increase funding and scientific support for Seymour Lake projects. Our educational focus has concentrated on what we can do as individual property owners to contribute to a best practices' philosophy, which includes ground water runoff, native plantings in the buffer zone, new building locations and driveway and septic maintenance. Please refer to the many educational seminars being given this year by the NEK Healthy Waters Initiative on page 7. I urge you to become involved and contribute to maintaining our lake. We are adding an effort to work with the state to clean out the access area in front of the boat ramp and will keep you advised as a plan is developed.

We voted as a membership to make recommendations to the town on new changes to the zoning set back regulations to improve available buffer zones, and we understand that they have taken our suggestions under consideration, and

we might expect some finalization this year. Our Dam Committee has also asked the state to open a discussion with us to modify their "run of the river" policy. This policy prevents Great Bay Hydro from drawing down the lake in late fall to prevent spring snow melt from allowing the lake to exceed our target high level which was established by the Vermont Supreme Court. Unfortunately we have had no response and will make this a priority for this spring to help avoid the issues we have experienced in the last few years.

I am very pleased with the enthusiastic attitude of our membership and the wonderful and supportive notes we get with your renewals and contributions. I read that as a confirmation that we are on the right track and that we have great people driving our programs. I encourage everyone in the town and along the shore to attend our meetings, join a committee and become more involved.

The picture in the masthead was taken in the early 1980s and shows several Camp Winape sailboats cruising on the beautiful clear waters of Seymour Lake.

In closing, I must mention and as many of you know, we lost our good friend, director and long time supporter of the Seymour Lake Association, Kal Samuels. He will be missed on our board and by all friends of the lake.

I look forward to seeing you this summer and look forward to seeing you all at the SLA Picnic. □

Tribute to Kal Samuels

by Janet Selby

The Seymour Lake Association lost a good friend this past winter. Kalman Samuels (1927-2011) passed away in Montreal, Quebec peacefully with his family at his side. "Kal", as many of his friends around the lake liked to call him, served on the Board of Directors for many years as well as on the Loon Watch and Personal Watercraft Committees. He was a strong supporter of the Aquatic Nuisance Program and sponsored television advertisements of Seymour Lake on Vermont Public Television where he also served as a director on the board. As an attorney by profession, his advice was extremely helpful in many areas.



Kal and his wife Stella and their family moved to the lake in 1978 after a 10 year search for their "dream place" on a lake. After spending many weekends driving around and searching for just the right place to enjoy with their children, Maurice, Kayla, Leslie and Benjamin, they purchased the old John Hayes place. When the roof began to leak and the squirrels and chipmunks began to takeover, they decided it was time to renovate and add on to the original building. The entire family holds Seymour as a very special place and spends as much time as possible enjoying all it has to offer.

The Seymour Association has been honored by Kalman's service and appreciate all his work and support on our behalf. He will be greatly missed. □

Seymour Lake Association

P.O. Box 43

Morgan, VT 05853

Telephone: (802) 895-2951

Officers July 23, 2011

| | | | | |
|------------|--------------|--|----------|-------------------|
| President: | Lyman McWain | lmcwain@aol.com | 895-4438 | cell 203-676-0083 |
| Vice Pres: | Ron Kolar | rkolar@eagle-harbor.com | 723-4400 | 904-261-7976 |
| Secretary: | Jean McKenny | jmckenny@together.net | 766-8895 | 802- 895-2942 |
| Treasurer: | Janet Selby | hjsselby@surfglobal.net | 895-2951 | |

Directors (Term Ends)

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| Ted Jewett | '14 | Tim Buzzell | '13 | Jim McWain | '12 |
| Allan Wooley | '14 | Linda Broadwater | '13 | Erik Lessing | '12 |
| Steve Massicotte | '14 | Peggy Barter | '13 | | |

Committee Members

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Audit | <u>Steve Massicotte</u> |
| Boating | <u>Tim Buzzell</u> |
| Dam/Lake Level | <u>Ron Kolar</u> , Homer Selby, Tim Buzzell, Steve Massicotte, Erik Lessing |
| Development/Education | <u>Lyman McWain</u> , Tracey Shadday, Peggy Barter |
| Fishing | <u>Homer Selby</u> , Ron Frascoia |
| Grants | <u>Janet Selby</u> , Peggy Barter, Beth Torpey, Linda Broadwater |
| Ice Out | <u>Homer Selby</u> , Janet Selby |
| Loon Watch | Eric Hanson, Bonnie & Dave Potter, Ruby Jenness, Charles "Woody" Woods |
| Maps | <u>Ron Kolar</u> |
| Membership | <u>Ted Jewett</u> , Bruce Barter, Linda Broadwater, Tim Buzzell, Gerry Cahill, Erik Lessing, Janet Selby, Ann Torpey, Ilene Douglas |
| Milfoil | <u>Janet Selby</u> , Peggy Barter |
| Newsletter | <u>Erik Lessing</u> , Bruce Barter, Maggie Griffith |
| Nominating | <u>Ron Kolar</u> , Tim Buzzell, Jim McWain |
| Swim Program | <u>Janet Selby</u> |
| Water Quality | <u>Peggy Barter</u> , Linda Broadwater, Tom Emery, Bill Kilpatrick, Ron Kolar, Anthony Lazzara, Erik Lessing, Tracey Shadday, Gil Wierschke |
| Website | <u>Allan Wooley</u> , 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—Tammy Morin

Asst. Town Clerk—Paula Keenan

North Country School Director—Kristin Mason

Listers—Jim Judd
 Diane Moore
 Deanna Keenan

School Directors—Kelly Paul
 Tammy Lacourse
 Danielle Blake

Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

Northwoods Stewardship Center Arts, Crafts & Plant Sale, May 12, 10AM - 4PM

NEK Healthy Waters Initiative—See page 7 for details

July 4th Boat Parade—Due To the resounding success of the Second Annual Seymour Boat Parade, a third Annual Parade will be planned for this year. July 4th comes on a Wednesday in 2012 so it is likely the event will be held on the weekend to allow greater participation. More information about the event will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

SLA Annual Meeting—July 28th at 9AM at Morgan Community House

Circle of Friends Bazaar—August 1st 11:00AM to 2:00PM Location to be determined.

IROC's Fifth Annual Kingdom Triathlon and Lake Seymour Swim—August 4th.

Childrens' Swim Program—See details on page 8

SLA Picnic—August 4th at 5PM

Water Quality Update and Committee Report

by Peggy Barter

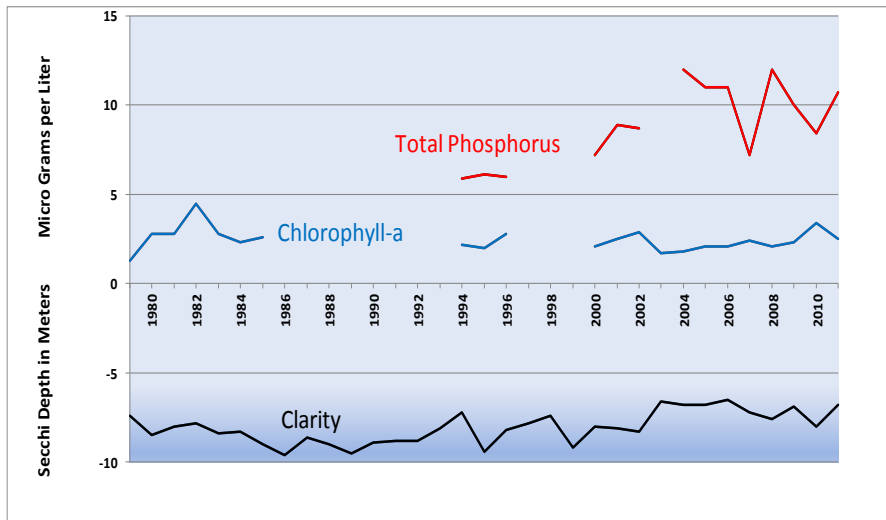
Since 1979 we have collected water samples of Seymour through the State's Lay Monitoring Program. Tom Emery does this each summer, and the latest results for 2011 are in the graph nearby. You will see that the trend for clarity is slightly trending upward and, hence, less clarity, while the Chlorophyll-a trend is almost flat. Of most concern to us is the Total Phosphorus measurement which is worse than in the lake's pristine years from 1994 to 1996. Since Total Phosphorus has only been measured since

1994, and no data were taken in several intervening years, the measurements since 2004 while concerning, are stable.

Two very important reports you should read:

In 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) surveyed 1,028 lakes across the United States... Almost 36% of U.S. lakes rated poor for the lakeshore human disturbance stressor... In their final report, the USEPA (2009, p. 84) concluded that "degradation of lakeshore habitat cover is the most important stressor of lakes."

A Vermont lakes assessment, conducted in tandem with the national survey, included a larger sample of Vermont lakes than were included in the EPA data set...In a summary of their findings, Merrell et al. (2009) conclude that clearing of Vermont lakeshores severely impacts lake ecosystems. They



predict our native littoral communities will gradually disappear if we do not protect and restore vegetated buffers.

Littoral or edge of the water communities are a variety of life forms that provide food for fish, loons, eagles, mink, and kingfishers. Creatures of the water's edge also keep blue green algae populations of a lake in balance. Studies, such as these, have convinced us that our most important effort is to restore native vegetation to Seymour's shores.

To assist in this effort, we have encouraged lake communities to

take advantage of Better Back Roads Grants and to take advantage of Dayna Cole's Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District Planting Program. She can be reached any time of year at (802) 334-8325 ext.18 or Dayna.cole@vt.nacdnet.net

We also offer a presentation to groups on the need for increasing the buffer of natural vegetation on the shore as well as showing how a property owner can do this. Please contact Peggy Barter at sla.newsletter.wq@gmail.com to schedule a presentation for you and your neighbors.

See the schedule of four workshops below at which your attendance can greatly help our lake.□

2012 Northeast Kingdom Healthy Waters Initiative

Stewardship at Water's Edge

Date: Friday, June 8th

Time: 7:00 p.m. No registration required.

Location: NorthWoods Stewardship Center (154 Leadership Drive, off Ten Mile Square Rd. East Charleston VT)

This seminar kicks off a series of events focused on understanding our watershed at work and hands-on stewardship of our region's streams, rivers, and lakes. Guest speakers will be DEC Scientist Kellie Merrell and Eric Hanson who is the VT Loon Recovery Project Coordinator. We will consider stewardship practices that improve these habitats and overall water quality.

Restore Your Shore with Natural Buffers

Date: Saturday, July 14th

Time: 1:00 p.m. Registration deadline: July 7th.

Location: Seymour Lake (The Jewett Property, 107 Rossiter Point, Morgan). A hands-on workshop will provide landscaping ideas for promoting healthy waters and wildlife.

What's in Your Waters?

Date: Wednesday, July 25th Registration deadline: July 18th.

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Seymour Lake (Meet at the public beach parking lot opposite 28 Valley Road, Morgan). Join Bill Kilpatrick and Art Brooks for an exploration of life in the littoral zone—shallow waters at lake's edge. All ages welcome.

Vermont Invasive Patroller (VIP) Workshops

Date: Wednesday, August 15th. Reg. deadline: August 8th.

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon for new VIPs and those who wish to review aquatic plant identification skills.

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. for introduction to early detection of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) and VIP field component.

Location: Lake Memphremagog (Meet at CCV, Hebard State Building, 100 Main Street, Newport)

Learn to monitor shallow water habitats for threats such as aquatic invasive species and toxic cyanobacteria.

For more information or to register, please contact Maria Young, maria@northwoodscenter.org or 802-723-6551 x115

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| Thank You to the Following Seymour Lake Association Members for Their Support in 2011 |
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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Avelina Abbiati | James & Donna Chickering | Patricia Gosselin |
| Linda & Mike Adams | Jan Clarke | Bonnie & Bill Gottermeyer |
| Nancy Runk | Jack Clausen | John & Ellen Gould |
| Tom & Cindy Adams | Sandy Granchelli | John K. Greene |
| Adams Family | John & Aelish Clifford | Lucien & Audrey Grenier |
| Dave & Karen Anderson | Janet & Richard Colby | Armand & Andrea Grez |
| Fay Anderson | Constance L. Colligan | David & Greta Griffith |
| Sue & Frank Antonelli | Thomas & Shirley Coneys | Marguerite Griffith |
| Dawn & Elwood Arnold | Sara Connolly | Robert Guyer Family |
| Tom & Laurie | Stephen & Janet Connor | Woody & Kathy Guyette |
| Dave & Meredith Augustoni | Anita Cook | Colette Haag-Rickert |
| Bethany & Bennett | Holly Corby | Spensley Rickert |
| Leonard Baker | Lisa & Tom McConville | Greg Hall |
| Dan & Carol Barry | E. Stanley & Carol S. Corneille | David & June Hamel |
| Peggy & Bruce Barter | John & Deborah Cowan | William Hatton |
| Robert Barton and Family | Dick & Fran Curran | Jeff & Susan Haubrich |
| James & Shirley Bassett | Kelly Curtis-Martin | Bob & Linda Henker |
| Miriam & Cyrus Benson, Jr. | Bryan & Susan Davis | Stephanie & David Hockensmith |
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| Lynn Berry | Michael Denning | Bill & Jan Hogan |
| Emily Nyman | Hazel V. Carby | William & Elaine Holden |
| Howard & Susan Birchard | David & Sylvia Detscher | Earle "Bud" Holland |
| Chris, Danny & Natalie Blais | Tony & Kathy DiBari | Reed Hubbard |
| Luke Bussard | Katherine & Kevin Doerr | Pat Hunt |
| David & Genese Blanchette | Paul Doyle | Marie & Sam Ippolito |
| David Blittersdorf | William Drake | Joan & Tim Reilly |
| Jan Blittersdorf | Tracey Becken | Thomas & Helen Irwin |
| Sue & Tom, Amy & Scot Bolasevich | Ann & Ed Duckless | Frederick E. Jackson |
| Ray & Peggy Bolduc and Family | Skip & Jan Durfey | Bill & Heather Jacobs |
| Anthony & Linda Bordeau | Fred & Carol Edgerley | Douglas & Debra Jangraw |
| Ken & Nancy Bowen | Monica Eldred | Judith H. Jarvis |
| Bill & Janet Boyden | Elliott Family | Carol Jenkins |
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| David & Joan Briggs | Michael & Linda Emery | Elizabeth Jenney |
| Frank & Kathleen Britch, Jr. | Peter & Nancy Engels | Brian Jewett |
| Ernest & Linda Broadwater | Alan & Anne Epstein | Matt & Jackie Jewett |
| Brochu/Way Family | Dick Epstein | Ted & Mina Jewett |
| Maxine Brooks | Charles & Alexandria Evans | Jan Jordan |
| Sandra H. & Ronald E. Brown | Wayne & Kathy Fifield | Jean Jordan |
| Stuart & Laura Brush | Jennifer Fiscaletti | Rick & Bonnie Joyal |
| Nancy & David Bullock | Susan & Byron Fish | Arthur & Carolyn Judd |
| William & Karen Burgess | William (Scott) & Maureen Fletcher | Kaessler Family |
| Bill & Susan Burns | Mike & Monique Foley | Rich & Mary Kecskemeti |
| Virginia Bushee | Don & Carole Fontana | Jim & Charlotte Kenney |
| Caroline V. Busta and Family | Edie Fontana | Dr. Robert & Cynthia Kern |
| Ken & Karen Buzzell | Denis Fortin | Brian & Debi Kerr |
| Kendra Buzzell | John & Eleanor Fraleigh | Penny & Chuck Kezar |
| Bos van der Brugge | Alan & Wendy Franklin | Donald A. Kidder |
| Linda & Gerald Buzzell | Al & Laura Frascoia | Susan Kidder |
| Priscilla Buzzell | Ronald & Dolores Frascoia | Nancy & Larry Kilinski |
| Tim & Linda Buzzell | Brenda Frazer | Mary Killian |
| Gerry & Steve Cahill | Louisa Frechette | Bill & Margaret Kilpatrick |
| Cindy Smith | Janet & Alex Frisch | Harold Kimball |
| Robert & Laurie Cain | Doris Frizzell | Kathleen Kingston |
| Michael & Joanne Callinan | Ken & Anthonette Fuller | Richard Kingston |
| David S. & Tracy L. Calvert | Gehrke Family | Jane E. & John D. Kipp |
| Pauline Caputo | Alfred & Barbara Gildersleeve | Alan & Jenie Kolar |
| Robert & Carole Cargill | Nancy Gilmond | Eric & Megan Kolar |
| Dorothy Carter | Doug & Judy Gimler | Ron & Janet Kolar |
| Jack & Shelley Carter | Chris & Cindy Gobillot | Ted & Roberta Kowal |
| Gary Chambers | Bailey & Mackenzie | William & Linda Kratt |
| Alfred & Lillian Champeau | Stanley & Marilyn Goodell | Allison & John Kulaga |
| | Peter Goodell | |

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| Thank You to the Following Seymour Lake Association Members for Their Support in 2011 |
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| Robert & Debra Labrecque | Dean & Jan Palin | Betty F. Shepherd |
| Ronald W. & Joanne M. Labrecque | Robert & Debra Partridge | Matthew & Rhonda Shippee |
| Anthony & Kathy Lazzara | Richard A. Patukonis | Mark & Amy Sills |
| Paul & Eileen LeGrande | Robert & Audrey Paulson | Charles Sleeper and Family |
| Katie & Brian | Nancy Peabody | Jeremy & Martha Smith |
| Carole & Arthur Lerner | Michael, Mark, Allan & Scott | Lee Smith |
| Gregg Lessing | Arliene Pearson | William & Pamela Smith |
| Rhealene & Erik Lessing | Tom & Joyce Pecue | Daniel Smith |
| Stephanie Limoge | Charlotte Perkins | John & Therese Snyder |
| Beverly Loomis | Pamela & Robert Petrofsky | Craig & Deborah Stevens |
| Nancy Loomis | Sandra & Jack Philbrick | Brian & Sean |
| Anne Loveland | Mary Jean Pierce | Cynthia Stevens |
| Liz & Bob Lundgren | Frank & Mary Pinard | Kevin Stevens |
| Jim & Billie Maas | Michael, Sean & Noelle | Peter Stockard |
| Bruce & Karen MacDonald | Joan B. Pitkin and Family | Casimer S. Sudol |
| John & Deb Magnus | Tom & Carol Pombar | Sue Swenson |
| Michael Malley | Robin & Mary Poole | Ted Swierczynski |
| Maya & Edward Manley | William Portway | Penny Thomas |
| Danny & Renee Martin | Bonnie & Dave Potter | Richard Tobia |
| Kenneth & Barbara Mason | Jeff & Tracey Poulin | Ann Torpey |
| Kristin, Korey, Amy, Lindsay & Ryan | Peter & Diana Poulin | Beth Torpey |
| Steve & Gay Massicotte | Jim & Mary Ann Pratt | Kevin & Lisa Torpey |
| Tom & Marilyn Mattick | Suzanne & Chuck Pratt | Michael & Rachel Torpey |
| Douglas & Marilyn Maxwell | Terry Prefontaine | Patrick & Nicole Torpey |
| Ann & Dick McCarthy | Joseph "Ping" Puento, Jr. | Mike & Dale Trombley |
| Patrick & Molly McCarthy | Walter & Leona Quigg | Bill & Tara Tubb |
| Robert McCarthy | Bill & Judy Reed | Sue & Gerry Tubbs |
| Harvey & Betsy McDonald | Bill & Diane Reeves | Mrs. Pauline Turcotte |
| James & Linda McDonald | Margaret Reilly | Nancy & Will Turk |
| Maureen McGuire | Barbara Gunter | Kevin, Kathleen & Brian |
| Eugene de la Bruere | Kathy & Bruce Remick | Donald & Stacey Tynion |
| Jean McKenny | Jackie & Worthy Reynolds | Virginia & Dennis Ullery |
| John & Lee McLendon | Buddy & Brenda Richards | Bob & Debbie Vacca |
| Lee & John McLendon | Mary Ann Riggie and Family | Roy & Joan Van Wyck |
| Andrew & Kate McWain | Lorraine & Mike Riley | Rick & Elaine Waldo |
| James & Bonnie McWain | The Arthur Robbins Family | George & Nancy Walker |
| Lyman & Dena McWain | Barrett Rogers | Kit Walker |
| Lyman & Sue McWain | Edward & Jeanette Roke | Rob Hofmann |
| Loraine Melick-Seronick | June & Lenny Rosenberg | Betsy Walkerman |
| David C. Miller | Mark & Paula Rowse | Gordon & Doria Ware |
| Richard & Rosemary Miller | Ben & Erin | Nancy Warner |
| Rick & Jessica Miller | Patricia Russell | Debra & Tony Wayne |
| Lee Mills | Cathy Judd-Stein | Peter Wenk |
| Jim & Jeannette Mitchell | Dennis & Deb Rustay | Dave & Cindy Westover |
| Craig, Ryan & Ashley Moltenbrey | Maurice Samuels | Denis & Joann White |
| Doug & Jill Moore | Kalman & Stella Samuels Family | Ken & Carli Whitehill |
| Anne & David Moore Family | Joan Sanborn | Brenda & Gilbert Wierschke |
| Candy Moot | Laura & Glenn Sand | Joyce Webster Wieselmann |
| Chuck Nichols | Allison & Andrew | Ken Wiggin |
| The Morgan Country Store | Bob & Sue Scales | Karen Lawsing |
| Richard & Patty Morley | Mark & Sheilah Schleifer | Vicky & Mike Williams |
| James Morris | Dave & Priscilla Schulz | Harry Lapointe |
| Peter & Cheryl Morse | Garrie & Ed Schulz | Thomas & Barbara Wood |
| Irene Murphy | Dana Seguin | Charles & Missy Woods |
| Norm & Peg Myers | Dean, Carrie, Nate & Matt Selby | Scott & Alicia Woods |
| Sandra Nelson | Homer & Janet Selby | Allan Wooley |
| Harold Newell | Sean & Tara Selby | Ilene Douglas |
| Janice & Jesse Nichols | Dija & Kristchan | Bill & Joanne Worth |
| Margaret O'Hara | Peter & Marie Seymour | Wayne & Judy Wyckoff |
| John, Mark & Jeff | Tracey & Larry Shadday | Linda & Robert Yarlott |
| Alexander Onyskin | Brad & Bonnie Shattuck | Heather & Bob Zeagman |
| Steven & Lois Osetek | Leah, Emma, Justin & Jonathan | |

Lake Level and Dam—A Little History

by Ron Kolar

Lake level is a subject of interest to all who own property on Seymour as it affects shoreline erosion, swimming, boating and docks. The level is affected by many factors, most of them controlled by Mother Nature. Precipitation enters the lake directly as well as from the watershed via large and small streams. But water also exits the lake through evaporation and through the outlet at the south end of the lake, flowing into Echo

lake. Citizens or its predecessors did additional blasting in the channel up to 1948. Prior to the erection of the present dam in 1928, there was still water above the Big Rock. The Big Rock is located immediately below the east end of the dam."

Pins and lake level control: The Vermont Public Service Commission in 1951 and the Vermont Supreme Court in 1952 required Citizens Utilities Company, and their successors, to maintain the Seymour Lake level between 2 pins set at the outlet 14 inches vertically apart. The low pin is at elevation 1278.33 feet. During the period prior to 2004, when the new dam was constructed, Citizens would open the gate of the dam in the fall and winter to draw down the lake in preparation for the spring runoffs. Accordingly, prior to 2004, the lake generally did not stage up in the spring runoff as high as the elevations we have seen since 2004. Hence, in the olden days, Seymour's level was lower in the fall and winter having less impact upon lake properties. With the current 2004 dam, we were notified by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and Great Bay Hydro that new operating procedures were established in the State License, and the new gate was not to be routinely manipulated during the fall, winter and spring as previously done. Many residents and SLA members have contacted your board and expressed concern that the lake has staged up more since 2004 and caused erosion greater than was the case when the gate was manipulated.

Vermont ANR has advised SLA in letters in 2009 and 2010, that "Lake Stages are higher now than they were for similar Spring runoff conditions before the Dam Reconstruction Project in 2004." ANR also advised "The target normal Summer (June 1 - Sept 15), water elevation is 1278.86 feet or 6.36 inches above the Low Pin."

The engineers preparing the design for the 2004 dam acknowledged that the previous dam had many leaks, and that could have contributed somewhat to the lower summer lake levels prior to 2004. Additionally from 2007 through 2011, your Dam Committee has felt that we experienced higher rainfall in the summer months which has contributed to higher summer lake levels.

During the 2011 SLA Annual Meeting, the Dam Committee reported on the spring stage-up of the lake. Your committee has reviewed graphs showing levels in the spring since the 2004 dam construction. The spring level generally varies in the 8 inch to 18 inch range above the high pin. Also as discussed in the Summer 2011 SLA Annual Meeting, actions by the State and the operator of the dam, Great Bay Hydro, allowing the lake level to rise above the high pin, are violations of the 1952 Vermont Supreme Court Ruling. As a comparison, the past winter of 2012 was mild, with minimal snowfall for our area. With the snow basically gone, the lake level was at the high pin on March 30 and 13 inches above the low pin (or 1 inches below the high pin) on April 12.

Seymour's Lake Level is an interesting but sometimes unpredictable and confusing subject. Do not hesitate to contact me: ronkolar@gmail.com or Homer Selby or Tim Buzzell who are on the Committee. □



The outlet at the south end of Seymour taken from the location of the pins on April 12, 2012 when the lake level was 13 inches above the low pin. The outlet structure has 3 concrete stanchions connected by dual railroad irons. Originally these irons supported fish screens which were later removed.

Lake after passing through the dam.

History: Our present dam, with the greatly enlarged spillway, was constructed in the summer of 2004. It sits 1200 feet downstream from the outlet about half way from Seymour to Echo. Prior to 2004 there were several dams. A Town of Charleston deed in 1887 stated that an old dam formerly stood just south of the outlet. The Vermont Public Service Commission, in their studies in 1951, found that "A Dam with gates was erected at the Outlet of Lake Seymour (a short distance South of the Outlet and the Morgan—Charleston Line) in 1921 by a predecessor of Citizens Utilities Company and that portions of said dam still remain but have no effect on the present flow of water." The Vermont PSC in 1951 also found that "A dam fitted with gates now owned by Citizens Utilities Company was constructed and has been maintained on the outlet stream of Lake Seymour since 1928, and said dam controls the level of Lake Seymour. (The 1928 dam is the one that was replaced in 2004)."



The present dam during extremely high water level. The tall iron structure on the left contains a moveable gate at the bottom.

Interesting historical notes are the following comments from the Vermont Public Service Commission in 1951:

"Citizens Utilities Company or its predecessors in 1923 blasted a channel in the Outlet Stream from a point below the present dam a distance of some 1200 feet toward the

Seymour Histories—Ruby and Ken Jenness

by Tracey Shadday

When looking at Seymour Lake from an aerial view, you can use your imagination to see many things. Some people see a giant boot; others see a gun. I see an angel on tiptoes with wings outstretched to the west. With this image in mind, you can visualize the Jenness' home at the bottom of

The Jenness' getaway camp was rebuilt during the spring when the winter thaw makes Vermont lawns look like wetlands



The couple created natural erosion controls, including multiple gardens; logs, gravel and stone to reduce runoff, shoreline planting and a rain garden. A massive blueberry patch farther upland provides the family with plenty of

cereal toppings and muffin stuffings while controlling the flow of water toward the lake. Despite all of these interventions, erosion control continues to be their Number One challenge.

Several decades ago, their property was populated with more trees, especially birch and poplar. After extensive traveling, the Jennesses returned to find their beach had been cleared by the local beaver population which took great care in transporting the freshly hewn logs to Wolf Point—close to where the rope swing used to be. Prime beaver real estate, indeed.

Today Ken and Ruby continue to find ways to balance the need for using space to recreate with the need to give back to the natural areas so that loons and other wildlife will thrive and make their home a spiritual place for future generations. □



the angel's sleeve off heavily wooded Ni-waskwokok Road – a name taken from the Abenaki word for "place of healing." It was on this lakeshore property that Ruby, a young mother with a husband in the

military, would find refuge and restoration

"After several years of travel, we would return to Seymour mentally drained and exhausted. I always left this area feeling renewed," says Ruby Jenness, now 90. "It has been a place of healing for me." Ken and Ruby purchased the property in 1952. It was 130 acres of woods back then. They lived in the home currently occupied by the Fullers, off Wayeeses Road, and Ken went to work building a small camp close to the beach. That building was eventually torn down and replaced with a larger home. In 2003 a fire burned it to the foundation.

Membership Update

by Ted Jewett

During the last four years the membership committee has made a concentrated effort to increase our land-owner membership. We have finally crossed the 70%(70.6) level, and we will increase our efforts to entice the remaining 30%(29.4), to join Seymour Lake Association. We need and solicit all the help you might offer. Please note the list of 2011 memberships on pages 4 and 5. Thanks to all of you for being a member and also your generous donations.

and our efforts in protecting the lake. This goal is best served by broad based support and is important to all Morgan residents. Hence, we urge you to join SLA and be part of our efforts to improve Seymour. You might also enjoy joining one of our committees listed on page 2. Contact any of the committee heads.

Our direction during 2012 will include inviting all residents within the watershed to join The Seymour Lake Association

Again, we appreciate your support, and we are especially gratified with the increase in donations for 2011 from 160 to 186! □

| | Year End 2008 | Year End 2009 | Year End 2010 | Year End 2011 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Membership Units | 251 | 317 | 329 | 337 |
| Number of Donations (with membership forms) | 113 | 130 | 160 | 186 |
| Lakefront Properties with an Active Membership | 50.5% | 66.2% | 69.8% | 70.6% |
| Number of Members Not on Lakefront Property | NA | 43 | 44 | 49 |

Newsletter Inputs Wanted

by Erik Lessing

We hope you enjoyed another issue of the SLA Newsletter. If you have anything special you'd like to see in upcoming issues, please let us know. We value your inputs on any sub-

ject, so please don't hesitate to email me at eriklessing@comcast.net and let me know your thoughts. Thanks Erik Lessing – Editor

Results of the 2012 Ice Out

by Janet Selby

With a winter that never really happened and a spring that came early with temperatures in the 70's in mid March, the ice out date was one of the earliest in almost thirty years.

The block went down on March 22 at 4:14PM. We had several guesses that were fairly close, but the closest winners were as follows:

- First place and the winner of \$200 was William Holden
- Second place and the winner of \$100 was Don and Stacey Tynion
- Third place and the winner of \$50 was Steve Massicotte

I would like to thank all who participated and helped us fund the Milfoil program at our fishing access through our ice out/block down contest.

Prizes will be awarded at the Annual Meeting on July 28th.□

Website Questionnaires

by Allan Wooley

Recycle/Transfer Station: Your input is requested regarding the operating hours of the Morgan Recycle/Transfer Station. Go to seymourlake.org and click on Public Survey in the lower left portion of the page, or click Web Links in the lower right and then click on Town of Morgan and answer the survey there.□

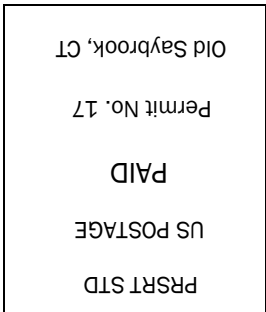
SLA Website Questionnaire: Starting shortly after you receive this May 2012 Newsletter, when you log on to the SLA website, seymourlake.org, you will have the option to answer a short survey about your usage of the site. Please help us make the site more valuable to you and others.□

Swim Program

by Janet Selby

As has been done for many previous years, Seymour Lake Association is again sponsoring swimming lessons for Morgan residents, property owners and their children and grandchildren. They will take place at IROC July 9-13 and July 16-

20. Please contact Janet Selby at 895-2951 to get a form. She will also be sending forms home from school and have some in the Morgan Store and Town Clerk's office.□



Seymour Lake Association
P.O. Box 43
Morgan, Vermont 05853