

Notes from the President

The past year has been a most active one. Your officers, board members, and committees have been working hard in many areas. Jim McWain, who was our President for about six or seven years, and Beth Torpey, before him, were instrumental in setting up a very efficient milfoil inspection and education program. We continue to be milfoil-free thanks to Jim, Beth, and many folks that have worked on this program.

We have developed close ties with the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, and their Department of Environmental Conservation. These Vermont departments have been most helpful in conducting water quality surveys and providing us with test results. Four of their senior staff members made a very comprehensive PowerPoint presentation to the SLA Board and residents in February. This gave us current data on the water quality and clarity of Seymour Lake. They showed us that our lake has fallen behind similar lakes in Northern Vermont in quality and clarity. We are hoping to have two of the state

VIP Training Session

There will be a Vermont Invasive Patrollers (VIP) training session held in Newport (Newport City Council room) on July 17, 1-5PM. This is a great program. Some association members went to this training last year. The instruction is designed to help individuals identify the various types of aquatic nuisance plants that can grow in our lake and where they are likely to be Last years volunteers then used the association kayak and helped in our constant search for milfoil.

Seymour Lake Association

www.seymourlake.org

Newsletter Summer 2008

environmental staff at the SLA Annual Meeting on July 26, so the members can be informed directly. The current newsletter articles by Lyman McWain and Peggy Barter, provide additional information and details on our water quality. Thru education and meetings, we need to get everyone to understand our current situation and what must be done to better manage our properties and our lake frontage. Many of the residents, around and near the lake, are currently not SLA members. We need our current get their members to help non-member neighbors and friends to join our fine organization. We want to spread our education and news to everyone and get all residents to help with managing our water quality thru better conservation methods.

Last years SLA Cookout and Outing was enjoyed by everyone attending. We will have a bigger and better event this year, along with the Classic Boat Show. It will be held on Saturday afternoon July 19th. Bring your neighbor and friends. Governor Jim Douglas is scheduled to attend. The Seymour

Save the Date

- July 19, 5:00 P.M. SLA Cookout /Outing & Classic Boat Show at Camp Winape
- July 26, 9:00 A.M. SLA Annual Meeting Morgan Community Center

Lake Association Annual Meeting follows a week later on Saturday, July 26 at 9:00 AM at the Morgan Community Center.

It has been a great pleasure for me to have been associated with the dedicated and hard working people who have served the SLA on committees. your board, and our officers. Lyman McWain has agreed to go from VP and assume the post of President in July. He has a long association with Seymour starting in 1947. He brings a career of business marketing and development, and he will continue to be of great assistance and leadership as your board addresses our challenges ahead.

We all are looking forward to a super year in 2008. Contact myself or Lyman McWain with any of your concerns or suggestions for a better lake association.

Ron Kolar

rkolar@eagle-harbor.com

or 802-723-4400

Personal Boat Ramps

There are many owners around the lake who have ramps on their property for launching boats and personal watercraft. As a precaution, we urge owners, who are using their boats in other lakes in Vermont, to have their equipment inspected prior to returning to Seymour Lake. Any weeds or possible aquatic invasive species need to be removed.

Ducks are also a nuisance!

When you feed them, you are really asking them to return for more food when they are hungry. People need to be discouraged from feeding the ducks and other water fowl. They carry parasites which can give humans skin rashes and other illnesses.

Water Quality Report

Our efforts to keep Eurasian milfoil out of the lake continued to be successful through the past summer due to the careful work done by our inspectors and volunteers at the access and perimeter of the lake in July and September. If you would like to join those volunteers to inspect a small portion of the lake shore, please look for the notice about a Vermont Invasive Patrollers one-day training session this coming summer.

On February 15, we learned a great deal regarding the extent and causes of the phosphorus pollution in the lake as well as the declining water clarity. The facts are that our declining water quality is the result of runoff and erosion from the lakeshore and perhaps the banks of streams feeding the lake. The four Vermont Department of Conservation scientists were very clear in stating that as the native vegetation in the 100 foot strip of land bordering the lake is disturbed, more pollution will occur unless we change the way we manage our yards, roads and driveways. They provided useful recommendations to take in order to solve our problem. The slides used in their presentation are posted on the SLA web site. They presented welldocumented evidence that, in order to protect the lake, bare ground needs to be replanted quickly. The 50 to 100 foot strip of land along the lakeshore needs to be in the natural condition of four layers of plant material to filter runoff into the lake from rain and melting snow. The Lake Protection Bulletins and other DEC information listed on the SLA web site give much more information.

There are likely other sources of sediments flowing into the lake by way of the streams that enter the lake. The scientists recommended that we conduct two studies of those streams, in addition to continuing our lakeshore surveys. We have plans and a core group of volunteers in place to conduct those studies: a Seasonal Stream Survey in April at snowmelt and the LaRosa Partnership Program.

The LaRosa Program involves the collection of water samples and testing for pollutants at the mouths of six streams that enter the lake. We are also working to obtain Better Back Roads Grants from the State to improve roads around the lake, beginning with Wayeeses Road. In addition, we will be offering information to help educate us all as to how we can help keep Seymour in its beautiful condition. We have been assured that taking the recommended actions have been shown to reverse the trend towards greater pollution of a lake.

Because Vermont has no laws governing how its landowners manage shore land, it is up to each of us to decide whether we want to be part of the solution or part of the problem. We are <u>all</u> on a steep learning curve and will need to work together to protect our beloved and beautiful lake. If you are interested, the SLA web site has some helpful resources and links. More help is always needed. If you would like to help with road surveys, stream surveys or lakeshore surveys, please contact me or any Board member.

Peggy Barter

Water Quality Committee Chair

Morgan Town Officers

Town Clerk/Treas.	rammy Lee IVIC
Selectman -	Richard Miller
	Robert Guyer
	Brian Gray

School Board -

Asst. Town Clerk -

Tammy LaCourse Kelly Paul

Danielle Blake Paula Keenan North Country School Director-

Web Site

Director- Lenrick Gonyaw

Note: First Name is Committee Chair

Listers -

Jim Judd Diane Moore Deanna Keenan

Bruce Barter

Allan Wooley

Lyman McWain

Association Officers and Directors for 2007/2008

Officers

President	Ron Kolar	723-4400		
	rkolar@eagle-harbor.com			
Vice President	Lyman McWain	895-4438		
	Imcwain@aol.com			
Secretary	Peggy Bolduc	895-4665		
	boldux@comcast.net			
Treasurer	Janet Selby	895-2915		

Directors (Term ending)

hdselby@surfglobal.net

Brad Shattuck	10	Kalman Samuels	09
Tim Buzzell	10	Peter Poulin	08
Peggy Barter	10	Jim McWain	80
Ann Moore	09	Ted Jewett	08
Erik Lessing	09		

*Peggy Bolduc has been our loyal Secretary for several years. Due to other commitments, she would like to step down. If you have an interest in becoming our secretary, please contact one of the officers.

Committee Chairs

Audit		Jean McKenny
Boating/F	PWC	Erik Lessing, Brad Shattuck
Dam/Lak	e Level	Ron Kolar, Homer Selby
Developm	nent	Lyman McWain, Kal
		Samuels
Fishing		Homer Selby
		Ron Frascoia
Grants		Janet Selby, Peggy Barter
		Beth Torpey
Ice Out		Homer & Janet Selby
Loon Wat	ch	Kal Samuels
Maps		Nancy Gilmond
Members	hip	Jim McWain, Bruce Barter
		Ann Torpey, Anne Moore,
		Ted Jewett
Milfoil		Janet Selby, Bob Slater
		Peggy Barter
Newslette	er	Jim McWain, Alan Kolar
Swim Pro	gram	Carol Pombar
Water Qu	ality	Peggy Barter, Tom Emery

Thoughts from the President Elect

I have just finished my first year of involvement with the Seymour Lake Association and I want to tell you, all of us around this beautiful lake have a great debt of gratitude to a very few, wonderful, and caring volunteers (who really act like professionals) that have stepped up to try to improve our lake for everyone to use. I guess that many of us have served on groups before, so we kind of know what to expect, but this group is different in so many ways. First of all, they really get substantial things done and in a very professional manner. When I joined last year, they had recently completed the construction of a new dam. This was negotiated with the state (not without some difficulty) to build it to our specifications to make sure it worked for everyone in the case of unexpected rainfall. They had begun the process of understanding the current status of the "life stage" of the lake and the many natural and "unnatural" forces that could potentially change our lake to something less than it is today. They had been maintaining a respected monitoring system and inspecting boats for some time, but they knew it wasn't enough, and the risks were high as there were many different possible threats. As a result, they have created a wonderful respect for themselves within the state organizations and have asked and received the state's enthusiastic participation.

This small group of our neighbors have developed a wonderful relationship with the Town of Morgan. Together, they get things done with a real sense of pride in doing something that is really worth doing, which will benefit generations to come. So when I was asked to participate, it was easy to say yes. The last 10 months have been even more rewarding than I could have imagined, as I was infected by the enthusiasm of the few and given just enough knowledge to know that we can all continue to make this wonderful spot on the earth better for all with only a little dedication from a much larger partnership of our caring neighbors.

As I become the President of SLA in 2008, I am fortunate to be leading a group with great pride and momentum thanks to the recent prior Presidents Ron Kolar and Jim McWain, who fortunately for me continue in various capacities to participate in our direction. So my immediate job is somewhat easier than it might have been because this SLA team has a "full head of steam" for Seymour. We are going to need their steam and energy as all is not well in Seymour, and we have real indications by the state scientists that the activities around the lake are accelerating the aging of the lake and feeding the potential degradation

of our wonderfully clean and weed free waters. The job of the SLA will now begin to change. A few may volunteer to lead, but only **all of us** can begin to improve and stabilize the character of Seymour to remain as it has always been known and respected.

The job of the President will now become the head recruiter. Let me tell you why, Seymour has now fallen behind other similar lakes like Willoughby for clarity and phosphorous levels. The state estimates that our shore is now developed on 55% of the available frontage, and a direct correlation is being made between development and soil erosion, which is the principal method of transferring phosphorous into the lake. But on this point, we must be very clear; development is not the problem. The problem is the manner in which we manage the building of our properties and how we manage them after development that will make the difference.

The SLA will use our available funds and energies to help all property owners and users understand the science and best practices for utilizing lake front properties without damaging the lake. We will coordinate with the state to help improve our surveys and monitoring programs and report the findings back to all owners. In 2008 we will commence a shorefront management education program with state supported recommendations regarding native plantings and berms that help control erosion by diverting water into the ground rather than the lake.

So as head recruiter my plan and commitment is this:

- 1. I will ask for your financial support to increase our funds to expand our educational and communications work.
- 2. We will reach out to get more people with more great skills and enthusiasm to join the association and be involved with the leadership.
- 3. We will endeavor to create the desire (The Spirit of the Lake) to do the right thing by everyone that owns land and uses the lake.
- 4. And, we will try to accomplish all our goals while making our community a better place to be with neighbors that care about each other and our wonderful great lake.

Please be prepared to jump on this train and feel the experience I have enjoyed; it is truly wonderful.

Lyman McWain; Imcwain@aol.com;

Home 203 421-4516; Seymour Lake 802 895-4438

Volunteers Needed

- Help at the access area checking boats and trailers for milfoil is always welcome. Or, just stop and tell the guys working that you appreciate their efforts.
- Look at the notice for the VIP instruction on page 1. We need volunteers for the class, and we need volunteers to assist in searching the lake for milfoil or any aquatic nuisance growth. We have the kayak, you supply the power.
- We need help in distributing this newsletter to all property owners on the lake. We will be mailing this issue and passing it out at the annual meeting; however, not all property owners belong to the Association. We feel it is important to inform everyone on the lake of our problems. The membership committee is looking for people willing to visit their neighbors, tell them of the good things the Association is doing, encourage them to join leaving a newsletter. If we do not inform them, we should not expect their help.

FROM THE VERMONT AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Only You... Can Save Your Lake!

The actions of lake and pond shoreland owners are critical to healthy waters. The following is a brief list of how you can save your favorite lake and protect its ecology, health and your enjoyment into the future.

Please How		Way		
Go Wild!	 Leave trees and shrubs in a strip up to 100 feet wide along the shore. Replant native trees and shrubs between your camp and the water. Reduce lawn size adjacent to the lake. Don't use fertilizers or pesticides on lawns near the lake. Instead of repairing or installing a retaining wall, create a vegetated bank. 	filtering runoff. s • Natural vegetation: ◊ stabilizes the bank; ◊ enhances in-lake habitat; n ◊ looks nice from the lake; and ◊ provides shoreland bird and anima		
No Beach is a Good Beach	Don't add sand or other fill to the lake. (Natural beaches are, of course, fine but rare in Vermont!)	Adding sand suffocates the natural bottom habitat, plus can introduce polluting silt to the water. (A permit is required to add fill to a lake, call 802-241-3777 for information.)		
Keep Soil on the water; leave a wide buffer of natural vegetation between soil disturbance and the lake. Surround a work area with a filter screen; mulch, reseed, and replant as soon as possible; and complete work before Sept. 15 (so seed sprouts before winter).		 Eroded soil is the number one pollutant to Vermont lakes and ponds! Sediment carries the nutrient phosphorus to lakes, causing algae blooms and excessive weed growth, and mucky deposits. Turbidity threatens fish and other aquatic life. 		
Mind your Driveway Manners	Maintain your driveway so that runoff from it cannot reach the lake or pond. Install waterbars to direct flow into vegetated areas. Rock-line steep ditches. Crown it annually. Relocate it if necessary. Work with your town road commissioner on preventing erosion of town roads.	 Eroded soil is the number one pollutant to Vermont lakes and ponds! Sediment carries the nutrient phosphorus to lakes. Turbidity threatens fish and other aquatic life. Good driveway maintenance saves you money over the long-run. 		
Don't Go in the Lake	Learn about your septic system. Conserve water. Don't add garbage disposals, washing machines or dishwashers unless you're sure your system meets current standards. Replace systems that don't meet standards. Pump septic tanks every 3-5 years.	If any part of your septic system is closer than 50 feet to the lake, or less than 2 feet above the lake level, you could be polluting the lake. A poor or overloaded system can introduce disease-causing organisms into the lake, resulting in a human health threat and can introduce nutrients into the lake, causing algae blooms and excessive weed growth.		
Watch those Ducks Ducks		Resident duck and goose populations increase disease causing bacteria in the water, and can increase the incidence of swimmer's itch. Ducks or geese can even be a significant source of nutrients to lakes or ponds.		

Vermont Lake Protection Series #2

FROM THE VERMONT AGENCY OF NATURAL RESCOURCES

Please	How	WAY		
Make sure you aren't transporting organisms from one lake to another. Carefully wash and inspect your boat (and other gear) before moving it to another lake. Learn to identify Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut, and zebra and quagga mussels. Keep a watch out for them in your lake. Plant only native species along the lakeshore. Don't dump bait buckets or aquariums into the lake.		serious problem in Vermont lakes, causing significant recreational and ecological damage. Only careful vigilance by all lake users can prevent the spread of harmful exotic species. It is against the law to transport these four species from one surface water to another in		
Gas and Water Don't Mix	Replace 2-stroke boat engines with 4-stroke or direct-injection 2-stroke engines.	 2-stroke motors emit 20-30% of the fuel-oil mixture unburned into the lake. 4-strokes are quieter, use half the gas and have 90% fewer emissions. 		
Be Kind to Your Neighbors	Protect and support the local wildlife; stay away from loon and other nest areas; protect shoreland wetlands; and enhance your shoreline with native vegetation (see Go Wild above).	food, shelter and breeding areas for Vermo fish and wildlife cannot be overstated.		
Get the Lead Out	Switch from lead sinkers to those made from steel or other materials.	Lead sinkers lost in the lake are often mistakenly eaten by fish or water fowl. In 1998 to 1999, 53% of the loon deaths investigated in Vermont were caused by lead poisoning.		
Build Responsibly	Any work in the lake such as dock or wall building may require a Shoreline Encroachment permit. (Call 802-241-3777.)	Artificial structures alter the natural functions of a shoreline, by removing vegetation and altering the natural lake bottom. Also, improperly done work can cause excess turbidity in the water.		
Be safe!	Learn about Vermont's boating safety laws (call 802-244-8727 for a booklet).	Make lakes safe and enjoyable for everyone!		
Work Together	Join the local lake or pond association, or start one. Get involved in town policy and planning discussions; assist the planning commission with lake protection issues. Join the Federation of VT Lakes and Ponds, http://www.vtlakes.org/ .	Many lakes and ponds have associations dedicated to taking care of the lake. They are involved in projects such as water sampling, landowner education, boating safety and watershed management. Town Select Boards, planning and conservation commissions are good allies for lake protection.		

Not this



To obtain additional information on any of these topics, or to obtain the entire Lake Protection Series, please contact the Lakes and Ponds Section at (802) 241-3777 or visit www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes.htm.

Illustration courtesy of Maine Dept of Environmental Protection

This

What Your Association Does

Water Quality

Every year the lake is sampled weekly from June through August to document the condition of the lake; this has been done since 1979. Seymour has consistently shown low levels of phosphorus and chlorophyll. The water clarity index consistently measures eight meters deep; however, the total phosphorus level has been increasing and is being addressed by the Association's Water Quality Committee.

Eurasian Water Milfoil

The Association has been proactive and has requested and received state grants for the last six years. These grants, coupled with local volunteers and Town assistance, have allowed the manning of the boat access area with paid summer help. Our staff and volunteers check boats being launched, many of which have come from other lakes in Vermont that are already infected with the milfoil. Additionally, last summer, Janet Selby organized a team of trained Vermont Invasive Patrollers (VIP) and other volunteers to search the lakeshore twice each summer for milfoil and other invasive species.

Lake Level

The Seymour Lake Association is actively engaged with the Agency of Natural Resources to insure that the new dam maintains the lake at its current level. We appealed their certification of a dam without an operable gate which would allow regulation of the lake level during spring flood season. This resulted in a design which includes an operable gate and a two year test period to review test data and lake level.

Map

The Seymour Lake map, with properties specified and a cross referenced index of property owners, has been updated to include the 911 emergency designators. The maps are available at the Morgan Country Store or contact any of the Association officers.

Swim Program

Each year the Association sponsors the summer swim program held at the Morgan Sand Beach. This year we had about 70 students from Morgan and the surrounding towns. This is a Red Cross program with many volunteers from the local Seymour Lake community.

Fishing

Members of the Association participate in monitoring the Vermont Fish and Wildlife efforts to protect the lake trout population and enhance lake trout fishing over the long term. This is important, as it enables us to participate in the establishment of rules governing fishing at Seymour.

Education and Communication

We have established and maintain a web site to post education information on timely lake issues including information from the state and local Associations. We publish and distribute helpful information, as well as this newsletter, to help everyone enjoy and protect the lake. The Association stays in constant contact with the state's various agencies to gain more information, knowledge, and financial assistance for our programs. We will write and distribute our newsletter twice a year to keep everyone aware of timely happenings.

Vermont Boating Handbook

The Vermont Boating Handbook will be available at Seymour Lake this summer. In it there are many important things to help you better enjoy your boating experience on Seymour Lake. Most important are the safety guidelines and the rules of law you must obey. The Handbook will have the following statement:

This booklet is brought to you by the Vermont State Police and The Seymour Lake Association.

The Seymour Lake Association (SLA) is a non-profit organization of concerned lake property owners and users of the lake. Our purpose is to: maintain and protect the quality of Seymour Lake.

Among the many programs we have to improve the lake, we man the boating access area to prevent the importation of Eurasian water milfoil, an invasive plant which can quickly ruin a lake.

Please cooperate with our inspectors and help them do their job, and please consider joining SLA by visiting www.seymourlake.org and help us continue keeping Seymour a pristine lake.

The Buzzells on Seymour Lake

Gerald and Shirley Buzzell were among the first to build cottages along the north shore of the lake. Gerald was born in Magog, Quebec and grew up in Newport. Shirley (Hall) was born and grew up in Holland, Vt. Both attended Derby Academy where they met. After marriage they

settled in Newport. In 1923 they purchased land on a former sugar orchard encompassing land along the lake shore. A portion of this shore was sold to others and a part of this eventually became the Gilliam Lodge (now owned by Joan Gerke).

Gerald and Shirley built their main camp and a boathouse on the remaining frontage in 1924, with the help of Shirley's father, Roy Hall, a carpenter by trade. A succession of

summer guests, followed by the arrival of friends of guests', prompted them to build five more cottages in the following years.

This community of camps came to be known as the Hallden Cottages and catered to guests from all over the east. In 1952, an eighth structure was erected that their daughter, Sally, operated as the Sugar House Gift Shop where

campers from around the lake could purchase snacks, souvenirs, and antiques.

While growing up, Shirley's children Hall and Sally were encouraged to interact closely with the rental guests. She recognized this would infuse a sense of belonging on the

part of the guests and, at the same time, expose her children to a host of different cultures. Later on, Sally came to run the Seymour summer swimming classes. Hall's hydroplane racing boat was purported to be the fastest boat on the lake at the time.

From the mid-1940s through the mid 1980s, Gerald and Shirley's grandchildren spent much of the summer

months at the Cottages, enjoying the lake, and interacting with their grandparents and guests. In 1985, Hall's four oldest children (Gerald, Timothy (Tim), Nancy, and Kenneth) purchased the property from their aunt and father.

Today, over a dozen of Gerald and Shirley Buzzell's great-great grandchildren enjoy swimming, boating, and waterskiing in the cold lake every summer!

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Seymour Lake Association — Membership Application 2008

Mail To: Janet Selby, Seymour Lake Association, P.O. Box 43, Morgan, Vermont 05853

Type of Membership: Family (\$30) ____ Individual (\$10) ____ Amount Enclosed _____

Names (s) _____

Seymour Lake Address _____

Seymour Lake Map Number _____ Phone____

Mailing Address (if different than above)

Street _____

City ____ State __ Zip ___ Phone______

We need your help! Please consider an additional donation to support Milfoil Inspection and Education. Thanks.

Amount enclosed_____

Meet Allan Wooley, Web Site Committee Chairman

Allan is another of our great team members that has really stepped up to help the association. Allan lives up the hill from

the lake on Hatten Heights road, and he has lived in Morgan for ten years (three years as a full time resident). At our first SLA summer outing, Allan volunteered to work with us to setup a web site for the SLA. Historically, we had stayed away from a site due to the complications of managing the details and creating the proper image. With Allan in command,

we got it up in a few weeks and have been populating it with interesting information for almost two years.

Did you know you can send interesting pictures from the lake and Morgan area? This will help create a great album to remember the lake when you are not in Morgan. Use this feature to show friends where you hide out in Vermont. Old issues of the newsletter are posted, as are our plans, great

articles on property management, and water quality from the state. We also have links to the state and other association web sites to communicate additional information. Al is working on a message board so you can write the association and others about the lake, as well as a vendor listing to get

answers on who to call for services in our area. Check out our site and use it as a great reference. Next time you see Al just say thanks, or tell him what we need to do to make it better. Believe me, he can find the way if there is one.



Ice Out/Block Down Contest Winners

The 2008 Ice Out contest proceeds will again be used to support milfoil and water quality efforts. The method for determining the time of the "Ice Out" is that 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.

Last spring, the block went down at 11:18 A.M. on April 24, 2007. The closest entry was that of Jim McWain. Fred Jackson was second and the third place winner was Bud Holland. Fred and Jim donated their winnings to the milfoil project.

In 2008, the block went down at 12:45PM on April 21. There were 18 people who guessed April 21st. This year's winners will be announced at the annual meeting.

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.

This year the contest generated around \$1,000 which will be used to support milfoil and water quality monitoring program.