

Seymour Lake Association Newsletter Winter 2008

Notes from the President

Your Seymour Lake Association had a super year in 2007. This was the result of dedicated and hard-working officers, board members and committees. Here are some highlights from this year.

In the past we focused on water clarity and milfoil. With recent test reports from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, we found some of the water quality parameters, including phosphorus, are declining. In another column of this newsletter, you will read about activities and additional tests taken in the summer

of 2007 by the Water Ouality Committee and the State of Vermont. Peggy Barter is doing a great job as chair of this committee and has a number of hard working committee members and volunteers. We were particularly proud that 10 SLA members took the State of Vermont Invasive Patrollers Course in July 2007 and are now certified to patrol our lake for invasive species and send in reports to the state.

Peggy Barter, Bruce Barter and I attended the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds Annual Meeting in July. We learned the challenges we all face in keep-

ing our lakes as clean and pure as possible. Seymour is very lucky to be milfoil-free. We did learn at the meeting and in subsequent reports that there are chemicals and weevils (aquatic insects) that are being used in certain Vermont lakes to treat and control milfoil. Several encouraging reports have come on these treatment methods.

On July 28, we had a very well-attended SLA annual meeting, with lots of positive comments. On August 11, we had a most enjoyable SLA cookout and outing, along with a classic boat show. Due to the great success of the cookout / outing, it is being repeated on July 19, 2008.

During 2007, your officers did a lot of work preparing our 501(c)3 Charitable Organization Application with the Federal IRS. We received from the IRS letters designating

SLA as a 501(c)3 organization, and they furnished our employer ID number: 26-0455905. Monies donated to the SLA are now fully tax deductible. Your Board approved the use of Pat Hunt Inc., Newport, at a very nominal charge, to prepare our annual financial report and tax return.

At the August 11 cookout / outing, Vice President Lyman McWain and myself thanked the members for the increased membership and donations received. Lyman asked the group to consider making additional tax-free donations to the SLA. This would be used to in-

crease the monies that we would carry over to 2008 and act partly as a reserve fund to be used in an emergency, such as immediate control of milfoil, should the lake become infested. The donations are needed, since the state cut back dramatically their grants to all lakes for milfoil inspection. We also wanted additional funds for testing and education for water quality. We are happy to report that we will carry forward to 2008 about \$23,500, which is some three times our normal carry forward. Many thanks to all of you who gave for a great cause.

The Senior Morgan Selectman, which this year is Rev. Richard Miller, was appointed as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. Richard has been very helpful on a number of items, and we welcome him on the SLA Board.

As mentioned earlier and in the Water Quality

Article, we had several Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and Vermont Association of Natural Resources employees give us considerable help with the testing of our lake, analysis of problems we are facing, the lake level, and other areas. These state employees were technically very qualified and were most pleasant to work with. We passed this information on to Governor Jim Douglas, thru his staff, and thanked them for having such dedicated people assisting our lake association. Your SLA was invited to meet with Governor Douglas on September 21 at a

meeting in Island Pond. Peggy & Bruce Barter, Richard Miller and I attended this meeting. We thanked the Governor for the dedicated staff environmentalists that assisted us this summer. We also briefed him on the several challenges we have with regard to water quality and keeping milfoil out of our lake. We encouraged him to assist, in a greater manner, the lakes in Vermont that are milfoil-free, and who continue to spend considerable dollars for the very important inspection stations.

We invited the Governor to attend our SLA Cookout / Outing and Classic Boat Show on July 19, 2008. He is putting that date on his calendar, and he was very optimistic that he could be with us for that event.

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2008:

- Feb 15 SLA Meeting with Vermont DEC to receive Water Quality Reports and SLA Board Meeting
- July 19 SLA Cookout / Outing & Classic Boat Show
- July 26— SLA Annual Meeting

Thanks again to everyone for your wonderful support and your enthusiasm for our Association.

Have a great Winter and Spring. We will see you at our beautiful Lake Seymour in the summer of 2008.

Ron Kolar, President

rkolar@eagle-harbor com

Swim Program

Water Quality

Web Site

Committee Chairs (continued)

Carol Pombar

Peggy Barter Tom Emery

Lyman McWain Alan Wooley

Association Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs

Officers				Committee Chairs (continued)	
President-		Ron Kolar		Development/	Lyman McWain
Vice President-		Lyman McWain		Education	Kal Samuels
Secretary-		Peggy Bolduc		Fishing	Homer Selby
Treasurer-		Janet Selby			Ron Frascoia
Directors (Term ending)				Grants	Janet Selby
Brad Shattuck	(10)	Kalman Samuels	(09)		Beth Torpey
Bob Slater	(10)	Peter Poulin	(80)	Ice Out	Homer Selby
Peggy Barter	(10)	Jim McWain	(80)		Janet Selby
Ann Moore	(09)	Ted Jewett	(80)	Loon Watch	Kal Samuels
Erik Lessing	(09)	Richard Miller		Maps	Nancy Gilmond
Committee Chairs				Membership	Jim McWain
Audit		Jean McKenny			Ted Jewett
		•			Bruce Barter
Boating		Erik Lessing		Milfoil	Janet Selby
		Brad Shattuck			Bob Slater
Dam/Lake Level Ro		Ron Kolar			Peggy Barter
		Homer Selby		Newsletter	Jim McWain

----WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT---

Every Association member is requested to please renew membership in our Association. All Seymour Lake property owners are urged to join with us in working to protect this natural treasure that is so important to all of us.

Morgan Town Officers

Moderator-Charles Woods North Country School Director -Mary Roy Selectman-Richard Miller Robert Guyer Listers-Jim Judd Brian Gray Diane Moore School Directors-Robert Cargill Deanna Keenan Town Clerk-Kelly Paul Tammy Morin

Classic Boat Show and Association Outing

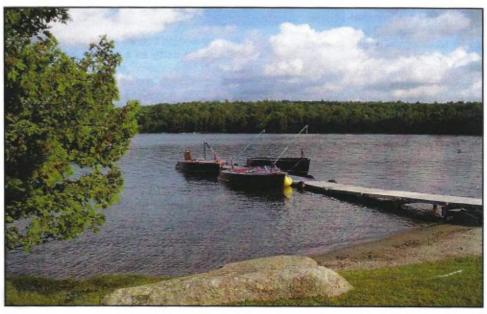
Danielle Blake

July 19, 2008 is the date for our Cookout and Outing as well as the Classic Boat Show. This will be held at Camp Winape, at the South End of Seymour.

We plan to have three fully restored Chris Craft Wooden Boats (1934, 1934 and 1950); which you may have seen at last year's outing. We hope to add this year a 1959 molded plywood outboard boat, an 80-year-old birch bark canoe, a ninety-year-old Adirondack Guide Boat and a newer model fiberglass Chris Craft.

If you have a classic boat, or a boat that would be of interest to the members and neighbors, and you would like to bring it to the SLA Boat Show, please let us know.

Erik Lessing - Boat Committee: eriklessing@comcast.net



Join the Association-Help Us Keep the Lake Great

If you are a property owner on the lake and do not belong to the Association, we need your support.

We have three major efforts: our continuing fight to keep milfoil out of Seymour Lake; the dam and its effect on the lake level; and an expanded water quality program.

Please fill out the membership application form in this issue and mail it in as soon as you can. Association creditability is based on the percentage of property owners that belong to the organization and is critical in any discussions with State Agencies.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Seymour Lake Association will be on Saturday the 26th of July in the Morgan Community building at 9:00 A.M.

Reports will be given by all the committee chairs. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Swim Program

Our swim program this summer will be in the middle of July, at the public beach on Seymour. There will be three sessions: 9:30-10:10 A.M., 10:15-10:55 A.M., and 11:00 - 11:45 A.M. all for children 4-13 years.

Last year we had 70 children from Morgan and surrounding towns each day for lessons offered by the Red Cross. The weather was good for the children, five instructors and lifeguard. Carol Pombar is the swim program director for the Association. She can be contacted at 895-4921 for more information.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Morgan Country Store. Rain or shine—bring a towel.

Ice Out/Block Down Contest Winners

The 2008 Ice Out contest proceeds will again be used to support milfoil and water quality efforts.

Many have commented that the ice was not out on the day the Association specified. Seymour is a large lake, and we had to establish a data point in order to conduct the contest.

The way the contest works is that a wooden pallet supporting a cinder block is placed on the ice in front of Homer Selby's 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.

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 in place and then retrieving them from the lake.

The contest generated over \$1,000, which will be used to support milfoil and water quality monitoring programs. The Association would like to thank Jim McWain and Fred Jackson for donating their winnings to the milfoil project.

Checks for this year's winners will be presented at the Annual Meeting on July 26, 2008.



This picture was discovered at the Vermont Sportsman. It is Dr. Henderson's (now McWain's) place on the ledge with the diving board (the pins in the rock to the left of the standing fisherman are the board anchors). I suspect the picture was taken in the late 1920's or early 1930's. The fishermen's names on the back of the picture are: Cashman (?), Goodfellow and Nye. Can anyone provide information on these gentlemen?

Some of your association members found some old pictures, and I thought they would be of interest to our readers. If you have old pictures that you would like to share, please e-mail them to Jim McWain at jtmcwain@earthlink.net.

Advertising

You will again see ads in this issue of our newsletter.

The Board of Directors has discussed this and decided to continue with ads. The decision was reaffirmed at the last annual meeting.

The newsletter is sent to the association members. Occasionally it is sent to all property owners around the lake as a means of informing them of the value of the association and to request that they join and assist us in our efforts to keep the lake and local environment in pristine condition.

Most of the advertisers are members of the association and supporters of its goals. This issue we have also included individuals who are supporters of the association.

Please note the ads, and when using these businesses, comment that you appreciate their support of our Seymour Lake Association.



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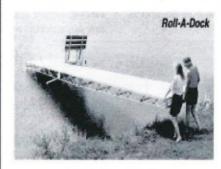
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The McWains' on Seymour Lake

The McWain family has been on Seymour Lake for nearly 80 years. Beginning in 1928 to 1960 our grandparents, Jesse and Inge McWain, had a camp on the southeast shore on what is now Seymour East (on the lake map # 322A). Jesse began working on the Grand Trunk Railroad as a conductor in the early years of the 20th century. He and Inga lived on Pherrin Street in Island Pond where they raised three sons, Zenas, Morris, and Lyman. They spent time on Seymour in the summers, but Jesse also enjoyed fishing on Norton and Averill Lakes.

In 1917 Dr. Lawrence Henderson, a Harvard University professor, bought a large tract of land on the northeast end of the lake on both sides of Route 111. On the east side of the road it included the Grezes' red farmhouse and what was the Goodsell farm south to the then Nelson Lay land. Along the shore it included properties now numbered from about #268 to #279, from Chaffee or Waters to Gildersleeves. In the 1920's Professor Henderson built a large congregating/dining camp on the big rock "Ledge", five sleeping camps, an ice house and a large three bay garage where Jim McWain's drive entrance is now. Water to the dining camp was from a spring on the Henderson property on the East side of Route 111, about a mile from the camps. We have heard that a local carpenter named Burroughs did the building, but Dr. Henderson designed the camps. To this woodland retreat Professor and Mrs. Henderson invited family, friends, colleagues, and students.

The property was equipped with sailboats, canoes, and the 22' western fir diving board mounted on an old wagon axle set into drilled holes in the rock. It is still in use.

Professor Henderson died in 1942, and the property remained unoccupied through World War II. In the late 1940's and early 1950's the Hendersons' son sold portions of the property in a number of parcels. Morris and Bertha McWain bought 11.5 acres on and around the ledge in 1949. The property was a 1920's vintage retreat. Conditions were very basic.

The sleeping camps originally had no electricity or running water. Access to the property was via a path from the meadow adjacent to the garage near the old town shed on Route 111. Within two years Morris and his father-in-law, Joe Haley, made major improvements. Electricity was put in each of the camps, and water was piped from the main camp to two other camps. The main/ledge camp was renovated to include a kitchen, bath-



room, hot water and bedrooms. Two of the sleeping camps received additions which included bedrooms, kitchen, and bathroom; however, these camps only had cold running water. An access road, to replace the footpath, was built by Joe Haley (he had been road commissioner in Norton) when he got tired of carting supplies down the path. A boathouse was added in the mid-1950's. Hot water to the other camps was put in gradually from 1963 to the 21st century!

Lyman and Agnes McWain rented one of the camps for nearly fifteen summers, so the two families' children, Jim, Nancy, Janet and Lyman, grew up on the lake and in the surrounding woods and fields.

We cousins spent our summers swimming, boating, fishing, water skiing all over the lake, camping and hiking at Wolfs Point, and picking wild berries. By 1963 we began bringing our children to Seymour to continue our lake traditions.

In 1965 Lyman and Agnes bought the center portion of the ledge property with 4 camps, the old ice house, and the boathouse. A few years later, in 1970, Bertha and Morris built a new camp just to the north, now owned by Jim and Bonnie McWain. Jim's daughter and son-in-law, Robin and Zac, live at this camp and operate the Morgan Store. Nancy McWain Gilmond and her daughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and Peter Morse, bought the next property to the north, formerly the Locklins' (#271), They are just finishing a new camp there. Lyman and Susan McWain and Dick and Janet Colby now own the ledge property and the vacant beach property to the south.

After almost 90 years the buildings are still standing tall, providing a great summer place for our children and grandchildren. Jesse and Inge McWain now have eleven great-grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren, giving us all compelling reasons to protect the beautiful Seymour Lake experience for the future.

Janet Colby, Jim and Lyman McWain

Dam/Lake Level

Your committee and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources continue to feel that the new dam, installed in 2004, is handling the spring runoff very well and is performing very well in the summer months.

As reported in the Spring 2007 Newsletter, Seymour's lake level in 2005 and 2006 was lower than our requested level and in August was lower than the historical lake average of 6.36 inches above the low pin.

After the dam was completed in 2004, Great Bay Hydro (the owner of the dam) and Vermont ANR performed electronic data collection of lake level data and posted that information. We had several review meetings with Vermont

ANR and Great Bay. Based on the meetings, we were given permission to install boards to increase the height of the spillway by 1 ½ inches. This was done by your committee on July 5, 2007. We are still in the trial period to set the permanent elevation of the dam spillway.

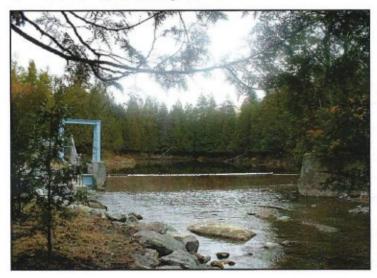
This summer we had continual rains the first 3 weeks of July. With saturated ground, there was higher-than-normal runoff into the lake. The lake level remained below the high pin. On September 6, 2007 the level was 7" above the low pin, which was at the midpoint of our desired

range of 6" to 8" above the low pin.

We have been advised that the dam will continue to be subject to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission License. Great Bay Hydro remains the owner of the dam.

We want to thank Vermont ANR and Great Bay Hydro for their continued cooperation and guidance.

Ron Kolar, Chair





These are pictures of the new dam with normal flow of water. (Last issue there was a picture of the Seymour Lake dam in spring of 2006 with the water on the down stream side of the dam almost level with the lake side.)

The left picture (from downstream) shows water flowing over the dam and falling about 3 feet into the outlet stream to Echo Lake. On the left side of the dam is the gate that the Association strongly urged be installed to accommodate high water emergencies.

The right picture (from the lake side of the dam) shows how the dam is anchored to the rocks on either side of the dam and the gate structure on the right side.



Shawn L. Austin President

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2007 Water Quality Report

Over the years, we have all enjoyed the high water quality of Seymour Lake. Now it seems that we have some challenges facing us. Vermont State test data of 2006 continued to show declining water clarity, increased phosphorus and no change in chlorophyll levels. The data from the summer of 2007 will be available for us to add to our analysis next May. At present, we do not have enough information to be certain what is causing the increased phosphorus. Members of the Seymour Lake Association Board will be meeting with Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Lake Assessment Specialists in February to learn more about the phosphorus issue and what actions they recommend. We do know that three major sources of phosphorus in Vermont lakes are:

- 1. Eroded soil from disturbance of the land within 100' of the shore
- 2. Use of fertilizers and manures within 100' of the shoreline

3. Ineffective septic systems

During the past summer, we undertook a number of activities to help us better understand the water quality situation in our lake. On August 20, 2007 ten Seymour Lake Association members and two DEC scientists toured the lake for four hours studying sediment deposits at inlets, aquatic plants and shoreline development. On September 11, 2007 at the request of the Wayesses Drive Association, six SLA members and two DEC scientists conducted a road and driveway study to learn more about maintaining lake-friendly roadways. We also provided the Morgan Road Commissioner with a copy of the State manual "Better Back Roads", which describes best practices for lake and riverfriendly management of town roads.

Our long-range action plan includes:

- Meeting in February with the Lake Assessment specialists.
- 2. An aquatic plant survey by a DEC

biologist next summer.

- A complete analysis of all lake data by DEC Lake Assessment Specialists.
- Using all available information to determine further testing/actions needed to protect the lake.
- Conducting web and non-web educational outreach to Seymour Lake Watershed residents.

We invite you all to join us in learning about these water quality issues and what lake-friendly actions we can take to slow down the sediment and phosphorus buildup in the lake. Specific helpful information can be found at the DEC website www.vtwaterquality.org. Click on Lakes & Ponds, then Lake & Watershed Protection to find helpful bulletins on topics ranging from shoreline plantings to septic systems.

Peggy Barter - Chair, Water Quality Committee:

pb.nh@verizon.net

Morgan Town Taxes

The tax bills that were mailed by the Morgan Town Clerk were a surprise to many property owners this fall. Letters have been sent to the editor concerning the rise in property taxes over the past decade.

This spring your editor, Jim McWain, attended the Town Meeting and would like to provide a few thoughts in answer to the questions of "What does the town do with all the tax money from lake property"?

Each tax dollar sent to the Town is used as follows:

Morgan General Fund	\$0.052
Morgan Highways	\$0.060
Morgan Cemeteries	\$0.002
Morgan Appropriations	<u>\$0.006</u>
Total	\$0.120
Vermont Education	\$0.880

As you can see, the town has little control of our tax dollar. Morgan is considered a "Gold" town by the State because of the Seymour Lake tax base. Consequently, your tax dollars are used to subsidize less fortunate towns all over the State. Your Association will attempt to bring our concerns to the attention of our local representatives, senators and State officials.

New in 2007 The official SLA Web site

We were happy to be able to initiate our own website this year with the help and dedication of Allan Wooley. The site contains five tabs highlighting The Home Page, Member News, Communications, Education and our Fund Raising activities. The site was designed to provide you with a tool to keep timely and pertinent Seymour Lake & Morgan Information at your finger tips. It will be yours to use when you feel interesting and relative information should be available to the group more often than the Newsletter. If you have something that you want the group to know, contact Allan at awooley@exeter.edu, and he will post approved information to the appropriate page.

Surfing our site and the Tab buttons:

Home Page: Contains a slide show of your own pictures showcasing the seasons of the lake.

Member News: Contains updates to plans and activities, including an online membership form.

Communication: Links to the Morgan site, and past issues of the newsletter.

Education: Interesting articles and timely bulletins on water quality, links to additional resources in VT and other New England States.

Fund Raising: Will keep you informed on our collection progress and our targeted use of the funds to support our goals.

It is very much a work in progress but already contains interesting and useful information for your benefit. To keep it moving forward we are working on a blog site that will allow us to communicate frequently about all issues in support of Seymour. Hope you enjoy it. **Get on** and **get involved**; we want to hear what you think.

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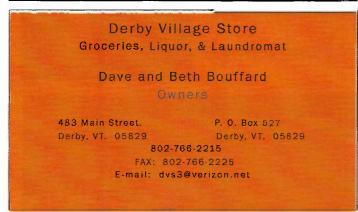
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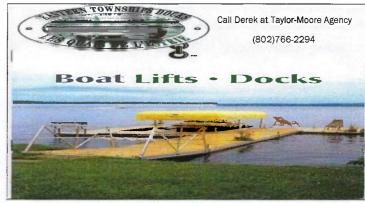
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Come in and say hello!

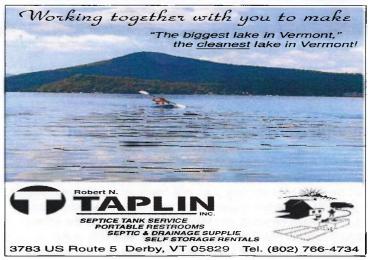
Robin and Zac

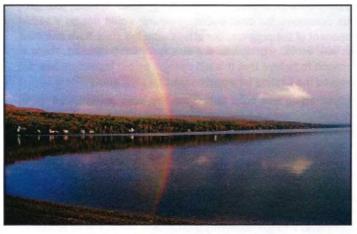
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Boating

Boating is a key part of our enjoyment of Seymour, and the committee wishes to make you aware of some important information to make it more so.

At the right is the cover of the Vermont Boating Handbook. It is loaded with good things you should be aware of. If you don't already have a copy, you can get one at DMV offices, marinas or boat businesses. You can also download a copy from the state police web site: www.vtsp.org/boat.

Here are just a few of the many important rules:

- 1. Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) are critical to your safety. PFDs are required for each person on all boats and must be worn by those less than 12 years of age.
- 2. All persons born after January 1, 1974 must have successfully completed an approved boating safety course. You can do this over the internet at www.boat-ed.com/vt
- 3. You must be 16 years old to operate a jet ski, must wear a PFD, and operate it only during daytime.
- 4. Remember to watch for the Loons.

Erik Lessing-Chair, Boating Committee





Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Program

The 2007 Aquatic Nuisance Prevention Program (milfoil) was once again extremely successful. We are happy to report that for another year, Seymour Lake appears to be milfoil-free. We owe a great deal of gratitude to our two diligent milfoil boat access inspectors, Bud Bergh and Reed Hubbard, who spent countless hours at the access insuring that no vessel or trailer entered the lake with milfoil contamination. Approximately 1,339 boats were checked, and of those, 36 contained milfoil fragments and one contained zebra mussel. This is fairly consistent with last year's totals for boats checked and only slightly higher for aquatic nuisance incidents. Bud and Reed also attended a day-long training session in Montpelier to learn more about milfoil and other programs in the state.

We also owe our sincere thanks to a new group of volunteer milfoil inspectors. Our Seymour Lake Association sponsored a Vermont Invasive Species Patrol (VIP) training session at the Morgan Community House in July. Ten members from Seymour (Peggy Barter, Janet Selby, Ted Jewett, Dave and Bonnie Potter, Ray and Peggy Bolduc, Richard and Rosemary Miller, and Carol Christy) attended the daylong training, as well as sixteen others from surrounding lakes and ponds. Seymour was then divided into sections, and these volunteers, as well as a few others, spent several hours looking for milfoil during August and September. We plan to continue this program next year and would like to have more volunteers to help out. Even if

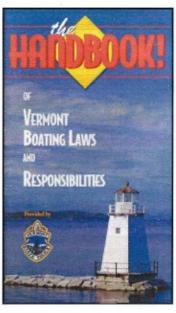
you have not been trained, you can contact Janet Selby (895-2951), and she can help you get started. It's a very enjoyable way to get to know the lake and only takes a few hours of your time. The Association owns a kayak which can be borrowed for the purpose of milfoil searching, if you do not own a canoe or kayak or small motorized boat.

We would also like to thank all of the members of the Association who contributed money toward our milfoil project. Without your generous donations, the boat access checking would not be a viable component of the program. Our grants from the state have dwindled each year as more programs like ours have been initiated. There is no reason to believe that this will change, as our legislature has not increased the funding for aquatic nuisance programs in years.

Our fundraising was quite successful this year, as well as a lot of work and fun, and we hope that you will consider a contribution next year and support our Ice Out Raffle, which is one of our fundraisers for milfoil prevention. Your SLA Officers, Board Members, milfoil checkers, volunteers and contributors have worked very hard to make 2007 an extremely successful year.

Any year that we can report "NO MILFOIL" has to be considered a grand success.

Janet Selby - Chair, Milfoil Committee



ICE OUT/BLOCK DOWN CONTEST SEYMOUR LAKE 2008

Guess	Date	Ti	me (Circle One			
#1				A.M. P.M.			
#2				A.M. P.M.			
#3			<i>F</i>	A.M. P.M.			
#4			<i>F</i>	A.M. P.M.			
#5			<i>F</i>	A.M. P.M.			
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Addre	ess		Citv	i			
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Clip and send tick	et and check paya	able to SLA to:					
		Box 43, Morgan Vern	nont, 05853 by Marc	ch 20			
·							
;	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						
Seymo	our Lake Map Num	oer	Phone				
Mailing Addre	ss (if different than	above)					
Street			<u> </u>				
City		StateZip	Phone				
We need your help— Please consider an additional donation to support Milfoil Inspection and Education							
Amount enclos	sed						
Thanks.							
Clip and send with check payable to SLA							
	www.seymourlake.org						

History

According to the book "History of Morgan, Vermont" at the Town Clerk's Office, The Seymour Lake Association was founded in 1945. Our heritage goes way back. We are proud of our history and our service to the residents and members.



From Left to right- Ron Kolar, Byron Fish, Peter Poulin and Grant Spates

Seymour Lake Outing

Last summer the Seymour Lake Association had a delightful summer outing at Camp Winape. We are grateful to the Kolars and Poulins who spent a great deal of time and effort with the venue, food, invitations and program. All who attended had a great time, and we have had many requests for an encore next summer. The date is already set for July 19th, and invitations will be forthcoming to remind you of the date. Our outing committee is in the able hands of Ted Jewett. We have had some outstanding recommendations for programs and are evaluating all ideas. We think that the ingredients for a good time last summer were good food, great location and outstanding people. We plan on replicating these again next summer.

We hope you will be able to join us!