Seymour Lake Histories — Kit Walker and Rob Hofmann
by Tracey Shadday

Kit Walker and Rob Hofmann purchased their Seymour Lake cabin in 1998 after Rob researched many Vermont lakes. His goal was to live on a lake with pristine water quality. Childhood memories of summers at lakes—Kit in Maine and Rob in southern Vermont—compelled the couple to provide the same for their children, William, age 21 and Anna, age 18. They reside in Waterbury Center, VT, where Rob works at Union Bank, and Kit is a high school mathematics teacher. Their Vermont summers include games in the yard and activities at the waterfront. Television and internet are not available in order to enhance their time together on Seymour Lake.

Their home is located at the northern end of Camp Winape Road on a path that makes a U-turn before it dead-ends at their driveway. The original camp was built in 1995. Since then the couple have added a well, flooring and a wood stove, as well as a thriving blueberry garden upland from the lake. Since the lakeside is steep, they planted a buffer of Vermont native plants to allow run-off to percolate before dumping its load of sediment into the lake. Keeping the water quality pristine continues to be a priority and motivates Kit to take advantage of local experts and workshops sponsored by Seymour Lake Association. Recently she asked Dayna Cole, district manager of the Orleans County Natural Resource Conservation District, to survey her property and point out areas that can be improved.

As we walked, Dayna pointed out the good, the bad, and the ugly. The ugly include roadside ditches, wash-outs, and a downspout directing roof runoff toward the basement. The good includes a buffer of native plants Kit began developing after attending shoreland management workshops and her efforts to eradicate invasive plants. See article below: □

The property in 1998.

The property in summer of 2012. Note the new stone steps constructed by Marc Lacroix and the flowers as part of their effort to increase shoreland buffering.