

Newsletter

November 2015



President's Message

by Chuck Nichols

After a rainy start this summer, a sunny finish, and beautiful fall with an extended foliage season, we are now seeing the first signs of winter. We have seen some snow in October and some cold mornings recently. Most docks and boats are out, although some diehards are still out fishing, and there are many fewer lights around the lake shore at night. What a beautiful place where we live and/or vacation.

Unfortunately, I must report to you that your SLA Board has decided to withdraw our appeal to the Vermont Supreme Court regarding the management of the Seymour Lake dam. At the lower court level SLA lost on jurisdictional issues, not on the merits of our case which were not even considered. See article herein and SLA website [http://seymourlake.org/dam-](http://seymourlake.org/dam-lawsuit/)

[lawsuit/](http://seymourlake.org/dam-lawsuit/) for more details.

Our beautiful lake and its bucolic surroundings might also be impacted by a proposed industrial solar development and an underlying threat of an industrial wind development. Subsequent to an informational hearing called in September by The Town of Morgan (an automatic intervener), the Town has filed papers against this development before the Vermont Public Service Board, which rules on all utility developments. At this meeting, there was a vote taken and there was a 90% to 10% vote in opposition to the solar development.

The Town is also being vigilant about the possibility of a wind development. Most of you have seen the Email blast that was sent out about these issues. You can also see the Applicant's application and the Town's Comments on

the SLA website at <http://seymourlake.org/whats-new/>.

There will be an ice out contest again this year. Look for correspondence this winter telling you how to get tickets Test your weather predicting ability!

Mark your calendars for the SLA annual meeting to be held July 23, 2016 at 9 AM—we need everyone's participation. Also, mark your calendars for the SLA annual outing, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 6th at Camp Winape It is great fun and a chance to make new friends. Our Association succeeds when members participate, guide and work to accomplish the goals we all have for Seymour Lake. I continue to be amazed at the talented and fun folks around the lake. □

Solar News

by Larry Labor, Morgan Selectman

A 500kW solar development has been proposed by Seymour Lake Solar, LLC to be built 2112 feet upstream from Seymour Lake. It is proposed to be situated adjacent and east of Valley Road on a 56.7 acre property owned by Mr. David Blittersdorf who also owns other properties in the Town of Morgan. One hundred AllEarth Solar Trackers standing 18 feet tall and being 417 square feet each, would occupy about 7 acres of that property.

Residents of the Town voted overwhelmingly against this industrial solar project at a Town informational meeting on September 21, 2015. The vote was 62 to 7. Therefore, the Morgan Select Board is opposed to this project and has developed a response and comment to the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB), regarding the developer's Certificate of Public Good (CPG) application submitted to install these industrial

solar panels. SLA assisted the Town to inform its members of the proposed project through its email distribution list.

The Town's' planning commission has already developed a very comprehensive plan which supports **RESIDENTIAL** solar and wind installations for the residents' own benefit. It does not support **COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL** solar or wind installations which are not in keeping with the reasons we all enjoy our pristine lake and beautiful ridgelines.

Our response to the PSB consists of a 29 page document and is available on the website, seymourlake.org under News.

This document was constructed by a group of individuals who gave a very generous amount of their time researching the negative impact of this

project of the site's location, water quality, wetlands, fishing, wildlife, visual and aesthetic concerns. I would call this group 'Team Morgan' . Members consisted of Charles "Woody" Woods, William Kilpatrick, Bruce and Peggy Barter, Candy Moot, Chuck Nichols, Erik Lessing, and me.

Where do we stand? At the time of publication, we are awaiting a response from the PSB. I anticipate this to be a long and perhaps expensive battle to preserve our Town of Morgan and the many valuable things we treasure.

The Town will set up a separate account to accept donations for the costs incurred for legal advice and "expert witness" fees, if necessary. These funds will be administered by the Town for the purpose of defending our collective property values and quality of living in Morgan. □



seymourlake.org

This Newsletter is a semiannual publication of the Seymour Lake Association, a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of Seymour Lake for the benefit of lake users, property owners, and residents of Morgan, Vermont.



Seymour Lake Association

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Officers November 1, 2015

President:	Chuck Nichols	craynichols@me.com	723-4976	cell 802-917-4282
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Secretary:	Linda Buzzell	t-lbuzzell@comcast.net	895-4175	home 603-448-3245

Directors (Term Ends)

Tim Buzzell '16	Bruce Barter '17	Alan Franklin '18
Peggy Barter '16	Ted Jewett '17	Erik Lessing '18
Dave Anderson '16	Charles Woods '17	Frank Antonelli '18

Tom Bonneville—Town of Morgan Board Liaison

Committee Members

- Activities.....Frank Antonelli
 - AuditDoug Gimler
 - Boating.....Tim Buzzell
 - Dam/Lake Level.....Tim Buzzell, Ron Kolar, Dave Anderson, Chuck Nichols, Erik Lessing
 - Development/Education. Lyman McWain, Tracey Shadday, Peggy Barter
 - FishingRon Frascoia
 - GrantsBeth Torpey, Peggy Barter, Linda Broadwater
 - LoonsCharles "Woody" Woods, Eric Hanson, Bonnie & Dave Potter, Ruby Jenness
 - MapsRon Kolar
 - MembershipBob Kern, Bruce Barter, Tim Buzzell, Gerry Cahill, Susan Davis, Ilene Douglas, Erik Lessing, Ann Torpey
 - MilfoilBeth Torpey, Peggy Barter
 - NewsletterErik Lessing, Bruce Barter, Maggie Griffith
 - NominatingDave Anderson, Tim Buzzell, Ted Jewett
 - Water Quality.....Peggy Barter, Frank Antonelli, Linda Broadwater, Tom Emery, Bill Kilpatrick, Dan Barry, Gerry Cahill, Beth Torpey, Ron Kolar, Anthony Lazzara, Erik Lessing, Tracey Shadday, Rhonda Shippee, Linda Broadwater, Charles Woods
 - WebsiteKaren Abada, Candy Moot, Chuck Nichols, Bruce Barter, Allan Wooley, Erik Lessing
- Note: Name underlined is Committee Chair. Others are Committee Members.

Greeters at the Boat Launch: Reed Hubbard, Lisa Foster, Penelope Newcomb, Dan Griffith, Beth Torpey

Town of Morgan <http://www.town.morgan-vt.org/>

Selectmen—Larry Labor
Robert Guyer
Tom Bonneville

Town Clerk/Treasurer—TammyLee Morin

Asst. Town Clerk—Amanda Wright

North Country School Director—Kristin Mason

Listers—Diane Moore
Jim Judd
Joseph Maigeri

Recognition

The newsletter is paid in part with support from VT Department of Environmental Conservation funds. □

Award by the SLA Board of Directors

Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Conservation has made the prestigious "Robert Arnold Lake Protection Award" to Bruce and Peggy Barter. The text says it all, but note that it is in the name of Bob Arnold, a Seymour Lake Lay Monitor, gate keeper and lover of our lake for many years. □



The Robert Arnold Lake Protection Award

is presented to

Bruce and Peggy Barter

in recognition of their many years of devotion to the health and welfare of Vermont lakes. Peggy and Bruce have worked tirelessly on all aspects of the wellbeing of Seymour Lake. They have advocated for and demonstrated lake friendly practices while appreciating the recreational, aesthetic, and natural values of living on Seymour Lake. The Barters have also been long-standing, active members, including Board Members, of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds. Seymour Lake and the people who love and enjoy this beautiful lake have all benefited from their diligence and resourcefulness. Peggy and Bruce are also known and appreciated for their friendly and honest manners.

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is pleased to honor the Barters and express sincere appreciation for their many outstanding contributions to the protection of Seymour Lake as well as all Vermont lakes.

Deb Markowitz
Deb Markowitz, Secretary
VT Agency of Natural Resources

May 30, 2015

David Mearns
David Mearns, Commissioner
VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation

The Bluebead Lily by Amy Picotte, VT DEC

If you've ever seen the bluebead lily, *Clintonia borealis*, on your lakeshore property, you have a cool, shady, coniferous or mixed deciduous woodland. This boreal forest wildflower is named for its brilliant deep blue fruit, which is uniquely showy and attractive against shiny green leaves.

Although delicious looking, the beads are poisonous to humans but eaten by chipmunks and birds. Native Americans once used the leaves as an antiseptic poultice applied to wounds, infections, and burns. This herbaceous perennial spreads through underground stems, called rhizomes, and by its seeds. It grows slowly, forming colonies that glitter and coat the forest floor. If you are lucky enough to have this plant along your lakeshore, treasure it because its sheer beauty will always brighten your day. □



May and June's brilliant yellow flowers



August and September's blue bead fruit

Membership Report

by Bob Kern and Bruce Barter

Membership in the Seymour Lake Association is for each calendar year. In the past, we have mailed membership renewal letters in the Spring of the membership year. Starting with the 2016 membership year we will be mailing renewal notices in the Fall of the prior year. Therefore, membership renewal notices for 2016 will be mailed in November, 2015.

Join the more than 350 members* of the Seymour Lake Association and enjoy the following benefits:

- Receive email messages of important issues in the Town of Morgan, e.g. the proposed industrial solar project on Valley Road.
- Participate in the direction of the Association and the future of Seymour Lake.
- Receive email messages of important Seymour Lake Association events, e.g. the boat parade, Annual Meeting and Annual Outing.

- Inexpensive and easy way to stay currently abreast of issues impacting Seymour Lake users, landowners of Morgan and lake shore property owners.
- Receive an invitation to the Annual Outing.
- Interface with and learn current thinking on water quality issues from State and Regional water quality experts.
- Meet, socialize and have fun with many wonderful people all with the same common interests.

Visit the Seymour Lake Association website (<http://seymourlake.org/join-us/>) for a membership form.

*as of 10/11/2015

246	Family
83	Individual
21	Couples
350	Total

Lake Level Update on SLA's Legal Action Regarding the Dam

by Candy Moot and Tim Buzzell

As you are aware, there is an existing state statute specific to Seymour Lake, explicitly requiring that our lake level be maintained between a high and low pin found near the outlet at the southern end of the lake. Over a year ago, SLA sued the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) for violating this and other laws. Unfortunately, SLA was essentially denied our day in Court because of a jurisdictional issue; and for legal and technical reasons, the SLA Board recently decided not to appeal this decision to the State Supreme Court.

Although the Dam Committee and the SLA Board, through and with our attorney, David F. Kelley, Esq., worked arduously and argued that ANR was violating both state and federal law with

their refusal to maintain lake levels as required, SLA was denied our opportunity to have a hearing on the merits of this case.

Superior Court Judge Tim Tomasi ruled that two letters from ANR, one from 2009 and one from 2013, were "decisions" from ANR, and consequently, SLA was required to have filed an appeal within 30 days of the date of these letters. We strongly contend that no reasonable person would ever have recognized that either of these letters were "decisions," particularly when they contain sentences like, "...the peak lake levels are now higher than they were historically..." and "Please contact me if you would like to discuss these issues in more detail."

The SLA leadership continues to believe this is an important environmental issue affecting our shoreline property and water quality. Two of the three lawyers with whom we consulted believe that because ANR's 2009 and 2013 "decisions" did not entail the essential elements of adjudication, SLA would be allowed to make a future request for review of the lake conditions, accompanied by new evidence.

The Board and Dam Committee will keep you posted on any further developments, if any. Please remember that money was raised specifically for this issue, and no membership dues monies were used. □

SLA Website Update

by Karen Abada

www.seymourlake.org is the place to go to for information you need about our lake, town and surroundings.

Go there for simple instructions to put an icon on your smartphone or computer to quickly get to the website.

Go to News, What's New and read the details of the solar application and the response by the Town of Morgan.

Get the details of the SLA lawsuit

against the State of Vermont also under News, What's New, Dam Lawsuit.

Get the Lake Map and lookups by Owner or Address. You can also purchase this same map suitable for mounting in your Seymour home, but it is cheaper on the website.

Improving your property? There are many helpful links to valuable information to assist you.

One of the many valuable attributes of the website is that SLA can put a voluminous amount of valuable information on the website which is impossible in this small newsletter, and it is all up to date. So don't be shy, just click on your icon and get right to interesting and valuable information instantly. □

Boat Parade

by Tim Buzzell

This year's annual boat parade was, as usual, a huge and popular success. Because the 4th of July came on a Saturday this year, the same day as the parade, the patriotic theme was made even more meaningful than in past years. Between 30 and 35 boats participated this year. The weather cooperated and unlike last



Cindy Kern. Also thanks to Colin Kwasnik for initiating the parade several years ago. This year there was a drone overflying the parade taking videos.



activities by frequently breaking off from the parade in his antique wooden Chris-Craft and motoring it close to the docks where people were watching. This added a nice interplay between the many spectators and the parade participants and yielded pictures of the many cheering folks. □

year, there was minimal wind, and the parade was able to circumnavigate the entire lake. Many thanks to this year's co-chairpersons, Bonnie McWain and

The drone was piloted by Tom Peterson, and the video can be viewed on the SLA website. This year Erik Lessing added interest to the fes-

Seymour Lake Association Finances

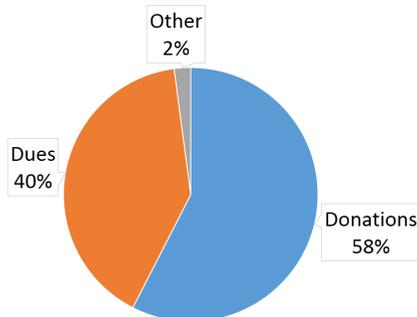
by Jean McKenny, SLA Treasurer

As any other organization, Seymour Lake Association keeps books on our finances, and these books are open for inspection by all members. Most members, however trust us enough and don't request this information, but to be proactive, we have decided to make this a standard explanation in both the newsletter and the website, seymourlake.org. Typically, this will occur in the May Newsletter, but since the 2015 fiscal year is not yet completed, we are including the finalized data from 2014.

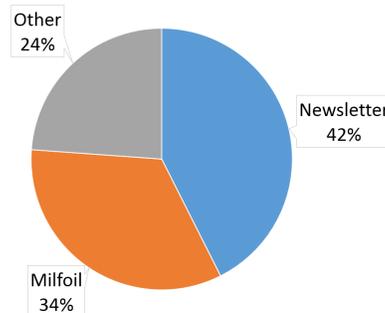
Please see the nearby charts for 2014 income and expenses. These pie charts show the major categories of the breakdown. It may seem unusual that in expenditures, milfoil is such a small amount. Be aware that this is only the SLA portion of the total, c.f. article below. The legal expenses for the Lake Level lawsuit are not included as that has been financed by a separate fund by willing donors.

You will note that income exceeds expenses by \$8,226 as it similarly has in previous years, ever since the "Milfoil Emergency Fund" was established by the board in 2008. As many of you know, were there to be an outbreak of

Income \$22,061



Expenditures \$13,835



milfoil in Seymour, it would be crucial to have funds on hand to respond immediately to the threat by hiring divers to physically remove this invasive species. Without these funds on hand, SLA would be forced to raise money from the state or donors, and this could take time, and SLA would be late in addressing the problem.

The fund was initiated by then presidents, Ron Kolar and Lyman McWain to build up funds to finance

the effort to quickly eliminate milfoil from Seymour.

Through the generous donations of our members, this fund has grown considerably since 2008 and we are now in a position to combat an outbreak. See the income pie chart to understand what a large portion of our yearly income donations are. Our sincere thanks to all who contribute through dues and donations to this most worthwhile fund. □

Milfoil/Greeters Update

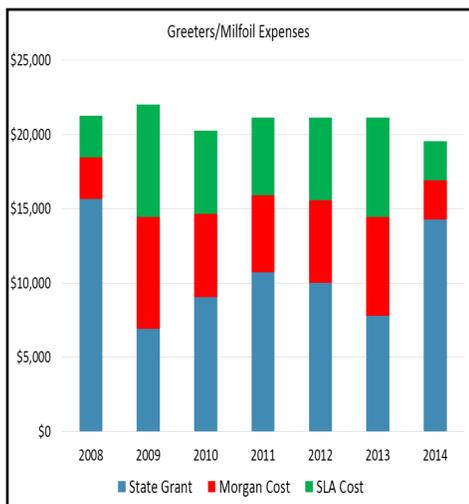
by Beth Torpey

Our access greeters continued to check vessels as they entered our lake at the State Fishing Access from Memorial Day through October for a total of **2,000** man hours. This year they have reported that **2,665** vessels and trailers were inspected and **6** had some form of milfoil on them.

I thought many of you would be interested in the finances of the Greeter/Milfoil Program as it is a major expenditure of the Association as mentioned above in Jean McKenny's article on the Association's finances. As Jean mentions, the milfoil expense reported for 2014 is only \$4,646, but that is only part of the story of this most important endeavor.

Each year the State of Vermont makes a grant to Seymour Lake's Program.

It varies by year but has averaged about \$10,000. The average cost of the total program is about \$21,000. The difference is made up equally by The Town of Morgan and SLA. Please see the bar chart nearby for the details of the recent program costs. □



Milfoil Searchers Report

by Janet Selby

Another good year from the Seymour Lake aquatic nuisance (milfoil) searchers can be reported for 2015. No evidence of milfoil or other invasive species was found along the shorelines of our lake. The entire lake was divided into 12 different sections that were searched by approximately 20 dedicated volunteers. These friends of Seymour spent 79.5 official hours searching and many more informally as they were just out enjoying the lake in their kayaks or snorkeling.

Most sections of the lake were covered at least twice during the summer and fall seasons. The majority of our searchers reported that there were no changes in their assigned areas in the amount of vegetation found, while several did find either an increase in the amount of plant growth or a newly covered area with an unknown specimen. With the help of Ann Bove from the Agency of Natural Resources, we were able to identify them as common and non-invasive plants or algae. Due to an extremely wet spring and early summer, it is not unusual to find some increase due to runoff from lawns and impervious surfaces.

We urge anyone who kayaks or spends time in the shallows of the lake to look carefully for new vegetation or suspicious growth and report it to Janet Selby (802-895-2951). If you would like to join our team and help keep Seymour free from invasive species, we can always use more searchers. Training can take only an hour or so locally or there are more in depth training workshops held by the state each spring. □

Seymour Histories— The Morgan Country Store

by Jim McWain

The Morgan Store originated as a means of providing supplies for the early settlers of the region. Settlers moved to Morgan from the Connecticut area in the early 1800's. The first settler was Nathan Wilcox who moved with his family in 1802 and were the only people in the Morgan area for three years until the second settler, Christopher Bartlett arrived in 1805.

Roads were trails that had been established by native Indian tribes moving from the Connecticut River vicinity of Guildhall, VT to Canada. As more families arrived, there was a need for providing

items beyond those that could be grown during the normal growing season for vegetables, domestic animals and wild game.

Christopher Bartlett became the first operator of what was loosely called a store that provided everything needed for the growing community. By the late 1800's a physical building was built by John Bartlett and owned by B.F. Moore. This store provided dry goods, clothing, school supplies, books, groceries, patent medicines, and other needed supplies. B.F. Moore operated a small clothing factory on the second floor of the building where three women sewing on treadle machines produced overalls. Mr. Moore later moved the overall business to Newport where it eventually developed into a large line of clothing marketed under the brand name of "Slalom."

The order of ownership of the store following the Bartlett's and B. F. Moore was Chester Moore until 1912; Bert and Leon Lewis to 1946; Ken Jenness to 1949; William Hatton purchased the store from Ken Jenness, but it was operated by Dale Bartlett until the store burned in 1950. The Hatton's built a new store on the same location, and Shirley Lewis operated it until Earl and Della Gray purchased it in 1963 and

operated it until 1975. Carlton and Patricia Thompson bought the store in

until 1996 when it was purchased by Penny Thomas. During her ownership the gas storage tanks and gas pumps with fire protection devices were installed. Penny ran the store until 2002 when she sold to Denis and Carla Fortin. The Fortins made substantial improvements in the store almost doubling the floor space to include more shelf display/sales area, a nine door beer, soda and dairy display/sales case and large walk in cooler. A shelved wine nook was included where many wines are displayed.

The US Postal Service has been associated

with the store since the late 1800's when the Island Pond stage, a regular horse and wagon passenger and freight service, brought the mail daily from Island Pond. Subsequently, a Post Office was part of the store, and currently the US Postal Service leases space from the storeowners for the Morgan Post Office.

Bonnie and Jim McWain purchased the store in 2005 and Jim's daughter Robin operated it until 2014 when she moved back to Colorado. The McWains also made major improvements: the septic system was improved and capacity upgraded in order to gain compliance with Vermont regulations for expanded seating for customers; a one bedroom apartment was added to the second floor structure over the new store addition; and the store seating area was expanded and improved to accommodate increased deli sales.

Jim and Bonnie McWain have operated the store since October 2014.

Jim grew up in Island Pond. His father, Morris McWain, was born in Island Pond and his father, Jesse McWain, had a camp on Seymour in the Seymour East area. Morris and Bertha (Haley) bought property (the diving board on the rock place) on the lake in



The Lewis Brother's Store circa 1912

1975 and ran it for only one year when Wallace McDonald bought it in 1976 and leased it to Al and Trudy Bartlow in 1977 and then sold it to them in 1979. The Bartlow's operated the store until



Al Bartlow, owner from 1979 to 1982.

1982 when they sold it to Ernest and Joyce Grenman. The Grenmans sold to Paul and Betty Cookinham in 1986. In 1987 the Cookinham's sold to Pete and Charlene Bronson who ran the store

Seymour Histories— The Morgan Country Store

by Jim McWain

1948. The two McWain families: Morris, Bertha, Jim and Nancy; and Lyman (Morris' brother), Agnes, Lyman and Janet, spent summers there through the mid-1960s when Morris sold the place to his brother. Morris kept a lot North of his original camp and, follow-

ing his retirement from the Canadian National Railroad in 1970, built the cottage where Jim and Bonnie now reside.

Jim and his cousin Lyman have the pleasure of being on the same property

where they “grew” up doing all the things associated with “the Lake”. It was a fun place with family, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and extended family and many exhilarating things to occupy a youngster’s need for exciting things to do. As a result, all of our time was spent at the “camp” except for an occasional trip to the Derby-Port Drive-in or “Nips” when we could convince our Aunt Agnes to drive us.

Since Bonnie and I have assumed management of the Morgan Country Store, we have become more involved with horizons beyond the “camp.” We have found that there are many wonderful people, residents and lake property owners in the Town of Morgan.

We are gratified by their understanding and support and are committed to making the store a community asset and are striving to make it a friendly place that supports the entire population.

Thank you all for your positive comments and suggestions. □



The new store in 1950: built after the original store burned.



The current configuration of the store with the expansions of 2003 and 2009.

Loon Watch

by Charles "Woody" Woods

Our precious loons are getting ready for the change in seasons. There are "typical" big black and white loons on the lake but also some gray and buff colored ones mixed in. These are large juveniles that hatched on lakes around the area and from lakes far to the north. Some adult loons are molting into a similar gray and buff plumage that will characterize non-breeding adults until they molt again into black and white adult plumage next March. Adult loons begin migrating to the New England coast in late September through late October followed by juveniles. A few adult and young loons can still be found on Seymour into the first week of December. Loons arrive on Seymour just after the ice goes out in April and may hang around until just before it forms again in mid to later December. As the migration of loons really gets underway, we have seen rafts of 20-30 loons on Seymour. Loons from northern Vermont and New Hampshire winter off the coast of New England from Maine to Rhode Island, whereas loons from Minnesota and Ontario may migrate as far south as Apalachicola Bay off the Florida Panhandle.

From a low of just 7 breeding pairs of loons in 1983, breeding loons have recovered to 70 or more breeding pairs and over 90 territorial pairs in Vermont. Seymour has long been part of that success, and it is a tradition on Seymour Lake to have loons around the lake and a successful nesting program. However since 2010 there has been a decline in nesting success, and there have been several years without any surviving chicks (first nesting in 2011, and no chicks 2013, 2014, 2015).

Why is this happening when other lakes in the area continue to have successful loon nests with surviving chicks and do not have a decline in the number of loons? It is a mystery. Other lakes in the region have had similar declines in the numbers of loons and with an increase in nest failures. At nearby famous Lake Umbagog in northeastern New Hampshire there were 31 adult territorial loons in 2000, and this number declined to 15 in 2002 and just 12 in 2007. Similar declines are occurring on Squam Lake in New Hampshire. We do not know what is causing the decline in successful nests on Seymour. Residents and biologists are equally concerned and puzzled about what is occurring in New Hampshire. We are aware of the issue, however, and the community of Seymour Lake enthusiasts is concerned and working together to promote activities and conditions that will improve the future outlook for loons on the lake.

Reported threats to loons (in general) might give us a clue as to what to pay attention to on Seymour. On the Great Lakes type E-botulism has caused distress and deaths to loons. Poisoning of loons by the ingestion of lead fishing sinkers in the past has killed many loons. There is a law in Vermont now that outlaws these above a certain size, but it is possible that such sinkers are still used by some anglers. Shoreline development is a concern in many areas, and certainly this has been on the rise around the lake. Development and antiquated septic systems can cause eutrophication and result in increased algae and even toxic conditions. The effects of increased recreation by boaters, photographers, fishermen and hik-

ers can also be a possible threat. Other success stories, such as the increase in the number of eagles and mink in the Seymour watershed also cause potential threats to loons, and even large bass, which are present in the area of the lake near the loon nesting platform, can lead to the death of newly hatched chicks.

So, even though the recent history of loons in Vermont is a story of success, there are reasons to be concerned, especially here on Seymour. The common loon was removed from the state list of threatened and endangered species in 2005, but it still is listed as a species of special concern, and there are reasons to be concerned. Even though only a few of the issues listed above may be a major issue for loons on Seymour, a number of the issues in one way or another could affect loons on the lake. We may be reaching a "tipping point" affecting the continued well-being of loons vs biodiversity, development, recreation, climate change and even traditional lifestyles. We all hope that the tipping point that seems to have led to a significant decline in loon activity on Umbagog and Squam lakes is not also underway on Seymour Lake. A strategy to protect and educate people and loons can make it possible to enjoy summers ahead with the happy sight of a pair of newly hatched loons floating near their parents or riding on their backs and the iconic northern New England sound of loons calling in the night air. On Seymour Lake the tipping point has not yet tipped the wrong way, and each of us can make a difference in keeping that tip from ever irreversibly happening. □

Lake & Stream Buffer Program and Landscaping

by Peggy Barter

Northwoods Stewardship Center offers two grant funded riparian buffer zone restoration programs to those of us in the Memphremagog watershed. The programs cover 80% of the cost of trees and shrubs planted, as well as the entire cost of administration, labor and equipment. All planning and planting is done in cooperation with the landowner by the Northwoods Stewardship Center and volunteers.

Although Northwoods will only support planting that establishes an effec-

tive buffer, they work with landowners to balance aesthetics and recreational access with ecological and water quality values. Planning sessions take place in the fall and early winter for the following summer, so NOW is the time to contact Meghann Carter at Northwoods for more information or to schedule a site assessment. Meghann has worked long distance with some land owners or can plan when next you are in Morgan for the next planting season. Her contact information is: [\[ghann@northwoodscenter.org\]\(mailto:ghann@northwoodscenter.org\) or \(802\) 723-6551 ext. 113.](mailto:Me-</p>
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Also take a look at the article on the SLA website with information about healthy lakes using lakeshore landscaping. If you are thinking about improvements and changes to your property, this is a must read. It is available at <http://seymourlake.org/whats-new/>. □