

Newsletter

November 2017



President's Message

Chuck Nichols

Hello everyone,
Summer finally arrived sometime in September when we had maybe three weeks of bright sunshine and warm weather. It was unfortunate that the late spring and early summer were quite cool and rainy. Those of you who might have been here in mid-September saw that the leaves were mainly brown with no vibrant colors as normal. Amazingly, on Wednesday September 27th, there was some heavy rain especially overnight, and on Thursday it looked like a switch had been turned on as the colors just popped out making for some beautiful fall foliage. I'm writing this on October 10th, and there is still a lot of color.

Seymour Lake Association (SLA) and its committees, especially the water quality committee, were very active this summer. Many properties were reviewed for the Lake Wise award with great success. We also have been monitoring tributary streams coming into Seymour Lake for water quality as a follow-on to such monitoring done in past years. See articles inside the newsletter giving more information about these topics. I'm very proud to announce that Seymour Lake is now a Gold Lake Wise lake. Peggy Barter and

her water quality committee should be highly commended as well as the many property owners who made it all possible. See article on page 4 with more details.

Unfortunately, we are starting to see more land invasive plant species along the lake shore. Some SLA folks are working up a program that we will try to implement next summer to eliminate these invasive species. This will require volunteer help (physical work digging these plants up), and I ask that homeowners near where these plants are found help their neighbors in eliminating these invasive species.

The boat greeters under Beth Torpey's guidance have done another great job working to keep Seymour Lake free of invasive species. See article on page 3 about Beth and the program.

Membership in the SLA remains very strong. Ted Jewett and the membership committee worked very hard this summer to communicate with owners along the lake and in Morgan who are not members about the benefits and need for all to be members.

The fishing committee is working with Vermont Fish and Wildlife to review some fishing rules that will hopefully

improve the fish population in Seymour Lake. The boating committee is exploring what can be done to improve the water depth at the boat launch.

There is not enough space here to provide an update on the wind and solar issue and Charles "Woody" Woods wrote a personal story about his experience with land invasive plant species along the lake shore. If you go to the SLA web site at <http://seymourlake.org/whats-new/> you will see both of these issues addressed in more depth.

A lot is going on. SLA always has a need for people to volunteer for committees. Please consider doing so. Join us for the boat parade during the 4th of July weekend. Come to the SLA Annual Meeting—Saturday, July 28, 2018. Join others at the SLA Summer Outing usually held in early August although the date for 2018 is not set yet as we try to arrange for a very special guest.

Meanwhile, enjoy your winter wherever you are. Consider visiting Seymour Lake this winter; it's beautiful. Be thinking of the warmth of next summer, boating and swimming, camp fires, hiking and biking, and just relaxing. □

Shoreland Invasive Species

by Peggy Barter

Cynthia Stevens, Meghann Carter of Northwoods, Trevor Banister (ECO-AmeriCorps Intern at Northwoods) and I met to begin planning a campaign to control the spread of Japanese knotweed and phragmites on Seymour Lake's shores. Bob Durgin and Trevor took a boat ride and identified some stands of knotweed and phragmites. These two invasive, land based plants are starting to disrupt lake shore own-

ers use of their properties.

We need your help to obtain permission for Trevor to walk the properties around the lake to better find where these plants are located.

If you wish to give your permission, please send an email to Peggy Barter at sla_newsletter.wq@gmail.com After the survey and resulting maps give us a good idea of the extent of invasion

by these plants, we will create a plan for offering assistance to lake shore owners for removing the plants. The control does take several years of cutting and proper disposal of the plants.

Please let me know if you will be able to assist us. Trevor's schedule allows him time to survey this fall and then if need be to finish in June. The best time to cut the plants is in August. □



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 and the surrounding locality for the benefit of lake users, property owners, and residents of Morgan, Vermont.



Seymour Lake Association

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Officers

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Directors (Term Ends)

Bruce Barter	'18	Frank Antonelli	'19	Tom Adams	'20
Bonnie McWain	'18	Alan Franklin	'19	Tim Buzzell	'20
Charles Woods	'18	Erik Lessing	'19	Rhonda Shippee	'20

Tom Bonneville—Town of Morgan Select Board Liaison

Committee Members

- Activities.....Frank Antonelli
- AuditDoug Gimler
- Boating.....Tim Buzzell
- Dam/Lake Level.....Tim Buzzell, Ron Kolar, Chuck Nichols, Erik Lessing, Candy Moot
- FishingRon Frascoia, Charles Woods, Bill Bilowus
- GrantsBeth Torpey, Peggy Barter, Linda Broadwater
- LoonsCharles "Woody" Woods, Eric Hanson, Bonnie & Dave Potter, Ruby Jenness
- MapsRon Kolar
- MembershipTed Jewett, Bruce Barter, Tim Buzzell, Gerry Cahill, Erik Lessing, Ann Torpey, Tom Adams, Chris Blais, Bonnie McWain, Brenda Wierschke
- MilfoilChuck Nichols, Beth Torpey, Peggy Barter
- NewsletterErik Lessing, Bruce Barter, Maggie Griffith
- NominatingTim Buzzell, Ted Jewett, Bonnie McWain
- 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, 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: Bud Bergh, Lisa Foster, Steve Peacock, Dan Griffith, Beth Torpey, Ed Singer, Dija Selby

Town of Morgan www.townofmorgan.com

Selectmen—Larry Labor—Chair
 Robert Guyer
 Tom Bonneville

Town Clerk/Treasurer—TammyLee Morin
 Asst. Town Clerk—Amanda Wright

North Country School Director—Joseph Moeykens

Listers—Diane Moore
 James Judd
 Joseph Malgeri

Zoning Officer: Steve Matson, 802-895-2886

Recognition

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

Shoreland Protection Permitting

The contact for obtaining a permit is Lindsay Miller, lindsay.miller@vermont.gov, 802-490-6200. She responds quickly and has nothing to do with enforcement. If you contact her and learn no permit has been issued, go to the enforcement web pages to post a complaint—can be done anonymously if desired. □

Focus on Beth Torpey and Combating Invasive Species

by Erik Lessing



In 1999 when Joan Witzmann was the SLA president, she discovered a program which she thought SLA should participate in. It was a grant from Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and she collaborated with another SLA Board member, Beth Torpey, to develop and submit a proposal for the grant. The subject was Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention, and the grant included money for implementation of the program. It required coordination with the Town of Morgan as they would act as the Fiscal Agent required by DEC. SLA was awarded this grant and hence, in 2000 Seymour Lake was among the first to have a program of this kind.

Beth then became the SLA President and also manager of SLA's Aquatic Invasive species program. Most of the concentration of effort is on Eurasian Watermilfoil which we all know as the **milfoil program**. She did a great service for the Association, Seymour Lake, and property owners in her efforts to energize the community and the state to combat milfoil.

After Beth as the program manager was Tamara Colton-Stevens followed by Janet Selby. Beth took over the program again in 2014 working with long term greeters Bud Bergh and Reed Hubbard. Currently the crew consists of Bud, Dan Griffith, Dija Selby, Ed Singer,

Steve Peacock and Lisa Foster.

Seymour's invasive species program costs about \$23,000 per year funded by the state, the Town of Morgan and SLA. This preventative program also includes 18 volunteers in the VIP effort to patrol designated portions of the lake visually. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of all the contributors over 18 years, Seymour Lake has remained free of invasive species unlike many other unfortunate Vermont lakes.

Due to donations from generous SLA members over the last ten years, the association has accumulated funds specifically aimed at combating a sudden outbreak of invasive species or other threats to the lake and its property owners. If there were to be an outbreak of milfoil, it would most likely be at the access since that is the place boats and trailers first contact the lake. Suction harvesting would be used since we can use the same people as at Lake Willoughby and can react in one week.

Invasive species are no laughing matter as they can devastate the usage of a lake. Lake Memphremagog has milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, and starry stonewort. Derby Pond has two invasive species and Champlain fifty!

Recently SLA has acquired the additional capability to decontaminate animal invasive species such as spiny water flea and zebra mussels. The equipment is contained in a trailer at the access area and is powered by diesel engine capable of supplying water



at 140°F. to kill the microscopic species from boats coming from known infested lakes.

We are blessed to have Beth at Sey-

mour because of her extensive background and experience as a scientist in the environmental field of watershed management. She has worked for the states of NJ, NY, CA, TX, SC, and has had over 30 years of experience as an environmental scientist in both the public and private sector and in academia. She has been involved with federal, state, and local permitting, regulatory compliance, contract management, water quality and watershed management, "green" research and development, and sustainability research. She's a board member of several organizations: Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP), the Memphremagog Watershed Association, and the Northwoods Stewardship Center. Additionally, she has represented FOVLAP on the Lake Champlain Invasive Species Committee and the Northeast Chapter of the North American Lakes Management Society. Her master's thesis abstract is entitled "Global Sustainability, the Evolution of Consciousness and the Role of Water," published in the 2016 Science of Consciousness Conference book.

Beth got back to Vermont by working for Citizens Utilities where she was the Environmental, Health and Safety Manager but she has been at Seymour since she was born as her grandmother was born and grew up in Island Pond. Beth's mother Ann spent her summers in Vermont, and she has encouraged her family to do the same as part of a close knit family, five of whom own homes in Seymour East. When she's not scouring the shallows for invasive plants in her trusty kayak or serving on environmental boards, she can be found hiking the Green Mountain State's peaks with her nieces, nephews, and dog, or skiing those peaks in the winter months.

This year Beth and her team have inspected 1,565 boats—we'll probably be up to 1,600 by the end of the month. We've had 50 vegetative intercepts and 11 confirmed invasive species, all of them milfoil.

If you find yourself at the Seymour Lake access you'll surely run into Beth; be sure to thank her for all of her tireless work to preserve Seymour Lake as one of Vermont's premiere aquatic destinations. □

Seymour is a GOLD Lake Wise Lake

by Peggy Barter

In 2016 your water quality committee decided to go all out in 2017 to work to become a Lake Wise Lake. We thought we had a good chance to be the first in the state but were a little too late for that. Echo Lake became the first Lake Wise Lake about two weeks before we reached our goal. Lakes are designated as Lake Wise GOLD lakes if 15% or more of their lakefront properties have received the Lake Wise Award.

Even though we had been participating in Lake Wise for 4 years, reaching for this goal took a huge effort by many volunteers. To learn more about Lake Wise go to <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise> and to watch an excellent video about this summer's story of both Seymour and Echo, scroll down to the video entitled "Echo...". While there you may be interested in the bio-engineering for lake shore stabilization videos.

Our work continued and the Water Quality Committee, assisted by Trevor Banister, identified 76 properties as most likely to come close or even qualify for the Lake Wise Award. About 50 evaluations were conducted by Amy Picotte and Heather Murphy of VTDEC's

Lake Wise Program as well as Trevor Banister, an ECO AmeriCorps Intern at Northwoods Stewardship Center. Northwoods is a fine partner to SLA in our efforts to protect the lake's water quality. 32 Awards were earned this summer which when added to the 13 earned over the previous years gave us a total of 45 properties which have earned the award. In addition, 17 properties earned certificates which are given to owners whose properties meet the standards in 2 or 3 of the four sections of the evaluation. Congratulations to all the property owners who so willingly participated. Many of these properties may do the needed work to earn the Lake Wise Award in the future. We encourage you to ask for a consultation for Lake Wise. Whether or not your property qualifies for an Award or a Certificate, by participating you may learn from the technical advice provided and find some changes you are willing to make to further protect the lake.

Many thanks to the volunteers for this project: Erik Lessing, Rhonda Shippee, Ron Kolar and Peggy Barter. They were assisted by Bill Kilpatrick, Tracey Shadday, Chris Blais, Jean McKenny, Bruce Barter, Matt Shippee and Chuck Nichols. Please see pictures of two recipients. □



Penny Thomas



Mary and Robin Poole

Water Quality Sampling

by Peggy Barter

SLA's volunteers were busy this past season using our opportunity to participate in the tributary water quality testing in the Memphremagog Watershed. Essentially, we duplicated the sampling protocol which we first carried out in 2008 and 2009. Ben Copans of VTDEC thought it would be good to have some data to compare with the earlier sampling. Sampling was conducted monthly starting in April and concluding in October. All kinds of weather were encountered by the volunteers ranging from deep snow banks to negotiate in April, to significant rain in May to low flows during the long relatively dry spells.

Land owners who gave permission for us to walk their land are: the Robert Cargill family, Barbara Gildersleeve, Leona & Walter Quigg, Dana Seguin and Mary Lou & Bob Steenrod. Volunteers implementing the project were: Rhonda Shippee, Erik Lessing, Jan Sel-

by, Homer Selby, Chuck Nichols, Bruce Barter, Tom Adams and Peggy Barter. Trevor Banister, who is an ECO-AmeriCorps Intern at Northwoods Stew-



The Lake watershed outlined in red and tributaries into our lake.

ardship Center, attended the official training in March, worked closely with Ben Copans to obtain the official sampling bottles and labels for the laboratory, facilitated most of the sampling sessions and taught the correct procedures to many of the volunteers. Trevor was also able to collect samples during a rain event in October. Thanks to Northwoods Stewardship Center and all persons who participated.

On September 25, Ben met with seven of us to present the data collected on the first four sampling dates. In addition, Ben explained and discussed possible meanings and uses for the tributary sampling data. Those present agreed that if SLA has the opportunity to sample for another year, we should do so. He stated that results so far from Seymour Lake indicate a lake in very good shape with regard to inflows from

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tributaries. Ben supplied us with some technical explanations, which you can obtain by contacting Peggy Barter at sla.newsletter.wq@gmail.com. The short story is that all results, even on the fairly good rain date in May, are well below what would be expected for the present phosphorus levels of about 9 micrograms/liter. This suggests that there are other sources of phosphorus in the lake than runoff from tributaries, most likely runoff from disturbance of the natural lake shore buffer. Results from all dates are not yet available.

Depending upon the results from the remaining sampling dates, we may conduct the program for a second year next summer. □.



Trevor taking a water sample.



Trevor and Tom Adams at a site.

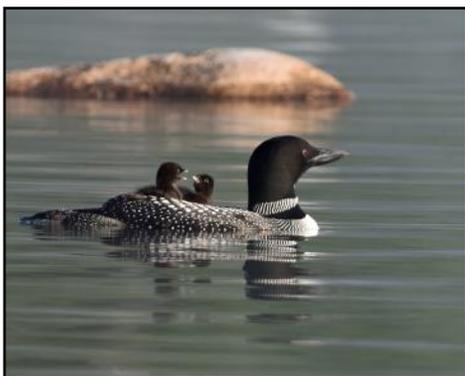
Loon Update

by Doug Gimler and "Woody" Woods

We didn't have any loons born on our lake this year, but the lake next door, Echo Lake, had two babies born this season. The last time Echo Lake had baby Loons was in 2005 so many of the people around the lake were very excited. One couple was kind enough to invite me over to take these photos from their dock. Doug G.

nesting platform and is a close observer of our Seymour loons, believes that this year's nesting pair was new and inexperienced. He observed that they appeared to be skittish, easily frightened off the nest and spent long periods of time separated from each other. This combination of a skittish first time nesting pair and competition for resources and territory are the probable cause for the lack of nesting success.

Echo. Success! The nest was put out on a Sunday at the beginning of the



This year the loons nested on schedule. Denis Fortin, who manages the

There were many loons on the lake. One could often hear them calling, and it was a good loon count. Groups of loons could be seen together out in the open lake, and pods of 3-6 loons were not uncommon. All of this fits into the picture of an overall very successful loon support program overseen by Eric Hanson and the State of Vermont.

Loons like to nest in areas of lakes where they are protected from winds and predators, such as bays and islands. Seymour Lake is an ideal lake for loons in so many ways. It is large, deep and cold with lots of minnows and bait fish to feed on. But it is not a lake with many bays and islands, such as much smaller Norton Pond, which has 3 nesting pairs of loons each year, and almost every year produces 6 loon chicks.

Echo Lake, had a successful loon nesting for the first time in many years this summer. Seymour had an extra loon nest platform, and Denis Fortin made it available to the program on



nesting season, and by Friday the loons had occupied the nesting platform. The much lower number of boats, kayaks, and especially jet skis insured that the loons survived. This is a really encouraging development for Echo Lake.



We at Seymour must be careful getting too close to the loon area and also limiting fireworks at the south end. □

Boat Parade

by Tim Buzzell

The annual 2017 Seymour Boat Parade was held on Saturday, July 2nd. It was a great success again with

about 25 boats participating and with dozens of participants observing and participating through their enthusiasm and flag waving from the shore and docks around the lake. The event was organized by Bonnie McWain who provided the theme "Show Your Colors" which resulted in a plethora of red, white, and blue flags, banners, bunting, and costumes honoring our country. Many thanks to Bonnie and also to Collin Kwasnik who organized the first parade in 2000. □

Photos courtesy of Candy Moot and David Wieselmann

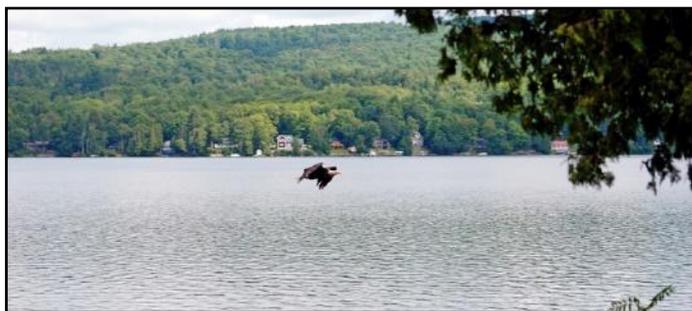


Our Seymour Lake Eagle Getting Dinner

by Molly Chase

Alerted by the frantic cheeps of a family of ducks nearby, we noticed the not so subtle presence of a large bird soaring overhead. He/she flew low and soon was at the water's surface with a splash. We watched as it pulled up a very big fish and flew up with it. Only seconds later, however, the eagle dropped the fish into the water. Perhaps it was the "one that got away" for the eagle. The next morning though, I walked out to our dock to find the fish had not escaped. A large skeleton was lying picked clean on our dock. Our neighbor came by later and told us of the bald eagle sitting on our dock. He had obviously been busy. It was quite an event—

Seymour has many, We were just lucky enough to capture a little bit. □



SLA Members' other Contributions

by Tim Buzzell

The Seymour Lake Association (SLA) is fortunate to have people within its membership who sit in positions of leadership and influence with other organizations that offer synergies and assistance which potentially will improve the ability of SLA to accomplish its various goals. Herein is a thumbnail sketch of a number of these individuals and the organizations they represent.

Beth Torpey is a Director on the Board of the Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA). According to their website, the MWA is dedicated to the preservation and natural beauty of the Memphremagog Watershed (of which Seymour Lake is a part). Its objective is to work with lake associations in the watershed, local and state governments, as well as businesses to develop guidelines and policies that protect and improve the quality of life within the watershed. MWA is a watershed-wide organization that has been in the process of working with various partners (non-profits, municipalities and businesses) in the watershed to identify best practices in relation to stormwater resiliency. The Memphremagog Watershed Stormwater Collaborative was recently formed and with the help of a High Meadows Grant for Stormwater Resiliency, a full-time employee has been hired to provide and coordinate technical resources watershed-wide partners.

Tracey Shadday is the Vice President of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP). Cynthia Stevens, Beth Torpey, and Bruce and Peggy Barter also provide influence within FOVLAP either as Directors or Associates. Their website states that FOVLAP is a group of Vermont lake associations, individuals and others interested in promoting and maintaining the quality of the environment and the pleasure of living near and using Vermont's lakes and ponds. In Tracey's words: "Our mission is to protect the water quality of VT lakes and ponds by partnering with DEC and other agencies and non-profits and supporting the efforts of lake associations through education, networking and outreach. We host two annual seminars in the summer, publish a spring and fall newsletter, write grants and keep our website (www.vermontlakes.org) and Facebook site ([vermontlakes](https://www.facebook.com/vermontlakes)) active and up-to-date."

Bill Kilpatrick is Vice President of the Trustees for the Northwoods Stewardship Center (NWSC). Peggy Barter also collaborates with the Center in various capacities. NWSC serves communities in northern VT and NH by providing the knowledge and skills to understand the northern landscape, make wise use of its resources, and help sustain vibrant communities and a healthier environment. In Bill's words: "There are a number of synergistic activities between NWSC and programs on Seymour Lake. An ECO Americorp individual, Trevor Banister from NWSC assisted members of the water quality committee of the Seymour Lake Association to identify and have properties evaluated to determine if they qualify for Lake Wise designations. The activity was very successful resulting in obtaining GOLD Lake Wise designation for Seymour Lake. (Peggy and other members of the water quality committee also played a major role in this accomplishment.) In addition, NWSC offers services to control invasive plants and tree and shrub plantings for stabilizing riparian buffers. These activities assist the Seymour Lake community in maintaining the quality of the lake that we all desire."

Tim Buzzell sits on the Board of Supervisors for the Orleans County Natural Resources and Conservation District (OCNRCD). It is a non-regulating organization led by local landowners. It strives to protect natural resources by seeking solutions to local environmental concerns and providing resources to address them. Its current focus is to support Orleans County communities and landowners in their efforts to improve water quality issues. In Tim's words: "The Conservation District is a principal conduit for funneling federal and state funds toward projects earmarked for improving water quality in the area. This will potentially have a major impact on Seymour Lake going forward."

Green Mountain Conservation Camp

by Linda Buzzell

At the SLA Board meeting in May, it was voted to sponsor a local boy or girl to attend the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Green Mountain Conservation Camp (GMCC). SLA will pay the \$250 camp fee for a week at one of the camps of the child's choosing.

There are two camp sites, one on Lake Bomoseen and one at Buck Lake,

Woodbury, VT. There are both boy and girl sessions. A camper must be at least 12 years old before or during the week he/she attends. There is a Basic Week Session and an Advanced session for boys and girls 12-16 who have completed the Basic session. For more information visit vtfishandwildlife@vt.com, and click on "learn more."

Registrations will begin February 2018. If anyone has a child in mind who would like to attend, please contact Linda Buzzell, Secretary of SLA at (t-buzzell@comcast.net or 603-448-3245) or any other board member for information. □

Northwoods Stewardship Center (NWSC) Offer to Property Owners

by Trevor Banister

NWSC is seeking landowners who are interested in designing water quality improvement projects on their lakeshore. Through a 2017-2018 Eco-system Restoration Program (ERP) Grant from the Vermont DEC, NWSC is able to

provide free designs for lakeshore landowners on Echo and Seymour Lakes. While not yet fully determined, cost sharing for implementing the designs could be a part of this program reducing costs for all property owners. If you are inter-

ested please contact Trevor Banister as follows: trevor@northwoodscenter.org or 802-723-6551 x302. More information is available at northwoodscenter.org. □

Seymour Histories—Reining Hope

by Erik Lessing

High up on Sunset Drive sits a handsome group of buildings containing **Reining Hope**, an organization dedicated to helping people with special needs. Reining Hope was established in 2011 and is a therapeutic riding center offering equine assisted activities. Kristen Mason is the owner/operator of Reining Hope and serves as the Program Director.

Kristen offers year round equine assisted activities for riders with and without special needs through therapeutic riding and horsemanship programs as well as equine related clinics and workshops, equine training and boarding. There are no “disabilities” as persons with special needs each have their own “extra-ordinary” abilities. Horses have been proven, as with other animals, to be strong motivators in human development and self-awareness.

ous facility here in Morgan helping those who really need help. □



Hilda being instructed by Kristen in placing a bridle on “Pat” the horse. Pat’s gentle nature is perfect for helping special needs people such as Hilda.



The facility sits on 38 acres of scenic farmland and includes an older existing barn and space for workshops and clinics. It includes 10 acres of paddocks, 10 acres of hay fields and 18 acres of wooded area for riding and hiking. It obviously has great views of Seymour Lake.

There are thirteen horses at the facility and they range in age from 5 to 29. Kristen herself has been involved for many years in this activity and still furthers her education at Johnson State College working in the field of Clinical Medical Health.

So applaud Kristen and this marvel-

Aerial Photographs of Seymour Lake

by Woody Woods and Erik Lessing

As some of you know, the photographer Robert Lyons took many aerial photographs of lakes in northern Vermont and sold them at local events for about \$75. They were beautiful color photos, framed and about 32” wide and 12” high. These photos adorn many of our homes and constantly remind us of the beautiful lake we live on. Unfortunately, they are no longer available.

of Seymour and make them available to SLA members from the website. There appears to be four ways to do

USGS. Each of these methods have advantages and disadvantages.



We believe most people these days would like one or more of these photos to put on their home computer screen, tablet, or smart phone. And of course, high resolution is perfect for a large framed photo for your home. Let us know if you’d like to be involved in this

We are investigating several ways to get aerial high-resolution digital photos

this: From an open window of a light aircraft, from a drone, from Google Earth Pro, and vertical photos from

program or just want photos. Email eriklessing@comcast.net. □