



Newsletter

November 2018

President's Message

by Chuck Nichols

Hello everyone. I'm writing this in the second week of October, and the color has exploded. I hope everyone enjoyed the exceptionally cool summer—just kidding. It seems to me it was one of the warmer summers we've had in the near past. And the summer seemed to fly by. The boat parade was a great success and a lot of fun. But soon ice will be on Seymour Lake, and people will be ice fishing and doing lots of other winter activities.

The Seymour Lake Association (SLA) was lucky this year to have Governor Phil Scott and three of his cabinet members attend the summer social on July 28th. It was a well attended and fun evening, and Governor Scott's comments were well received. See the article enclosed for the full details.

This summer the SLA had an intern from Northwoods who did a survey for

land-based invasive species around Seymour Lake on the properties that had given their permission. We now have good data from which to start planning for the removal of these invasive species and preventing their further spread. The May newsletter should have more information about how SLA will be moving forward.

Some bad news. Unfortunately, zebra mussels were found in Lake Memphremagog near Magog this summer. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) did some inspecting in the Vermont part of the lake for the mussels, and luckily none were found. This does mean that the SLA greeter program at the boat access will have more work to do next summer as they try to find any boats that might have zebra mussels.

SLA is working to get ANR to do something about the boat access water

depth as many boats are bouncing on the bottom and/or churning up the silt. Maybe by the spring newsletter we will have more information on our progress with this issue.

Make sure you read the article on the inside about the soon to be availability of some great pictures of Seymour Lake and surroundings arranged by Erik Lessing and Woody Woods and taken by Seymour Lake resident Doug Gimler.

As always, it's great working with your SLA board. Also, as always, SLA needs folks to participate—to volunteer, be on a committee, decorate your boat for the boat parade, come to the social (late July or early August), help with water quality monitoring, etc. You might meet some new folks and renew old acquaintances. □

Seymour Lake Association Board of Directors

by Chuck Nichols



Linda Buzzell, Tim Buzzell, Chuck Nichols, Frank Antonelli, Ted Jewett, Jean McKenny, Tom Adams, Bonnie McWain, Bruce Barter, Rhonda Shippee, Erik Lessing, Woody Woods, Sean Selby

Every so often we think it important for you to actually see what your board looks like. So here are all thirteen of us with Woody and Sean poorly photo shopped in as they missed the group photo. On page two, you can see their various committee responsibilities

The officers and three directors are elected at each annual meeting and hence the

directors rotate every three years. If shy of new directors the board will ask existing directors to serve another term.

Board meetings are held four to five times per year, and the committees meet as required. We continually look for new committee members, so if you have the desire, please contact any of us. □



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

President:	Chuck Nichols	craynichols@me.com	802-723-4976	cell 802-917-4282
Vice President:	Rhonda Shippee	rshippee@gmail.com	802-895-4461	cell 802-249-8878
Treasurer:	Jean McKenny	jmckenny@together.net	802-895-2942	home 802-766-8895
Secretary:	Linda Buzzell	t-lbuzzell@comcast.net	802-895-4175	home 603-448-3245

Directors (Term Ends)

Tim Buzzell	'19	Bruce Barter	'20	Sean Selby	'21
Tom Adams	'19	Bonnie McWain	'20	Erik Lessing	'21
Ted Jewett	'19	Charles Woods	'20	Frank Antonelli	'21

Tom Bonneville—Town of Morgan Select Board Liaison

Committee Members

- Activities.....Frank Antonelli
- AuditDoug Gimler
- Boating.....Tim Buzzell, Bonnie McWain
- Dam/Lake Level.....Tim Buzzell, Ron Kolar, Chuck Nichols, Erik Lessing, Candy Moot
- Development/Education. Lyman McWain, Peggy Barter
- FishingRon Frascoia, Charles Woods, Bill Bilowus
- GrantsBeth Torpey, Peggy Barter, Linda Broadwater
- LoonsCharles "Woody" Woods, Denis Fortin, Bonnie & Dave Potter, Nancy Bowen
- MapsChuck Nichols
- MembershipTed Jewett, Bruce Barter, Tim Buzzell, Gerry Cahill, Erik Lessing, Ann Torpey, Tom Adams, Chris Blais, Bonnie McWain, Brenda Wierschke
- MilfoilChuck Nichols, Beth Torpey, David Wieselmann
- 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, David Wieselmann, Erik Lessing, Tracey Shadday, Rhonda Shippee, Charles Woods, Cynthia Stevens
- 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: Pete Gilligan, Dija Selby, Janelle McKenzie and Steve Peacock.



Town of Morgan www.townofmorgan.com

Selectmen—Robert Guyer—Chair
 Larry Labor
 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

For questions regarding Shoreland Protection Permitting, the contact is Lindsay Miller who can be reached at Lindsay.miller@vermont.gov and 802-490-6200.

Aerial Photography of Seymour Lake

by Erik Lessing and Woody Woods

Last November, we ran an article describing the options we had for taking aerial photos of our beautiful lake. After examining the four options, we decided that photos taken from a light plane were best, in effect, doing the same that photographer Robert Lyons had done years ago but updated with the technological improvements made with the advent of digital photography. Our immediate desire was to have photos of the entire lake, since obviously, we are an association for the entire lake.

As a result, we asked Doug Gimler, a Seymour Lake Association member and noted wild life photographer, (www.nekwildlifephoto.com) if he would change to landscape photography and help us with this project. He gladly accepted and after waiting for the best weather day we could find in August, took off from Newport Airport on the morning of August 24. We engaged the Fixed Base Operator, Dan Gauvin, to pilot Doug in his Cessna 150, a plane which has the advantage of a fully opening window for an unrestricted



Pilot Dan Gauvin, photographer Doug Gimler and the Cessna 150 airplane.

view for a camera.

In about an hour flight Doug took many photographs of Seymour Lake and some of the surrounding area. These photos were culled to pick only the three best digital color photos, and they are displayed throughout in this article.

Some details:

Doug's camera is a Sony A7 full frame mirrorless DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) capable at full resolution of 24 megapixels. The lens is a Zeiss zoom of 24 to 70 mm. focal lengths.

The photographs are high resolution of 14MBytes so these are large files. They are in the aspect ratio of 16:9 (16 wide and 9 high) the standard these days for television and many other forms used in cell phones.

Before the advent of digital photography, photos were film and most people had a large one printed out and mounted in a frame for display in their home. One of the great advantages of digital high resolution photos such as these is that they can be viewed almost any place. Put them on your computer, tablet, cell phone or have them printed out by one of the many places which offer this service. Then either put the photo in a frame you have or have it framed at a frame shop, and you have a beautiful picture of your favorite lake.

We would like to emphasize that these three pictures should be viewed as prototypes as they were taken on a day of haze somewhat diminishing the clarity we would like to see. The SLA Board of Directors believes we should continue this aerial photography effort so that we can provide you with more and improved photos taken at various seasons of the year to show the beauty of our lake under different conditions.

As part of our desire to delight our readership, the Association is offering these photos at no



cost to members and readers of the newsletter.

To download photos, browse to www.seymourlake.org and select the "Photos" page. Then select "Seymour Lake Aerial Photos." There are three photos in Hi Resolution which are best for printing purposes. There are also three photo's in Low Resolution to minimize space if you are placing them on a small screen such as a phone or tablet.

Follow the instructions for the device you have. Look forward to more photos in the future. And for those not yet members, consider joining—we'd love to have you. □



Milfoil Report

by Beth Torpey

We had another successful season of keeping invasive species at bay! In the 18th year of the greeter program, 1700 watercraft were inspected with 37 vegetative intercepts occurring. Of the 37 intercepts, 13 of them were confirmed invasive species.

The decontamination station is up and running and we have begun to hone our decontamination process which was just in time as we found out that zebra mussels were confirmed in nearby Lake Memphremagog. More on this in the spring newsletter. □

Loon Video

by Rhonda Shippee

A YouTube video by Eric Hanson to residents of Calais, VT (my old town). Unsuccessful nesting of recent years may be due to the youth of our loon population.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2cePp2llq4>

Circle of Friends Changes

by Rhonda Shippee

To accommodate those who can't be in Morgan on Wednesdays, the Circle of Friends is moving their annual bazaar to **Saturday, August 3, 2019**. You can "shop 'til you drop" at the bazaar, buy your quilt raffle tickets and enjoy a homemade luncheon at the Community House. If you are downsizing or just cleaning out the house, shed or garage, save your treasures (antiques, housewares, jewel-

ry, linens, toys, holiday decorations, fishing gear, and sporting goods) to donate for sale at the bazaar. Your donations and shopping dollars are always welcome! □



Sponsorship

by Linda Buzzell

Once again SLA will sponsor two local kids, either 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, and 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 ses-

sion and an Advanced session for boys and girls 12-16 who have completed the Basic session. For more information, the camp website is <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc>.

Registrations will begin February 2019. If anyone has a child in mind who would like to attend, please contact Linda Buzzell, Secretary of SLA (t-lbuzzell@comcast.net or 603-448-3245). □

Boat Parade

by Tim Buzzell

The annual 2018 Seymour Boat Parade was held on Wednesday, July 4th. This year, for the first time, the parade went around the lake counter clockwise starting at Rossiter Point. This gave people in the eastern and southern sections of the lake the opportunity to watch the entire flotilla before boats tapered off toward the end of the parade, which typically



Jim McWain and friends

happens. It was, again, a great success with about 35 boats participating and with dozens of participants observing and participating through their enthusiasm and flag waving from shore and docks around the lake. The event was once again organized by Bonnie McWain who provided the theme "Show Your Colors" which resulted in a plethora of flags, banners, buntings and costumes honoring our country. Many thanks to Bonnie and also to Collin Kwasnik who organized the first parade in 2010. □



Chuck Nichols and friends with Penelope at the bow



Seymour Lake Outing with Governor Scott

by Kit Walker and Rob Hofmann

On July 28th the Lake Association welcomed Governor Phil Scott to our annual Social Gathering. Once again, Ron and Janet Kolar hosted the get together at the beautiful Camp Winape dining hall. This is the second time a governor has joined us at Camp Winape. Governor Jim Douglas spoke to our gathering at the same location in 2008.

Governor Scott was treated to a scenic boat tour of the lake by Tim and Linda Buzzell, arriving at Camp Winape to join the rest of the association members. In addition, the Board of Directors of Echo Lake were invited to the gathering. Echo Lake and Seymour Lake are the first two lakes to receive the Vermont Gold Lake Wise Award.



The Governor and entourage arrive in Tim and Linda Buzzell's Chris-Craft at the Camp Winape Dock.

Governor Scott spoke to the gathered members about the natural beauty of our lakes and the importance of the involvement of citizens and groups like our associations in preserving these resources. He commended the individuals who devotedly work at the boat access to check visiting boats, the lay monitors who patrol the shoreline for invasive species and others who promote buffering and planting programs as well as workshops on forest and septic system management to further preserve Seymour's water quality.

In addition to Governor Scott, three members of his administration joined the Governor to discuss programs in the state that support our efforts (see photo above).

Finally, Governor Scott invited Peggy Barter, representing the Seymour Water Quality Committee, to receive the Vermont Gold Lake Wise Award for Seymour Lake. The Governor said: "While

excellent water quality is everyone's goal, it doesn't happen overnight. But your work can serve as a model to others around Vermont as we continue to move forward and make improvements."



Peggy Barter receiving the Gold Lake Wise Award from Governor Scott. In the background left to right are Department of Public Service Commissioner June Tierney, Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore, and Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts.



Surrounding Governor Scott, the larger Lake Wise team of Chuck Nichols, Erik Lessing, Peggy Barter, Rhonda Shippee, Ron Kolar.

Peggy has been a key leader in the Association promoting this effort working hard with many other volunteers over the past five years to encourage landowners to qualify for the Lake Wise award. The Gold Award designation is awarded to lakes if 15% or more of the lakefront properties meet the criteria. The

Governor also mentioned other efforts SLA has accomplished:

1. Seymour has no milfoil due in large part to our boat inspection program.
2. We've participated in the "lay-monitoring" program to measure lake quality.
3. We've added a washing station.
4. With the Town of Morgan, we've received Better Back Road grants.
5. We've participated in septic system management, buffering and planting programs.
6. Partnering with VT's Lakes and Ponds Division, SLA has leveraged funds with thousands of volunteer hours from town and lake residents.

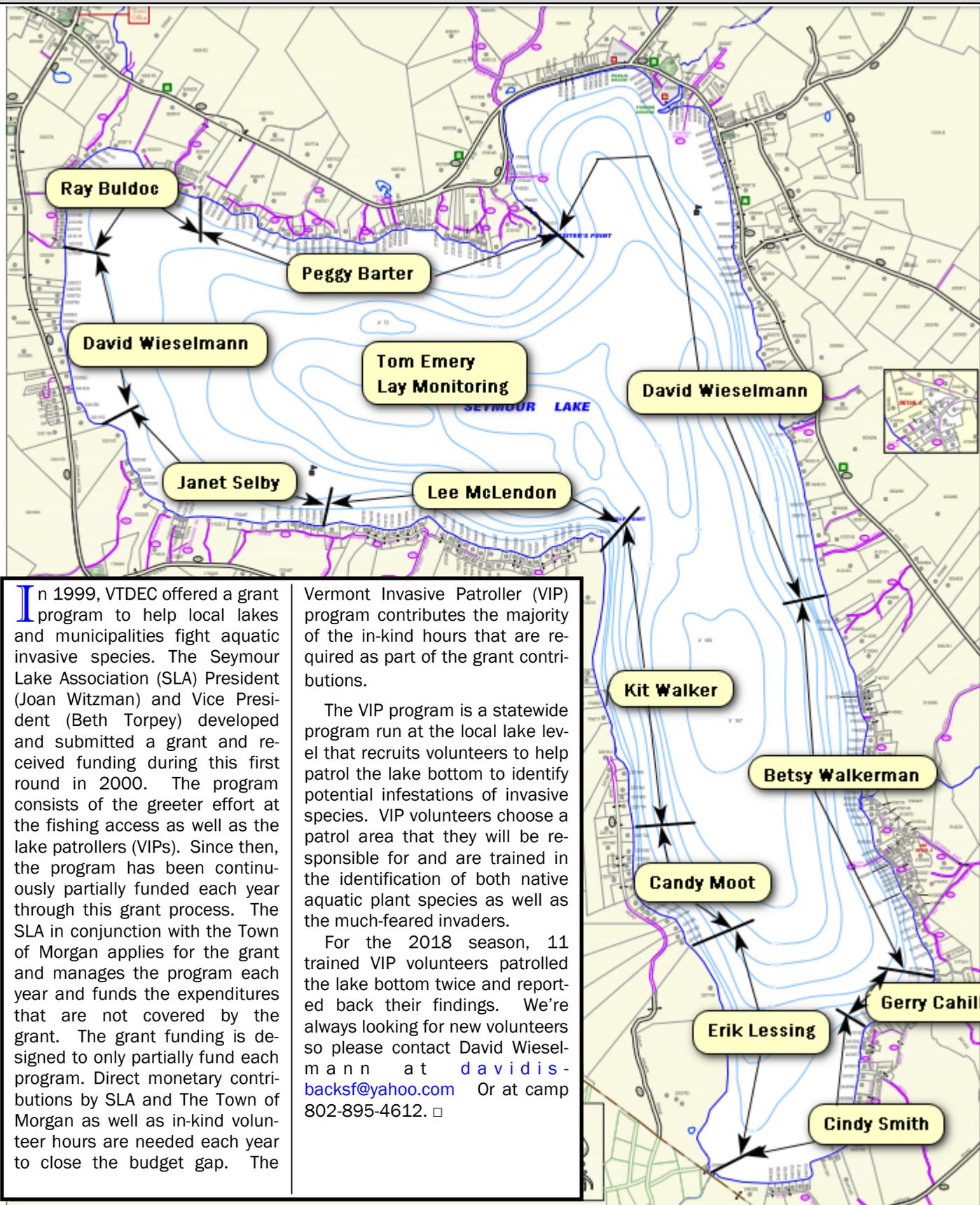
The gathering ended with a wonderful spread of home cooked treats and an unending series of photo opportunities with Governor Scott. Thank you, Governor Scott for taking the time and making the effort to visit our corner of paradise! □

The crowd



Volunteer Invasive Patrol, The VIP Program

David Wieselmann and Beth Torpey



In 1999, VTDEC offered a grant program to help local lakes and municipalities fight aquatic invasive species. The Seymour Lake Association (SLA) President (Joan Witzman) and Vice President (Beth Torpey) developed and submitted a grant and received funding during this first round in 2000. The program consists of the greater effort at the fishing access as well as the lake patrollers (VIPs). Since then, the program has been continuously partially funded each year through this grant process. The SLA in conjunction with the Town of Morgan applies for the grant and manages the program each year and funds the expenditures that are not covered by the grant. The grant funding is designed to only partially fund each program. Direct monetary contributions by SLA and The Town of Morgan as well as in-kind volunteer hours are needed each year to close the budget gap. The

Vermont Invasive Patroller (VIP) program contributes the majority of the in-kind hours that are required as part of the grant contributions.

The VIP program is a statewide program run at the local lake level that recruits volunteers to help patrol the lake bottom to identify potential infestations of invasive species. VIP volunteers choose a patrol area that they will be responsible for and are trained in the identification of both native aquatic plant species as well as the much-feared invaders.

For the 2018 season, 11 trained VIP volunteers patrolled the lake bottom twice and reported back their findings. We're always looking for new volunteers so please contact David Wieselmann at davidis-backsf@yahoo.com Or at camp 802-895-4612. □

Trees and Shoreland Development

by Tracey Shadday

Stand on the shore of Seymour Lake and scan the skyline above the cottages dotting the shoreline, and you'll see a blanket of woodlands. There lies one of the secrets for our healthy lake in canopies of green and in the black, nutritious soil, some of the best in the nation. Reconnecting to the vital role our forests play in the watershed was the theme of a well-attended workshop in July, a "Lake Shore Walk & Talk," on acreage owned by Jim Judd.

Topics covered included the threat to Vermont's ash trees by the emerald ash borer presently infesting trees in Orange, Caledonia, Washington and Bennington counties; some basic guidelines for harvesting trees; activities along the shoreline that require permitting since the passage of the Shoreland Protection Act in 2004; and an introduction to Lake Wise, an incentive program that defines best management practices for lakeshore property owners.

For Judd, the fourth-generation owner of acreage between the base of Elan to the shoreline of Wayeeses, stewardship of the woods began in the 1920s when his grandfather working with Charles Hill, a teacher from Connecticut, built Camp Wayeeses, a boys' camp on the 600 acres that includes Jim's present-day property. His father and grandfather cared for the land until the camp fell into disrepair after World War II.

Amy Picotte, Lakeshore Manager and Lake Wise Coordinator for VT Department of Environmental Conservation and Lindsay Miller, Regional Shoreland Permit Analyst, provided guidance on the regulations in the Shoreland Act (2014) concerning activities within 250 ft. of a lake's mean water level for lakes that are greater than 10 acres in size. The purpose of the act is to prevent degradation of water quality, preserve habitat, stabilize shorelines and maintain the economic benefits of lakes.

It was from this vantage point high above the lakeshore, in the middle of the woods that our Walk & Talk began.

Jared Nunery, the Orleans County forester who regularly consults with Jim on the care of his property introduced us to the emerald ash borer, an attractive beetle, surprising given its appetite and ability to destroy trees in its path. Confirmed in Vermont in February 2018, the insect kills trees when larvae feed on the inner bark disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. An important vector of transmission is human transport of firewood. For this reason it is illegal to move firewood from quarantined areas.

The next topic covered the im-



portance of harvesting trees using principles of silviculture, a system begun in Germany over 300 years ago that involves planning for the most productive use of growing spaces. For Jim the plan includes cutting foliage and strategically removing trees to encourage more natural light.

The plan has worked. A five-year program to encourage the growth of wild apple trees resulted in an increase of 900% from five trees to fifty! Even more dramatic is the development of dense forest over the past fifty years. One would never guess that Jim's acreage was once open meadow used for sheep farming. The use of silviculture principles has encouraged forest growth that sustains his thriving maple syrup business. Forester Jared Nunery regularly evaluates Jim's property, tweaking the plan for nurturing growth and biodiversity, management of wildlife and practices that manage storm-

water runoff.

Trees, dead or alive, are vital for diverse wildlife. Hundreds of woodland species use snags (dead trees) for habitat and food sources. A buffet of insects live under peeling bark providing food for birds, salmon and trout. The dead wood on the forest floor creates a moist microclimate that allows seeds to germinate, provides habitat for animals such as the eastern redback salamander and stores atmospheric carbon.

Trees and shrubs provide in other ways: Willows are among the first trees to flower and provide nectar for pollinators in the spring. Beavers and grazing animals browse on the leaves in summer and willow twigs in the winter. Keeping just three snags per acre offers sustenance for wildlife.

Encouraging diversity of trees also increases the bird population as each species has its own niche requirements. For instance, warblers perch on yellow birch stems to forage.

Jim says he's not so much a landowner as a land steward. "I am here to maintain it, to try to do good, to create something sustainable, something that could continue for generations to come," he says.

His father left a legacy of a developed shoreline. Jim hopes to leave a legacy of forested land properly cared for, and wants to assist others in decisions about best management practices.

We extend our deep appreciation to Jim and the experts who gave us their time and expertise for the improvement of water quality and forest health. □

The Dump

by Erik Lessing

The title of this article is not the official name but if we were to ask you what it was, most would get it wrong or not know. Here it is displayed at the entrance off Rte 111:



Like me you probably learned the name “The Dump” as a kid when, if you were lucky on a Saturday to have your dad take you to your local one and were



enthralled with all the things people put there. As you all know we have a great one here in Morgan which not only serves as a very important disposal and recycling center but in addition is one of the social highlights of the town.

Every Saturday from 8AM to 3PM we all get to drop off our unwanted stuff but also to meet and greet the many neighbors we know in Morgan. I’ve even met some I didn’t know and enjoyed adding another friendly person to the many I already know. Bob Durgin has told me that sometimes the socializing gets so heavy that he has to shoo cars along so others can drop off their loads.

And after I return home, my wife, Rhealene, always asks me who I met and what’s the local skinny. And I always tell her she again missed out on the coffee and donuts!

NEKWM stands for Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District which serves 49 towns in the NEK area.

Its goal is to conserve space in landfills while decreasing the greenhouse gas emissions generated by our waste disposal strategies.

The NEKWM assists communities with recycling and composting services to decrease our reliance on landfill disposal. The following is the generalized list of recyclables:

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Corrugated cardboard
- Tin cans
- Aluminum cans
- Glass (all colors)
- Plastic bags
- Plastic containers #1, #4, #5 food containers.

As a general rule, all containers must be rinsed and with no lids or tops.

All trash and construction materials go to the Coventry landfill while the recyclables go to the NEKWM site in Lyndonville. Metals go to All Metal Recycling in Hardwick. Untreated lumber stashed up the road at the site is burned.

The facility is manned by Supervisor Bob Durgin, Clare Dane, and Paul Berube, all of whom are unfailingly friendly and helpful.



Selling tickets for the Circle of Friends quilt. Liz and Bob Lundgren, Molly Bilowus, Tom Wagner, Missy Woods

The procedure for trash disposal is for all of us is to get the large and convenient plastic bags from either the Morgan Office or the Morgan Store. These cost \$12.50 for five bags and is the place to put all items not recyclable or banned. The cost of these bags is to encourage us to recycle as much as we can and use less of these costly bags by recycling so we can to reduce the adverse impact on landfills. □



Paul Berube, Bob Durgin, Clare Dane posing near the grill at the annual picnic gala on Saturday, September 15, 2018