



Newsletter

November 2020

President's Message

by Chuck Nichols

Well, 2020 is almost over. Thank goodness. It has certainly been an interesting year and let's hope it gets to be a little more normal very soon. It was a beautiful summer around Seymour Lake for which we should be thankful.



that it is among the cleanest in Vermont. See the article enclosed and the picture of the plaque SLA was also awarded. A certificate was awarded to the "Seymour Lake Community." The plaque and certificate and a brochure describing the EPA awards in the Morgan Town offices. Kudos to all the people through the years that have worked hard to make this happen.

Again, see the article within. Bill Bilowus deserves our gratitude for working hard to make this happen.

The July 4th boat parade had as many boats participating as I can remember. It was a beautiful day and the crowds on the shore were large and cheering. See the story and pictures inside.

But even with all the issues of 2020, we have some very good news. Seymour Lake Association (SLA) was awarded an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Merit award for the work we all have done to improve the water quality of Seymour Lake to the point

Some other good news is that SLA in conjunction with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, developed a project to increase the number of smelt in Seymour Lake.

Some sad news. Allan Wooley passed away this summer. Allan had been on the board of SLA and had been a Morgan selectman. See Allan's obituary here <https://www.curtis-britch.com/obituary/allan-wooley-jr>

Continue to stay safe and be well. □

Birds on Seymour Lake

by Doug Gimler

The loon photo was from September 2019. There were 13 loons, the most I had ever seen together but probably not close to a record. I had to research what a gathering like this is called and found it to be called a "raft of loons."



The bald eagles photo was taken in December 2019, only a few days after the lake had iced over. There were actually 6 bald eagles feeding on the carcasses but I couldn't fit them all in the photo. I had no idea there were that many eagles in the vicinity. They displayed excellent manners taking turns at the feast. □





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	cell 802-917-4282
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Secretary:	Linda Buzzell	t-lbuzzell@comcast.net	802-895-4175 home 603-448-3245

Directors (Term Ends)

Bruce Barter	'21	Sean Selby	'22	Tim Buzzell	'23
Bonnie McWain	'21	Erik Lessing	'22	Tom Adams	'23
Charles Woods	'21	Frank Antonelli	'22	Bill Bilowus	'23

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
 - FishingCharles "Woody" Woods, Bill Bilowus, Ron Frascoia, Matt Shippee
 - LoonsCharles "Woody" Woods, Denis Fortin, Nancy Bowen, Eli Antonova
 - MapsChuck Nichols
 - MembershipTom Adams, Bruce Barter, Tim Buzzell, Gerry Cahill, Erik Lessing, Ann Torpey, Chris Blais, Bonnie McWain, Brenda Wierschke
 - MilfoilChuck Nichols, Beth Torpey, David Wieselmann
 - NewsletterErik Lessing, Bruce Barter, Candy Moot
 - NominatingTim Buzzell, Bonnie McWain, Sean Selby
 - Water Quality.....Peggy Barter, Frank Antonelli, Tom Emery, Bill Kilpatrick, Dan Barry, Gerry Cahill, Kenni Friere, Beth Torpey, Ron Kolar, David Wieselmann, Erik Lessing, Tracey Shadday, Rhonda Shippee, Charles Woods, Cynthia Stevens
 - Volunteer Invasive Patrollers (VIP): David Wieselmann: Ray Buldoc, Lee McLendon, Candy Moot, Janet Selby, Cindy Smith, Kit Walker, Betsy Walkerman, Gerry Cahill, Erik Lessing, Peggy Barter
 - Web Site:Karen Abada, Candy Moot, Chuck Nichols, Bruce Barter, Erik Lessing, Andy Barter, Rhonda Shippee
- Note: Name underlined is Committee Chair. Others are Committee Members.

Greeters at the Boat Launch: Bud Bergh, Dan Griffith, J McKenzie, Ed Singer, Dija Selby, Kim Germain, Angela Swanson, Steve Sheltry.



Town of Morgan www.townofmorgan.com

Selectmen—Robert Guyer—Chair
 Larry Labor
 Eric Pope

Town Clerk/Treasurer—TammyLee Morin

Asst. Town Clerk—Amanda Wright

North Country School Directors—Kelley Paul, Tammy Lacourse, Danielle Blake

Zoning Officer—Beth Torpey, 802-895-3013

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 person is Lindsay Miller who can be reached at Lindsay.Miller@vermont.gov and 802-490-6200.

SLA Earns EPA Environmental Merit Award

by Peggy Barter and Rhonda Shippee

On September 15, Seymour Lake Association was honored to be presented with the prestigious EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Environmental Merit Award for which we had been nominated by Oliver Pierson, Lakes and Ponds Manager for Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation, VTDEC. For fifty years, EPA New England has honored those who have made outstanding contributions to protect New England's environment. The Environmental Merit Awards program has honored teachers, citizen activists, business leaders, scientists, public officials and others who have made outstanding contributions. The awards recognize outstanding accomplishments during the past year and over a lifetime. SLA was selected as one of only three recipients in the Environmental, Community, Academia and Nonprofit category!

Typically the awards are presented at an award ceremony in Faneuil Hall in Boston; however, due to Covid-19 restrictions, an award ceremony was held via Zoom teleconference.



An example of grass growing directly down to the water.

ment due to work of lake shore owners, farmers, stream bank owners, and all our partners in the watershed. We had noticed in 2004 that the phosphorus levels were at a higher level than normal, which was very concerning because high phosphorus levels lead to poisonous cyanobacteria (aka blue green algae) blooms. Phosphorus levels increase when natural lake shore vegetation is disturbed, runoff from local roads is not properly diverted into vegetation, stream banks erode because of removal of natural vegetation and runoff in the uplands increases due to disturbed natural vegetation. Many land owners, especially lake shore owners pitched in to make changes in their land management. The Town of Morgan as well as lake shore road owners applied for grants (Better Back Roads) to conduct road management practices which reduced runoff into the lake. Some lake shore owners through such programs as Lake Wise, have established no mow zones to replace lawn.

Others planted native perennials as well as shrubs and trees to form a lake shore buffer which not only prevents erosion, but also absorbs precipitation before it can wash phosphorus into the lake.



A example of growing bushes and plants down to the water's edge.

“Wherever there are lawns on the shore of a lake, water quality declines.”

Kelly Merrell – VTDEC Lake Assessment Scientist

All along the way, we have been educated and nurtured by VTDEC Lakes and Ponds staff as well as Orleans County Conservation District and Northwoods Stewardship Center to learn about and adopt best management practices to lower phosphorus throughout the watershed.

If you are one of the many who has taken any action to add to the natural lake buffer, thank you for contributing to our success. If you have yet to act to protect the lake from phosphorus pollution, then please consider what you can change on your property while still enjoying your place on the lake. □

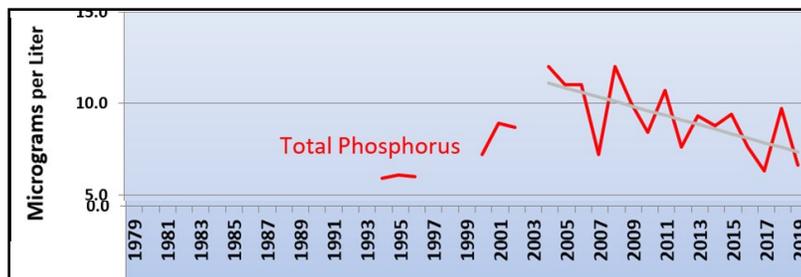
“Where habitat* is poor, the biological integrity* is impaired.”

Neil Kamman – VTDEC Lake Assessment Manager

*habitat = undisturbed forest on the shore

*biological integrity = small creatures which have their home part time on or near the shore die when their habitat is destroyed so they can no longer eat the blue green algae

SLA's nomination was based on the fact that our lake community, working together, has diminished the level of phosphorus in the lake. Seymour Lake is the only lake with good water quality which has reversed an increasing phosphorus trend. Also receiving praise in the EPA's Award Summary is the fact that Seymour Lake has no aquatic invasive species due to our robust Greeter and Education Programs. Seymour Lake is again considered a lake with the highest water quality, an achieve-



Lay Monitoring Data from 1979 through 2019 showing the dramatic reduction of **Total Phosphorus shown in red** and the trend line shown in light gray. This was the main reason for the EPA award.

Calvin Coolidge's Plymouth Notch—Then & Now

by Bill Jenney

When I was asked to write an article about Calvin Coolidge for the Seymour Lake Association newsletter, I wondered how our membership could relate to this early 20th century president. As far as we know, Coolidge never ventured into the Northeast Kingdom much beyond St. Johnsbury, when he attended its academy for the spring term in 1891.

However, I quickly realized that most SLA members could easily identify with Cal's love of this "brave little state of Vermont," as well as his quest to find the best fishing holes in the nation.

July 4, 1872 was a double birthday in Plymouth Notch—a small hill town approximately halfway between Woodstock and Ludlow. The village celebrated the nation's birth, and that of its newest resident – John Calvin Coolidge. Born in the modest house attached to his father's general store, Calvin (the "John" was soon dropped) spent his youth in the shadow of Plymouth's East Mountain.

Coolidge wrote in his autobiography:

"It was all a fine atmosphere in which to raise a boy. As I look back on it I constantly think how clean it was. There was little about it that was artificial. It was all close to nature and in accordance with the ways of nature. The streams ran clear. The roads, the woods, the fields, the people – all were clean. Even when I try to divest it of the



Plymouth Notch, Vermont, August 1924. The 1924 Summer White House was a busy time for Coolidge's home town—a reporter one day counted between 4, 000 – 5,000 cars parked in the adjacent field. Note the Secret Service tent at the far right, next to the Coolidge Homestead. Collection of the State of Vermont, Division for Historic Preservation

halo which I know always surrounds the past, I am unable to create any other impression than that it was fresh and clean....Country life does not always have breadth, but it has depth. It is neither artificial nor superficial, but is kept close to the realities."

Although Calvin Coolidge was profoundly influenced by Vermont – most summers he returned to Plymouth to help out on the farm - he actually spent his adulthood in Massachusetts. He attended Amherst College, settled in Northampton, and developed a successful political career that eventually led to the governorship. His Vermont heritage was rarely mentioned during his many years in Massachusetts state politics. All this changed in 1923.

That summer, Vice President Coolidge was visiting his boyhood home when news came of the unexpected death of President Warren G. Harding. At 2:47 a.m., August 3, notary public Colonel John Coolidge administered the presidential oath of office to his son. The simple ceremony occurred in the family's sitting room by the light of a kerosene lamp. Never before (or since) had a father sworn in his son as president. Plymouth Notch was immediately thrown into the world's limelight.

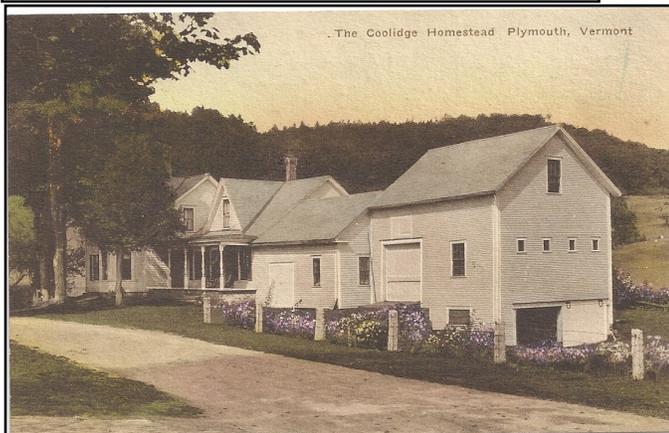
The "Homestead Inaugural" was ideal for Calvin Coolidge's popular image. The Bay State politician soon became known as "The President from Vermont," representing its traditional values of hard work, reticence, frugality, and dry humor.

Coolidge's boyhood home without electricity or plumbing was considered quaint by sophisticated Americans of the "Roaring Twenties," and thousands of curious visitors soon descended on the small hill town. The savvy residents of Plymouth Notch – all 29 of them - were aware of this special appeal and kept the village exactly as it was.

In fact, 21st century visitors to the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic



Plymouth Notch, "Vermont's Brigadoon." Alois Mayer, photographer



The Coolidge Homestead, Plymouth, Vermont

Calvin Coolidge's Plymouth Notch—Then & Now—(continued)

by Bill Jenney

Site can expect to find one of the best-preserved presidential sites in the nation. The homes of Coolidge's family and neighbors are carefully preserved, as are the village church, general store, cheese factory (still making cheese using the original 1890 recipe), and community dance hall that served as the 1924 Summer White House office. A special part of any visit is the steep hillside cemetery where Calvin Coolidge rests. Some have called Plymouth Notch "Vermont's Brigadoon."

Calvin Coolidge's love of his native state is evident in the speech he delivered in Bennington in 1928. A flood had devastated the state the previous year, and Coolidge was greatly impressed by the recovery efforts of his fellow Vermonters.

"I love Vermont because of her hills

the Union and support of our institutions should languish, it could all be replenished from the generous store held by the people of this brave little state of Vermont."

And what of his passion for fishing?

In the early 20th century, it was common for both the president and Congress to take three-month vacations to escape the heat and humidity of Washington, D.C. These lengthy getaways became known as "Summer White Houses." Although a president's vacation was punctuated with official duties, the primary purpose of the Summer White House was to seek temporary relief from the stress of the world's most powerful job.

his time in office, each selected because of its good local fishing—Plymouth Notch, Swampscott (MA), Paul Smiths (Adirondacks, NY), Custer State Park (SD), and Brule River (WI).

The President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site is fortunate to have many of the gifts Coolidge received from admirers around the world. The collection includes his fishing equipment: several hundred trout flies, dozens of lures, six bamboo rods, a leather tackle box, creel, and a few bait- and fly-casting reels. Favorites are the "Shakespeare 1965 Professional" reel and the "Coolidge Special" fishing fly.



President Calvin Coolidge fishing in Pinney Hollow Brook, Plymouth Notch, Vermont, August 1924. Courtesy, Vermont Historical Society



Shakespeare 1965 Professional fishing reel, c. 1925. Collection of the State of Vermont, Division for Historic Preservation

And fishing was often the cure for such stress. Nearly all of the presidents have dabbled in the art of fishing, and Calvin Coolidge was one of its most ardent practitioners. Coolidge grew up bait fishing in Plymouth Notch, but took up the sport of fly-fishing at the encouragement of his Secret Service Chief, Colonel Edmund W. Starling. President Coolidge's fishing trips seeped into mainstream culture, as seen in extensive media coverage and political cartoons.

Calvin Coolidge had five different Summer White House locations during

A great privilege during my tenure at the Coolidge Site has been to know people who actually knew Calvin. Among these special people were John and Florence Coolidge, who following the wishes of John's mother, First Lady Grace Coolidge, made many donations that would form the heart of the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. Plan to visit this wonderful locale right here in the state of Vermont www.HistoricSites.Vermont.gov. □

Editors Note: SLA member Bill Jenney is the Regional Historic Site Administrator for the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site.

and valleys, her scenery and invigorating climate, but most of all because of her indomitable people. They are a race of pioneers who have almost beggared themselves to serve others. If the spirit of liberty should vanish in other parts of

Ages of Homes on Seymour Lake

by Diane Moore and Erik Lessing

There are two articles in past newsletters about the ages of homes, Fall 2009, Pg.10 and March 2011, Pg. 14. See website MEMBER-SHIP>Newsletter. These articles were about aggregate numbers showing the trends of home building on Seymour Lake. This interesting information was accumulated by Diane Moore over her

long service as a lister for the town.

The following table is a listing of that data for each home telling you when the first dwelling was erected on each property. It is divided by road, address number (pardon the zeros in front of some). To the right is the year the first dwelling was built on the property. We hope you will enjoy looking up the year

your home was first built. This information is not totally complete but if you know more accurate information, drop us an email at:

eriklessing@comcast.net.

We'll include it in future updates. □

VALLEY RD	FRALEIGH DR	WAYEES SH	JORDAN RD	MILES RD	VT RTE 111	CRANBER LN	TRAILS END	SEYMOUR E
0028 1987	0032 1975	0505 1984	1091 1945	133 1936	6111 1802	0157 1960	0073 1922	0502 1939
MOR/CHAR R	0183 1943	0521 1979	1093 1985	0153 1960	6138 1979	0201 1932	0076 1910	0520 1997
0374 1810	SPAULD. RD	0537 1977	1401 1930	0157 1950	6157 1961	0219 1880	LAY DR	0526 1978
0514 1952	0007 1939	0557 1980	1403 1940	0185 1950	6179 1964	TWIN CPS RD	0103 1927	0527 1946
0599 1949	0074 1982	0564 1987	BIRCH PT N	0051 1946	6197 1964	0180 1975	0182 1997	0536 1927
0721 2004	0084 1958	0581 1979	0017 1966	0057 1950	6227 1880	0181 1960	LEWIS RD	0567 1942
0735 1985	0092 1955	0584 1987	0031 1953	0065 1938	6241 2008	0201 1949	0045 1974	0575 1974
0753 1991	0107 1995	0637 1987	0037 1964	0066 1945	6249 1907	0225 1955	0218 1983	0578 1945
0769 1988	0115 1959	0667 1980	0073 1950	ROSSITERS PT	6269 1878	0257 1935	0246 1999	0590 1924
0803 1987	0127 1954	0670 2003	0093 1948	0025 1920	6309 1910	0310 1992	0285 1991	0605 2005
0820 1987	JONES RD	0705 1984	0095 1932	0051 2000	6324 1860	BUZZELL W	ELLIOTT ACR	0614 1923
0841 1981	0153 1997	0729 1992	0123 1936	0101 1920	6374 1880	0153 1987	0048 2005	BIG ROCK RD
0863 1967	0189 1960	SUGAR BUSH	0143 1936	0107 1920	6375 1953	0173 1930	0331 1980	0212 1962
0937 1954	0225 1982	0503 1988	0153 1945	0196 1987	6376 1840	0197 1910	0447 1988	0214 1955
0939 1954	0251 1993	0517 1987	BIRCH PT RD	KIPP LANE	6111 1886	0208 1988	0483 1965	0232 1900
0950 1988	0273 1995	0597 2004	0493 1959	0013 1950	6138 1883	0235 2006	0485 1972	0276 1905
0952 1987	0283 1999	0607 1981	0515 1968	0021 1965	6157 1879	0277 1920	0503 1910	0278 1901
0963 1982	0289 1998	0711 1982	0529 1956	0049 1956	6179 1876	0289 1967	0511 1972	0320 2002
1033 1985	0329 1964	ONE MILE	0545 1954	67 WATER ST	6197 1872	0309 1908	0531 1950	0340 1914
1055 1965	WAYEES SH W	0104 1981	0585 1965	0067 1885	6227 1869	0314 1937	0541 1955	0376 1960
1153 1960	0018 1963	WILLIAMS RD	0603 1971	VT RTE 111	6241 1865	0315 1937	0544 1940	MACLEAY RD
1187 1960	0026 1928	0181 1987	BIRCH PT S	3604 1962	6249 1861	0331 1937	0551 1992	0026 1930
HUNT SHORES	0038 1957	C WINAPE R	0054 1957	4495 1949	6269 1858	0349 1935	0553 1930	0029 1940
0102 2001	0054 1955	0792 1911	0066 1982	5171 2004	6309 1854	BUZZELL L	0589 1954	0036 1945
0118 2003	0086 1976	1164 1952	0088 1982	5173 1921	6324 1851	0045 1931	0600 1978	0041 1959
0132 2000	0106 1959	1348 1987	0093 1988	5175 1960	6374 1847	0065 1931	0629 1950	0046 1936
0156 1975	0120 1982	1362 1940	0100 1960	5315 1926	6375 1844	0069 2006	0630 1950	BROOK RD
0168 1951	0150 2003	1380 1940	0126 1965	5317 1951	6376 1840	BUZZELL E	0662 1994	0014 1932
0202 1950	0180 1966	1404 1940	0158 1960	5389 1926	6111 1836	0064 1936	0693 1947	0055 1953
0228 1950	0190 1968	1426 1991	OUTLET RD	5532 1984	6138 1833	0078 1936	0705 1955	0072 1938
0324 1989	WAYEES SH	1450 1987	0102 2007	5593 1974	6157 1829	0093 1932	0723 2003	0089 1947
0340 1936	0319 1986	1474 1991	0132 1990	5629 1917	6179 1826	0102 1936	0733 1992	0097 1991
0358 1958	0343 1985	1492 1971	0152 1974	5656 1800	6197 1822	BARTER LN	0745 1992	0115 1920
0374 1953	0346 1940	1538 1968	0180 1977	5665 1971	6227 1819	0057 1946	SEYMOUR E	0121 1897
0380 1947	0359 1970	1584 1972	0200 1979	5719 1950	6241 1815	0059 1920	0388 1940	0148 1928
NIWASK... RD	0370 1989	1608 1998	0262 1935	5721 1950	6249 1811	0087 1927	0405 2001	0150 1965
0252 1930	0377 1989	1650 1956	OXBOW	5827 1957	6269 1808	0096 1940	0419 1965	0153 1950
0290 1945	0394 2003	1652 1967	0345 1999	5835 2005	6309 1804	PALIN DR	0433 1955	0169 1948
0292 1963	0401 2005	1722 2000	BIRCH DR	5905 1987	6324 1801	0022 1950	0436 1940	0175 1946
0294 1936	0416 1991	1774 1991	0060 1979	5908 1850	6374 1797	0029 1938	0448 1943	
0340 1940	0427 1986	1806 1993	0088 1933	5925 1990	6375 1794	0054 1960	0462 1909	
WAYEES DR	0440 1987	1848 1994	0116 1934	5977 1922	6376 1790	CRESENT B RD	0464 1924	
0313 1967	0457 1973	1867 1987		6009 1978	6111 1786	66 1978	0471 1935	
0497 1890	0464 1990	1900 1995		6048 1976	6138 1783	LAFOE/GR B.	0476 1938	
0693 1970	0480 1998	1912 1996		6057 1989	6157 1779	0039 1939	0477 1965	
					6179 1776	0059 2002		

July 4th Boat Parade

by Bonnie McWain and photos by Brenda Wierschke

What a glorious July 4th on Seymour Lake—a perfect weather day for a boat parade! Our annual event was advertised as being the only parade in the NEK that you could participate in or watch this year and the turnout was outstanding. There were over 40 decorated boats and water craft in the parade from vintage antiques to

brand new vessels (we think that was a record!). And the number of lakeside viewers far exceeded that number cheering us on with enthusiasm equal to that of the boaters passing by. We tried to strike a balance between getting close enough so people on the shore could see the boats, and staying far enough away to minimize the waves

to protect the shoreline (although it would seem that the impact of one trip around the lake is minimal compared to a single typical storm event!). Hope you all enjoyed what has become a tradition here at Seymour. Plan to be part of this wonderful event next year when we plan to highlight the shore viewers. □



Property Taxes Explained

by Rhonda Shippee

No one likes paying taxes but hopefully we've all recently paid our VT property taxes. Vermont is known as a high property tax state. Unfortunately understanding how the property tax for your Vermont home,

land or business is determined can be a daunting task. It can be especially confusing for property owners who live in another state. In our May newsletter we are planning an article that will explain how the VT property tax program

works. Meanwhile, we are pleased that our initial research reveals that the 2020/2021 Morgan tax rate is the sixth lowest of the 48 towns in the NEK! □

Smelt in Seymour Lake

by Bill Bilowus

Due to the lack of smelt in Seymour Lake for the past eight years, the Seymour Lake Association, under the direction of SLA President Chuck Nichols, created a Smelt Committee. The disappearance of the smelt in our lake has definitely been affecting the size of our lake trout and salmon. We started looking for the "best practices" in the country in order to bring back the smelt into our beautiful lake. Tim Buzzell found some good management plans for smelt in Maine and Vermont.

We spoke to biologist Kevin Dunham from Maine who sent us their smelt restoration plan. Maine doesn't transfer live smelt from donor streams to receiver streams. Only smelt eggs are transferred. Maine believes that the two most important steps are proper tempering of the donor/receiver water within 5 degrees Celsius and a 60 second sea salt dip of the eggs on the burlap (used to transfer the eggs), into a tub of that tempered water to help eliminate parasites. Maine has been very successful in the smelt population transfer management. Fishermen are allowed two quarts of smelt daily and commercial fishermen can take eight quarts daily from selected waters.

Pete Emerson, Fish Biologist in Vermont, also found it better to transfer smelt eggs rather than live smelt from donor streams to receiver streams. Millions of smelt eggs can be transferred on one larger piece of burlap approximately 5 x4 feet.

Our Smelt Committee met a number of times before meeting with the Morgan Conservation Group headed by Matt Breton, Walt Driscoll, Pete Emerson, and Eric Palmer, head of the Fishery Dept. in Vermont. After a couple of meetings, the State gave us the approval to collect smelt eggs on burlap from various streams in NE Vermont and place them into our brooks going into

Seymour Lake.

This year in April of 2020, we worked with Emerson, Breton, and the Conservation Group and our Smelt Committee. After a postponed start due to the CoronaVirus, we put in 10 burlaps with millions of eggs into 5 of our brooks going into Seymour Lake: Sucker, Valley, Hatchery, Cranberry and Jordan Rd. This was not an easy venture. We first had to survey all the brooks coming into Seymour. We recorded water temperatures, debris, water flow, and any fish seen in the brook. We used this data to decide into which brooks we would put the smelt eggs.

Another crew from the Conservation Group was surveying the donor streams from which we would be getting the smelt eggs from. They were looking for good spots in the streams to place the burlaps when the spawning started. Spawning starts at different days on lakes and streams and only at night, so timing is of utmost importance. As soon as spawning began, Pete Emerson and crew put down the burlaps in appropriate places and anchor them with rocks approximately 100 yds. or closer from each lake. Pete had to check the burlaps frequently to see when the



spawn had ended. Once the spawn was finished, Pete would immediately take the burlaps to our Seymour Lake brooks. He would check the water temperatures and do the sea salt dips be-

fore placing them into the brooks. The eggs would then attach to rocks and vegetation, and also on our burlaps.

After the burlaps were placed into our brooks, our smelt committee monitored them every other day until all the eggs were off the burlaps. They also checked for high water, debris, fish and vandalism. Normally, it takes two to four weeks to hatch, depending on the water temperature. After hatching, the transparent larvae approximately ¼" long, will drift merrily down the brook into the lake. Growth is fairly rapid, and they can reach 2" by the end of the summer of their first year. Most mature smelt range from three to six inches. Only mature smelt, two to three years old, will ascend up the brooks to spawn. This is why we are on a three year plan for transferring smelt eggs. It won't be until April 2022 when our smelt are two years old that they will start going up our brooks and spawning. When that happens, our own process will begin and we will be producing our own smelt eggs and smelt. Hopefully, we will be able to sustain a healthy population of smelt in our Seymour Lake, and produce bigger lake trout and salmon.

Our Smelt Committee is composed of: Chuck Nichols, Bob Durgin, Tim Buzzell, Matt Shippee, Woody Woods, Shawn Austin, Shawn Selby, Jim McWain, Al Wooley, Dave Potter, Ron Frascoia, Justin Limoge, Denis Fortin, Trevor Barski and Bill Bilowus.

If any others would like to join our committee, please call me at 895 2540 - Bill