



November 2023 Newsletter

President's message
By Rhonda Shippee



Photo by Rick Deroucher

Summer and fall have come to a close and many are happy to see them in the rear-view mirror! Summer brought more rain than many remember in a single season culminating in flooding throughout the State in July. Smoke from the Canadian wildfires added a new phenomenon to the season. Summer was followed by a foliage season which was later, shorter and less spectacular than typical. Despite the weather, I believe those who were at the lake still found much to enjoy. A good example was our annual boat parade. On July 2nd, 20 boats braved the cool temps, rain and paraded their patriotic colors and spirits to the spectators cheering from 146 docks along the shore. The Seymour boaters and spectators are a tough group! Then, 66 SLA members attended our 72nd annual meeting on July 22nd at the Morgan Community House. We acknowledged Erik Lessing who stepped down from the Board after 17 years (15 of those as the Chair of the SLA Newsletter). We elected a new Board member, Candy Moot (learn more about Candy on page 8) to replace Erik. Candy worked tirelessly on both the proposed wake boat regulation and in getting additional funding from the legislature for the boat inspection programs. She has also led the Online Committee and is behind the e-mail blasts and SLA Facebook page that have become so popular.

Bevin Barber-Campbell, from the Orleans County Conservation District, spoke to us about the Lake Watershed Action Plan (LWAP) they will be conducting for the Seymour-Echo Lake watershed (learn more about their progress on page 7). Also, draft minutes from the annual meeting are available on the SLA website at: <https://seymourlake.org/minutes/>. You can also mark your 2024 for next year's annual meeting which will be on July 27th.

A week later, on July 29th, 82 members and guests gathered at the annual outing which was again graciously hosted by the Kolar family at the Camp Winape dining hall. Temps were cooler than normal but the fire in the large stone fireplace made for a warm and comfortable gathering. If you have never attended the annual outing, I encourage you to consider it as it is a great way to meet others who love and enjoy the lake. The dining hall has been meticulously maintained and remains much as it was when the camp was operating. Through the years, I've learned that many who own or rent property on the lake come to Seymour because they have such fond memories of attending Camp Winape as youth. For more information on the history of Camp Winape, see the article in the Nov.2014 newsletter at: <https://seymourlake.org/sla-newsletters/>

Under the great leadership of Beth Torpey, our boat inspection program ran from Memorial Day weekend through October 31st. It operated 7 days a week from 6 am to 6pm. The new trailer proved a big improvement over the former wooden "shack." Finding greeters was initially difficult but ultimately there were 17 different greeters hired to cover the season. This year 1,197 boats were inspected. David Wieselmann lead our Volunteer Invasive Patrollers (aka VIPs) who have also concluded their surveys and fortunately did not identify any invasive species in the lake. We have heard several reports that the fishing improved on the lake this year. Hopefully, this is in some part the result of SLA's work in the past four years to restore smelt to the lake. We are waiting for word from the State regarding extending the program for a fifth year.

The Board has closely followed the progress of proposed statewide wake boat regulations. As we go to print, we await the final step toward approval at the legislature by LCAR (Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules). The SLA Board supports the rule as proposed by the state and is hopeful we will be implementing the "home lake rule" component next season. This will limit wake boats to operating on a single lake during the season. The hope is this will eliminate the potential spread of invasive species that might be carried from one lake to another in the ballast of a wake boat. Many thanks to new SLA Director Candy Moot and AIS Program Coordinator Beth Torpey who recommended this important component of the regulation to the State.

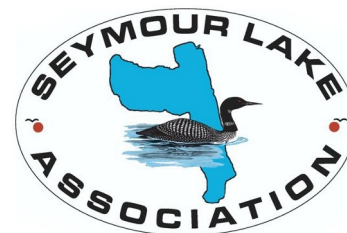
We recently learned that long-time Seymour Lake resident and Water Quality Committee member, Bill Kilpatrick, has been honored by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources as a leader in preserving Vermont's imperiled wildlife, especially small mammals. For more details on Bill's extensive work and accomplishments, see the full article at <https://vtdigger.org/2023/10/31/longtime-uvvm-professor-honored-for-work-with-vermont-endangered-species/>. Congratulations, Bill!

Finally, after extensive review and discussion, the SLA Board has voted to increase our dues (more details on page 6). While we will still rely on the generous additional donations many members make each year, we are hopeful that with this change, the income from dues will cover our annual operating expenses and donations will support a strong reserve. Thanks to all for your support of SLA in 2023, both financially and as volunteers. Best wishes for a safe and happy winter and holiday season. □

Photo by Rhonda Shippee



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

PO Box 36, Morgan, Vermont 05853

Website: www.seymourlake.org

Officers

President	Rhonda Shippee	vtslapresident@gmail.com
Vice President	Bonnie McWain	
Treasurer	Jean McKenny	
Secretary	Linda Buzzell	

Directors (Term Ends)

Bruce Barter '24	Sean Selby '25	Tim Buzzell '26
Charles Woods '24	Candy Moot '25	Tom Adams '26
Bruce Remick '24	Denis Fortin '25	Bill Bilowus '26

Committee Members

- Activities.....Bonnie McWain
- AuditMarie Tule, Doug Jangraw
- 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
- LoonsCharles "Woody" Woods, Denis Fortin, Nancy Bowen, Eli Antonova
- MapsChuck Nichols
- MembershipTom Adams, Tim Buzzell, Gerry Cahill, Dick Morley, Ann Torpey, Chris Blais, Bonnie McWain, Jim Mitchell, Andy Barter, Ann Stafford
- MilfoilRhonda Shippee, Beth Torpey, David Wieselmann
- Newsletter Denis Fortin, Erik Lessing, Bruce Barter, Candy Moot
- Nominating Tim Buzzell, Bonnie McWain, Sean Selby
- Water Quality.....Peggy Barter, Rob Hoffmann, Kit Walker, Dan Barry, Gerry Cahill, Beth Torpey, Ron Kolar, Erik Lessing, Rhonda Shippee, Trish Clark, Andy Barter, Tracey Becken, Tom Emery, David Wieselmann
- Volunteer Invasive Patrollers (VIP): David Wieselmann, Ray Bolduc, Lee McLendon, Candy Moot, Janet Selby, Cindy Smith, Kit Walker, Betsy Walkerman, Gerry Cahill, Erik Lessing, Andy Barter, Cooper Barter, Kenni Jenness Friere, Sylvia Geiger
- Online:Candy Moot, Karen Abada, Chuck Nichols, Erik Lessing, Andy Barter, Rhonda Shippee, Wendy Franklin, Denis Fortin
- Seymour Lake Reclassification: Peggy Barter, Sean Selby, Larry Labor, Tom Adams

Note: Name under-lined is Committee Chair. Others are Committee Members.

Greeters at the Boat Launch: Bud Bergh, Kim Germain, Dean White, Jimmy Almazan, Chorus Claymore, Beth Howe, Bill Drake, Cora Kelly, Leslie Martin, Zoe Shelp, Dennis Ullery, Angela Walton, Kerry Wevurski, Joe DeSenna, Ryan Hryckiewicz, Alex Carter



Photo by Anthony Lazzara

Town of Morgan www.townofmorgan.com

Selectmen: Eric Pope—Chair
 Larry Labor
 Bruce Remick

Town Clerk/Treasurer—TammyLee Morin

Asst. Town Clerk—Amanda Wright

North Country School Directors: Danielle Blake-chair,
 Sean Selby, Tammy Lacourse

Zoning Officer—Beth Torpey, 802-895-3013

Fire Warden— Bob Cain, 802-895-2727

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 Laura Woods who can be reached at. laura.woods@vermont.gov 802-490-6100.

Note that the Town of Morgan now requires a shoreland permit (if needed) prior to issuing a zoning permit. □

Jake Johnson
 Fish and Wildlife Game Warden
 By Bill Bilowus

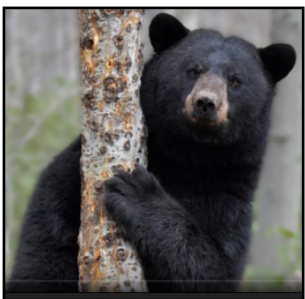
Bill and Jake



Moose

Jake explained why the State has decided to have a moose season this fall because there are more moose around in the E-1 and E-2 hunting districts in the NEK. Less than half of the calves make it through their first year, by reducing the moose herd and eventually, the tick population. Moose are also battling brain worms.

If you see a moose in the woods and it starts to approach you, retreat and try to get behind a tree, play the squirrel game as the moose circles it. They are curious and don't see well, so eventually they will walk away. A bull moose during the Sept-Oct rut season or a cow with a calf may be a different story. Retreat slowly and use the tree scenario (above). Best to stay out of the deep woods and mountains at these times, unless you are hunting.



Bears

If you are having a bear problem at home, it is usually a food problem. Bears can smell up to seven times better than a dog, so make sure your garbage is properly secured. Ironically, while the bear population is relatively stable, we are seeing more bears.

During the pandemic, with more people using more homes as social distancing and not visiting the transfer stations, landfills, etc, the bears developed a routine of looking for trash and compost piles and now that tradition has been passed down to the next generation of young bears. About 80% of the so-called nuisance bears are young males. Remember to remove bird feeders if needed and use electric fences for chickens and other domestic animals.



Coyotes

There is a healthy population of coyotes around, and they haven't caused too many problems as of now.



Deer

We have a healthy population of deer in the NEK. Legal bucks must have at least one point at least 3" long. Only one buck is allowed during archery, rifle and black powder seasons. Interestingly, we had more hunters during the Pandemic. If you hit a deer with your vehicle, you should call the State Police @802-334-8881 and also the game warden, Jake Johnson at 802-917-6264.

Another area which Jake wanted to stress is anyone under 12 must wear a PFD at all times in the boat. Jake explains that he typically spends about 2/3's of his work day in the field and about 1/3 for paperwork. Jake can also be reached at jacob.e.johnson@vermont.gov

Changes to the Farrow Farm and Valley Brook in 2024



Pherrins River Homestead

By Denis and Eli Fortin

Anthony and Kathy Lazzara



Anthony Lazzara (and Kathy Lazzara, at a later date) have been SLA members for many years, and have enjoyed the lake from the camp on Cranberry lane since the early 1980s. They used the camp in summer months and on weeks ends, including during the fall nights

After 35 years of teaching , Anthony believes he had taught over 5,000 students in his Environmental Science class at King Philip Reginal High School in Wrentham, MA. He then decided to put an ad in the local newspaper to thank all his students whom he believed shaped his life. The mother of one of his past students saw the article and told her daughter, “You may need to visit your past teacher before he leaves, probably for Vermont.” That student was Kathy, who did visit her teacher from 25 years ago, they exchanged books, composting and other ideas first explored by at King Philip Reginal High School.

For many years, Anthony would head home, down to route 114, turn right to head south towards Island Pond. Ken Whitehill, a friend, had land down there and told Anthony and Kathy to turn left on Route 114, instead of their normal right, to a land parcel with which Ken was willing to part. They stood together on the bridge leading to the property, took in the landscape and decided, this is it!

Upon arrival at the land parcel, Kathy realized she had camped across the road in the wetlands many years ago while she was part of the Wildflower society which often stayed in Island Pond. Standing together at the land entrance on the bridge, they took in the landscape: this is what they had been searching for. The land was purchased from Ken Whitehill, and Ken wanted to

know his neighbors.

They started construction in 2006. Irasburg Authentic Log homes started sawing up the logs the second year and the actual home construction started the third year with the Bennet brothers.

Kathy and Anthony had the goal of being self-sustaining and after a few years of gardens, wood piles, and canning they seemed to have pretty much reached their goal. One glance at the Homestead and you can see years of dedication to the land, surroundings, and nature. The outbuildings for drying the wood planks, the raised gardens, the pond, a certified tree farm and the chicken shed give you the feel of not wanting or having to leave.

The Lazzaras enjoy a few craft shows a year, and people stopping in to browse. They enjoy special orders for signs, tables and just about anything that can be made from wood. Now Anthony and Kathy make their main home on the other side of Morgan, over on Morgan’s east side on Route 114, in a wonderful place called the Pherrins River Homestead. Besides all the beautiful items, the Homestead contains many weather links and weekly weather updates.

www.pherrinriverhomestead.net



Winter Visitors

By Doug Gimler

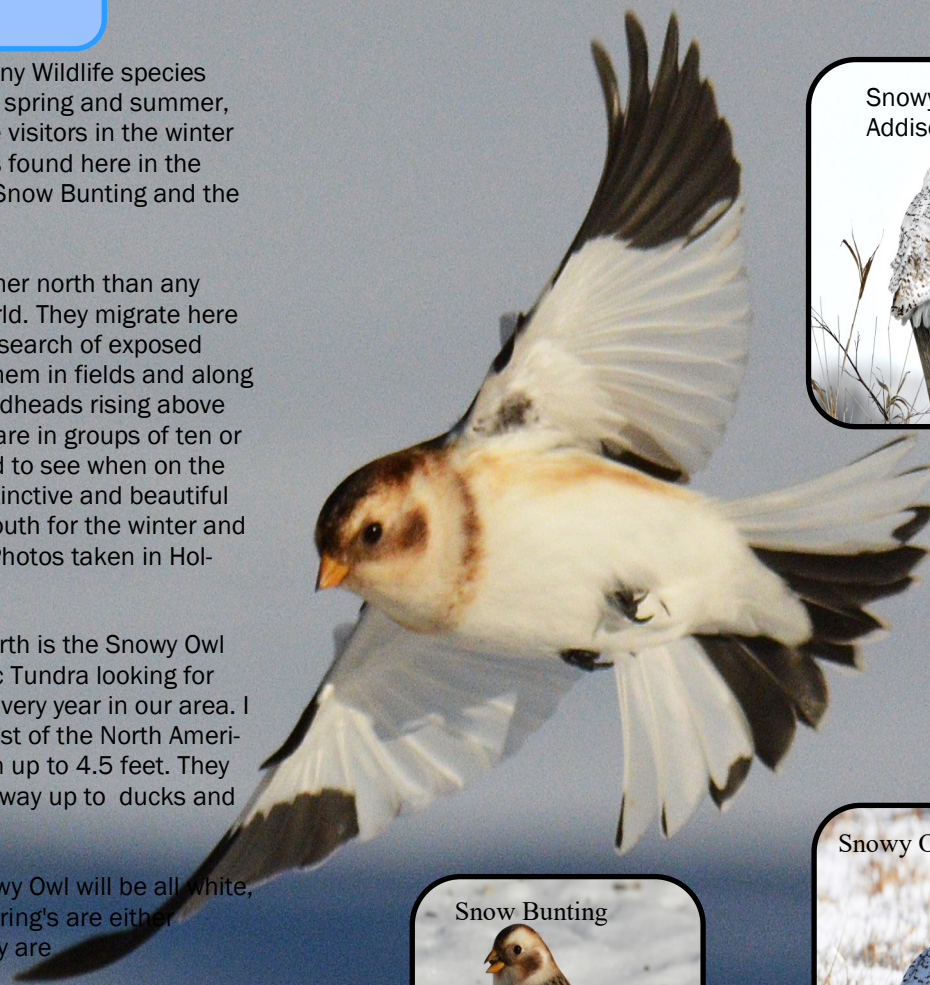
For more pictures from Doug ,visit
www.Nekwildlifephoto.com

Most people and many Wildlife species visit Morgan in the spring and summer, but there are also wildlife visitors in the winter months. Two bird species found here in the depths of winter are the Snow Bunting and the Snowy Owl.

Snow Buntings nest further north than any other snowbird in the world. They migrate here and many other areas in search of exposed seeds and grains. I see them in fields and along roadsides feeding on seedheads rising above the snow. Typically, they are in groups of ten or more birds. They are hard to see when on the ground and are quite distinctive and beautiful in flight. Imagine going south for the winter and only reaching the NEK! (Photos taken in Holland, VT)

Another visitor to the north is the Snowy Owl who travels from the Artic Tundra looking for food. They are not seen every year in our area. I believe they are the largest of the North American Owls with a wingspan up to 4.5 feet. They prey on field mice all the way up to ducks and other water birds.

Only a mature male Snowy Owl will be all white, those with the darker barring's are either females or juveniles. They are found in New England in open areas such as fields and also at airports. (Photos taken in Morristown and in Addison at the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area)□



Snowy Owl,
Addison, VT



Snowy Owl



Snow Bunting



Green Mountain Conservation Camp By Linda Buzzell

Since 2018, Seymour Lake Association has been sponsoring boys and girls to attend the Green Mountain Conservation Camp (GMCC) at either Lake Bomoseen or Buck Lake.

The camps offer learning experiences about fish, wildlife, ecology, botany, and forestry. In addition, there are opportunities for the campers to hike, canoe, fish and learn to tie flies, get their Hunter Safety Certificate, learn archery and so much more.

There were a record number of girls attending this summer and they added an additional Girls Basic Session. GMCC hopes they will fill the Girls Advanced Session in 2024! It is SLA's hope that by attending, our kids would develop a caring attitude about Vermont's fish and wildlife, gain confidence

and the love of the outdoors and bring that respect back to Seymour Lake as they grow into young adults.

This past summer SLA sponsored two boys who had a wonderful experience learning about our Vermont outdoors. And it is our hope that other boys and girls ages 12-15 from our region and our lake community will want to attend in the future

There was some confusion this summer about how to apply for this sponsorship. If your child is interested, please contact Linda Buzzell before you register your child, giving her your child's name, age and address. Linda will email the signed sponsorship form which must be attached to the application. Her contact information is Linda Buzzell, 603-448-3245 or email @ t-buzzell@comcast.net.□

Board votes to increase SLA dues in 2024

After considerable review and deliberation, the SLA Board of Directors has voted to increase our annual membership dues to \$25 for an individual and \$50 for a family. This change will be effective for 2024 new members and renewals. The current dues have been in effect since 2007. The new dues are also in line with those of other local lake associations.

One factor driving the decision to increase membership dues is the Board's belief that membership dues should cover our annual operating expenses and additional donations should be used to increase our reserve funds, should we have to address an invasive species infestation or to cover other unanticipated extraordinary expenses. In the three most recent years, our membership dues have covered 69%, 59% and 49% of our operating expenses. The increased dues, based on current membership (93 single and 278 family members) will come very close to covering our anticipated annual operating costs.

The Board is also increasingly concerned as we learn from our neighboring lakes about the cost of controlling Eurasian Milfoil should we discover it in our lake. One lesson learned is that quick action is needed when milfoil is discovered. Rapid Response Programs are focused on stopping the spread after initial detection, before the milfoil has had the opportunity to establish itself. The State

typically covers the cost of this work but available funding can limit response time. This is where immediately available funds from the local community or lake association are critical. It is important to understand that of the 100 Vermont lakes that have milfoil infestations, only one lake (Shadow Lake in Glover) has eradicated it. The reality is that once discovered, it is rare to eradicate the milfoil, but efforts must be made to control its spread. Management and control programs are conducted annually and can include hand pulling, divers, bottom barriers, diver assisted suction harvesting (aka DASH) and potentially herbicide treatment. The State will cover a portion of these costs (historically about 36%), but the balance of the cost must be covered by local funding. Our neighbor, Lake Salem, discovered milfoil in 2017 and has been struggling to control it since then. Their annual expenses have risen from \$5,750 in 2018 to \$31,535 in 2022. This year they received approval to use herbicides as part of their control plan and the estimated 2023 cost adding this to their program is \$115,000. In summary, once discovered, managing milfoil is expensive and is an annual recurring expense that would substantially increase our need for funding. Obviously, we hope our boat inspection program will keep milfoil out of our lake, but the Board feels that "hope" is not a responsible strategy going forward.

The decision to increase dues was not an easy one; however, the SLA Board

feels the new dues are still a bargain. Membership includes a semi-annual newsletter and frequent e-mail blasts with important updates on topics of interest. In the past few years SLA developed the smelt program to improve fishing conditions, worked with the State toward a wake boat regulation, operates one of the most active Lake Wise programs in the State, worked with legislators to increase funding for AIS prevention programs and restore two positions to the VT Lakes and Ponds Division, and recently convinced the state to dredge the boat launch. Most important, however, is that we operate the full time boat inspection program that runs from Memorial Day weekend through October 31 which has successfully kept our lake free of invasive species.

We cannot continue the above work without the strong support of our members both from annual dues and additional donations. We are thankful for the 66% of our members who have historically provided an additional donation along with their annual dues and hope they continue to do so and that others who have not donated in the past will consider making a donation. We also encourage those who enjoy our lake that have not joined SLA to please consider joining to support our work.

If any member has questions or would like further details that lead to the Board's decision to raise dues, feel free to contact me. I can be reached at vtslapresident@gmail.com. □



Local residents enjoying a warm, sunny day at the beach.



A packed parking lot!



L to R Bill Bilowus, Bruce Barter, Rhonda Shippee, Charles Woods, Tim Buzzell, Candy Moot, Linda Buzzell, Bonnie McWain, Sean Selby, Jean Mc Kenny, Denis Fortin, Bruce Remick (Missing: Tom Adams)

How to help preserve our lake's water quality

By Peggy Barter

Those heavy rains we endured this summer added much sediment and runoff to the lake. We'll need to wait to learn the impact on phosphorus levels until the Lay Monitoring data is complete. In the meantime, please keep in mind the two highest priorities of your Water Quality Committee:

1. Prevent any Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) from entering the lake by encouraging lake shore owners to learn to recognize the normal aquatic plants near their properties. If you see anything unusual, please report to David Wieselmann at davidisbacksf@yahoo.com

2. Assist lake shore owners in adopting Lake Wise practices to prevent the threat to the lake's water quality caused by heavy rain storms or snow melt. Contact Tracey Becken at slalakewise@gmail.com to learn how to participate in Lake Wise and receive help in using buffer planting, water bars, infiltration steps, meandering pathways and other best management practices to slow the flow. These practices can help keep our lake free of cyanobacteria (AKA blue green algae) blooms. Always, your suggestions and assistance as a volunteer are welcome.

Your Water Quality Committee at work:

Phragmites Control at Public Beach;

Tracey Becken has organized several crews each summer to help remove phragmites. To remove properly, the phragmites must be cut, dug out and removed to prevent new growth. A second crew assisted a lakeshore owner with phragmites control. Members of the two crews included John and Laurie Traficonte, Marylou Steenrod, Julia and Greyson Norton and Kit Walker and Rob Hofmann.

LWAP (short for Lake Watershed Action Plan):

The Echo/ Seymour Watershed Action Plan is well underway. Lake shore surveys, which look for opportunities on the shore to reduce phosphorus entering the lake, have been conducted on both lakes. Phosphorus is the main substance driving plant and algae growth in our lakes. The lake shore survey on Seymour was conducted by Patrick Hurley and Gabyrel Gianoni who are part of the team conducting the LWAP. They were transported by Denis Fortin on his pontoon boat. Ernie Broadwater, Alison Marchione, Tracey Becken and Peggy Barter joined Denis as SLA's representatives to answer the surveyor's questions, as needed. When the leaves are off the trees, Patrick will lead the stream survey and road surveys including both public and private dirt roads. The three surveys will identify opportunities to reduce phosphorus entering the lake.

Lake Wise assessments and workshop:

Lake Wise leader Tracey Becken has planned two events for next summer. On July 8 or 11, 2024 (date not yet finalized) presenters will provide a seminar about waste water, driveways, terrestrial invasive plants and tree planting. On July 25, 2024 a garden tour of Lake Wise properties will take place in collaboration with Echo Lake.

Boat Access Rain Gardens:

The gardens have been maintained this year by Rhonda Shippee, Marylou- Steenrod, Tracey Becken, and Riley Barter. Rhonda welcomes help, please contact her if you can assist.

Lake Shore Permits: Trish Clark has begun to track State Shoreland Protection issued permits for any work on the lake shore. To learn if you need a permit for your project use this form: https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/lakes/docs/shoreland/shorelandprojectworksheets_06072017.pdf or <https://rb.gy/1b8sb>



Photos by Tracey Becken

Above: John and Laurie Traficonte, Marylou Steenrod, Julia and Greyson Norton, Kit Walker, and Rob Hoffman



The survey team

Survey Team (L to R): Gabyrel Gianoni, Peggy Barter, Patrick Hurley, Denis Fortin, Alison Marchione (Missing Ernie Broadwater and Tracey Becken)

For
Rent

Are you planning a large gathering next year and need to find a place to rent nearby? Would you like to rent your own home or camp? Consider using the real estate rental section of the SLA website (see at <https://seymourlake.org/real-estate-for-rent/>). Postings are free to SLA Members. If you are interested in posting a property, email vtslapresident@gmail.com for a listing form. □

A new Board member

Although Candy Moot just joined the SLA board of directors earlier this year, she has been active in SLA issues for quite a while. In 2013, she was active in legislative and regulatory efforts regarding lake water levels. For a number of years, starting in 2015, she worked to inform and organize people about a potential industrial scale wind development at Seymour Lake.

In the last couple of years, Candy has been actively involved in the wake boat rule, organizing the pristine lakes in the NEK and helping ensure the rules contain provisions to keep invasive species like milfoil out of our lakes. For a number of years, Candy has also chaired SLA's Online Committee, which manages SLA's website, email blasts and More recently, Candy and others worked through the legislature to significantly increase State funding for lake greeter programs. She was also part of a small group who successfully got statutory changes through the Senate to help lakes who wish to get A-1 status, while not adversely effecting homeowners or small businesses in the watershed.

the Facebook page.

Candy is a graduate of South Burlington High School, and Mount Holyoke College. Her professional life started at the US State Dept. in D.C. but when she returned to Vermont she spent most of her career at the Vermont Statehouse as a lobbyist, serving as the President of the Vermont Ski Areas Association, then with AARP, and finally the law firm Sirotkin and Necrason. Her volunteer work for over 30 years has been varied, but primary focused on children as a foster parent, an adoptive parent, a Guardian Ad Litem and many years on various boards, such as the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

Candy lives on Camp Winape Road with her "current" husband, Chuck Nichols. They have a daughter who lives in Virginia with her husband and three perfect children. While she loves every single thing about Seymour Lake and living in the Kingdom, her favorite things include kayaking, hiking with friends, her perennial gardens and pickelball.□



Candy Moot

Dredging the boat access By Tim Buzzell

While SLA members have known for years that our State-owned boat access area was too shallow for safe use, SLA's numerous requests to the State for dredging were denied. Coincidentally, weeks before the July 2023 storm, the SLA Board formed a Dredging Committee (which included Rep. Larry Labor) to more formally pursue the idea of dredging the boat access area. Bill Bilowus directed the collection over 400 signatures on a petition, demanding action be taken.

Although the July 2023 storm precluded the need to make use of this petition, the exercise emboldened the Committee and allowed them to immediately contact the Governor's Office and Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Chris Herrick. Finally, on August 31, 2023 Committee members Tim Buzzell and Chuck Nichols met with the Commissioner and it was agreed that the State would dredge the Seymour boat access to a depth of four feet, using both FEMA and State funds. SLA has been promised that the dredging work will be done in the spring of 2024.

Denis Fortin, also a member of the Dredging Committee, arranged for SLA to purchase buoys and installed them in front of the access area, with the intent to guide boaters to the safest channel.□