



Summer 2019

Lake Front

A Salem Lakes Association Publication

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Cover image by Tim Votapka

Visit us online: www.salemlakesvt.org

Welcome Back!

By Roger Cartee, President



By the time you read this letter, hopefully the sun will have come out from behind the clouds, the rain will have slowed and allowed your lawns to dry up a little and you will have mowed your lawn, mulched and planted flowers and put the lawn chairs out. It has been a long winter, a wet, cold and damp spring and now it is time for boating, lying out in the sun and firing up the grill.

The not so fun part of the summer will be our continuing battle to rid the lake of milfoil but we did get some good news from our first dive of the year on May 28th. So far this year, no milfoil is growing in the bay in and around the boat launch area where the milfoil barriers were placed last year. Please read the article by Ed Wells and Andy Major about milfoil. Ed is taking the lead on the battle with milfoil with veteran help from Andy.

The Executive Board held their spring meeting on May 25 and discussed a number of topics starting with the flooding we suffered again this year. Several members of the board went to a legislative breakfast where we talked with area legislators concerning the high waters at Salem as well as a change of staffing in the Department of Environmental Conservation in Montpelier.

Thanks to board member Dennis Bond, we have a new buoy floating over the sunken island at the north end of the lake. Dennis, with help from another board member, Ross Ogilvie, anchored the buoy to the island at the end of May making it easier and safer for fishermen trying to catch the big one.

Membership was over the 100 mark in 2018, an increase over 2017, but we still need to increase our numbers. If you have not yet joined the association, please complete the membership form on the back of this newsletter and submit along with the very reasonable \$10.00 fee.

Lake monitors have been at the boat launch checking in boats since late May. There haven't been many boats on the water yet because the water is still high and cold.

We lost one of our board members but the nominating committee selected Ed Wells to fill out the remainder of John Guyette's term.

Because John is away so much of the time when the board meets, he felt it was necessary to resign. He did remind us that he will still be around to help. His family has a rich history on the lake and we can't begin to thank him and his family for everything they have done to make Salem Lakes a better place.

Don't forget the 4th of July Parade in Derby. Come out to support your board members and friends who work hard to decorate a float and participate in the parade.

We hope to see you at the annual potluck breakfast membership meeting at Char-Bo campground on July 20, the third Saturday in July. Meghann Carter of the Northwood Stewardship Center will be our guest speaker. Our thanks to Char-Bo for once again making their space available for our meeting.

Welcome back! Have a great summer!

'Membership was over the 100 mark in 2018, an increase over 2017, but we still need to increase our numbers.'

Milfoil Remains a Priority This Year

By Andy Major & Ed Wells

It was in the fall of year 2017 when divers found the infamous Eurasian Water Milfoil in Salem Lake between the access and the entrance of the Clyde River. The patch was about 15 feet wide and 40 feet long and quite thick. Due to the lateness of the season, nothing was done. The following summer, professional divers suctioned up the patch. Mats, lent to us by Derby Pond, were laid down over the patch.

Divers, at this time, surveyed the total lake and did not find any milfoil. However, at a later time, individual shoots of milfoil were found at the east end of the lake. A professional diver did his best to hand pull the shoots; however, the weather was not ideal due to winds and rain.

Milfoil is a plant that grows very thick and chokes out all local and natural growth. It also extinguishes the possibility of boating and swimming in shallow water. Fishing becomes more of a challenge. If not checked, it will cover a lake (from 1-30 feet in depth) as thick as a hay field. Some lakes in Vermont require a pathway to be mowed every year just so boats may reach their docks. Lake Iroquois in Hinesburg had to pay about \$10,000 just to clear a 200-foot path for boat access.

It is believed that this weed came from Europe being brought by ships and when their ballast containers were released, so was this weed. It came down the St. Lawrence river to various lakes and began its nefarious journey in the States. It typically gets into lakes by hitching a ride on boats, trailers and propellers that do not get cleaned before launch. Wildlife and wind contribute to the spread as well.

Salem Lake has a perfect muddy bottom for natural aquatic plants as well as for invasive species.



Unloading the weed barriers are (left to right), board members Ross Ogilvie, Ed Wells and Dennis Bond. The inset photo is the new diver, Rob Patton.

Some history: David Wood, past president of the Salem Lakes Association was instrumental in starting a Greeter/Monitor Program when the State of Vermont instituted it in 2002. Financial grants were made available to various organizations with matching grants used to encourage the prevention of spreading the weed.

Greeter/Monitors at state public boat accesses inspect and verify that any and all equipment is clean before it enters any water body. State law now makes it illegal to transport invasive plants or live species. The project at Salem Lake has been continued under the supervision of Andy Major, a lake resident. How milfoil entered Salem Lake is anyone's guess and never will be known for certain.

It can be difficult to discern the difference between the invasive

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and the native Northern Milfoil. EWM has as a longer leaf and tends to collapse around the stem when removed from the water. Native milfoil tends to maintain a 'bushy' appearance when removed from the water.

We are working with a new diver this year – Rob Patton from Westmore. He has worked for the Shadow Lake Association for six years and also provides EWM removal services at Crystal Lake. Rob likes to work with volunteers who monitor shallower water by boat or by snorkeling while he concentrates on deeper water during his dives. If you would like to get more involved in any portion of this effort please contact Ed by email at ejowells@gmavt.net or any lake association director.

Continued on page 14

Paid Membership Up From Year to Year

Paid memberships in the Salem Lakes Association increased from 93 in 2017 to 111 in 2018. In addition to paying the \$10.00 for dues, 86 of those 111 members also made donations ranging from \$5.00 to \$100.00. Your support through memberships and donations is instrumental in allowing the Salem Lakes Association to continue efforts to preserve the lakes. Please join for the first time or renew your membership by taking a moment to complete the membership registration/renewal on the last page of this newsletter. A big thank you to the lake residents and property owners (see page 5) for their interest in the lake and support of the Association. Don't forget to use the membership forms when you send in your donations.

Photo by Tim Votapka

New Levels of Support Opening Up

By Sharon Kelley

Members of the Salem Lakes Association have always been generous in their support of the environment and the health of the lakes. In 2018, approximately 80 of the 111 members added an extra contribution to their \$10.00 dues payment. These extra funds help with monitoring the lakes for invasive species and protecting the general health of the lakes.

With lesser state funding for the Monitor/Greeter program and the fact that Eurasian milfoil has been identified in Big Salem, those extra donations become more important than ever. In order to recognize those who are going the extra mile to support the lakes, levels of giving beyond the \$10.00 dues will be recognized in the future.

Recognition levels have been established as follows:

Friend of the Lakes - \$15.00 - \$30.00
 Silver Friend of the Lakes - \$31.00 - \$60.00
 Gold Friend of the Lakes - \$61.00 - \$90.00
 Platinum Friend of the Lakes - \$91.00 +

Please consider adding a donation when you pay your dues this year. Every dollar helps!

If you have enjoyed the benefits of living at the lakes either year round or as a seasonal resident, please consider making a bequest to the Salem Lakes Association as part of your estate planning. Future generations who will get to enjoy our beautiful lakes will thank you!

Paid Members

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Calvin & Sharon Ward | Ed & Susan Wells | Eric & Kerry Golembeski |
| Michael & Lisa Worden | Roger & Janet Cartee | Michael & Maureen Talbot |
| Sharon & Harold Kelley | Sue Dwelle | Conrad & Marilyn Miller |
| Richard & Andrea Cate | Madeleine Roy | Diane Beck & Mary Nault |
| Mo & Joe Profera | Lois Young | Jeff & Nancy Houghton |
| Sandra Maxham & Craig Williams | Paul & Carol Comtois | Pelkey Property Holdings, LLC |
| Mark Lalime | Joseph & Christine Biernat | Bruce & Barbara Sherman |
| Jennifer Powers | Sheila Sisco | Dominick & Eleanor Riley |
| Tom & Carol Bailey | Gordon Best | David & Kelly Harris |
| Ed & Alta Jenness | John & Suzanne Patenaude | Carole Comeau |
| Barbara Shepard | Gertrude & Mark Friedman | Gary & Merrily Slawson |
| Josee Fauteux | Norman & Annamae Miller | Andy & Lois Major |
| Mary Ann Ozdarski | Pamela Hodgkins | John & Diane Guyette |
| Edward & Mary-Leah Cunningham | Peter & Geri Marchessault | Gary & Paula Staples |
| Sally Botala | Anne Carballeira | Robert & Carla Harlow |
| Tom & Claire Roberts | Dennis & Darlene Bond | Peter & Deb Duffy |
| William & Tomasine Hall | Basil Ross & Pat Whitney | Ross & Andrea Ogilvie |
| Tim & Brandee Hayes | Noel Pixley | Jackie Young |
| Michael Ladd, Sr & Michael Ladd, Jr. | Scott & Patricia Laber | Laurie McLaren & Randy Gates |
| Eunice Anderson & Vincent Forese | Randall & Didi Saulnier | Ted & Laurie Bolognani |
| Gilles & Laura Lehouillier | Ken & Eileen Newton | Jacalyn Slaiby |
| Todd & Cindy Willis | Char-Bo Campground | Anne Plaskonos |
| Thomas & Anne Flynn | John & Terry Marshall | Raymond & Tammi Williams |
| David & Lindsay Peterson | Kevin & Pati Kimball | Doug & Cathy Davis |
| Michael Conley | Steve & Suzanne Barrup | Ken & Marie Hayes |
| Paul & Madeline Roy | David & Danielle Sweet | Donna Wyre |
| Robert & Angela Vidile | Wayne & Coleen Haskins | Michael & Judith Brennan |
| Neil & Yolande Young | James Young & Tricia Tyo | Scott & Marie Josee Jenness |
| Sharon Rubino | Cynthia & George Mitchell | Matthew & Karen Hammond |
| Kevin & Diane Nolan | Allen & Sheri Tremblay | Jim Campbell Real Estate |
| Celine Boucher & Jack Laflamme | Joan May | Gloria Menard |
| James & Nicole Johnson | Colleen Goodridge | Adele Kelley |
| Dean & Terri Schoolcraft | Terry & Linda Howe | Kevin & Jana Therrien |
| Sharron & Gary Heywood | Josh & Amy Provost | Michael Perry & Brenda Kelley |
| Laura Andrews | Surdy Families | David Tuttle |
| Arthur & Monique Laplante | Sue & Bart Barnett | Robert Daniels |
| Rene & Christina Cotnoir | Tim & Dawn Votapka | Mary Mathias/Robert Houriet/Clark Family |

Remembering Flora Coutts

By Jason Brueck

Even folks who know that the “Coutts” in Coutts-Moriarty Camp honors a local woman who started a 4-H Camp in 1929 are rarely aware of her full story and how it connects to our being much more than just a summer camp today.

Born in nearby Charleston, VT in 1897, Flora Coutts was the oldest of eight children. Her father died of stonecutter’s disease so she assumed significant household responsibilities when she was only in her teens.

Nevertheless, in 1915, eighteen-year old Flora enrolled at Boston University and went on to take graduate courses at Cornell and Pratt. 1922 saw young Flora board a ship bound for Korea where she would spend the next three years teaching at a missionary school. After returning home in 1925, she became the first full time 4-H agent in Orleans County and began work organizing tree plantings to restore deforested lands and also established the camp that would become Coutts.

By 1938 she had become Senator Coutts: the only woman in the Vermont Senate, the second in the state’s history, and the first to serve consecutive terms. World War II saw her political career put on hold as Captain Coutts spent three years in the Asian theatre with the American Red Cross overseeing the building of Red Cross outposts in Delhi, Burma, and China. Upon her return, she stepped into leadership roles in multiple regional development associations and was intimately involved in the establishment of both Jay Peak and Burke Mountain ski resorts.

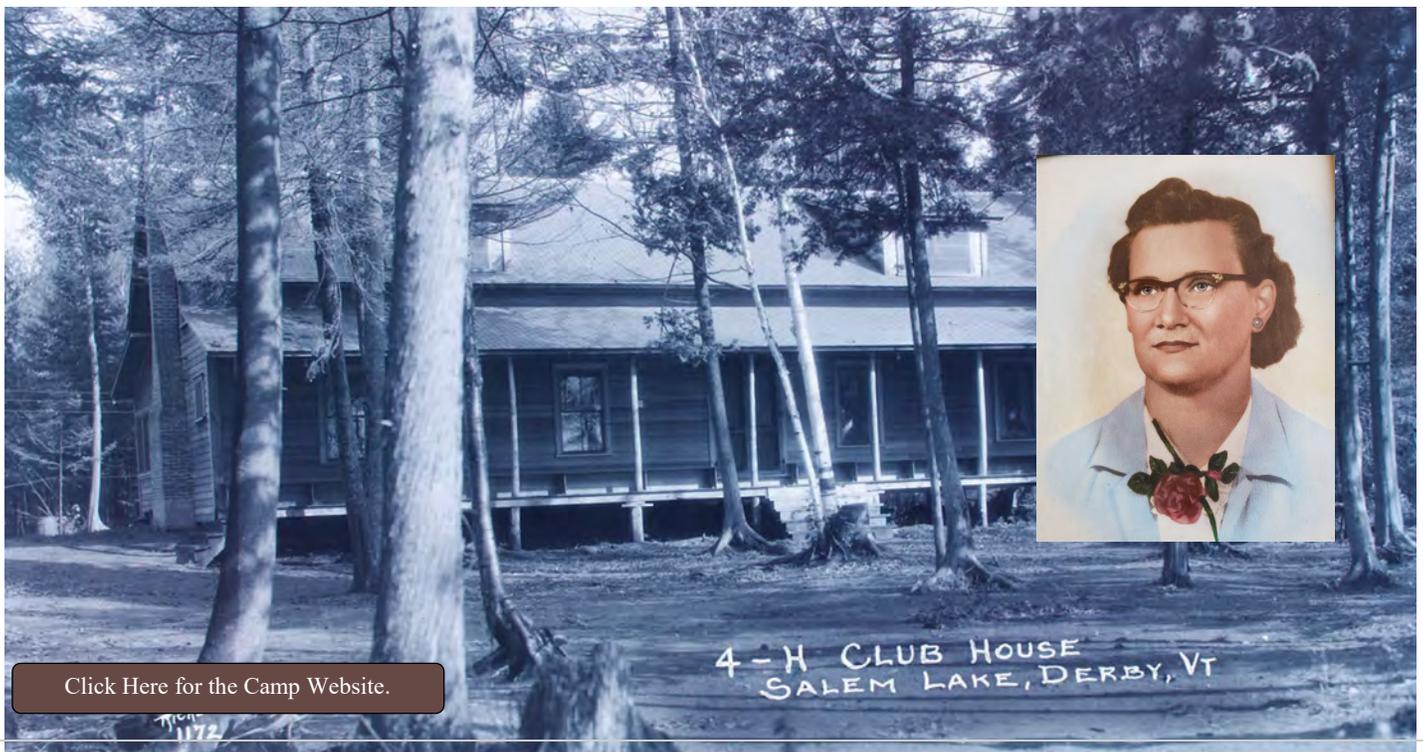
Flora returned to Vermont politics in 1964 when she became state Representative Coutts – a title she held through the 1970s. In her “spare time” she also hiked Vermont’s Long Trail end-to-end and visited all 251 Vermont towns.

With her passing in 1983, the

Vermont legislature passed a resolution honoring Flora that concludes “...Flora Coutts, one of Vermont’s most highly esteemed citizens, who served the people of her community and the state, as well as people throughout the world in an exemplary fashion.”

Simultaneously daunting and inspiring, Flora Coutts’ legacy is one we strive to live up to each day. Honestly, there are days we do and a few we don’t, but every day the name Coutts serves as a reminder that this was never intended to be just a camp. Our job is to educate, challenge, and inspire this generation of local children and ensure that they have the knowledge, skills, motivation, and courage necessary to follow in Flora’s footsteps. To be the kind of people whose actions change lives. We are humbled to play a small role in continuing Flora Coutts’ legacy.

Flora Coutts was the first full-time 4-H agent in Orleans County. Her legacy is one we strive to live up to each day. We are humbled to play a small role in continuing her legacy.



[Click Here for the Camp Website.](#)

After All That Flooding...

Dear Property Owners,
The lake needs your help!

As most of you are aware, we had a flood event this spring. It was one of the 3 most significant since 1910. In recent years, we have noticed higher than normal lake levels in the spring and after major rain events. In an attempt to remediate or better manage the lake levels to where there will be minimal or no intrusion onto properties, representatives from the Salem Lake Association, the Town of Derby, and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) met to discuss the lake level history and what might be done within the current Vermont policies and regulations.

Based on some correspondence, our Vermont House of Representative for Orleans County District 1, Woodman "Woody" Page wrote to the Vermont DEC Commissioner asking that the DEC investigate further into whether the lake levels are being maintained for the continued protection of our area lake shores and residential properties.

The Commissioner responded asking to bring to her attention any specific concerns or complaints that he is hearing from his constituents. This is where the lake needs your help.

We need to create a list of all property owners that were impacted by the flood conditions this year and the extent of the damage and costs, no matter how small. Even if it were the extended running of pumps, yard debris clean up, refuse removal all the way to repairs due to the flooding. A few pictures of the lake level around your property and damage would be a help as well.

Additionally, for the longer-term property owners, we could use any information about changes in the lake level and / or depths, outlet spillway clogging, etc.

Please send all correspondence and pictures to: carteerj@myfairpoint.net

Sincerely,
Roger Cartee
President
Salem Lake Association



Archambault Photography



Archambault Photography



Photo by Matt Hammond

E-Coli Testing Report Shows Increases, But Water Still Safe

By Ross Ogilvie

Between 8/15/2018 and 8/27/2018, Dennis Bond, Roger Cartee, Diana Ogilvie, and Ross Ogilvie, took E-coli samples on the lake. Most samples were taken from Dennis’ pontoon boat but because of the lake level and our inability to travel up the Clyde River to Little Salem Lake it was necessary to use a canoe for the samples SL6 through SL9. The samples were processed at the North County Hospital. Following Dave Wood’s example samples were taken where river and stream tributaries flow into the lake and one sample taken at the outlet of the lake to the Clyde River.

The process for taking the water samples is based on instructions from the Vermont Department of health. E-Coli results show the lake is acceptable for safe swimming per the state’s defined limits.

The results do show an increase in the e-coli levels in little Lake Salem with levels at the Clyde inlet at 73.6 (count/100ml). Previous years have shown levels at the southern end of Little Salem as high as 40.3 (count/100ml). The table below shows the samples and the corresponding counts for each sample.

Again from the from the Vermont Department of health if the sample result count is greater than 235 *E-coli*/100mls the Health Department recommends that the swimming area be closed and posted immediately. Our samples in all cases show counts less than 235 *E-coli*/100ml. The map of the lake shows the 12 sample locations with the results (Red numbers).

Lake Salem Water Quality Bacterial Sample Results 9/3/18

| Date | Time | Map Number & Bottle Label | Lab ID # | Waypoint | Location | E-coli (Count/100 ml) | Coliform (Count/100 ml) |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 8/20/2018 | 10:42 AM | SL1 | 409032 | 128 | N44 56.162 W72 07.041 | 0 | >128 |
| 8/15/2018 | 10:35AM | SL2 | 409025 | 132 | N44 56.333 W72 06.333 | 2.2 | >128 |
| 8/15/2018 | 10:25AM | SL3 | 409026 | 133 | N44 56.067 W72 06.168 | 2.2 | 128 |
| 8/15/2018 | 10:15AM | SL4 | 409027 | | N44 55.564 W72 05.879 | 0 | >128 |
| 8/22/2018 | 10:38 AM | SL5 | 409035 | 134 | N44 55.201 W72 06.254 | 16 | >128 |
| 8/27/2018 | 10:35 AM | SL6 | 409039 | 135 | N44 54.978 W72 05.223 | 16 | >128 |
| 8/27/2018 | 10:45 AM | SL7 | 409040 | 136 | N44 54.775 W72 05.395 | 73.6 | >128 |
| 8/27/2018 | 10:55 AM | SL8 | 409041 | 137 | N44 54.697 W72 05.522 | 40.8 | >128 |
| 8/22/2018 | 11:20 AM | SL9 | 409034 | | N44 54.967 W72 05.747 | 2.2 | >128 |
| 8/22/2018 | 10:23 AM | SL10 | 409036 | 138 | N44 55.291 W72 06.410 | 9.2 | >128 |
| 8/20/2018 | 10:50 AM | SL11 | 409031 | 147 | N44 56.045 W72 06.915 | 2.2 | >128 |
| 8/20/2018 | 10:30 AM | SL12 | 409033 | 129 | N44 56.376 W72 06.609 | 2.2 | >128 |

Salem Lakes

Derby Vermont



A Sweet Spot

It was quiet last Tuesday night, the kind of quiet that clears your mind really well for a while. Dinner had been cleared away from the table, and everyone had settled inside for the evening. It had been a very cool afternoon, and nightfall was coming in a little quicker than usual. No one really had any reason to linger around; it wasn't quite summery enough for that just yet. Maybe in another week or two it would be like it is in July and August when you hear the younger ones playing outside along the other shoreline down by the outlet; their dog barking in an effort to contribute to their game of tag somehow. A fire crackles nearby where the grownups gather for cold beer and conversation.

By Tim Votapka

You love these warm summer nights, especially when you're out on the water enjoying the sweet spot on the lake. It's where you can hear everything being played out as if it were coming from a bandshell in a park concert. You hear the joyous screams from the two young cousins out tubing behind their uncle's new boat at the far end of the lake.

There's a double-dare being thrown out to a 10-year old sister to do a better back flip off the raft about midway down the east side of the lake. Her mom shakes her head as she watches from shore, muttering something about the sense God gave geese. And just 100 yards or so to the right, a chickadee calls out a "swee-swoo" to anyone listening.

You hear all of it, soft and mellow in some areas, bright and clear in others as if it were arranged like an orchestral ensemble in a concert hall. And that's why I call it the sweet spot, because it's the one area of the lake where you can pick up the tones and timbre with absolutely no effort whatsoever; the way you would if you had the best seat in the house at the philharmonic. It's an indulgence in abundance without calories, gluten or guilt.

Things sound different in the mornings. Sometimes I'll go out for a paddle to the same spot and let the kayak drift for a bit at the sweet spot.

I can hear the distinct clang of a frying pan as it's being prepped to fill the air with the aroma of fresh bacon.

I'll eavesdrop into a conversation between two veteran fishermen as they make their way toward the sunken island. In the back of my mind I can hear my grandmother talking with one of my uncles over the telephone. It would be about this time when he would call to check in on her and Grandpa to make sure they were alright because there hadn't been anyone up to rent one of the camps nearby in a over a week. He would tell her it had been hot all week down home, but the lawn and her geraniums were doing fine.

She'd get up awfully early in the morning when she was up at the lake, Grandma would. And since their camp was on the west side of the lake, it was among the first to see the sun rise over the hill directly across the way. She'd have her quiet time then, long before Grandpa would get up, say his morning prayers and eventually come downstairs to take in his breakfast.

She never set an alarm or lit a lamp. At that hour of the day you have all the light you need to avoid stubbing a toe on a table leg or tripping over an old shoe. To me her natural impulse to function at 5:50 in the morning was as mysterious to me as the topography beyond the drop off 50 yards offshore. Nevertheless, she had a sweet spot of her own, sitting in her favorite rocking chair on that screen porch taking in the ensemble's prelude to morning.

Everyone has his favorite seat somewhere around the lake. It may be at the end of the dock on a warm, sunny morning.

It may be on the flat rock down by the outlet, or the top step of the front porch. It doesn't have to be one single spot either; in fact, mine changes depending on the time of day and what's playing. In fact, last Tuesday there was an outstanding concerto in frog major going on that filled the clear night air, audible enough to catch it all as I stood at the end of my dock.

The water was still high around the lake so many people hadn't put their docks and boats in just yet. That will change over the next few weeks as life comes back around the lake. The neighbors are all here though and it was good to see them in between chores. You don't have very long conversations this early in the season because there's so much to do before the black flies discover your availability. We all have our toys to put out and the vacuuming to do, but in between all of that, the loons drift by with casual interest, the chipmunks scurry past our ankles, and the dog drags his muddy paws across your freshly swept porch.

We tend not to care about the dirt so much at camp, or the little tear in the screen door. These are things that make having a camp as relaxing as it can be after a long journey back. The patch kit can wait another day. The paw prints will dry out in time. For the moment, the more important things have been done. The water is running without any leaks. We remembered to replenish the propane tank. There are coffee and eggs for the morning, so we're good on provisions.

I can see the breeze has died down and now that the sun has reappeared, the conditions are just right for a quick, slow paddle around the point.

I know just where to go.

'Everyone has his favorite seat somewhere around the lake.'

Doing Our Part to Keep Salem Lake Clean



Photo by Tim Votapka

By Ed Wells

As my family and I celebrate our 30th summer enjoying beautiful sunsets from our camp on the east shore of Lake Salem, I'm reminded of something said by Mr. Harding the previous owner, a British engineer living with his family in Quebec. He asked a question that I was totally unprepared to answer: "why do Americans build their cottages so close to the water?" I am now beginning to understand the importance of his question as I better understand the environmental effects of lawns without shoreline plant buffers, septic systems and rain runoff on our lakes.

To do our part we've installed a modern septic system and are planning a blueberry bush shoreline buffer project this summer to help prevent the flow of contaminants from our lawn. Our hope is to one day qualify for a Lake Wise Award for using best management practices. Did you know that by encouraging natural plant communities mice populations can be discouraged and tick numbers lowered?

Although Lake Salem appears to be in good shape when viewed from the surface, there are a few areas that need watching including the 2017 discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Your lake association continues to test lake water for quality at different points around the lakes. We measure water for clarity, phosphorous, algae and E.coli levels. E.coli is covered in a separate article. While clarity remains good, phosphorous and algae levels are on the increase during summer means testing*.

Phosphorous levels in 2018 were listed as being 'highly significant' and algae levels as 'significant' by the Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation. They list Lake Salem as being 'moderately disturbed' with the trend listed as 'fair'.

In comparison, water in neighboring Derby Pond is listed as 'highly disturbed' but interestingly, the trend there is listed as 'good' – a phenomenon seen in other areas of the state in highly disturbed waters.

You may recall that we had a Blue-Green algae or Cyanobacteria bloom in the lake late last summer. This is a problem especially for boaters, swimmers, pets and those who draw water from the lake.

These blooms are directly related to phosphorus entering the lakes through road, lawn, and agricultural runoff, failing septic systems as lake water temperature rises.

It has been reported that high-powered wakeboard boats by stirring up sediment, release phosphorus in addition to causing turbidity. Please see a separate article on wakeboard boats by the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds elsewhere in this newsletter.

The [Septic System Primer](#) available on our website is very useful guide for lake front camp owners. A patch of native plants near your camp or growing out into the lake where none was before, might signal a failing septic system or the need for a suitable shoreline buffer. To borrow from the Seymour Lake Association's web site: "Your property value is directly tied to the health of [Lake Salem]. Support local efforts to protect the lake. Join the [Salem Lakes Association], an organization dedicated to the water quality of our lake." Thanks.

'Your association continues to test lake water for quality at different points around the lakes.'

[Click Here for Septic System Primer](#)

Spring Awakenings: Be Lake Wise With Native Plantings

By Amy Picotte

Amy Picotte is a scientist with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation where she works as the Vermont Lake Wise Coordinator and Lakeshore Manager.

With the drama of March behind us, soggy but warmer April days deliver opportunities to dust off the porch furniture and prepare for new planting and landscaping projects. According to the Vermont Lake Wise Program, homeowners and gardeners could enhance their property with native plantings while protecting water quality, wildlife habitat, and property values.

The landscaping choices homeowners and gardeners make have the greatest impact on biodiversity and Vermont's 800 lakes and ponds and their watersheds, as well as one's own health. Minimizing lawn and restoring native plants in the yard is the best solution for managing stormwater runoff and protecting surface waters because native plants reduce, filter, and purify stormwater while lawn doesn't.

Native plants, like dogwoods, viburnums and blueberries, create year-round color, host hundreds of butterfly and moth larva, produce lively flowers and berries, clean the water and air, protect property from storm damages, like shoreland and driveway erosion, and benefit one's own health and well-being. Studies show that humans have a 15% higher level of well-being, are 6% more productive, and are 15% more creative overall when spending time in natural landscapes. Lawns simply don't provide any of these benefits.

While many of us are familiar with the specialized relationship between the monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, and the milkweed plant, *Asclepios Syriac*, fewer know that 90% of the rest of the plant-eating insects are also specialized to feed on one or only a few types of native plants.

Here are a few examples:

If you spot a bright, green Luna moth, *Actias luna*, then chances are there is a shagbark hickory tree, *Carya ovata*, nearby, because like the monarch is to the milkweed, the luna moth's larva depend on the leaves of this native plant to survive. The native plant eastern red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*, provides the only food source for the larval stage of the olive hair strike butterfly, *Callophrys gryneasu*.

Cedar waxwing birds are named after the eastern red cedar plant because of their feeding habits on the berries, but the olive hair strike larva provide essential protein to cedar wax wings and other birds when they rear their broods.

Continued on page 15



*While many of us are familiar with the specialized relationship between the monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, and the milkweed plant, *Asclepias syriaca*, fewer people know that 90% of the rest of the plant-eating insects are also specialized to feed on one or only a few types of native plants.*



Greet Our Greeters

The next time you're down by the boat access, be sure to say hello to our greeters who are keeping watch over the trailers and boats coming into our lake. This season's crew includes Frank Drauszewski, Eric Bingham, Monica Bingham, and Vonnie Ogilvie

Annual Meeting July 20

Saturday, 9 a.m. at the CharBo rec hall (Hayward Rd. between Big and Little Salem). Bring a potluck dish to share and we'll supply the coffee, tea and juice. Catch up with your friends and listen in on the latest news affecting our lakes. Rain or shine. Don't forget your own place settings.

Coin Drop August 10

Keep an eye out for your fellow Salem Lakes Association members who will be manning a coin drop on the association's behalf on Aug 10.

Join Us on Facebook, Instagram!

We're on the net all year round. Join us on Facebook and Instagram and share your vacation photos, news and memories!

LAKE FRONT

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- Vice President.....Ed Wells
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- Secretary.....Sharon Kelley

Directors

- Jim Johnson, Dennis Bond, Basil Ross,
- Ross & Andrea Ogilvie, Andy Major,
- Diane Nolan, Paul Roy



Milfoil Management...

Continued from page 3

Rob's first dive was on May 28 with the assistance of several lake association directors and a boat provided by director Dennis Bond. GPS location services provided by director Ross Ogilvie will greatly assist us in keeping track of EWM locations in the lake. The good news is that NO EWM was found in the immediate area of lake covered with a bottom barrier. Very good news!! Water clarity was poor that day but a second dive is planned for mid-June and periodically throughout the summer. We installed several buoys using colored pieces of foam attached to anchors in the area where the barriers were located so they can be checked again over the summer for weed growth.

It is anticipated that the cost of EWM removal and surveying for other infestations could cost between \$3,000 to \$6,000 dollars this season. In addition to Rob's efforts it may be necessary to do at least one DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) as recommended by last year's divers.

The challenges this year may be more complicated as EWM has spread beyond the original weed patch just off the boat access. Boats are encouraged to avoid this area as much as possible. This year we plan to strategically place buoys near the boat access in a way that channels boat activity away from known or suspected EWM plant growth. Boat greeters will remind boaters where it is safe to travel as they enter and exit the lake.

Again, just a small fragment of EWM created by a boat prop can cause new growth elsewhere in the lake. Both of our lakes are prime habitats for EWM. In fact the weed grows year-round so long as sunlight is available.

With an average depth of 20 feet, Salem has a large growing area for milfoil. Shadow Lake's average depth is 55 feet, and it took a very active association and the Glover community six years to get rid of its EWM, and that lake is one fourth the size of Salem.

To win this battle we are going to need the help of all stakeholders – both camp owners and visitors to the lake alike. Like to fish and boat on Salem? You can help out by avoiding boating or dropping anchor in the area in front of and adjacent to the boat access until further notice check the Salem Lakes Association web site (www.salemlakesvt.org) for updates on our progress or read the boat access bulletin board. Look out for the colored buoys marking locations of work in progress.

You may also report any suspected EWM sightings to the Salem Lakes Association or Ed by email at ejoewells@gmavt.net. Anyone can sign up for the state sponsored VIP lake monitor workshop and paddle on Saturday July 27 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Derby town beach. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Kim Jensen by calling 802-490-6120 or email her at Kimberly.jensen@vermont.gov.

Please consider a donation to your lake association in addition to paying your annual membership dues.

Thank you!

Anyone can sign up for the state sponsored VIP lake monitor workshop and paddle on Saturday July 27, 10 am to 2 pm at the Derby town beach. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Kim Jensen by calling 802-490-6120 or by email, kimberly.jensen@vermont.gov.

Spring Awakenings...

Continued from page 11

The Vermont Lake Wise Program offers technical assistance to shoreland owners for restoring living shorelands and creating lake-friendly properties with native plantings.

The monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, depends solely on milkweed, *Asclepios syriaca*, to lay its egg and feed as a larva. The native milkweed plant is essential to the survival of the monarch. Song birds depend on native plants too. More than 96% of birds rear their young on insect protein from mostly caterpillars.

Each pair of nesting chickadees needs to find baby bird food, which is about 6,000 butterfly and moth larva over a three-week period to rear their young, as baby birds can't eat seeds yet.

A native black cherry tree, *Prunus serotina*, hosts more than 450 species of butterfly and moth insects that birds depend on to feed their brood and provides fruit for more than 40 species of birds and many mammals, arguably making it the most important native tree for wildlife survival in Vermont. Oak, willow, birch, poplar, maple, pine, hickory, and blueberry native plants all host over 200 butterfly and moth larva, while lawn is sterile and hosts zero butterfly larva.

Reducing lawn by planting a single native plant can make the difference of survival for nesting song birds.

Doug Tallamy, Professor and Chair of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware is renowned for his science of plant-insect interactions. He has been called the Jacques Cousteau of the terrestrial world. Dr. Tallamy's research points to the home gardener as the solution to protecting clean water, air, wildlife and human well-being. If homeowners restored half their lawn with native plants, then most species could survive forever. Tallamy says,

"You don't have to save biodiversity for a living, but please consider saving biodiversity where you live." Harvard University Biology Professor, E.O. Wilson, considered the world's authority on ants, has called for a movement to conserve half of the planet for wildlife. The Half-Earth Project is the solution for safeguarding biodiversity, including ourselves. The Half-Earth Project aims to "conserve half the Earth's lands and seas in order to reverse the species extinction crisis and ensure the long-term health of the planet."

This season, challenge yourself to reduce your lawn by half and restore it with native plantings. Homeowners of condominiums to rural properties can help stop and solve threats to Vermont's clean water simply by restoring native plants to their surroundings.

Info About Wake Board Boats

By Ed Wells

A headline of an article in the 2019 spring edition of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) Newsletter by Bruce Durgin, reads: "Wakeboard Boats Believed to Damage Lakes; VT May Regulate". This is an excerpt from that article. Please go to the FOVLAP website to read it in its entirety and learn more about Senate Bill 69 which attempts to regulate the use of these boats in the state.

"Interest in wake boarding has increased over the past decade to the consternation of environmentalists concerned about its impact on the health of lakes. Wakeboard boats are designed to create bigger wakes for boarders and surfers by placing the engine backwards to make the stern heavier. Either inboard or outboard, the boats have multiple ballast tanks that further add to the weight, hence the magnitude of the wake.

States nationwide, as well as Quebec Province, are currently studying the impact of these tremendous waves on shorelines.

Studies to date indicate that forceful waves from these boats are negatively impacting the shoreline environment in various ways: they stir up the sediment, releasing phosphorous and causing turbidity; impact the ecosystem by destroying fish eggs; and erode the shoreline while breaking up Aquatic Invasive Plants (AIS) and causing them to spread. Moreover, improperly drained ballast water and tanks that are not properly decontaminated between water bodies can also lead to the spread of AIS.

Vermont will be considering legislation presented in Senate Bill 69 to "restrict or prohibit the use of wake boats in certain public waters."

Orleans County Senator John Rodgers introduced this bill on February 8th but it does not appear to have passed through both houses or signed by the governor by the end of the session. We encourage everyone to be in touch with your representatives and governor with your thoughts about this important legislation.

[Click Here to Reach the Vermont DEC Website on Lake Shores & Lake Wise](#)

Annual Meeting
Sat. July 20

9 am, CharBo Rec Hall

Follow us online:
Salemlakesvt.org

Track with us on
Facebook and
Instagram too!



Enjoy your time at the lake!

2019 SALEM LAKES ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name (s) _____

Salem Lakes Address _____

E-mail address _____

Mailing address (if different from above) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel _____

Please consider an additional donation to support milfoil inspection, education and general support of the association _____

Thank you. Total Enclosed _____

I'm interested in helping with (check as many as you like)

Lake Monitor Fundraising Communications Director/Officer

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Annual Dues \$10

Drop off at Annual Meeting or

Mail to: Janet Cartee

Salem Lakes Association

17 Northern Ave.

Newport, VT 05855

