



Summer 2018

# Lake Front

*A Salem Lakes Association Publication*

Managing Milfoil - p. 4

Ancient Axe in the Mud - p. 6

Sign of the Times - p. 10

Cover image by Tim Votapka

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# Welcome Back!

By Roger Cartee

If you are just coming back to Lake Salem for the summer, welcome back. If you are here just for the summer or have been here year-round you know the magnetism that draws you to or keeps you at Salem no matter if it is for six months or a year.

Although the water is still cold as I write this, it will be getting warmer and more inviting to the swimmers, boaters and fishermen who partake of the beauty and attractions that draw them here to this little corner of the Northeast Kingdom.

This year, the Salem Lakes Association is happy to welcome newcomers to our little paradise. Among the folks who will be joining us this year are Robert and Angela Videle, Paul and Carol Comtois, Joseph Paris, Michael and Lisa Worden, Laura Andrews, Erick and Kerry Golembeski and Rebecca and Stephen Schramm. It is our hope that they continue to enjoy the beauty and serenity of the lakes for many years.

This is a new year for all of us with the realization that what we have been fighting for years, Eurasian Milfoil, has finally wedged its way into our lives and infected our lake. With Eurasian Milfoil in the waters near the fishing access area, we now have a new battle on our hands, not to keep it out, but to get it under control and eventually wipe it out.

The plants that were found just off shore have been suctioned out and by the time you read this, mats will have been placed over the area to try and prevent them from growing back. Of course, even with that there is always the possibility that pieces broke off while the plants were being cleared and drifted off and started growing somewhere else.



Now instead of being a war that the board has fought over the years, it becomes a full-scale war for all of us around the lake who need to now check each and every inch of the waters off our shores to look for the invasive species.

We have purchased two Aqua Scopes VI water scopes to help view the bottom in shallow waters where milfoil grows the easiest. We will figure out how best to use them as we start the battle to wipe out the milfoil that may be growing along our shores.

Please join us at our annual meeting being held at a slightly later date this year, on July 28th at 9 a.m. at CharBo campground, and learn as much as you can about our milfoil situation and what part you can play in helping us clean it up and keep it out.

Welcome back! Have a great summer!

## Thank You Very Much Andy Major



Former Lake Association President Andy Major, Jack-of-All-Trades and master of most of them, has finally decided to retire from another Lake Association position. Having recently reached one of the Big "Os" Andy has decided to step down as manager of the Greeter/Monitor program and give somebody else a chance at calling the shots.

He has been involved in virtually every aspect of the association and without a doubt deserves a break from the countless hours demanded of him by the many hats he has worn over the years.

Andy will stay on for another year to train his replacement in the many responsibilities demanded of the Greeter/Monitor Program. Fighting Eurasian Milfoil is one of the most important issues facing our members and the head of the Greeter/Monitor program is crucial to this fight.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the program, please contact Association President Roger Cartee at 766-4704 or 598-2747 or even better, call the guy who has been in charge of the program for the past few years, Andy Major at 766-2662.



## The Scoop on New Aqua Scope

Salem Lakes Association has purchased two Aqua Scope viewers that view 2.25 times more than other viewers. The 6 inch diameter is ideal for surveying aquatic invasive vegetation such as water chestnut, Eurasian milfoil, hydrilla and others. The innovative design, with its tilted lens, eliminates both surface glare as well as internal reflection. This feature aids in achieving consistent viewing parameters regardless of the environmental conditions.

Other special features are a black interior, flotation collar and neoprene viewing mask (which accommodates eye wear) and two sturdy handles. The scope is approximately 32 inches in length.

We are eager to receive these and to share amongst lake shore owners for viewing various areas of the lake.

One of the areas we will be monitoring very closely is the shoreline near the fishing access where milfoil was detected by divers. Aerial photo to the left shows location milfoil was discovered in Salem Lake near the fishing access. Rectangle to the left of the image is where a bottom barrier was placed to prevent further growth once the weeds were harvested by divers. Efforts to remediate this invasive plant continue.

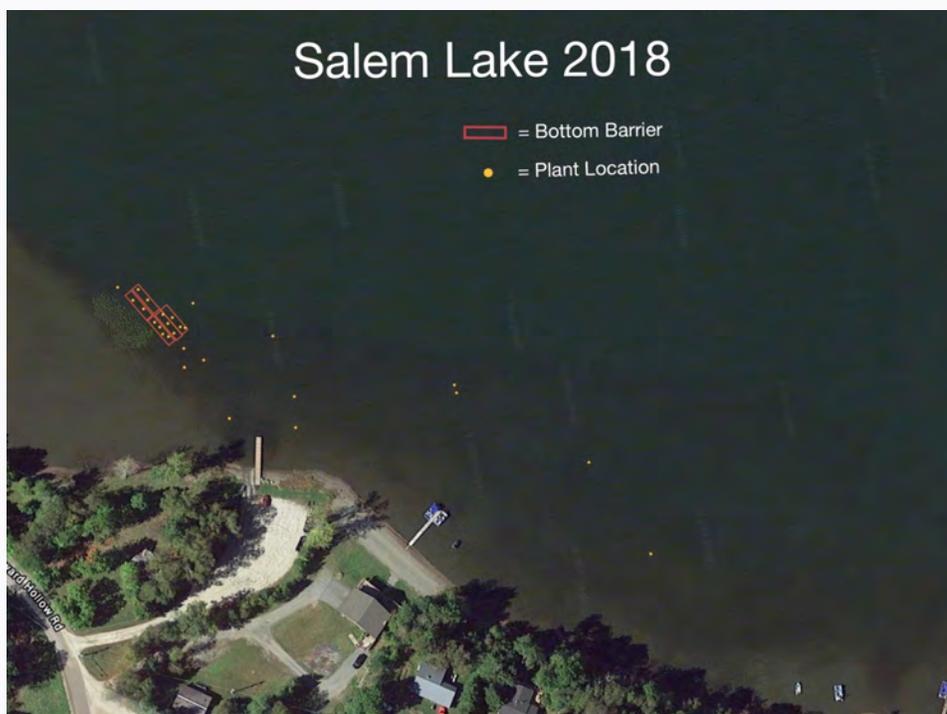
A larger version of this image is available on the Salem Lakes website at [www.salemlakesvt.org](http://www.salemlakesvt.org).

## Walleye Restocking

We have been occasionally sampling the Salem Lake walleye population since 2000. Since 2006, catch rate of walleyes and the proportion of small walleyes (< 20") has been declining. The data suggests that natural reproduction of walleye may be failing in Salem Lake. The cause of this apparent reproductive failure is unknown.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has decided to initiate walleye stocking in Salem Lake in order to maintain the fishery.

The plan is to stock between 10,000 and 20,000 walleye fingerlings (approximately 1.5 inches long) in even years. The first batch is scheduled to be stocked in July 2018. The parents of these fingerlings were collected from the Clyde River upstream of Salem Lake this past May. We will continue to monitor the walleye fishery and discontinue stocking if they start reproducing successfully on their own again.



# So We Spotted Milfoil After All...



*Diver Wes Sheldon, front of boat, prepares to re-enter the water after refilling his oxygen tanks.*

The Salem Lakes Association has been fighting the battle against milfoil since 2006 when Dave Wood began the association's Greeter/Monitoring Program. Now that milfoil is here, we have a bigger fight on our hands trying to clear it up.

The State of Vermont is very serious and aggressive in protecting the quality of all waters in the state, including Salem Lakes. In 2006, the State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation began a statewide Greeter/Monitoring Project, partially funded by local organizations to establish an inspection program of boats and equipment coming into lakes, protecting against invasive species.

Dave Wood, then president of our association, brought the project to Salem Lakes at the boat access at Big Salem. Besides being instrumental in founding the Greeter/Monitoring Project, he was in charge of the Lay Monitoring project for the Lakes along with association members, Claire Roberts and Paula Staples.

Andy Major, past president of the association says, "I realized after living on Big Salem for over fifty years and researching information about the Salem Lakes that I had been taking things for granted and that perhaps it is time to stop and think about how fortunate one is to live in this area, partaking of its beauty and advantages".

In 2010 Andy took over as president of the Salem Lakes Association and after retiring from that position last year, he continues to operate the Greeter/Monitoring Project to this day.

During those years no milfoil had been found in either of the Salem Lakes until the fall of 2017 when the A & E Diving Company discovered a fifty by fifty-foot patch about two hundred feet off the boat launch area between the area and the Little Salem outlet.

Andy immediately took charge of the situation and organized the eventual cleanup of the milfoil. The milfoil was suctioned up but unfortunately the divers were unable to cover the area with mats before the lake froze over. The project was put on hold for the winter with plans to proactively address the milfoil problem in the spring.

In June of 2018, the divers returned to Salem and did a two-day search east of the cove that surrounds the fishing access area as well as potentially infected areas of the lake especially along the east shore to and beyond the sunken island. Within the cove they found thirty-six plants, most of them one to two feet high and the others three- to five-foot plants. The plants were removed and the mats placed over the area where the original patch of Eurasian Milfoil was found. Only one plant was found in the eastern part of the cove.

Besides placing the mats in the area, the association, through Andy and the State of Vermont, will have a complete survey of the lakes done by professional divers and most importantly by each lake shore owner.



*Joe Taft , a summer employee demonstrates a machine that is used to clean boats before they go into the lake. He gave the demonstration to board members one Saturday morning at the fishing access last year. With Joe are Ed Wells, Dennis Bond, John Guyette, Paul Roy, Claire Roberts, Paula and Gary Staples.*

Educating ourselves about the difference between native Northern Milfoil and Eurasian Water Milfoil is a must do plan for all of us. Observing the waters in front of our own properties weekly and reporting any findings to the monitors at the fishing access needs to be done. That means going into the water and inspecting anything that looks suspicious. If you don't know what it is, pull it out and take it to the monitors.

Unfortunately, one day of searching will not do the trick. We will need to be vigilant each and every day this summer, checking the waters off shore every time we head out in to the lake.

Be assured that if milfoil does spread throughout the lake, your property values will decline a great deal as well as enjoyment of the lake.

We ask each and every lake shore owner to report any finding to the lake monitors at the fishing access and at the same time we ask them to also educate themselves about the differences between Native Northern Milfoil and Eurasian Water Milfoil.

We are working on scheduling a meeting with an expert from the State who will do a presentation on Eurasian Milfoil and what we should all be looking for in the lake.

If any of you have any questions or comments please contact either Andy Major (766-2662) Roger Cartee (766-4704) and we will do our best to help you. This battle is far from over and we will need everyone's help if we are to beat milfoil. It could take years before we are truly milfoil free and we can't just stand by and watch to see if it is growing. We need to attack it aggressively before it gets a big head start on us.

An easy and effective way to help is by joining the association. Dues are an incredibly low \$10.00, yet only about 50% of the homeowners around the members. With the expenses that we could potentially face this year, we will need each \$10.00 membership we collect. We are always grateful for those who not only pay their dues but also add a little extra donation.

*Article by Roger Cartee*

# Don't Grind This Axe!

Kenn Jordan does not have an axe to grind with anyone, and if he did, he certainly would not use the 3,000-year-old copper adze he found in the lake a couple of years ago.

The story of this ancient artifact started on July 4, 2016 when Kenn was poking around the shoreline in front of his camp with a metal detector. What he dug up may have been easily dismissed by anyone else, but since he is a metal artist, Kenn figured he had stumbled upon something more than an old discarded lawn mower part.

Indeed he did. Fast forward, the axe bore evidence of cold hammering and shaping. Interestingly native Americans in the eastern woodlands did not possess any metal smelting technology. One thought that was mentioned in another source suggests that the axe may have wound up here via traders.

However it got it here, the axe was turned over to the Vermont State Division for Historical Preservation and is now permanently curated at the Vermont Archaeology Heritage Center in Barre, VT. Kenn is credited for the discovery on the exhibit piece.

“I feel like it’s in the right place,” he said. “I’m good with it and think it should be in a state museum.”

The axe was likely used as a woodworking tool to shape dugout canoes.



## Join Us On Facebook!



We love our lake. We enjoy the time spent in these warm days watching the sunrises and sunsets, the wildlife and all of it. We love to hear the variety of sounds offered day to day: the morning concerto of birds down by the outlet, the clatter of breakfast pans emanating from a camp about to come alive for the day, the joyful screech of youngsters as they’re roaring across the lake during a tube ride. It’s all there, every day and it doesn’t get old, does it?

The only problem is, it all goes too quickly. We get our days or week or two and then it’s back to other worlds and lives.

Well, you can bring a part of Lake Front life with you all year long if you want it, and one of the best ways to do that is by following us on Facebook and Instagram.

Launched a couple of years ago by Tim Votapka, these social media sites give association members, friends and neighbors the opportunity to catch what may be going on lake wise long after the time has come to pack up the car and head back to other scenes.

Share your own photos of your vacation time here. Stay in touch with the friends you’ve made here. So long as things are clean and inoffensive you are welcome anytime!

Image by Tim Votapka

# Our Current Members

Paid memberships in the Salem Lakes Association unfortunately decreased from 99 in 2016 to 93 in 2017. Fortunately, in addition to paying the \$10.00 for dues, 61 of those 93 members also made donations ranging from \$10.00 to \$155.00. We are hopeful that memberships will increase in 2018 to well over the 100 mark. Please take a moment to complete the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. A big thank you to the following lake residents and property owners for their interest in the lake and support of the Association.

Conrad & Marilyn Miller  
 Michael Conley  
 Gary & Merrily Slawson  
 Andy & Lois Major  
 Anne Plaskonos  
 Phyllis Russ  
 Roger & Janet Cartee  
 Pelkey Property Holdings  
 Arthur & Monique LaPlante  
 John & Suzanne Patenaude  
 Eunice Anderson & Vincent Forese  
 Jennifer Powers  
 Gary & Sharron Heywood  
 Leonard & Judith Boulanger  
 Jim & Joanne Ritson  
 Mary Ann Ozdarski  
 Gary & Paula Staples  
 Madeline & Paul Roy  
 Ed & Susan Wells  
 Eileen & Ken Newton  
 Mary Mathias & Robert Houriet  
 Ted & Laurie Bolognani  
 Steve & Sue Barrup  
 Matthew & Karen Hammond  
 Scott & Patricia Laber  
 Edward & Mary-Leah Cunningham  
 The Surdy Family  
 Ken & Jackie Young  
 Colleen Goodridge  
 Rene & Christina Cotnoir  
 David & Danielle Sweet

Peter & Geri Marchessault  
 Joe & Mo Profera  
 Bruce & Barbara Sherman  
 Ted Hollidge  
 Raymond & Tammi Williams  
 Loretta Hunt  
 Jim Campbell/Jimmy C, Inc.  
 Mark Lalime  
 Michael Ladd, Sr. & Jr.  
 Joseph & Christine Biernat  
 Randall & Didi Saulnier  
 Ross & Andrea Ogilvie  
 Lois Young  
 James & Nicole Johnson  
 Eric Dufour & Andrew Sawyer  
 Todd & Cindy Willis  
 Norman & Anna Mae Miller  
 John & Diane Guyette  
 Tom & Claire Roberts  
 Dr. Kevin Dirth  
 Joan Campbell  
 TJ & Linda Jackman  
 Madeleine Roy  
 Thomas & Anne Flynn  
 Allen & Sheri Tremblay  
 Robert & Bonnie Julian  
 David Tuttle  
 Gertrude & Mark Friedman  
 J. Michael & Maureen Talbot  
 Rev. John & Theresa Marshall  
 Celine Boucher & Jack Laflamme

Tom & Carol Bailey  
 Tim & Dawn Votapka  
 Nancy & Jeff Houghton  
 Carole Comeau  
 Bruce & Mary Muir  
 Carrie & Todd Nadeau  
 Robert Daniels  
 William & Cynthia Campbell  
 Michael & Judith Brennan  
 Ted & Candice Brunell  
 Diane Beck  
 David & Lindsay Peterson  
 Neil & Yolande Young  
 Basil Ross  
 Richard & Andrea Cate  
 Charbo Campground  
 Kevin & Diane Nolan  
 Sharon & Harold Kelley  
 Bill & Tommi Hall  
 Jacalyn Slaiby  
 Calvin & Sharon Ward  
 Robert Page, Jr.  
 Barbara Sheperd  
 Fred & Helen Speckels  
 Kevin & Patricia Kimball  
 Anne Carballeira  
 Dean & Terri Schoolcraft  
 Richard & Linda Lunna  
 Michael Perry & Brenda Kelley  
 Terry & Linda Howe  
 Eleanor & Dominick Riley

## Invasive Patrollers Paddle Events Make VIPs

Join us for a FREE workshop offered to train Vermont Invasive Patrollers (VIP) to monitor lakes and ponds for aquatic invasive species, and survey healthy native plant populations.

All training sessions involve an introductory overview followed by a paddle on the water. The July 27 event at 10 a.m. will take place at Salem Lake and is being co-hosted by the Salem Lakes Association and the Vermont Lakes and Ponds group. To register, please email [kimberly.jensen@vermont.gov](mailto:kimberly.jensen@vermont.gov) or call 802-490-6120.

Vermont Lakes and Ponds is an excellent resource for a wide variety of information related to lake and shoreline management. Look for it on Facebook.

Another great resource worth tabbing as a favorite is the Vermont State Department of Environmental Conservation at <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds>

*Check both of them out today!*



# The Color Purple And Ants In Pants

While removing Purple Loosestrife (PL) plants from Little Salem near the mouth of the Clyde River and on the banks of the Clyde upstream from Little Salem late last summer with my adult son, Silas we made the mistake of disturbing a nest of red ants – yes, the biting kind!

Unbeknownst to us, while navigating under an old fallen tree imbedded in the river bank, a portion of an ant colony fell into the back of the canoe inside a rotted piece of wood. It wasn't until after we had merrily paddled our pile of trash bags full of stems and roots back down the Clyde, through Little Salem, across Big Salem to the beach in front of our camp that we noticed dozens of dangerous little stowaways. By now, the ants had abandoned the piece of wood and were beginning to spread out across the floor of the canoe. Luckily for us our feet were now in the water after making a hasty exit. Neither one of us had suffered a painful bite.

What to do next? Not wanting the ants to gain access to dry ground and perhaps establish a new colony near camp we removed all the contents of the canoe: trash bags, tools, towels, the propane container we found along the way and clothing were carefully inspected before being placed on the beach.

Now, what to do with the ants? I'll spare you the details, but it is safe to say that catch and release methods were not used. Our have-a-heart traps were not designed to deal with this type of problem.

In case you are wondering what we did with the PL seed buds and the plants extensive root systems, they were carefully burned in the fire pit later that night. They did not join last years harvest in the landfill as I didn't want to take a chance some ants had found their way into the bags. I itch at the thought.

Actually, the state biologist for the northeast region told me the best way to get rid of invasive plants is to destroy them on site where you harvest them, if practical. This will limit a chance of accidental spreading..

Another hazard this year was the discovery of a large cluster of PL neatly wrapped in poison ivy vine, but we managed to get them out unscathed. We discovered a large cluster of PL in the large meadow on the right going down the hill near the Hayward/Rt. 105 intersection. The tops were removed in time to prevent millions of tiny seeds from getting released. Roger Cartee and I were going out after them but we ran out of time last fall. These plants are targeted for this year's dig. Anyone know the name of the landowner?

Two years ago, I spoke with a gentleman at the former 4-H camp now run by the Siskin group. He expressed some interest in working with area schools to organize student efforts managing these invasive plants around the lake. I'll follow up with him again (his name escapes me) unless someone else is already in touch with them for other reasons and wants to add this to their list. Please let me know.

*Article by Ed Wells*



*Purple Loosestrife as photographed here by Tim Votapka, may be considered an invasive species locally. However it's a highly desired perennial in suburban locations elsewhere. Go figure.*



Background image by Tim Votapka

# Sign of the Times

Simple and elegant are two words that could describe the Lake Salem signs that have identified our roadside body of water for drivers and their passengers for many years.

What happened to the signs? One of them went missing several years ago from its roadside home along route 111 and the other on route 105 was salvaged by Association President Roger Cartee when the new signs were put up in their place. The “simple and elegant signs” had stood the test of time for years.

The signs were the handiwork of friends Arthur Guyette and Wayne Newell who designed, constructed, painted and erected them years ago to help travelers to identify the body of water.

When Roger salvaged the one remaining sign he did so with an idea in mind. While meeting recently with Lake Association officers, Roger mentioned to Association Vice President John Guyette that the sign had been saved and was at his camp on the lake waiting for its rightful owner to take it home.

John was overwhelmed and quickly agreed to come and get the sign. A few days later John and his wife Diane loaded up the sign and took it home to the same Lake Salem home where his dad and mom had lived since 1968 until their passing in 2011 and 2013.

John took it up to the workshop where it was built, did minor repair work on it and gave it a fresh coat of paint. On Tuesday, June 19th, the sign was installed on the side of their house as shown in the photo. The sign had come full circle and had returned home to stand as a symbol of the dedication and love Arthur Guyette had for the lake, a place he was proud to call home.

John gives an open invitation to anyone wishing to see the sign hanging on the side of his house. All you have to do is drive down the 4H road and the sign will be on the right.



*Neatly restored and lovingly placed Lake Salem sign on the Guyette home off the 4H road.*

## Happy Independence Day !



### Annual Meeting July 28

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 11

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 11.

### Happy Centennial Newport!

Congratulations to our friends and neighbors in Newport who are celebrating the city's centennial this year!

## LAKE FRONT

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#### Salem Lakes Association Officers

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Diane Nolan, Paul Roy, Ed Wells



## 2018 SALEM LAKES ASSOCIATION

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

Recruitment  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues Only \$10

Due Now

Mail to: Janet Cartee  
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17 Northern Ave.  
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