

Join Us in the July 4th Parade

Summer 2015



Lake Front

A Salem Lakes Association Publication



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Visit us online: www.salemlakesvt.org

Enjoy The 4th, But Keep Your Neighbors In Mind

Everybody loves the Fourth of July at the lake especially the fireworks that we watch for days and days before and after the 4th.

Unfortunately there is a down side to all the fireworks. Although they are beautiful and support the American spirit of the Holiday sometimes they last too long into the night and are much too loud for our neighbors.

The fireworks that just make the loud boom, although fun to some, scare the elderly and many of the family pets around the lake.

Sometimes you will think fireworks are done for the night and out of the dark late into the evening the loud boom of another noisemaker

thunders through the night rolling off the hills and waking those who have to get up early to go to work the next day.

Fireworks are fun for everyone as long as we respect our neighbors and their peace and quiet around the lake and beyond. The Fourth of July is one day where everyone expects the displays to be a little longer and louder. But the displays set off before and after the Fourth, some even in August or September, are the ones that can really disturb the peace at the lake.

People are generally willing to celebrate the Fourth and even other days beyond the fourth. What bothers them is the late night displays that go on for days. Most everybody would be happy if fireworks stopped around 10:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter, especially the loud ones.

Unfortunately some of the fireworks don't start until late at night and, sometimes there are long stretches of quiet when you feel you can finally go to sleep and then the loud boomers go off again waking everybody up.

We certainly aren't telling people what they can do. We are only asking that they be more considerate of their neighbors, the elderly, those with pets who are terribly frightened of the loud sounds and those who need their sleep because they get up early to go to work.

Thank you for taking this message in the spirit that it is given, a spirit of friendships from your neighbors. We hope you have a great summer on the lake or if you are just up for the holiday we hope your visit is fun filled and relaxing.

- Roger Cartee

Lake Front

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New Kayak for the Lake

Last year the association purchased a kayak for use by the monitors at the fishing access area. When the monitors start work this year the kayak will be housed at the access area for them to use for emergencies and for other monitoring responsibilities. When the day is done board member Jim Johnson has offered the use of his property to house the kayak overnight until monitors are back on the job the next morning.

It is expected that on good weather days extra monitors will be assigned to scour the shallow waters of the lake for possible milfoil. Ross Ogilvie originally mapped the lake into quadrants for milfoil monitoring by homeowners but the Association plans on also using his expertise to have the access monitors help with that task.

Unfortunately many of those quadrants were not covered in previous years so it is hoped that with the kayak and help from the monitors we will be able to have better and more complete coverage of the lake. If any of you have others suggestions for use of the kayak please let us know.



A Message From Your President...

Greetings all! Yes, we survived the winter, but there were days when we wondered. It was a tough one, degree wise, but that brought out the toughness in us! The ice on our beautiful lake was reportedly plus 24 inches thick, easily supporting the fishing village. Speaking of the fishing village, reports are that the fishing in Salem this past winter has not been good and some reports are that summer fishing is not what it used to be. Let's visit that topic elsewhere in the letter and also see pictures.

Here, we find ourselves at the beginning of my favorite season. The water level this Spring was not too high, thereby, preserving many properties from the trauma of mess and damage.

Membership Shortage Please Join Us Today!

Once again the membership of the Salem Lakes Association is an issue with lack of growth continuing to remain stagnant in spite of an appeal for new members. An appeal went out in our newsletter last year asking homeowners on the lake to please join our association and support us in the work we do in keeping the lake free from Milfoil. We need new members to also help us with keeping the lake clean while also working on other projects we do during the course of the year.

Presently only about thirty percent of homeowners pay the membership fee of ten dollars. That is slightly over sixty paying members.

And, now, this brings the presidency responsibility in me out in full swing, with the first of my lake safety concerns. The geography of our lake is such that some lake shore property owners are able to launch equipment from their properties. Caution! Salem Lakes are still free of invasive species, plant and animal, free and clear.

Is it too much to request all persons, before launching, to have equipment inspected by our monitors at the access? Great appreciation would be the least of our affections! Our monitors would go to your property, if you wished! The most known reason for the spread of invasive species is the human element.

It is difficult to show that we have support of homeowners around the lake for projects we work on when such a low percentage of people actually pay membership dues. We purposely keep the membership fee low to encourage homeowners to join but even that isn't working.

If anybody has any suggestions on what we might do to increase membership please let us know. If you know any reasons why people aren't joining also let us know and maybe we can address any issues that are keeping people from being members of the Salem Lakes Association.

In the meantime, I will continue, with my exhortations to us all, with concerns about the preservation of our beautiful lake, with the following concerns:

- Membership: Dues are \$10 per landowner; not \$100. The dues would represent your support in our efforts to save the lakes. Let's show what we can do.
- Lake observations: at any and all times, maintain an eagle eye re: invasive species or any other abnormalities in or around the lakes
- Noise: Owners or renters, always be aware of neighbors and others in this matter
- Pollution: Dog waste stations are only one means of keeping our lakes and surroundings clean. You, my friends are most important.
- Rules and Regulations: Always observe fishing and boating regulations for one's and others' safety- Vermont State Regulations booklet is available at the shanty at the access.
- Annual meeting is July 18 at Char-Bo; see you there.

My term as president is nearing a record in length of time, being dwarfed only by the term of our former dear friend, Dave Wood. Somewhere, someone, with great presidential potential, is just waiting to volunteer or be nominated. Welcome!

That's it, folks, my message for 2015. Let's all just have a great summer!

Andy Major

Of Fine Stock and a Dock From Stock

Out of the blue, no pun intended, on a bright, sunny afternoon, Director Dennis Bond and President Major, after taking the Bond pontoon boat to Wright's Marine Service for servicing, we were riding along enjoying Bond's new Dodge Ram, when Andy recommended that they turn at the Salem boat access. Lo and behold, to their surprise, at the Little Salem boat access were a number of State of Vermont trucks with Fish and Wildlife logos on them. They quickly stopped and found to their surprise that these State personnel were stocking salmon fingerlings in local, various mouths of rivers and other areas locally, a good portion from the total 50,000. Len Giardi and Jud Kratcher, State biologists, explained that although the Lakes were not stocked directly, the fish will travel from Island Pond to Salem and from Lake Memphremagog back to Salem, as studied by tagged fingerlings. The fingerlings will grow quickly in the rivers and come back to the lakes.

It was an interesting and educational experience for Andy and Dennis.

- Andy Major



After many Springs on the lakes and hearing many promises about a new, floating dock that would be installed at the Salem Boat access, the promise became a reality this year. As evidenced by the photo, a beautiful, long floating dock has been installed on Salem. The old boat dock was archaic and not easily adjustable to the rise and fall of the lake water levels. The State of Vermont purchased the dock from the Dock Doctors of Ferrisbug, VT. That is Ron on the new dock. The local chapter of Ducks Unlimited places the dock in Spring and removes it in the Fall. Thank you all!

On The Water and By The Shore

You may have seen that little pontoon boat chugging to the center of the lake and the north end each week, usually Sunday afternoons, after the visitors have gone home. That is Gary and Paula Staples' craft making the stops for the water samples. Paula and I are measuring depth of water for clarity using the Secchi Disk at both sites.

Based on those measurements, water samples are taken at the center of the lake and brought to the "lab" in Paula's camp kitchen.

Hi Monitors!



Join us at one of three workshops offered in June through the Vermont Invasive Patrollers (VIP). VIP workshops cover such fundamentals as the difference between native, exotic, nuisance and invasive species; how invasive species are introduced and established; how to differentiate native aquatic plants and animals from their invasive lookalikes (plants will be emphasized); and how to conduct surveys for aquatic invasive species in lakes and ponds. The last workshop in the series is on Friday, June 26th, 2015, 10 a.m. to Noon at Prouty Beach, Newport.

Interested participants are encouraged to join our statewide network of volunteers who survey for aquatic invasive species in their favorite lake or pond. Register online

http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes/.../ans/lp_VIP.htm.

Water samples are measured, strained through a paper filter, stored in proper containers, then refrigerated until pick up by our state person every other week. Salem Lake has a history of good health; however, the latest trends are showing a rise in the Total Phosphorous count. The dreaded fertilizers and general run off are affecting the lake. We need your help in taking care of our beautiful lake. Please be sure to attend our annual meeting and the town event at the beach this summer, become educated in what is happening to our lake, and how we can take care of it.

The Greeter/Monitor Project 2015 is underway; that is, boat monitoring at the Access began on May 25th. A training session for the monitors was held on the 25th at Willoughby Lakes Town Hall. Four monitors and the Project Director, Andy Major, attended the good session.

The above Greeters/Monitors shown above are; Jeremiah Barker, Nate Sustaita, Eric Bingham and a new monitor, Rebecca Bingham. That is Andy Major, seated in the center. A follow-up training session has just been held.

The purpose of the Greeter/Monitor Project is to prevent the spread of invasive species, plant or animal, from entering the lakes.

Unfortunately, it has been determined that the human element is the guilty party in the spread of invasive species. Boats and trailers travelling from one water body to another unchecked can be a dangerous situation. Greeter/monitors inspecting this equipment are a great precaution against infestation.

Monitors work from May through October, if money allows. Two shifts a day approximately from 0600 to 0800. Educating incoming persons is also an important part of their responsibilities. Many visitors are unaware of the laws that are in effect regarding invasive species, their transport, spreading, etc.

The project is funded in three parts: the State, the Town of Derby and the Salem Lake Association.

We are grateful for the generosity of these organizations in their support of this important project, protecting the quality of the lakes, the values of properties and the promotion and continuation of recreational activities for all.

In photo: Jeremiah Barker, Nate Sustaita, Eric Bingham, Rebecca Bingham and Andy Major (front).

Keep Your Eagle Eye on the Sky!

If you are near Jim Ritson's camp you might want to keep an eye on the sky and near the trees. Bald Eagles have been spotted in this area lately and if you haven't had the privilege of seeing one of these magnificent creatures in person, I would urge you to keep an eye out.

Bald Eagle numbers have increased substantially during the past two decades nationwide due to many factors including reintroduction programs and the protection of Bald Eagle breeding and wintering habitat through the Endangered Species Act. Vermont conducted its own reintroduction program from 2004-2006, releasing 29 eagles in Addison, VT. Today, Vermont is close to reaching its recovery goals for down listing the eagles from state endangered status to threatened.

With the hope that the Bald Eagle will be a part of the beauty and natural heaven that Vermont is for years to come, here are some facts about the United States national bird.



Photo of eagle above was taken last summer by Patty Ann Whitney along the west shore of Salem Lake.

- Although their name suggests otherwise, Bald Eagles are not actually bald
- Female Bald Eagles are larger than males
- Bald Eagles live for around 20 years in the wild
- A Bald Eagle nest can weigh up to a ton when complete!
- Bald Eagles eat mostly fish which they catch by swooping down and grabbing them with their large talons
- The wingspan of a Bald Eagle could be as much as 7 feet wide
- Bald Eagles can fly up to 40mph and as high as 10,000 feet from the ground
- Bald Eagles have 7,000 feathers and when they lose a feather from one wing they also lose one from the other
- Baby Bald Eagles or eaglets hatch after 35 days
- There are about 70,000 Bald Eagles living in the wild

- Christa Goodwin



LakeFront Support From DEC

The Invasive Species Program and the SLA Newsletter, Lakefront, is paid for in part with the support from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation funds.



Stay Safe While on a Boater's Paradise



With summer weather right around the corner (we hope!) thoughts of many residents of and visitors to the Salem Lakes turn to boating. The size and calm nature of the lake make for many happy days on the water. As vessels from speedboats to sailboats, pontoon craft to personal water craft, sailboards to kayaks take to the lake, it is time to think about how everyone can be safe through the summer.

Vermont law prohibits dangerous operating practices of any type of water craft. These practices include operating too close to shore or other vessels, operating at excessive speeds and operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Vessels should not be loaded beyond their capacities and there should be enough personal flotation devices (PFD's) for everyone on board. Children under 12 are required to wear a PFD when in a watercraft. Everyone operating a Personal Water Crafts (PWC) is required to wear a PFD regardless of age.

Operators of all types of motorized craft are reminded that vessels should not be operated at more than wake speed (usually around 5 mph) within 200 feet of the shore, non-motorized craft such as kayaks, canoes or rowboats, or anchored or moored boats that are occupied.

There are many tubers and water skiers on the lake and anyone engaged in these activities should be wearing a PFD. Skiers should always have a spotter in the boat and know the skier's hand signals to guide the boat operator. Tubers and their drivers should be especially aware of the pendulum effect where the tuber on the rope will go in the opposite direction if the boat is turned.

Tubers should never be taken near obstacles or other craft that are closer than two times the length of the tow rope.

Since there are many fishermen on the lake, be especially careful near them. Be cautious around their fishing lines and always go slowly at wake speed near a moored fishing boat. The sunken island is an especially popular fishing spot...be extra careful there! Fishermen can do their part by always making sure that fishing line and other equipment do not wind up in the lake. Line is not biodegradable and can harm fish and birds in the lake.

Personal water craft offer great opportunities for fun but also have some extra considerations for safety and courtesy. Anyone operating or riding a PWC must wear a life jacket. No-one under 16 may operate a PWC. Be extra careful of the environment: do not ride where the water depth is less than 30 inches and don't make wake near shore. Be cognizant of the amount of noise your craft makes and do not operate it near shore or other vessels. Look over both shoulders for nearby craft before making turns and never disturb, harass or chase wildlife.

Whether you operate a kayak, PWC, canoe, pontoon boat, speedboat or sailboard, you are a boater and as such need to be courteous and safe. Let's take advantage of the beauty, serenity and opportunities on the lake and make this summer an awesome and safe one!

- Sharon Kelley

Brush up on your boating safety know-how with a free copy of the Study Guide for the Vermont Safe Boater's Course available via www.boat-ed.com/vermont/studyguide

It's just shy of 30 years since my grandparents were last here, yet this little pond way up here in the Northeast Kingdom still holds pleasant memories of our years up here with them. Grandma was the one who taught me how to catch minnows by the dock with an old milk jar and a string. She was the one who would stuff a quarter in my hand the day after we'd arrive for our vacation, and then tell me to "shush" when I told her my mother would get angry with me for taking her money. She loved to get up early and fish with anyone who'd be willing to ask. The crazy crawler was her favorite lure.

Grandpa was the solitaire master, and on rainy days he apprenticed me on the game with great patience and pride with his pet cat Jinx perched nearby.

He taught me how to prime the old crank pump when it was time to refill the drinking water tank next to the sink, and keep a watchful eye out for spiders in the pail. He was the one who'd catch me eyeballing an issue of *Dennis the Menace* at Piper's General Store and swiping it away only long enough to add it to his bill up front.

So many games of Yahtzee. So many bowls of ice cream. So many Sunday breakfasts at the Royal down in Newport after Mass.

So many years ago.

We're still here, and some of the traditions remain active. We still measure the height of the younger ones against the kitchen doorway. We (me really) still put the minnow trap out at the end of the dock just to see what wanders in. And somewhere at the other end of the lake, someone's grandma is waiting for someone to ask her to take her out fishing.

Tim Votapka



The Things That Make Us Feel at Home

The Salem Gallery



Photos by Tim Votapka

Independence Day on Main

The 48th Derby Annual Gala parade and July 4th celebration will occur on Sat. July 4 right in the heart of town. The parade begins at 10 a.m., after a 9 a.m. muster at the Elks Club Newport-Derby Rd.

Please join us at 2 pm the day before to help set up our pontoon boat/float (on loan from Dennis Bond) at the parking lot across from Dennis' and Andy Major's houses. For more info call Andy Major at 802-766-2662.

Coin Drop Aug 15

We have been approved for a coin drop on August 15th on Main Street in front of Sweet Scoops and North Country Union Junior High School. Derby has always been a strong supporter of our Association and our efforts to keep milfoil out of our Salem Lakes. The coin drop has been used in previous years to supplement the \$15,000.00 given to us by the town on town meeting day. This along with the grant from the State has allowed our monitors to do their job each summer helping to keep milfoil out of the Salem Lakes. The coin drop this year is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and we will need volunteers to help man the booth on the 15th. We will also need volunteers to set up the booth as well as directional cones and signs for the drop. Please contact Andy or Roger if you are able to help with the setup and the collection.

Annual Meeting July 18

Saturday, 9 am at the CharBo rec hall. Bring a potluck brunch 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.

LakeFront Support From DEC

See Us online and pickup up some past issues of Lake Front while you're there.
www.salemlakesvt.org

Follow us year-round on Facebook!

2015 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
 Recruitment Other _____

Annual Dues \$10
Drop off at Annual Meeting or
Mail to: Janet Cartee
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