

Join Us in the July 4th Parade



Summer 2014

# Lake Front

Vol. 12, No. 1

## A Major Word

On page 2

## About Those Loons

On page 3

## What's in Store at Char-Bo?

On page 5

Visit us online: [www.salemlakesvt.org](http://www.salemlakesvt.org)

# A Message From Your President...

Once again we find ourselves in the vacuum of ice out on Salem and awaiting the fullness of native aquatic plants coming in, not as many as last year, we hope.

Welcome to newcomers to our shores and a fond adieu to those who have left us, either in passing or in leaving our shores for greener pastures.

Change being ever constant, especially on a lake...

The Salem Lakes Association was founded in 1985 at the suggestion of local legislator who saw issues, situations, and regulations relating to lakes and lakeshore owners

becoming more and more important and frequent.

Evidence of our association being important to its members and members being well-versed on what is happening is legislative bill H.526 Lake Shore Land Protection which is in Legislature now. More on this issue in another article.

Our association has a potential of about 195 member; our dues are \$10.00 per year; our paid membership averages about 65 members. Those who join are showing their support to officers, directors and other paid members which is important and needed.

We ask all to be ever vigilant for invasive species plant or animal; visit our monitors and make use of our educational materials at the access; check out our new dog waste stations and clean up after our pets; respect neighbors as to noise after hours. Report any unusual events or sights.

**Let's all** have a great summer!! Begin by joining the Association, paying dues, and attending the Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 19th at Char-Bo.

Sincere appreciation is extended to Cindy and Todd Willis of Char-Bo for providing us the use of their hall for our Annual Meeting.

*Andy Major*

## ...And a Thought About Our Membership



Another winter has come and gone in the Northeast Kingdom and the ice has finally melted on the lake. Talk of boating and fishing on Salem once again are on the lips of people who like to visit our lake. Foremost on our minds though is the yearly battle to keep Milfoil out of the Salem Lakes and pending lakeshore legislation that could easily change how we are able to enjoy our property on the Salem Lakes.

One of the things that helps us fight the battle is our membership, many of who serve on the different committees that watch out for our lake. Those committees have dealt with issues such as Milfoil, stocking fish, buoys and rafts on the lake, complaints weeds and many more

One of the problems we deal with every year is lack of membership. Of the 190 or more people who receive this newsletter, only about sixty five will send in the \$10.00 membership dues. That leaves the bulk of the work on the Salem lakes to just a handful of people who serve on the board and volunteers who help on the committees.

Ten dollars isn't much money but what is more important along with that is membership. Right now a small group of people do all the work and we certainly need some **help lightening the load. It isn't that** there is a lot of work to do it is that there is only a small group of people to do it.

As you look through this newsletter and visit our website look at all the things your association is involved with, and look at all the things we do. We need your help. We need more people to help carry the load. All it takes is a few hours of your time and ten dollars.

Please consider adding your name to our list of members. All you have to do is fill in the membership form on the back of the newsletter and mail it to us along with your ten dollars. Please join the Association and be part of our team.

**Roger Cartee**



# A Quick Run-Down on Lake Monitoring

The Salem Lakes Greeter/Monitor Program has been active every year since it was launched by Dave Wood, former association president.

Vermont state programs started up in 1978 with the legislature providing funding through the Grant-in-Aid project wherein the state helped local projects by matching grants to help fight the spread of invasive animals and plants.

So far, there have been no indications of any invasive species, plant or animal, in either Big or Little Salem.

Our program consists of three monitors, Eric Bingham, Jerimiah Barker and Nate Sustaita. These monitors man individual shifts from

Memorial Day weekend through October, inspecting equipment entering the lakes from public access points near the bridge between the two lakes. They will inspect trailers, props and boat hulls for signs of Eurasian Milfoil as well as any other species known to be illegal including certain types of baitfish.

Based on reports and studies throughout Vermont and nationwide, Milfoil is by far the largest concern since this plant needs very little effort to take over an entire water body in a very short period of time. Once it is introduced into a lake, it becomes virtually impossible to eradicate.

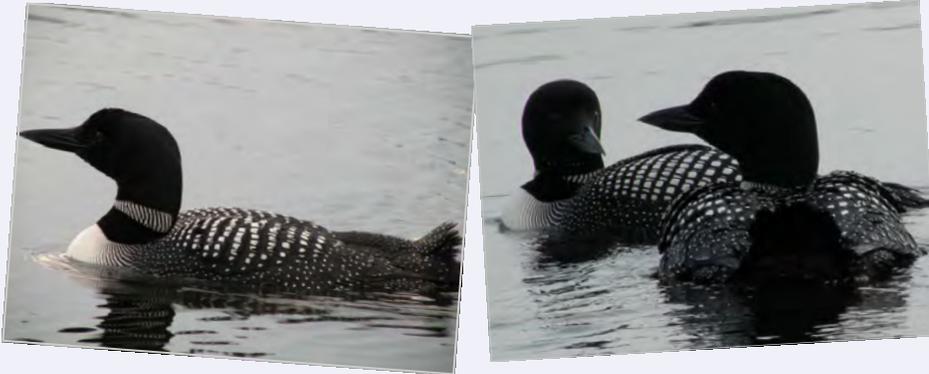
The result, as we've seen in many other areas not far from here, is a lake that becomes choked by thick weeds, leaving it useless for any recreation and a threat to native fish and wildlife.

So while we have monitors on hand to help identify any inbound Milfoil, there is always a call out to everyone else living and visiting Salem Lake from camp owners to seasonal renters alike. Literature is always available at the public access ramp just off the road between the bridge and Char-Bo campground.

We should also acknowledge Claire Roberts and Paula Staples for their dedication and energy in water testing.

For more info on our Lay Monitoring Program and other vital data go to [www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes.htm](http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/lakes.htm) - on the right side of the screen, scroll down to "Quick Links" click on Lake Score Card and go to Salem Lakes.

*Andy Major*



## About Our Lovely Loons

**We all know the beauty the loons bring to our lake...Their majestic sounds... beautiful markings...But I bet there are a few facts that you may not know about these "angels of the lake"**

Despite the longtime thought that loons mate for life, they will sometimes switch mates after a failed nesting attempt even in the same breeding season.

Loons can live for 30 years or longer

**Due to their body weight relative to their wing size, loons need 100 to 600 feet of "runway" in order to take off from the lake. Once in the air they can fly more than 75mph!**

The common loon has four calls: tremolo (an aggressive call), wail (long, drawn-out sound), hoot (to communicate amongst parents and young) and the yodel (used by males guarding their territory)

Loons have solid bones giving them more weight and reducing buoyancy making it easier to dive under water. They can dive to depths of up to 200 feet.

Their red eye helps them to see underwater and locate prey such as fish, frogs and aquatic invertebrates

The name loon was derived from their clumsy awkward appearance when walking on land

Loons are one of the older species of birds with roots dating back over 100 million years

North America is home to five species of loons: Red Throated, Pacific, Arctic, Yellow-Billed and Common.

**Loon "mothers" will often carry their young on their backs**

**Article and Images by Christa Goodwin**

# Memories and Moments From May On

For those of us lucky enough to be residents of Salem Lake either part-time or year-round, there is nothing like a warm summer day, blue skies, gentle breezes and a beautiful lake as the front yard! Sitting on the lawn or beach and watching the **activity on the lake is one of life's** great pleasures.

Everyone who has spent time at Salem has different favorite memories and moments. For some, it might be watching the activity on the lake on a mid-summer day. From colorful sailboats to lumbering pontoon boats with happy families aboard to zippy powerboats towing water skiers, there is always something to catch the attention.

**And let's not forget the fishermen –** those dedicated folks who are up early in the morning to catch the first gentle rays of the sun and hopefully, the early rising fish! They wait patiently by the Sunken Island or next to tall reeds hoping that their time will be rewarded with a nibble on the line. They are the last to leave the lake in a rainstorm—any good fisherman will tell you the best time to fish is in the rain!

The loons on the lake have delighted residents with their swimming and diving antics and the variety of their calls. No-one who has heard the mournful evening cry of the loon will soon forget the sound.

Their distinctive call when they are flying makes lake residents reach for binoculars in the hope of spotting **them just above the lake's surface.**

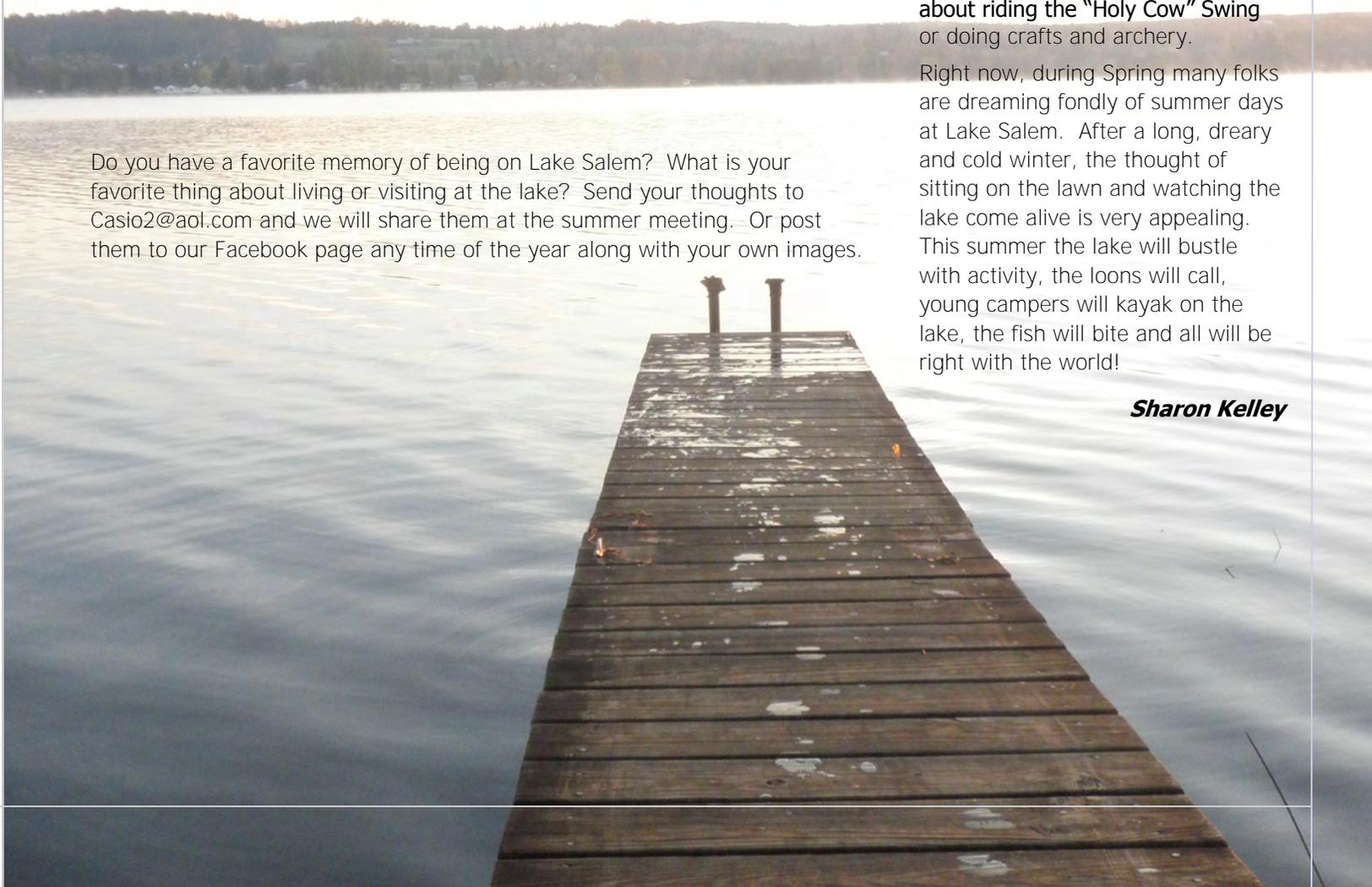
For those of us on the east shore, watching the progress of the sun as it sets over Bear Mountain is a summer long activity. In June, the **sun sets just beyond the bear's back** to the right. By August, it appears to have moved far to the left, bringing a reminder that summer is ending and fall is not far behind.

For many, summer memories of Salem involve camping for a week or two at Coutts. The former 4-H Camp, now Siskin-Coutts, has been hosting campers since the early **1930's The camp now has campers** that are second, third and even fourth generation returning for a unique and exciting experience. Former campers who now have children of their own talk to them **about riding the "Holy Cow" Swing** or doing crafts and archery.

Right now, during Spring many folks are dreaming fondly of summer days at Lake Salem. After a long, dreary and cold winter, the thought of sitting on the lawn and watching the lake come alive is very appealing. This summer the lake will bustle with activity, the loons will call, young campers will kayak on the lake, the fish will bite and all will be right with the world!

***Sharon Kelley***

Do you have a favorite memory of being on Lake Salem? What is your favorite thing about living or visiting at the lake? Send your thoughts to Casio2@aol.com and we will share them at the summer meeting. Or post them to our Facebook page any time of the year along with your own images.



# A Weed Cutter Worth a Whack

Weeds, weeds and more weeds. Is that all you see when you go down to the beach in front of your camp? I have been looking for a way to clear them out without spending hours pulling them out or trying to rake them out by the roots. I was walking along the road one day and spotted one of my neighbors with a strange looking device that they kept throwing out into the lake and them pulling it back in.

Come to find out it was a weed razer from a company called Aquacide. The razer is a lightweight weed cutter with a five foot handle and twenty feet of nylon rope. Just throw it out and pull back in a jerking motion and the weeds come floating to the top for harvesting. If you use one please be sure to clean up the weeds after you cut them or they go the length of the lake and everybody else has to clean up after you.

Two angled thirty three inch stainless steel blades cut a four foot swath through the weeds. A sharpener comes with it and regular sharpening after each use keep it ready for the next time it is needed. You can also buy a Razer Pro that adjusts for a narrow or wider cut.

More info at [www.killlakeweeds.com](http://www.killlakeweeds.com)



**Roger Cartee** *Weed razer may be the tool to use to manage aggressive weed cover.*

## Salem Lake Sign Missing From Rt. 111



Has anybody seen a sign just like this one? This sign on the West Charleston Road next to Lake Salem is still there but the twin located on Route 111 is missing and has not been seen since last summer. People who live on Lake Salem during the summer saw the sign leaning against the post it normally is attached to, but when they went back the next day to get it the sign was gone. Clearly we would like the sign back so if you have it or know where it is please return it, **"No questions asked"**. If you know where it is or want to bring it to us or you want us to come pick it up, please contact Andy Major 766-2662 or Roger Cartee 766-4704.

# Green Light on New Pet Waste Stations

Last fall, the Salem Lakes Association Board met to discuss the problem of pet waste along the lake shore, especially the sand-bar area where Big and Little Salem connect. The group decided to look into the possibility of installing pet waste stations at the fishing access, the town beach, and at the sand-bar.

The first stop was a visit to the Kingdom Dog Park to see how a waste station is made. One unit consists of a pole which holds a sign encouraging people to clean up after their pets, a dispenser of bags for individual waste, and a receptacle lined with a large bag for collecting the smaller bags of waste. Similar stations exist along the boardwalk in Newport. This was followed up with on-line research of pet waste stations where we found the lowest price with free shipping for the standard unit.

SLA board member Barbara Sherman also visited with the Town of Derby Municipal Offices and met with Bob Kelley who was instrumental in building the Kingdom Dog Park. He contacted the selectmen immediately and they were enthusiastically in favor. We also sought and received permission from the State of Vermont to place one at the public access area.

The three pet waste stations, along with extra bio-degradable bags have been purchased and we expect to have them in place in time for the summer season. But remember, it is up to us humans to pick up after our pets and make good use of the stations.



## **Barbara Sherman**

*Pet waste stations should be in place this summer at three sites around Salem Lake, including the inlet sandbar. (above) and at the public access area (below).*



*It is up to us humans to pick up after our pets in order to keep the Salem Lakes water quality clean and safe.*

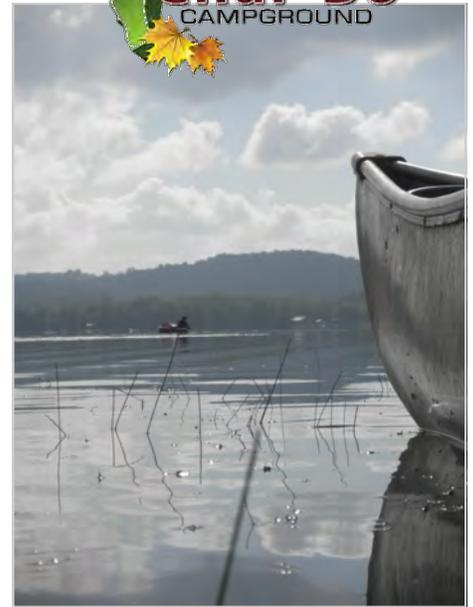
# What's In Store Up on the Hill

The Salem Lakes Association has been fortunate enough to hold their Annual Meeting for the past couple of years at the Char-Bo Campground recreation hall located in the campground store building. Cindy and Todd Willis, the owners, have again been very generous in offering us the use of the hall free of charge **for this year's Annual Meeting** scheduled for Saturday, July 19th starting at 9 a.m.

The hall is normally used by campground guests but has been made available to the Association, not only offering space for the meeting but also plenty of space for parking. Our thanks go out to Cindy and Todd for the generous use of their space and for making the store

available to camp owners around the lake. Basic grocery items are available including milk, bread, and beer. Camp owners are invited to stop in and use the store anytime during normal store hours from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. daily. The store is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Cindy also added that should any camp owner stop at the store and find it closed during normal hours, they should go to lot #19 where **Beverly and "Red" Willis** would help them by coming down to open the store. A quick call to the store at 766-8807 would also confirm if they are open.



*A view towards Char-Bo from the west side of Salem Lake.*

## Lake Front

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WWW.SALEMLAKESVT.ORG

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### Salem Lakes Association Officers

**President.....Andy Major**  
**Vice President.....Roger Cartee**  
**Treasurer.....Jan Cartee**  
**Secretary.....Sharon Kelley**

### Directors

Jim Ritson, Stan Hancock, Lois Young, Dennis Bond, Ross & Andrea Ogilvie, Norm Miller, Bruce & Barbara Sherman

## Keeping It Safe at Salem

The Salem Lakes are beautiful and offer many opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, and other watery recreation. Residents love days when the lake is busy with water skiers, sailboats, pontoon boats, sailboards and other colorful watercraft zipping—or lazing—back and forth across the water. The association would like to take this opportunity to remind boat operators, especially those using power boats and personal watercraft, about some important guidelines to help everyone stay safe and happy.

When operating a power craft, it is important to vary the operating area and do not keep repeating the same maneuver. Also, avoid making excessive noise near residential or camping areas particularly early in the morning. Power craft should not congregate near shore where noise levels might affect campers or residents.

There are some special considerations for operators of personal watercraft. PWC operators should avoid jumping the wake of passing boats or riding too close to other personal watercrafts. They should also avoid maneuvers that cause the engine exhaust to lift out of the water as that increases noise levels.

All boat operators and people using rafts should be reminded that it is illegal to dump plastic, paper, glass, food, garbage, metal or anything else in the lakes. We all need to be careful to keep Salem Lake and Little Salem Lake beautiful and inviting so that they can be enjoyed for years.



# The Salem Gallery



When you want the best shot, you have to go out and get it. Sometimes that means standing in knee-deep water a few minutes longer; or slipping out with the canoe even if it looks like it may rain. The trick is, to be willing to be in the moment, alert and ready to snap at any second, because the loon may dive, the heron will take off and the sun may set behind the hill without waiting.

***Tim Votapka***



# The Salem Gallery



## Independence Day on Main

The 47h Derby Annual Gala parade and July 4th celebration will occur on Friday, 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.

## Annual Meeting

Plan on meeting with your fellow association members Saturday, July 19 at 9 am at the CharBo campground recreation hall. You bring your potluck brunch dish to share and we'll supply the coffee, tea and juice. Catch up with some friends, and listen in on the latest news affecting Salem Lake. Rain or shine. Please bring your own place settings.

## Shore land Protection Legislation

New state laws may impact any plans to clear shorelines or construct waterfront walls in 2015. To follow the progress of this legislation visit <http://vermontlakes.org/legislativeupdates/>

## 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.

See Us online and pickup up some past issues of Lake Front while you're there.  
[www.salemlakesvt.org](http://www.salemlakesvt.org)



## 2014 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  
Salem Lakes Association  
17 Northern Ave.  
Newport, VT 05855

