

Lake Front

Volume 9 Number 1
Summer 2012

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Welcome Back! A Message From Your Association President...

Good news, so far, about our lakes! I do not know if it is because of our diligence or if it's pure, dumb luck, but all reports indicate that the quality of our waters is good to average as for phosphorous, the bad element; also, thus far, we have not been able to find invasive species, plant or animal.

Anyone interested in reading the report of the condition of our lakes can Google the following: Vermont Lakes Scorecard issued by the Vt. Dept. of ANR, and look up Salem. We are in good standing compared to some.

Fishing is reportedly good. During one winter weekend there were as many as 50 ice shanties northeast of the access.



Andy Major
President
Salem Lakes
Association



Winter ice fishing 2012 off the western shore of Salem Lake.

Smelt, perch, salmon and walleye were among the species of fish caught. A fishing committee will be revived, hopefully at the Annual Meeting this summer. One negative aspect was the wheeling and spinning of vehicles out on the ice at all hours of the night. Law enforcement was informed and will continue to be notified anytime something like this goes on.

Speaking of the meeting, we will have that gathering on July 21 at 9 a.m. at the CharBo campground. It would be great to have a big attendance this year. Why not come down, enjoy a potluck brunch with great people and pay your annual membership fee while you're there? Is \$10 really too much? Any suggestions?

With just 60 paid memberships out of a potential base of 200, I know we could gain more support one way or the other.

Speaking of support, I have to thank the group of volunteers who have been working diligently to prepare four very interesting workshops related to lakes issues. A pamphlet will be left at your door. Please plan on attending.

Special thanks goes out to all who help throughout the year. You know who you are! I also want to thank Tim Votapka who produces our newsletter and website behind the scenes.

Enjoy your summer lakeside! See you soon.

Lake Front

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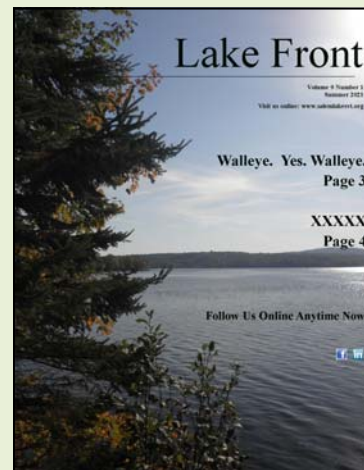
Cover photo by Tim Votapka

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Stan Hancock, Lois Young, George
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Norm Miller





Walleye In the Water

Good news for walleye fans. Over the last two years, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department has been taking a closer look at the Salem Lake walleye fishery. In the last two spring seasons, the department used an electro-fishing boat to sample the spawning walleye population in the Clyde River upstream of the lake. The fish were measured, weighed, and returned to the river. A spine was removed from the dorsal fin to determine the age of each fish.

Fish and Wildlife staff also observed a large spawning concentration of walleye in the Clyde River in West Charleston Village in 2011. Walleye anglers had a relatively good year at Salem, especially during the 2011/12 ice fishing season. Nine of the 15 walleyes entered in the 2012 Wright's Sport Shop ice fishing derby came from Salem Lake.



The largest of these fish was 30 ¾" and weighed 11.42 pounds. While the current state of Salem Lake's walleye population gives us some reason for optimism, the Fish and Wildlife Department plans to keep a close eye on the fishery in the coming years. The Department is very thankful for the efforts of the lake monitors to interview anglers at the state access area, as the information gained through these interviews will provide a valuable assessment of the lake's walleye and bass fisheries.

Above: Sunset over Salem Lake image shot by Roger Cartee.

Middle: Byron Wright with a winter walleye caught in Salem.

Bottom: Board director Dave Wissman gets a close look at a walleye caught during an April outing with Jud Kratzer, Fisheries Biologist, VT Fish and Wildlife. Location: mouth of the Clyde River in Little Salem.



Net a good one? Snap a picture and post it on our Facebook page!



The Things We Love About Lake Front Living

I don't know about the rest of you, but whenever I go out to fish, I don't set my expectations high; why risk the disappointment? Instead, I tend to look at each hour or so I spend out on the lake as an opportunity to multi-task in a far more enjoyable way than I might if I were back at the office. And by that I mean, noticing the things going on near and far that you just can't shrink wrap and ship; things like the slap of a screen door, the sweet smell of fresh cut hay. The sounds, the smells and certainly the very tone of lake front living just doesn't get duplicated unless you take it in and stretch your perception to its max.

- The low hum of an outboard motor coming in from an early morning fishing excursion.
- The joyful screeches of youngsters out on a raft daring each other to jump in first.
- A loon's call from somewhere across the lake.
- The look on a young boy's face when he catches his first decent bass.
- Going through the entire day in bare feet.
- Making that last turn off the main road after a long drive home.
- The lazy lap, lap, lap sound your neighbor's boat makes when the wind shifts direction.
- How it feels when you get a really good tug on your line and you know it's a 3-pounder at least.
- Catching something unusual in your minnow trap.
- Losing track of the date.
- Being the last one to go to bed and the first one to get up in the morning.
- Fresh coffee on the front porch.
- Waving to people you don't even know as they paddle past your camp.
- Teaching your kids how to catch (and hold) a toad.
- The woody smell of a bonfire.
- Sitting on your dock with nothing to do until lunch.
- Reading the Sunday comics on a Monday afternoon just because you didn't get around to it over the weekend.
- The fact that you can hear a dog bark from a mile away.
- Walking through cold wet grass with the warm morning sun on your back.
- The smell of fresh bacon cooking from a nearby camp.

'Things like the slap of a screen door.
Or the sweet smell of fresh cut hay.'

- Tim Votapka

Have some of your own? Post them on our Facebook page!



Still Milfoil Free...

thanks to some very watchful boat owners and Salem Lake staff members. This aquatic weed has a nasty tendency to infiltrate fresh water ponds and lakes and throw the quality of the water and ecosystem completely out of control. All it takes is small scrap of just one plant for an infestation to take root, and that's something we all do not want.

To raise awareness even further, the association has flyers available you may post in your camps in order to remind guests or renters to watch what they launch, even if it's just a rowboat off the bank.

To download your own copy, go to www.salemlakesvt.org.

Cottage Owners Please Post

-ATTENTION- COTTAGE OWNERS AND/OR GUESTS

Salem Lakes are free of milfoil and any other invasive, noxious plant or animal species. We, the Salem Lakes Association, are proud and protective of these facts about our Lakes and we will continue in our efforts to preserve this precious resource.

A request: Please, if you are arriving at the lake and you have equipment that will be launched or will touch the water, have it checked at the boat access by qualified monitors who are educated and paid to verify that your equipment does not have invasive plants or animals.

We know that the Salem Lakes lakeshore may lend itself to launching equipment from your private lot; this is an extreme danger that may result in our losing the battle against invasive species and thereby lose our lake. Especially, if you have been in Lake Memphremagog or in our own Derby Pond, these waters have milfoil, which if given a chance in our Lakes, would grow prolifically and to the point of preventing boating, fishing and other recreational activities. It has happened to other lakes. It is very costly and impossible to try to eradicate once it begins to grow in the lake, especially our lakes with a silt bottom. Property values would plunge.

Bullfish is another threat to the waters of the Lakes. Many States are providing information about exotic bullfish that, if given the opportunity, grow and multiply to the threat of native fish. Bullfish brought in should be brought out. Owners of cottages, never dump ingredients of aquariums into the lake; for example, goldfish grow and multiply to the extent that they can become a threat to native fish, by eating their food and usurping their habitat.

While you are fishing, boating, or swimming, one can casually be on the lookout for invasive species, weeds or fish, especially milfoil. Survey sheets are attached or can be found at the shanty at the boat access. Time indicated will be used figure in-kind service which translates into matching funds for the State grant given us for the prevention of milfoil entering our Lakes.

Enjoy your time at Salem Lakes and, if visiting, return often. Thank you.

The Salem Lakes Association

SUPPORT PROVIDED IN PART BY
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Independence Day

The 45h Derby Annual Gala parade and July 4th celebration will occur on Wed. 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 on the Newport-Derby Rd. Please join us in the parade and at the Major's home the prior afternoon to help decorate the association float. For more info contact Andy Major, 802-766-2662.

Milfoil Search

More volunteers make less work through the warmer months, so if you've got a canoe, kayak, paddle boat or anything else seaworthy, please consider applying a watchful eye toward our milfoil watch. Volunteers are needed to help match money made available through grants from the state and town. Most recent state grant, \$16,131.00. Matching from Town of Derby voters, \$15,000.00

Annual Meeting

Plan on meeting with your fellow association members Saturday, July 21 (9 a.m.) at the CharBo campground. You bring your potluck brunch 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.

Coin Drop

Keep an eye out for some association volunteers on July 28 when we do our annual coin drop to raise funds. If you'd like to put a little time in, please contact Andy Major for more information at 802-766-2662 or by email at andrewlmajor@gmail.com

Visit us online! Salemlakes.vt.org

2012 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 _____

\$10 Membership fee included _____

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 _____

Make check payable to (or give at Annual Meeting)

Mail to: Janet Cartee
Salem Lakes Association
17 Northern Ave.
Newport, VT 05855