

Lake Front

The Salem Lakes Association newsletter

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(Scenes from the Big Flood)

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Picking Up Where We Left Off...

A year ago, the neighbor’s kids were a great deal shorter, the dead tree in the backyard finally fell down, and the weather was about as warm and sunny as it can possibly be for this area in May. By all rights, it was a great season that began with an idyllic weekend as the cover image suggests. Here’s a quick recap.

A new dock was installed over at the public access area, making it much easier for boaters to put in at the ramp. The access was also renamed the David H. Wood Access in honor of our long-time president and friend David Wood who died in 2009.

The annual 2010 July 4th parade went off without a cloud in the sky and the Salem Lakes Association won 3rd prize in the float category thanks to the aesthetic decorating that had gone on before the event. This year’s parade falls on July 4 and we hope to have a great turnout on the float and in the streets. Join us for decorating Sunday afternoon at the Majors home on Rt. 105 and then at the Elks lodge for muster on the 4th at 9 a.m.

It rained some times and it got downright hot on other days, but as Vermonters often say “If you don’t like the weather, wait a few minutes.” Either way, the variety of conditions didn’t create a big impact on the water quality based on testing and monitoring done throughout the season by our cadre of volunteers. As of this writing, Salem remains incredibly milfoil-free which is something we continue to promote with our lay monitoring program.

We began inspecting boats and equipment the weekend before Memorial Day. In fact, we found one very unclean boat, with much milfoil on it, coming from Derby Pond. It is extremely frustrating to have an infested body of water so close to our lake. We must be very vigilant and take measures to keep milfoil scraps out of Salem even if we launch canoes or boats directly from our own properties. Anyone who’s renting camps may want to post notices in their cottages to expand awareness among non-residents and guests. Fliers are available at the shanty by the public access.

Read on for more news.



New dock makes boat launching easier.



Last year’s float crew in July 4th parade.

Lake Front

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Commemorating the new David H. Wood Access Area.



Water, Water Everywhere...

Salem Lakes property owners know how variable the lake front can be depending on the weather, but no one has seen water as high as what we witnessed this Spring. Massive rainfalls just after an April snowmelt created the conditions for record flooding throughout the region. Some camps were just high enough to avoid damage, others were not.

Firemen from the Derby Line Fire Department responded quickly and often to various calls at the height of the flood. They were hampered by water across roadways around the lake; therefore, they hired an air boat from the City of Newport to go around the lake and check especially for propane tanks that were either floating free or dangerously floating with open shutoffs. At one location, an oil spill had to be cleaned up.

Appreciation is extended to Chief Ellam and his dedicated men for the work performed to prevent a bad situation getting worse.

Association President Andy Major joined representatives from FEMA in a guided tour around the lake to assess the scope of property damage. The reps' main interest was on primary residences, however the reps indicated other damage would be considered in time.

All property owners with damage are encouraged to call 211 to report any flood-related issues. You may also use our Linked In group on line to post any notes about items you may be missing or found. Just go online to www.linkedin.com and search for Salem Lakes Association to check in on any discussions going on there.



Above: Camps normally high and dry came within inches of having water enter their houses. Gardner Park in Newport was off limits as the Clyde River rose above its banks as it emptied into Lake Memphremagog. Some camps did not fare as well as seen in the images below. Little Salem literally joined Big Salem over by the David Wood Access. Picnic tables, boats, lawn chairs; even a wishing well got loose from their normal winter storage sites, ending up in some of the most random places around the lake. Camp owners can join our Linked In group to share their own individual lost and found reports. We're also on Facebook if you have additional photos to share.



Photos courtesy of Claire Roberts, Matt Hammond, Andy Major.



Fishing Around for The Facts About Our Walleye...

In the past, Salem Lakes were renowned for their wealth of fish of all species. To the avid fisherman, Salem was the heaven of fishes, especially walleyes. In later years, however, Salem's reputation has become: No fish! Where are the fish? These are comments heard by our greater/monitors at the access regularly.

At the 2010 association annual meeting Sam Lang of the HAT (Hunters, Anglers and Trappers) organization gave his take of the fishing conditions in the Lakes. In the years 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008, the Fish and Wildlife Department of Vermont, caught 20 pairs of walleyes, 20 male and 20 female. They would strip the female of eggs and the males of sperm and return the fish to the Lake. The sperm and eggs were taken to Island Pond and Lake Champlain to stock these lakes. I hasten to add that this may or may not be the reason for poor walleye fishing in Salem.

Lang and I attended a meeting with the new Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Berry and representatives of his fisheries department as well as of Lake Champlain. The discussion ensued that there were indeed walleyes and salmon in Salem as told us by F&W biologist Jud Kratzner. This gentleman and his crew stun the fish and they rise to the surface wherein they are weighed, measured, inspected, and maybe tagged and returned to the lake. Eric Palmer, assistant to Commissioner Berry, said the catching of special species is a cyclic thing and that walleye successful fishing in Salem would return.

Commissioner Berry explained that the constricting atmosphere in government these days limited things the department could do, due to shortness of money, staff and time. He would take into consideration the discussion and concerns of persons on this issue. After the meeting, a couple of persons came to me and assured me of their concerns and that they would do all that they could to support our goals, namely, to restore walleye fishing in Salem Lake. Lang suggested the use of the Bald Hill Fish Hatchery and a 5-year plan to stock various lakes in the Northeast Kingdom.



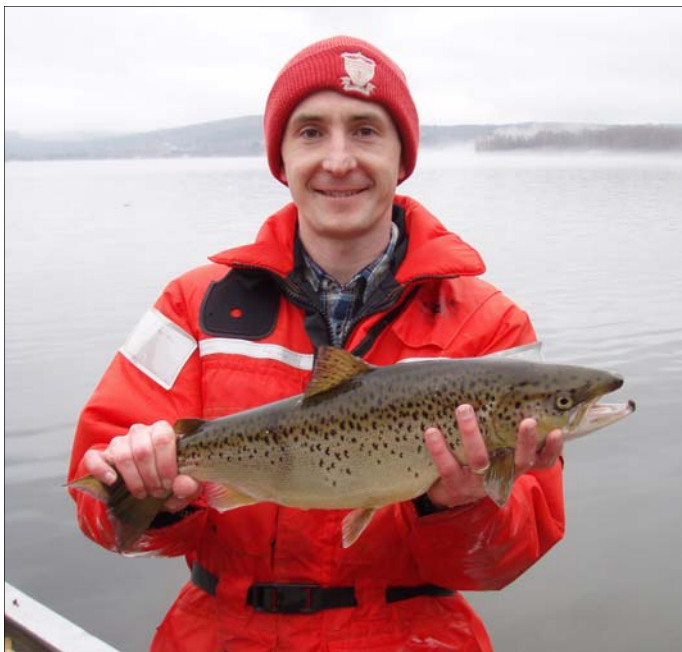
One of the walleye caught back in April.

I asked if there are fish in Salem, why are they not biting? Answer, that is the million dollar question! I also left the meeting with the feeling that our concerns had been heard by the proper authorities and that they may feel some pressure to respond in some way.

Please attend the annual meeting as this subject will certainly be on the agenda. A strong and active Fisheries Committee should be formed, as in years past to assure continued efforts on this issue.

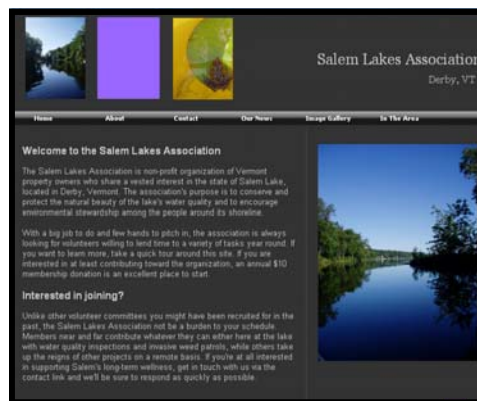
I have asked our monitors to keep track of fish caught as fishermen leave the lake. This should give us an idea as to what is happening, at least, this summer.

- Andy Major



Salmon nabbed in April visit. More information about the walleye and salmon situation will come up during our 2011 annual meeting Saturday, July 16 (9 a.m.) at the Moriarty Camp. All are invited to attend and be heard on this and other lake association news.

Making the Most Out of a Very Big Net



Remember those long gaps between those postcards and letters you may have exchanged with your friends at Salem? Now you can stay connected any time, anywhere through our website and social media pages on Linked In and Facebook. Check them out and post your own updates and photos. No charge!

Bidding Farewell to Arthur Guyette, Our First Association President

We at the Salem Lakes Association have lost a faithful and dedicated steward. Arthur Guyette passed away recently. He had been ill, and possibly the havoc caused by the flooding, sadly, may have added to his illness.

Arthur and Rosalie have lived on Big Salem since 1961, building their gracious homestead in 1961. Living in a beautiful setting, they raised their four children. Involved in their careers, also, during these many years, they were involved in lake protection activities.

Arthur was the first President of the association having been asked by seniors Wayne Newell and Si Houghton to do so. The Association was formed by the encouragement of Ben Blais, a legislator at the time.

Arthur and Rosalie were very faithful in reporting milfoil checks in front of their property and reported many volunteer hours which counted towards in-service hours and money toward our grant.

Rosalie herself has been involved in the loon watch for many years, an activity which guarded the possibility of loons becoming extinct. In all those years, she reports seeing only one loon chick. We are still waiting for a repeat performance. Rosalie also served for many years as secretary of the association.

Arthur was also involved in the Lay Monitoring Program for the Agency of Natural Resources. This is a program that goes on today with routine precision. On a set schedule, the lake waters are tested for clarity with the secchi dish; water samples are taken for phosphorous and nitrogen count and sent to the state laboratory, etc. Results are compiled and compared with other waters, filed; the information used by governing bodies for the benefit of all lakes.

A jack of all trades, Arthur skillfully made the Lake Salem signs seen on Routes 111 and 105. He made many other signs as well.



Rosalie, to you and your family, we extend our sincere condolences; we also extend out sincere appreciation to you and Arthur for your conscientious dedication to Salem Lakes during the past year. Thank you. Peace be with you and your family.

Best Wishes To The Bond Family

Roy Bond, husband of Phyllis (Salls) of Allison Park, PA, passed away recently after a long illness. Phyllis is the daughter of the late Carroll and Alma Salls, former residents of Derby Line, VT.

They all have been summer residents of Salem Lake. Roy and Phyllis' son Dennis Bond and his family of York, PA are the third generation to enjoy the lake.

Welcome Dennis and family!

Scholarly Election For Roger Cartee

Roger Cartee, DECA advisor for the North Country Union High School, was elected President of the National DECA Boards of Directors for 2011-2012.

DECA is a not-for-profit association that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges worldwide.

Congratulations Mr. Cartee!

A 'Major' Addition To The Group

Jay Alton Ricker was born on April 3 at the North Country Hospital in Newport, VT. He is the son of Amy Lee Major and James Jay Ricker of Derby, VT.

Jay is the proud grandson of Andy and Lois Major, also of Derby; and Bonnie and James Hutchinson of Newport.

Congratulations to the entire clan on the new addition. Hope to see him riding on the float in the July 4th parade!



Photo by Tim Votapka

Independence Day

The 44th Derby Annual Gala parade and July 4th celebration will occur on Monday, 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. This year's parade theme is "Saluting all Community Volunteers."

Please join us in the parade and at the Major's home Sunday afternoon to help decorate the association float. For more info contact Andy Major, 802-766-2662.

What's Your Number?

During our recent flood tour, we noticed many houses and camps did not have street numbers posted. For safety sake, every home should have a number in a visibly location in case of an emergency. The Derby Line Fire Department has a Reflective 911 Sign Program which would be vital in helping responders find your home in an emergency.

For more information on this email derbylinefire@hotmail.com or call Roger Gosselin at (802) 274-4502.

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.

Annual Meeting

Plan on meeting with your fellow association members July 16 at the Moriarty Camp. 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 Lakes. 9 a.m. Rain or shine.

(Cover Photo: Tim Votapka)

2010 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
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