

# Lake Front

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Volume 6 Number 1  
Summer 2009

The Salem Lakes Association newsletter

**Keeping you current on lake area news.**

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# On the State of our Association...

When I was elected as President of the Salem Lakes Association, I was deeply humbled. However, I have come to learn in my humility, that it is very lonely at the top. To those who have given and continue to give of your interest, time and efforts, I do not wish to preach to the choir, so your efforts in the interest of organization continue to be appreciated. Thank you!



Last year, our paid memberships amounted to just 60 members out of a potential 200 members. Not a very good average. We strive each year to obtain more participation, and continue to put out an invitation to the entire lake-wide community to contribute any way you can. Attending the annual meeting on July 18 would be one of the best ways to start. This year, we're making a big change by having the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with the hope that we'll draw more attendees.

The mission of the association was/is first and foremost to monitor and protect the water quality of the lakes and thereby, also protect the values of the properties surrounding the lakes.

Also, as was told to our founding fathers by a very dedicated legislator, Ben Blais, there is strength

and knowledge in numbers. He also indicated that there were lake and water body issues that were arising and would become more and more important in the future. He was speaking from his vantage point as a state legislator. He was so right: the future is now.

Issues we need to confront and handle include:

- ◇ continue to fund prevention efforts and measures to prevent invasive species which diminish water quality and negatively affect property values
- ◇ legislation is yearly being discussed, put off or passed (good, bad and/or indifferent) that greatly affects lakeshore property owners and upon which we should be making our voices heard: lakeshore development, septic regulations, fishing and boating regulations, aquatic equipment fees, lake access regulations, taxation, environmental and ecological concerns, zoning and other issues.

We, as an association, would like to know and feel that the majority of lakeshore property owners wish to contribute their knowledge and expertise in supporting the efforts of the association on these issues

- ◇ Third, communicate with officers, directors and one another on issues and concerns. Let's communicate by e-mail, please send us yours. Our newsletter will be available to you electronically and in color.
- ◇ Fourth, if one can, volunteer in an area of interest, in-kind service, or on a committee.

I am confident we can revive our association to its initial effectiveness. Let's all make that our goal. May we hear from you this summer?

Thank you so very much. And let's all have a great Salem summer!

Andy Major

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## Lake Front

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### Special Thanks

Tom Roberts, Joe Profera

## “BIG CHANGE”

**SALEM LAKES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sat. July 18, 2009 9:30 A.M.**

**Coutts-Moriarty**

**Coffee and crumpets.**

## A Fish Tale That Starts Over a Hearty Bowl of Pasta



Now everyone knows when you tell a good fish story, you start with a brief set up of the location itself. It's key to the story as it puts your audience out there with you in the elements. Man against nature. It's the gravy before the meat, sweet and savory. "We were out over the drop-off when the walleye came up and..." "Must have been the full moon that night because the bass were hitting like..." It works, so why fix it?

But for the first time in my life there's a story that cannot be told the same way. No mystic fathoms, nor any starry skies to mock up. The truth is, it has none of those elements in it at all, although I assure you there is a great bass in the tale, and it all starts over a bowl of pasta.

We were inside on our porch one evening, eating a macaroni dinner when my cousin looked at the window and said "Hey Jon, I think you got one!" Following her attention down to the dock out front, we all saw the bobber being towed full steam out toward deeper water. My son and my cousin's husband bounded down the steps in full scramble alert, the older one yelling "Get 'em, Get 'em" all the way down to the end of the dock.

Oh, it was classic. Bass maneuvers left, right, up and down...all just 15 feet off the end of our dock. Had to have been three pounds at least. We drew the beast in and hoisted it up and into a bucket just as it dropped off the hook. A prize indeed and one that was seen by four witnesses. The digital camera was up on the porch of course where it belonged for such occasions.

Now, catching a fish off the dock in this way had been done before. Our neighbors proved this with their own vic-

tories over the perch and sunfish that patrolled these waters. But this was the first time anyone I know of landed a bass, a real bass, while chowing down on a bowl of pasta inside the camp. It flies in the face of all logic where fishing is concerned. You're supposed to go out with all the gear. You're supposed to get stiff and cranky while kids repeatedly yell "Did you catch anything?" from shore. Snagging a behemoth such as this, with a dead minnow in three feet of water? No way!

Jon tried the same method the very next day, using our minnow trap to cage up unsuspecting bait fish. He threw his line out to the same spot and then proceeded inside to grab a peanut butter and fluff sandwich. I had just settled into the bathroom to read a magazine when he knocked on the door to say "Oh Dad, we have a situation outside." He led me down to the dock where he had his pole laying down, bobber floating nearby. He lifted the tip up to haul up his next great trophy, and there at the end of the line, alive and wiggling, was another minnow no bigger than the deceased shiner it had tried to devour. I couldn't help but laugh. The kid had done it again, only this time, he had set a new record; this time for catching the smallest fish in the shallowest water possible.

Somehow I managed to unhook this one and send it on its way. But before I did, I took a picture. After all, you never know when you're going to land another one like this and tell a true tale.

Tim Votapka  
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## Greeter/Monitor Program Starts Summer Season at Boat Access

On Friday, May 22, 2009, greeter/monitors began the summer season at both accesses, Big and Little Salem. Three monitors, Jarren Puckett, Jeremiah Barker and Cynthia Wood, along with Andy Major, began preparing for their work by attending a Training Program sponsored by the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources taking place in Montpelier this year.

Topics covered in the training included aquatic invasive species identification, importance of spread prevention, access area rules and regulations, baitfish regulations and invasive species laws, tips on delivering invasive species messages and interacting with the public, ending with a boat inspection demonstration.

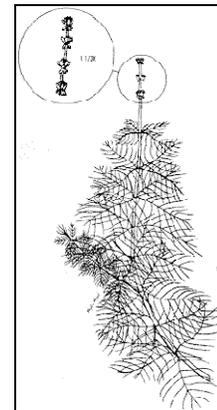
The program is funded in three parts: by a State of Vermont ANR grant, a Town of Derby grant and membership dues from property owners around the lakes. More and more lakes are becoming infested each year, making the State portion contributed less and less. The most common means of spreading milfoil and other invasive species is by the human element, namely, the spreading by aquatic equipment, boats, trailers, fishing tackle, baitfish, etc. The cost of prevention is minute compared to the cost associated with control and abatement, which is nearly impossible.

Historically, properties around infested lakes decrease in value, due to the difficulty of operating aquatic equipment through the weeds, difficulty in swimming and fishing, and generally, a great loss to esthetic value and enjoyment. Property values in New Hampshire and around the nation can attest to this fact. People are generally reticent to purchase properties with handicaps of nuisance species.

Salem Lakes, so far, have been fortunate; however, a number of boats have been found to carry invasive Eurasian milfoil as they arrive at the boat accesses ready to launch. Thanks to the efforts of vigilant monitors, so far, the Lakes remain free of these nuisances. All lake-shore property owners are encouraged to monitor their respective areas to report any suspicious or unusual findings. A record of time spent in surveying for invasive weeds should be kept and given to the monitors at the access; this volunteer time is counted as IN-KIND service and is converted to financial value ( i.e. \$12 per hour) in the computation of the State grant.

All are invited to visit the access and speak with the monitors relating to the program and their duties and functions. A new shanty, serving as their base of operations, has been built and houses educational materials and other necessary materials and equipment..

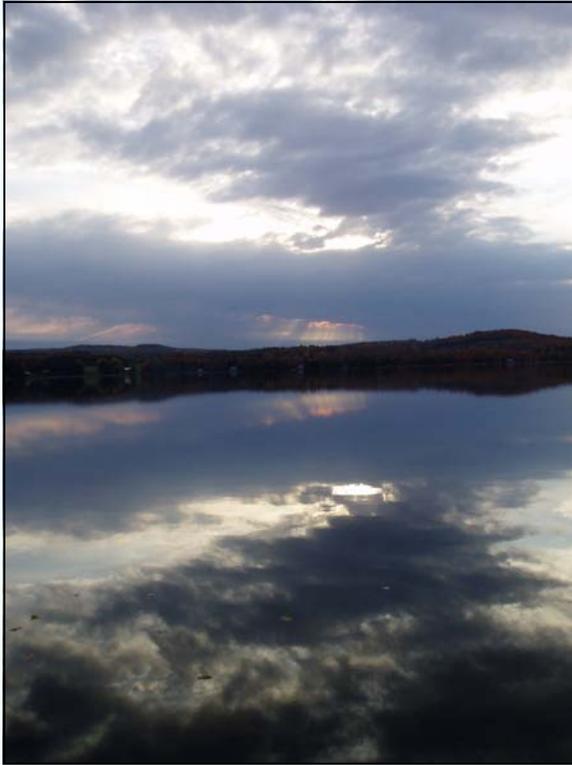
Eurasian Milfoil



Northern Milfoil



## Blue-Green Algae May Not Always Be Cause for Concern



### Gratitude For Your Support & Stewardship

Please accept our sincere appreciation for everyone who volunteered time and talent throughout the year. The Salem Lakes Association depends on financial support and stewardship now more than ever before, and there are many good people who deserve acknowledgement for their contributions.

Salem is a body of water we cannot afford to take for granted, particularly in light of the fact that fewer state dollars are available to us each year to help fund conservation efforts. Every dollar is significant in supporting our association and the programs it administers on behalf of all property owners around the area. Volunteerism needs to rise lake wide. Milfoil patrols are simple and a very enjoyable way to get at least one job done. Stop by the boat access for more info. Come to the annual meeting on July 18 where you can get to know your fellow stewards and make an ounce of help go a long way. And don't be timid about getting in touch with us either. Your memories and stories can be a part of our program year round via email.

Last fall, in late September, there were two reports of sightings of what one might call blue-green algae. These were observed at the north end of the lake northeast from the mouth of the river. No samples were able to be taken, so proof of the nature of this algae was not possible.

What is blue-green algae? At first glance, blue-green algae is a naturally occurring algae that grows in many surface waters. Blue-green algae grows in the summer in calm, warm, shallow water which is rich in nutrients, for example, phosphorous and nitrogen. Blue-green algae which can be found on the borders of lakes and ponds are not actually true algae, but are a type of microscopic organisms called cyan bacteria.

Many may remember that last summer was an unusual one, in that, the water level remained quite high until into August. Then, the water level dropped to normal fall levels. There were a number of quite warm sunny days where the waters bordering the shore were quite low and became quite warm. It was here that the sightings of the blue-green, almost phosphorescent colors were seen. Fall water and weather conditions work together to form these algae blooms.

Green algae blooms, as they are called, may look like thick pea soup, green paint or green cottage cheese. It may appear bluish, or even brownish or reddish green. It forms a thick mat or foam when it washes ashore. This growth of algae blooms can occur overnight and it will last until the wind and waves disperse the algae cells in the water. Although blue-green algae blooms create nuisance conditions and undesirable water quality, most blooms are not toxic. However, it is wise not to allow pets to drink the water, keep children and adults away from the blooms and certainly not to drink it. If at all possible, a sample would be helpful for true identification. If seen, please report to the monitors at the access or contact Andy Major at 766-2662.

**For more information:**

**VISIT: [lakechamplainlandtrust.org](http://lakechamplainlandtrust.org)**



## Salem Soundings

### Independence Day

The annual parade will be on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. The theme this year is "Worldwide Service to Others."

Expect we will have the usual generosity of Jim Ritson's equipment, locale for decorating on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10 a.m. Join us for the march through Derby, starting at the Elks club on the Newport-Derby Rd. Parade starts at 10 a.m.

### Marriage Milestone

Dave and Marlene Wood celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary recently. Congratulations and best wishes. Thank you for your dedication to our lakes.

### Lay Monitoring

Paula Staples and Claire Roberts deserve our appreciation for their service last summer. They are offering their services again this year, provided program is funded by the State, including the State laboratory, which is pending budget approval in Montpelier. More on this later.

### Winter on Salem

There is much activity on the Lakes during the winter. VAST snowmobile trail crosses our lake with many side trails connecting. Ice fishing is great sport. It was reported that a seven and one-half pound walleye was caught out on the ice. Many smelt are caught; used for bait for larger fish mostly. Perch are reported quite plentiful on both Lakes. A reminder to winter lake users to leave their respective areas clean after use..

### Neighborhood Watch Needed?

Not so good report; the area has suffered many unethical break-ins, theft and vandalism. Should our Neighborhood Watch, promoted by our founder, Wayne Newell, be revisited? Let's discuss at our annual meeting on July 18

## 2009 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Salem Lakes Association

Mail to: Janet Cartee

Salem Lakes Association

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