

SUMMER 2021

# LAKEFRONT

• SALEM LAKES ASSOCIATION •

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# LAKEFRONT

•SALEM LAKES ASSOCIATION•

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It's been an interesting year so far as Roger Cartee reflects on current events and happenings around Salem Lakes.

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Tim Votapka steps in front of the lens to accept his acknowledgement for his efforts at his camp.

Enjoy the issue. Nice to be back!

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## OUR PRESIDENT SAYS

# Grateful to Be Back on the Lake & Among a Great Team of Volunteers

## ROGER CARTEE

I am pleased to announce that we have scheduled the Salem Lakes Preservation Association annual meeting for 2021 at Char Bo Campground on Saturday, **July 17 starting at 9 am**. The announcement by Governor Scott that the State is now open for business allows us to meet once again as a group. Please put this date on your schedule and plan on being at the meeting. We will update members with more information about meeting topics, etc. on our website. Those of you who plan on attending the meeting but have not yet paid your 2021 dues, may do so prior to the start of the meeting.

Milfoil continues to be the number one issue at the lake but Vice President Ed Wells seems to have a plan of attack ready for this summer that will hopefully keep the invasive plant in check. Our diver Rob Patton returns again this year and by the time this newsletter hits our website, he will already have started the removal of the nearly 700 feet of barrier that we have covering milfoil beds all around the lake. Please read the article written by Ed and you will get more information on what is planned for the summer.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the dedicated work given to this association by retiring monitor manager Andy Major. Susan Wells covers this topic quite well in her article, but as someone who has worked with Andy for many years, I can't begin to explain what he has meant to Salem Lakes.



Thank you just doesn't seem to be enough. If you get a chance give him a call, send him a card or stop in and see him. He doesn't deserve to walk away quietly into the sunset without some kind of thanks from all of you who have benefited from his many quiet years of hard work and dedication. Please take the time to let him know that you are grateful for what he has done for all of us.

Tim Votapka continues to do great work with our website and our newsletter and is always looking for articles and photos to use. He also takes great pictures that many of you have seen on our page. If you have anything about the lake, stories, pictures from days gone by just send it to him and he will find a way to use it. In closing I would just tell you that we need your help to save our lakes and I ask that you volunteer in any way that you can, especially in monitoring the waters in front of your camps. If you are not sure what to do or how to do it, contact one of us and we will arrange some basic training that will help you to identify milfoil and how to mark the spot where it is.

It is great to be back at the lake. Enjoy the summer.









After a one-year absence due to the pandemic, the Derby Fourth of July parade returns this year on Saturday, July 3, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. This year's parade is being organized by the Town of Derby after many years of sponsorship by the Derby Lions' Club. The theme for the parade will be Honoring All Essential Workers.

The parade will follow the traditional route from the Elks' club on the Derby Road to the junction of Route 111 and Main Street in Derby. The organizers are hoping for a good representation from local organizations of floats or decorated units. Several local fire departments have committed to appear with equipment. If you are a member of an organization that wishes to participate, contact the Derby Town office to register.

The Salem Lakes Preservation Association is planning to enter a float as usual. Organizers of the parade are also seeking vendors and food trucks to complement the event. Vendors will have a 10' x 10' space and food trucks, 15' x 15'. Vendors of both types will need to provide their own power, water, cover and trash disposal. If you or anyone you know would like to apply for vendor space, the Town of Derby office is your contact.

It is so nice to have a community event like the parade to look forward to after so much as been cancelled or postponed. Let's all hope for a great day weatherwise, and come out to support our town and everyone's efforts.

See you on July 3!

# We Love a Parade!

BY SHARON KELLEY

## Town of Derby Readying Plans for a Triumphant Parade Down Main Street



MILFOIL MANAGEMENT

# Controlling a Problem Weed

By Ed Wells

Photo by Tim Votapka





## MILFOIL MANAGEMENT

# The Latest Efforts by the Salem Lakes Preservation Volunteers to Manage an Invasive Weed

ED WELLS

This is a report on the latest efforts by Salem Lakes Preservation Association (SLPA) volunteers to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the lake and a summary of our plans for 2021. As you will see, our efforts last year greatly increased over 2019. The more we looked around the lake the more “bad” milfoil we found. These new discoveries along with already known EWM sites are described here in some detail to show where EWM has spread around the lake.

### **Milfoil work completed in 2020:**

**Boat Access/Clyde River Inlet Area:** Installed about 49’ (343 sq. ft.) of benthic or bottom barrier; approx. 50-75 EWM plants pulled at familiar sites.

**Route 105 Area:** Installed about 96’ (672 sq. ft.) of barrier in the Major’s Drive area. 200+ EWM plants pulled mostly at this location and to about Mack’s Cottages. 4-5 newly discovered sites in this area.

**Clyde River Outlet/Salem Drive-West Area:** Installed about 78’ (546 sq. ft.) of barrier at two locations. Approx. 200-300 EWM plants pulled at 8 newly discovered sites.

**Hideaway Drive Area:** Installed 21’ (147 sq. ft.) of barrier. Small concentrations of EWM found among boat and jet ski moorings and in the outer bay, mostly in water 3-6’ deep. Approx. 50-75 EWM plants pulled at 4-5 newly discovered and familiar sites.

**Town Beach/4-H Road Area:** Installed 49’ (343’ sq. ft.) of barrier in 10-12’ of water with the use of oxygen tanks. 40-60 EWM plants pulled here. 25-30 EWM plants pulled just off the Town Beach in shallow water. No barrier added at this site due to swimming area. 4 newly discovered sites.

**Robbins Drive/Dumas Road Area:** 30+ EWM plants pulled in 5-8’ of water at 3 newly discovered sites.

**East Salem Drive:** Installed about 60’ (420 sq. ft.) of barrier. Removed about 300’ of barrier and used it elsewhere. 5-6 newly discovered sites including the area around Orcutt Brook and in among boat and jet ski moorings. 60-100 EWM plants pulled at new sites and another 200-275 EWM plants at sites discovered last year.

**A reminder to please trim motors and go slowly in weedy areas to prevent propeller wash from spreading weed fragments. Our diver says that jet skis in particular are very good at breaking up and spreading aquatic plants.**

Let us know if you see anything suspicious while out on the water and we’ll follow up on it. Mark the location with a temporary buoy if you can and get some points of reference such as buildings, moorings, trees and so on.

*Continued on p. 12*



# Give It Up for Our Greeter Program

SUSAN WELLS

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) has been a threat to Vermont lakes and ponds for decades, growing so thick as to choke out native plants and making swimming and boating nearly impossible in water approximately 20 feet or less. Salem Lakes have a perfect muddy bottom for native aquatic plants but also for invasive species such as EWM.

Part of the effort to contain the spread of EWM has been the establishment of the Salem Lakes Greeter/Monitor Program. David Wood, a past president of the Salem Lakes Association, was instrumental in establishing and maintaining this program when it was instituted by the State of Vermont in 2002. At that time, Salem Lakes were free of EWM, and the goal was to keep the invasive weed from entering the lakes by inspecting boats for any weed particles that may have come from other lakes. Financial grants were made available to organizations to prevent the spread of the weed, and a greeter station was added at Salem's lone public boat access.

With support from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and the Town of Derby, Public Access Greeters educate lake visitors about invasive species, provide courtesy watercraft inspections, and prevent weed introductions.

In 2009, Andy Major took over the supervision of this program. He has annually applied for funds from the State's Agency of Natural Resources and from the Town of Derby to sustain the lake's

monitoring efforts. From hiring and training greeters, ensuring adequate scheduling, collecting signatures for the town ballot petition, and even taking care of the garbage at the greeter station, Andy has been a stalwart guardian of this vital program. It is due to his hard work and the efforts of his longtime employees Eric and Monica Bingham that Salem Lakes remained free of EWM for so many years. We owe a debt of gratitude to Andy for his tireless efforts.

Unfortunately, and almost inevitably, the EWM was found in Big Salem in 2017 between the boat access and the entrance to the Clyde River. It is not known how the weed entered the lake, but it probably came from a boat entering the lake during hours when a greeter was not on duty.

Ever since, a dedicated group of citizens has been working to eliminate the invasive weed. This effort continues as the weed remains a healthy and unwelcome lake bottom resident.

During the 2020 boating season, five greeters on duty at the boat access logged in over 1,500 hours from late May through late September. EWM was found on eight boats and one boat was found to have Curly-Leafed Pond Weed, another invasive plant. We are thankful for these dedicated greeters including Frank Drauszewski and Ben Pellizzarie who work hard to maintain the health of our lake.

***Continued on p. 9***



# Give It Up for Our Greeter Program

## ***Continued from p. 8***

Equally important is access greeters' work preventing boats from leaving the lakes transporting EWM to yet uninfected lakes and ponds.

Andy Major is retiring from his duties as the Greeter Manager after more than 11 years of service. We have no doubt that Andy will continue to assist as needed and be an integral part of the greeter program. Taking over management duties in the interim will be Ed Wells and Sharon Kelley, current Board Directors, with data keeping and other assistance from Susan Wells. Ed also manages the EWM eradication project and will oversee the daily greeter operations.

Sharon Kelley will manage the grant application and reporting process. This 2021 season's grant funding will again support five greeters. We are hoping to expand the days and hours of monitoring as funding and greeter availability allows. Looking ahead, we would like to have trained volunteers checking boats a couple of days each week on slower days or even busier days assisting paid staff. Please let one of us know if you are interested.

Again, our thanks to Andy for his many years of service to the greeter program. The program wouldn't have continued for all these years had it not been for his consistent dedication and genuine love of Salem Lakes.



IMAGE BY TIM VOTAPKA

During the 2020 boating season, five greeters on duty at the boat access logged in more than 1,500 hours from late May through September. EWM was found on eight boats. One was found with Curly-Leafed Pond Weed, another invasive plant.

## OUR MEMBERS

# 2020 Membership

2020 and the pandemic brought lake residents to their properties early and often, recognizing Salem Lakes as a place to escape to and enjoy some form of normalcy. We are pleased to report that 120 property owners either renewed their memberships or became new members of the Salem Lakes Preservation Association in 2020. In addition to paying the \$20 annual dues, almost 80% of members made donations totaling \$5,765. The battle against Eurasian Milfoil and other invasive species continues this summer. State funding and a generous allocation approved by the Town of Derby voters to support our efforts are much appreciated but do not cover all of the expenses. The Board is very thankful for the extra support from association members and property owners. As our costs will only continue to rise, we would encourage all property owners with a genuine interest in preserving and protecting the lakes for current and future generations to consider joining the Association and making a donation over and above the \$20.00 membership fee.

### **Platinum Friends**

(\$100+)

Dennis & Darlene Bond  
Jim & Sherri Sullivan  
Jeff & Nancy Houghton  
Roger & Janet Cartee  
Mark Lalime  
Calvin & Sharon Ward  
Robert W. Page  
Gilles & Laura Lehoullier  
Anne & Eric Plaskonos  
Rene & Christina Cotnoir  
Allen & Sheri Tremblay  
Mary Ann Ozdarski  
David & Danielle Sweet  
Bill & Carol Bradley  
John & Penny Wood  
Margaret Laggis  
Ross & Andrea Ogilvie  
Andrew & Lois Major

Sue & Ed Wells

Peter & Geri Marchessault  
John & Diane Guyette  
James & Nicole Johnson  
Tammy & Alan Poitras  
Gary & Merrily Slawson  
Peter & Deb Duffy  
Eunice Anderson & Vincent Forese  
Robert & Joan Taber  
Jim & Becky Eakin  
Laurie McLaren & Randy Gates  
Luke & Brooke Bury  
Douglas & Mary Frazier  
James Young & Tricia Tyo  
Josh & Amy Provost  
Tom & Anne Flynn  
Erik & Kerry Golembeski  
Terry & Linda Howe  
Gordon Best

### **Gold Friends**

(\$70-\$99)

Gary & Sharron Heywood  
Barrett Wells/Nicky Graham  
Robert & Angela Vidile

*See Last Page for  
Membership  
Renewal and Due  
Submission Form.*

**EVERY DOLLAR HELPS**





## OUR MEMBERS

### **Silver Friends**

(\$40-\$69)

Harold & Sharon Kelley  
John & Nancy Hall  
Josee Fauteux  
Pelkey Property Holdings, LLC  
Bruce & Barbara Sherman  
Norman & Annamae Miller  
Ed & Alta Jenness  
Jennifer Powers  
Paul & Carol Comtois  
Christine & Joe Biernat  
Jeff & Amy Winagle  
Sharon Rubino

Laura Andrews  
Robert & Carla Harlow  
Noel Pixley  
Scott & Patricia Laber  
David & Kelly Harris  
Madeleine Roy  
Paul & Madeline Roy  
John & Suzanne Patenaude  
Michael & Lisa Worden  
Gary & Paula Staples  
Wayne & Colleen Haskins  
David & Lindsay Peterson  
Fred & Helen Speckels  
Cynthia & George Mitchell

Anne Carballeira  
Laurie & Ted Bolognani  
Lois Young  
David Tuttle  
Albert & Virginia Davis  
Rebecca & Stephen Schramm  
Matt & Karen Hammond  
Cynthia Lewis-Pine  
Tim & Dawn Votapka  
Maureen & Dana Lemieux  
Leonard & Judith Boulanger  
Rev. John & Terry Marshall  
Carole Comeau  
Mike & Mary Beth Bouvier  
Michael Ladd, Sr.  
James Mattson  
Mick & Judy Brennan  
Ken & Eileen Newton  
Dean & Terry Schoolcraft

A Big Thank You to All Who Joined  
Our Group & To Those Who Made  
Donations Above Our Annual Dues.

### **Friends**

(\$25 - 39)

Kevin & Pati Kimball  
Jimmy C, Inc.  
Barbara Sheperd  
Diane Beck & Mary Nault  
Raymond & Tammi Williams  
Sheila Sisco  
Frank & Julie Drauszewski  
Pamela Hodgkins  
Kevin & Jana Therrien

### **Members**

Bruce & Mary Muir  
Jacalyn Slaiby  
Dr. Kevin Dirth  
Tom & Carol Bailey  
Jaclyn Young  
Basil Ross  
Celine Boucher &  
Jack Laflamme  
Neil & Yolande Young  
Conrad & Marilyn Miller  
Dominick & Eleanor Riley  
Michael Perry & Brenda Kelley  
Merry & Clint Birch  
Robert Daniels

Kevin & Judy Coy  
Surdy Families (4)  
Ken & Marie Hayes  
Doug & Lisa Young  
Bart & Sue Barnett  
Arthur & Monique LaPlante  
Steve & Sue Barrup  
Char-Bo Campground  
Todd & Cindy Willis  
Brandee & Tim Hayes  
Kevin & Diane Nolan  
Tom & Claire Roberts

## MILFOIL UPDATE

# 2020 FACTS & FIGURES

### ***Continued from p. 7***

- We made 45 dives compared to 17 in 2019.  
140 in- and on-water diver hours – 64 hours in 2019.
- About 700' (or 4900 sq. ft.) of bottom barrier were removed and reinstalled along with dozens of pieces of rebar used as weight.
- Removed over 1,400 invasive EWM plants compared to 300 in 2019.
- About 35-40 buoys were installed over EWM locations.
- At least 300-400 volunteer hours.
- Digital maps were created this year to show EWM and bottom barrier locations. See the Lake Salem Association's web site for more detail.
- Costs: diver – \$8,150.00. Mileage reimbursement to milfoil project manager – \$1,111.50. This expense was budgeted in the association's grant application at \$2,000. Minimal "other" milfoil-related costs due to recycling of equipment and materials purchased in 2019. Total expenditures – \$9,849.77.
- Revenue: \$6,011 state grant from Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation. Contributions from the Town of Derby, SLPA and our annual coin drop made up the difference.

### **Plans for 2021**

Following a summer of so many new EWM discoveries it is looking as though our management strategy, realistically speaking, is for now one of containing rather than totally removing this invasive plant. Our plan for the 2021 season reflects this view. A change of goal does not necessarily mean defeat and it certainly won't hurt to be optimistic! Success can also be measured by how much each of us continues to enjoy this valuable resource. But it will take effort and yes, some money each year to manage the lake so we can continue to enjoy it the way we've come to expect.

Since our state grant is about the same amount as last year (\$6,481 vs. \$6,011), we will continue efforts at 2020's pace. Rob Patton returns as our diver. He is in the process of building a DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) boat allowing him to harvest any thicker patches of milfoil we find. This method will hopefully do a better job preventing plant fragments from escaping during harvesting, a common problem when harvesting by hand. We have one year left on our three-year bottom barrier permit.

***Continued on p. 14***

*More Info on Milfoil Available Online*

**[HTTP://WWW.SALEMLAKESVT.ORG](http://www.salemlakesvt.org)**





Ross Ogilvie



Lenny Boulanger



Rob Patton and Ed Wells

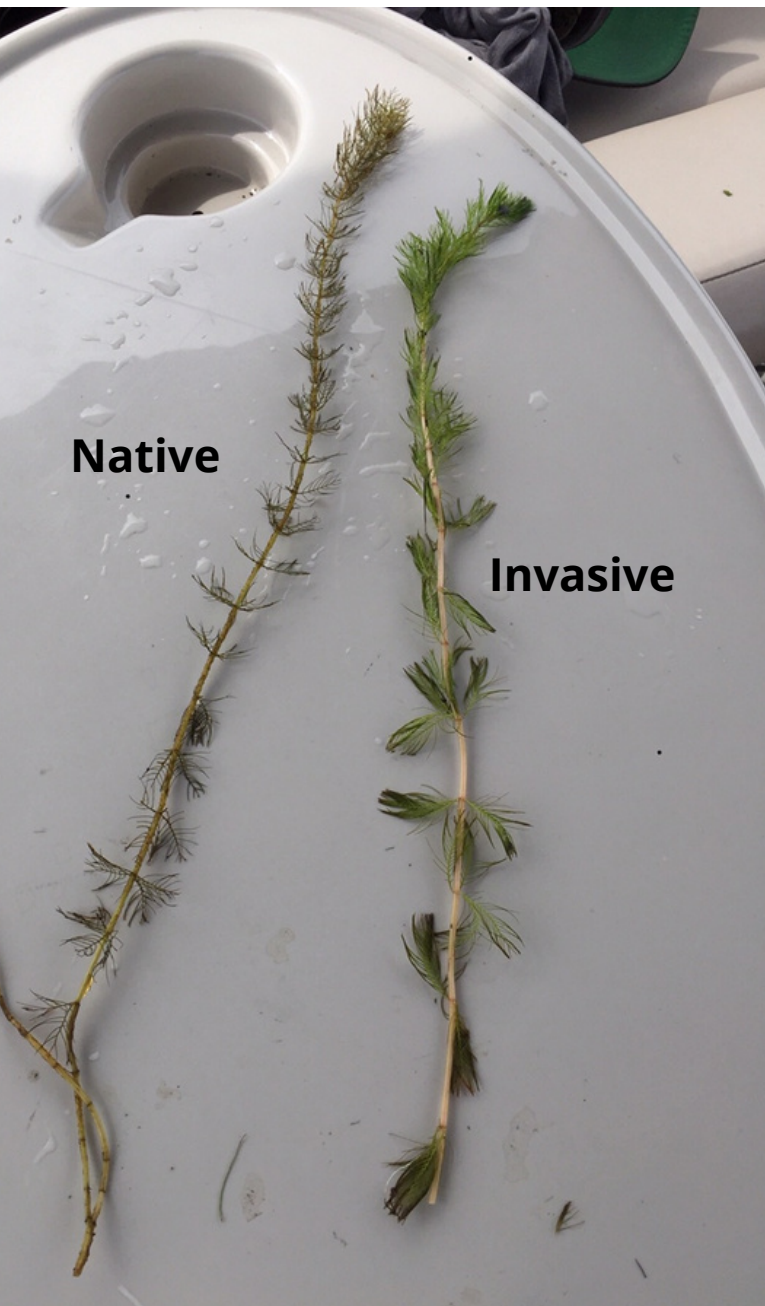


## MILFOIL UPDATE

# Plans for 2021

### ***Continued from p. 12.***

These barriers basically block light from reaching patches of milfoil causing them to die off in as little as 8 weeks. Other plants rapidly fill in gaps created by barriers after they are removed.



### **Is there a better way to manage the problem?**

Since last fall I have been researching a chemical milfoil control option called ProcellaCOR. It is being used by four different lakes in Vermont. A national company, Solitude, is managing the chemical's use in these lakes. I've spoken to a couple of lake directors from Vermont and New Hampshire using ProcellaCOR, a company representative at Solitude and Ann Bove, a biologist very familiar with Lake Salem. In short, this salt-based chemical concoction is generally considered safe around fish\* and other aquatic life and mostly targets milfoil. It is not toxic to animals and is safe for other water uses such as swimming and boating after a 24-hour waiting period.

A question not answered yet - what about Lake Salem's considerable native Northern Water Milfoil population at Sunken Island, near the Clyde River exit and at other areas around the lake potentially being killed off by this water treatment?

It is not cheap. Lake Morey's association in Fairlee, VT paid \$60,000 to treat 43 acres of that 545-acre lake. Lake Salem is more than 300 acres greater in size. For more on this subject see the spring edition of FOVLAP's (Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds) newsletter.

***Continued on p. 20***

\*Lake Morey did have a yellow perch die-off of an unknown quantity one month after ProcellaCOR was applied.



# Things You Hear On the Air When It's Quiet

BY TIM VOTAPKA

You can't recall the quiet unless you shut off the noise. And so, I did tonight, leaving the room open to the patter of the rain outside, pelting the shingles above with a rhythm that was persistent and gentle.

I'd heard that patter earlier from under the comfort of my cozy attic bedroom, with its warm amber colored beams pitched to a peak high above. While the hour was late, fatigue had not set into my space. This was a good time to experiment with the old radio as my grandfather had suggested the other day. He told me that late at night, many stations turn their broadcast signals down which essentially clears the air for you to pull in signals from transmitters much further away. He also said that under the right conditions these other signals could bounce off of the atmosphere and be available if you listened very carefully while thumbing the dial.

I didn't question his expertise on this. He was Grandpa. He knew things and – more importantly – he admired things enough to notice what most other people never did, even when it was in plain sight. He knew how to repair old television sets in his basement with a soldering iron and a pile of dusty vacuum tubes. He knew how to catch bass right out front while my uncles went off to all corners of the lake only to come back frustrated and empty handed. He taught me how to play not one, but two forms of Solitaire. So, from my point of view, he had the credentials of the highest kind.

More stories by Tim on

[HTTP://WWW.SALEMLAKESVT.ORG/BLOG](http://www.salemlakesvt.org/blog)

*Continued on p. 17*





# The Things You Can Hear on the Air...

## ***Continued from p. 15***

It was worth a try. So, I scrunch my pillow under the back of my head, prop my transistor radio on my chest, plug my earphone into the jack and thumb the unit to life and explore the static. I roll by a couple of local AM stations. Not surprisingly, I can hear a few French-speaking DJs broadcasting from Montreal just an hour and a half's drive away. I remember to notch the volume down before I roll across WIKE's spot on the dial at 1490, since that's just over in Newport.

The persistence of the raindrops hitting the roof sharpens the fidelity of what I hear through the tiny copper wire. Music, news, now a ball game. I can't tell who's playing. Expos. Montreal Expos. Further up the dial across a few layers of static and then, someone talking. "This is Charles Osgood; the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 12.21 points...this is ABC News." Boring.

Back down past some more music - a Frank Sinatra hour - to the other end of the dial where the ball game was underway. It is the Expos, but the game broadcast is coming from Shea Stadium in New York. I do my best to fine tune the signal, separate the game call from every other particle of noise. The static in the background transitions into the stadium crowd chatter. There's some excitement in what I'm hearing through the line.

"Cleon Jones has been called out on his steal attempt at second and it's absolute pandemonium. Hodges is on his way out to join the argument..."

As much as my attention is drawn to the sounds coming from my earphone, I still have enough available to envision the night sky dome high above the peak of my roof and beyond the hilltops rimming the lake. I visualize the cramped radio booths in each of these little studios with their dim amber lights and wobbly electric fans. I trace dark translucent lines from my radio out to the towers and microphones that are all linked to this fascinating nighttime network I never knew was possible. Hundreds of miles packed into a small handheld radio with its little 9-volt battery powering the show. The rain's tapered off outside a bit, and the baseboard heaters are clicking on now as the cool night draws its dark covers over the lake for the next several hours.

It's supposed to stay like this for the next few days - cold and damp and such. It'll be too cold to do much of anything outside just yet and the water will be too high to put all of the dock pieces out. But there'll be enough time for that. There's plenty to do inside that just never seems to get done. Old magazines that need to be read or given away. Ancient collections of twist-ties my father collected are piling up in the junk drawer. There's a box of old electrical fuses in the cabinet that were compatible with the circuit box we upgraded 30 years ago. Old batteries in - wait, a 9-volt from an open pack bought at Ames so many years ago.

Now if only I could find that little radio. It's a good night. Quiet. You know?



## LAKE SHORE RESTORATION

# Salem Lake Town Beach & Camp Moriarty Restore a Living Shoreland



A recent world-wide report out on the state of the natural world shows 75 percent of all ice-free-land has been significantly altered by human activity and almost 90 percent of global wetlands have been lost. More than two thirds of populations of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles have collapsed in the last 50 years. The report also says that well-planned conservation efforts can protect habitat and ecosystems. That is exactly what the Town of Derby, and the Siskin Ecological Center have done along Salem Lake by restoring a living shoreland.

Using biodegradable products, native plants

and natural materials a living shoreland was re-established along 300 feet of shore that had been previously cleared of native vegetation and planted with lawn. The new plantings will stabilize the bank, filter water and provide habitat for wildlife.

Funding for this project was provided through the Watersheds United Vermont Program and the Town of Derby, technical support from the Agency of Natural Resources' Lake Wise Program, and construction work by Desrochers Excavating and the Northwoods Stewardship Crew. The Salem Lakes Preservation Association is helping check on the project over time

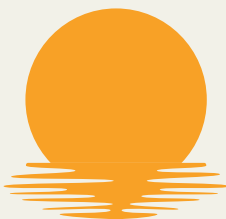
# A Little Peace & Quiet?

BY ED WELLS

Everyone no doubt has a favorite area or activity on the lake. And we all would like to keep it that way or see it improved. For camp owners, renters or visitors, our immediate waterfront may be the most important. For other visitors to the lake, it might be maintaining our great fishing, boating, swimming and wildlife viewing opportunities. Businesses need a healthy lake to draw people to its shores. For some, (including me) it's about water quality sprinkled with enough times of simple peace and quiet.

We've been on the lake for more than 30 years now and we continue to enjoy it as much as ever, even with the inevitable changes that come along with time. Maybe I'm just getting old but it does seem like the decibel level on and around the lake is on the increase.

Trying to think objectively about this issue I've come to the conclusion that I might be on to something and will attempt to explain. I do look forward to hearing other opinions and hopefully these comments will open the door for more discussion and hopefully positive action. Sound travels over water. It's amazing how much and it depends on wind direction. At our end of the lake off East Salem Drive the sound of trucks rolling down Rt. 105 has always been a fact of life even though it is at least a half mile away. Maybe current efforts to lower speed in this thickly settled area will help - especially for residents along this stretch of road. Of course, the occasional truck without its muffler really does make a presence.



Normal sounds of boats increase as summer heats up. As many have observed, boating traffic really increased last year probably due to COVID and folks looking for healthy things to do outside, free from virus concerns. The two wake boats now plying the waters of Lake Salem with their rumbling, droning engines often for hours at a time has added to the boat sounds. In addition, the wake breaking along shore from these boats, especially on calm water days, really stands out. It is reminiscent of being at the ocean - not a bad thing I suppose, but there is evidence that turbulence over time can release phosphorus from lake sediment, encouraging weed growth.

No discussion of lake sounds would be complete without talking about fireworks and loud music. Carrying on about limiting fireworks use might seem like a waste of time with its long tradition at the lake. But here goes...

Ok I get it; it is not just a 4th of July thing but does it have to be an every night thing? Pity the dogs. Can we come to an agreement on holding some nights sacred for other lake sounds such as loons and laughter at a campfire? We are all in this together.

With so many seasonal residents and visitors around the lake it is challenging to come to consensus on noise issues but I'm willing to try. Maybe the lake association can take a leadership role in keeping a conversation going and seeking action if necessary. I don't speak for the lake association on this issue even though I'm an officer. If you are interested in working on finding solutions to these and possibly other noise issues that might be of concern to you let one of us know. Thanks for reading and have a wonderful, successful and hopefully peaceful summer.



## MILFOIL UPDATE

# What You Can Do to Help

### ***Continued from p. 14***

We are asking camp owners to once again check their waterfront out to 20 feet in depth three times a year to see if you have EWM. We recommend looking in late June, July, and August/September when plants are fully grown and easier to spot. It takes at least a couple of hours to do a good search. See the lake association's web site PDF file "How to Conduct a Survey" for guidance. You are always welcome to reach out to us with questions or for help with identifying and removing a plant. Look for training opportunities such as the state VIP – (Vermont Invasive Patrollers) training this year on the state DEC website.

We can use more help to spread the work around including boat crew to assist the diver, move gear and spot milfoil. With Rob handling the harvesting on his vessel, we're hoping more boat owners pick up more of the sighting work.

### **Special Thanks**

Thanks again to all lake users and camp owners for putting up with our activities and buoys last summer. Thanks to those who agreed to boat within "safety channels" cleared by our diver. These channels, cleared of milfoil, prevent spreading while coming and going from docks and moorings. As you may know, milfoil can grow even from small plant fragments.

We will offer this service again this year as time allows and will prioritize busier locations. We will attempt to knock on doors again to see if you are

OK with this plan and to seek your cooperation. A milfoil-free channel will be open at the boat access and marked with yellow buoys.

Very special thanks go out to Lenny Boulanger, Dennis Bond and Roger Cartee. Without these gentlemen none of our accomplishments last year would have been possible. These dedicated lake stewards not only expertly captained their boats in all kinds of weather but provided fuel, helped load and unload materials, diver equipment and at times a messy load of bottom barrier and bags of milfoil. Dennis even hauled piles of these bags to the town stump dump on several occasions. Ross Ogilvie does it all including some of our more important GPS work. TJ Jackman also gave up some of his lake time to locate and remove milfoil near his place on RT 105 as did fellow neighbors Dani and David Sweet. Give them all a big thank you next time you see them! Of course, thanks go out to the people of the Town of Derby who generously support our efforts year after year maintaining this valuable resource for all to enjoy.

Please check out our web site to keep up with the latest news and information. Give us a call, send an email or even a letter to offer suggestions or to pitch in. The work we do is not only rewarding but fun and a great way to get to know your lake neighbors. Please come join us!

The association's web site is [salemlakesvt.org](http://salemlakesvt.org).  
Email: [salemlakesassociation@gmail.com](mailto:salemlakesassociation@gmail.com).  
Mail: PO Box 134, Derby, VT 05829.

# Salem Gets Its Second Lake Wise Steward

Tim Votapka is among the third generation of family members who have made Salem Lake a summer home since 1938. The fact that some 380 miles lay between his little blue camp on the west side of the lake and his year-round residence on the north shore of Long Island does little to diminish the connection he has to this wonderful little spot in the Northeast Kingdom.

Tim has been active with the Salem Lakes Preservation Association for many years. If he had a post, it would best be entitled

“Communications Director,” as producer of the organization’s newsletter Lake Front, along with the group’s website ([salemlakesvt.org](http://salemlakesvt.org)) and its social media properties on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. He has also assisted with local dive and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) patrols during the summer, documenting activities with his trusty Nikon camera and eye for great images.

With a career in publishing and creative communications that goes back over four decades, it’s no wonder how strong of a pull Vermont has on Tim. His short stories do a remarkable job of pulling readers back into warm recollections and experiences at the lake, from remarkable fish tales to memories of Grandma or Grandpa. As a landscape photographer, Tim has a deep appreciation for nature and his property reflects that. There are no concrete walls or asphalt walkways around his camp. He parks his car on bluestone gravel in a clearing way back from the waterfront.

His yard areas are carpeted by natural vegetation and the waterfront itself is lined by natural rock and plants that have been there for as long as memory serves.

He even uses logs from fallen trees to line the borders of any garden beds he cultivates between May and October.

*Tim Votapka accepts his Lake Wise Award back in May.*





# LAKEFRONT

SALEM LAKES  
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

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TIM VOTAPKA

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ANNUAL MEETING - JULY 17

## 2021 SALEM LAKES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Salem Lakes Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support milfoil inspection, education and other vital association programs.

Annual Membership Dues: \$20

Additional Donation Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount of Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Thank you!)

Please mail donation to:

**Janet Cartee**

**Salem Lakes Preservation Association**

**PO Box 134**

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