

AUTUMN 2021

LAKEFRONT

• SALEM LAKES ASSOCIATION •

IN THIS ISSUE

THE LATEST ON OUR
MILFOIL MANAGEMENT

GREETER PROGRAM SUMMARY

THE FAVOR OF A LAUGHTIME



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•SALEM LAKES ASSOCIATION•

3 **Our President Says**

Roger Cartee reflects on current events and happenings around Salem Lakes before wrapping things up at camp.



5 **Milfoil Management**

What we're doing to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the lake this past summer and what we continue to do even after the camps are closed for the season and winter approaches.

8 **Track Your In-Kind Hours**

Have you spent any time looking for Eurasian Water Milfoil at Salem? We need to know how much as it impacts grant support.



11 **Reflections**

A favor that has lasted a laughtime. Find out what happens when a family member takes good care of the gerbils during one summer vacation.

Enjoy the issue. Stay in touch.

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OUR PRESIDENT SAYS

All Quiet on the Lake Now, But We're Busier Than Ever as We Look Ahead

ROGER CARTEE



Another summer is gone and as the leaves fall on our lawns and lakeshores the board looks ahead to next year while forming plans to deal with our continuing milfoil problems on Big Salem. Suctioning of plants will continue through October while we evaluate what we accomplished this year. Our milfoil committee comprised of Ross Ogilvie, TJ Jackman, Tim Votapka, Matt Hammond and Ed Wells, have been meeting regularly to discuss ways to combat milfoil including the possible use of an herbicide.

Board member Tim Votapka has put together our first-ever autumn edition of *LakeFront* on our website which you will find at www.salemlakesvt.org with pictures, reports and information from this past summer. You don't want to miss it! Read all about our milfoil battle in a detailed report written by Vice President Ed Wells.

Ed and his wife Susan also produced a report on our lake monitor greeter program, featuring activity at the fishing access station. These fall reports are both must reads if you are to stay informed on what is happening on our lake. So don't procrastinate, read them now and ask questions if you have any. Stay informed and be active as we try to save our lake from this miserable infestation.

In spite of COVID we managed to host a well-attended annual meeting. We welcomed several new members to the board and thanked those who had served before. New board members elected were Tom Jackman, Tim Votapka, Beckie Eakin and John Guyette.

In other news, association member Geri Marchessault has put together a very active social committee of members and they have planned an outstanding social event for August 13, 2022 at the Derby Town Beach House. All association members and their families are invited to take part in this get-to-know-your-neighbors celebration.

Plans are still being made as the committee fine tunes fun activities for the day. Details will also be included on our Facebook group and page along with our website - www.salemlakesvt.org.

It has been a good summer on the lake. More members have been active and involved and we as a board are grateful for that, your membership and your generous donations. We are hopeful that other lake owners will consider joining our association and become part of the Salem Lakes community.

'Hope you have a great winter. Stay healthy and we'll see you in the spring.'

A man with grey hair, wearing a tan bucket hat, sunglasses, a green jacket, and tan pants, is on a boat. He is holding a long metal pole and using it to interact with the water. The boat is white with a metal railing. The water is dark blue with some ripples. The background is a vast expanse of water under a clear sky.

MILFOIL MANAGEMENT

An Update on What's Happened Above and Below the Surface

By Ed Wells

Photo by Tim Votapka

MILFOIL MANAGEMENT

Lake Salem 2021 Eurasian Water Milfoil Update

ED WELLS

Keeping up with EWM made for a very busy summer and fall on Big Salem. On the money side our application for a state grant was successful once again receiving \$6,481 and a share of an annual \$15,000 Town of Derby allocation. Unfortunately, EWM continues increase in Big Salem as does the number of plants we find and harvest.

To illustrate the difference a year makes we harvested an estimated 1,400 plants last year by hand in the course of 45 dives. So far this year we estimate more than five times that number in much fewer diver hours with suction harvesting.

Harvesting is scheduled to continue into late October, weather permitting. Suction harvesting results are difficult to count accurately since we have hand-counted only one "bucket" of EWM so far. It is doubtful time will allow for more counting this season.

There is little doubt EWM is doing very well in our lake and that we have a much larger problem than what we estimated just a year ago. The increase in EWM numbers is likely due to: ideal growing conditions; difficulty to harvest in a weedy lake with a muddy bottom; boat and recreational activities spreading fragments; and the unintentional and unavoidable release of plant fragments during harvesting. Current efforts are simply not keeping up with an exponential increase in plant numbers.

So what can we do? The Salem Lakes Preservation Association Board in August formed an EWM committee to better deal with this challenge. Ross Ogilvie, Tim Votapka, Matt Hammond, TJ Jackman and myself form the committee.

The committee has met with experts such as retired biologist, Ann Bove and will meet with Kim Jensen from the state Lakes and Ponds Program. We have been working on setting achievable goals and brainstorming ways to combat EWM including considering the use an herbicide.

In August the board voted to commission a lake survey to learn the extent of our EWM problem and to satisfy a state permit requirement should we seek to use an herbicide. The whole lake survey was completed by Solitude Lake Management on September 16 with results due by mid-November.

It cost the \$8,200 for the survey which included Little Salem which was free of EWM. Big Salem was found to have only moderate amounts of EWM when compared to other lakes having this problem for many years. We are in our fourth year. Solitude will include treatment recommendations in its report.

We have not ruled out continuing and expanding the use of mechanical measures to control EWM's spread. Total EWM removal now seems more unlikely than when last year's fall update was last written. Whichever management approaches are tried, containing EWM so we can continue our enjoyment of the lake remains our primary goal. Whatever we do has to be safe and cost effective.

For more information on our efforts please check for periodic updates on our website, salemlakesvt.org. Please share your thoughts and questions with us. If you were on the water this summer and can provide dates and times of your searches for milfoil they can be used as in-kind expenses that count towards our grant.



MILFOIL MANAGEMENT

Lake Salem 2021 Greeter Program Review

ED WELLS

The Greeter Program opened this year on May 28 and ended on September 26. We were open 10 to 14 hours, seven days a week depending on the month and available daylight. Boat inspection and plant intercept numbers were not available as of this writing, but will be posted soon on the lake association website – salemlakesvt.org.

We started the season off with four employees, went up to five during the middle of the summer and ended off the season with veteran greeters Eric Bingham, his daughter Monica, Frank Drauszewski and new employee Dave Siciliano who came to us from Seymour Lake's Greeter Program. Sharon Kelley joined the program this year and she assisted with the grant application and time sheet validation. Volunteers Ed and Susan Wells created the 2021 schedule in addition to coordinating the program and supervising staff. Volunteer extraordinaire Roger Cartee graciously agreed to handle signing off on time sheets at the Derby town office when everyone else was unavailable. Dennis Bond stepped up to handle the task on another occasion.



Greeter shack gets relocated for the winter.

The Greeter Program was again funded by a Grant from the Agency of Natural Resources (\$13,720) and money approved by Derby voters (\$15,000) which is also used to support the milfoil removal project on Big Salem.

Volunteer Tuesday at L. Salem. At least one other lake in the Kingdom uses volunteers to staff their boat access, so why not here? By volunteering you can save us all a little money and reap the rewards that come along from helping out. Most find the work enjoyable but expect times with no boats so a good book is often helpful. We have morning and afternoon six-hour shifts. Tuesday is often a slow day and good for folks with less experience wanting to give greeter work a try but we can negotiate other days. We can always use backups when staff can't make it in.

Volunteers do the same work and receive the same training as paid staff. They both check boats, trailers, and motors for invasive plants and animal hitchhikers entering and leaving the lake. We provide a shelter with chairs and any necessary support you might need. The training is designed for anyone and requires no special skills other than a willingness to learn to identify the various invasive plants and animals we look for. You will meet many people and will need to ask permission to check their boats among other questions. Then complete a survey entry on our iPad or an app on your device which is then sent to a state team for review. If interested please get in touch before next spring when the required on-line training is held by a state biologist. We may need to fill a paid position or two so talk to us about that too. Thanks.

VOLUNTEERING COUNTS

Those In-Kind Hours Add Up!

SHARON KELLEY



Have you been looking for evidence of Eurasian Water Milfoil around your Lake Salem property? Have you taken time to educate a new neighbor about the importance of safe boating and caring for the lake? If so, we want to know about it! The Salem Lakes Preservation Association writes several grants each year for milfoil mitigation projects, the greeter/monitor project and other opportunities that arise throughout the year. In-kind hours from volunteers doing work to support the health of the lake are important to the overall consideration of these grants.

Many folks around the lake have been doing great things that we need to document to prove that we all care about Lake Salem and its overall health and beauty.

Look for a form in next spring's Lakefront newsletter that you can use to document any time you spend supporting the overall health of Big or Little Salem. Every hour counts so the form will be simple and easy to use. We will have convenient collection points around the lake where they can be turned in.

Have a great winter and see you next spring!

'Thanks for everything you do to ensure the beauty and health of Salem Lakes continues for a long time into the future.'

From the Summer Scrapbook

The Salem Lakes Preservation Association is a group and in that group are some great troopers including the Main Street Regulars who manned our float in the July 4th parade in Derby (back this year by popular demand). Special thanks to John Guyette and Dennis Bond for bearing the the elements during the coin drop. The buckets were not for bailing!





The Favor of a Laughtime

TIM VOTAPKA

My uncle did us a favor that came at a cost that was priceless. We had always been used to traveling with our pets over the many years of our trips to camp. The dogs I had were eager to hop in the car, the cats not so much. We even made the eight-hour journey with a pair of turtles on one occasion, but failed miserably with goldfish (they were buried in a brief dumpster ceremony in Brattleboro many years ago).

We thought better of transporting my gerbils, particularly in light of the fact that we would not be able to guarantee their safety due to the presence of our sweet kitties and the lack of a door that could actually shut tight in the old camp we rented at the time. So, my uncle rallied to the call for help and volunteered to let us haul the Habitrail to his home where he'd watch over them during our time away.

These little critters were relatively low maintenance pets, requiring nothing more than a quick check on their water bottle and food supply every couple of days. They were in good hands.

One night, we came in from fishing and dropped in on my grandparents next door for some ice cream and Yahtzee. My grandmother gave us the rundown on the news from home; how hot it was, how much rain there had been on Tuesday and so forth. She turned to me and, with a little chuckle said "Oh and Timmy, Uncle Frank wanted me to tell you he gave the gerbils a bath."

I didn't know what the word incredulous meant at that age, but I was. "He gave the gerbils a bath?!" I repeated it back while mocking up how he would scrub under their little arms and clean their little ears with cotton swabs.

We all went giddy over this, as did my grandmother. Her laugh was just as contagious as it was a joy to have. It went on for 15 minutes or more, this notion of my uncle, a smart man who mastered just about anything he took up from graphic design to photography or skiing down the side of Jay Peak. But giving a desert animal not much larger than a mouse a bath?

Nearly worn out from laughing and with tears streaming down her happy cheeks, my grandmother fessed up the gag, and told us it was my uncle's idea. He had done us a favor alright, and it has lasted a lifetime.



More stories by Tim on

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

LAKEFRONT

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TIM VOTAPKA

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UNLIKE THE LAKE, OUR WORK NEVER FREEZES!

Monitor Project Grants, Town Meeting Lake Support Request,
Milfoil Management Among the Many Ongoing Projects

Name(s) _____

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Tel: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Please support our efforts to preserve the beauty and viability of
our lake. Support our work as a member if you haven't already.

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

Derby, VT 05829



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AUG 13, 2022**

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