

• SALEM LAKES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION •

LAKEFRONT

SUMMER 2025

THE STRING THAT TIES US TOGETHER

Association President Tim
Votapka shares a
heartfelt journey along a
thread that ties some
important things
together.

THE LATEST ON OUR EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

NEW FACES AND NEW UPDATES

Our Greeter Program is up and
running with some fresh faces
added to our friendly roster
over at the access.



salemlakesvt.com

SALEM LAKES
PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING SET

Please join us for our annual lake association meeting on Saturday, July 19 at 9 AM. Char-Bo Campground.

JULY 4TH PARADE

In town for Independence Day? Join us as we represent SLPA in the annual parade in Derby. Wednesday, July 4.

WANT TO LEND A HAND?

Many hands make less work at least for the few. So if you have an inkling of interest in getting involved in any of our work, physically or mentally, operators are standing by! We do quite a bit of work virtually, so don't let distance be a barrier to your willingness to pitch in.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
VISIT US ONLINE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

NOTES FROM THE DOCK

TIM VOTAPKA
PRESIDENT



DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Welcome to the latest issue of LakeFront, the magazine of the Salem Lakes Preservation Association. As always, it's a pleasure to share updates, progress, and a sense of community with those who care so deeply about our lakes and the natural beauty that surrounds us.

In this issue, we're pleased to introduce you to the friendly new faces of our Lake Greeter Program, a vital front line in preventing the spread of invasive species. These committed individuals are already making a difference, greeting boaters, sharing information, and helping to keep our waters safe and clean.

You'll also find a detailed report on our continuing efforts to manage Eurasian Water Milfoil, including our successful application of ProcellaCOR and the careful

monitoring that has followed. Staying ahead of this persistent threat requires diligence, science, and community support—and we're proud of the strides we've made.

As we look back on another season of hard work and collaboration, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to all who make our work possible. Whether you've contributed financially, volunteered your time, or served on a committee or the board, your dedication is what keeps Salem Lakes thriving.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting (July 19). If you're at camp on Aug. 2 be sure to join the summer social on Aug 2. Until then, enjoy the issue, enjoy the lake and each other.

With gratitude. Tim.

ON THE CALENDAR

SUMMER SOCIALS AND ALL THE MUFFINS YOU CAN EAT

INDEPENDENCE DAY

7.4.25

Join us on the float for the Derby Village Parade. Hop on board a luxurious pontoon boat for a comfy coast down Main Street. Muster at the Elks Club parking lot at 9 am.

SLPA ANNUAL MEETING

7.19.25

Get briefed on what we've been doing with our stewardship programs as we continue to whack the invasive water weeds and other matters. 9 AM, Char-Bo.

COIN DROP

7.26.25

Your time helps protect the lakes we all love! Sign up to volunteer and be part of something that truly makes a difference.

SOCIAL PICNIC/BBQ

8.2.25

Summer social event at the beach house. Relax, gab and eat at our association potluck picnic barbeque.

FRESH FACES AND NEW UPDATES FROM THE SALEM LAKE GREETER PROGRAM

ED WELLS

In the spring our lake association was awarded almost \$25,000 after a competitive grant process involving other area lake associations. It allows us once again to participate in the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' Public Access Greeter Program.

The Town of Derby continues to provide a generous contribution of \$15,000 for lake management. Costs this year are about \$6,000 over last year's due to hourly wage and fringe benefit increases.

We inspect boats for invasive plants and animals and educate lake users in ways to help in this effort.

Invasive Zebra Mussels are now found on the US side of Lake Memphremagog requiring boaters to pay special attention when carrying ballast water or lake residue on hulls and transoms. VT state biologists recommend keeping boats from infested lakes out of water for two weeks and one week after a cold-water wash. Boats washed at a hot water wash station are deemed safe to return to the water without a wait.

Two new greeters are on board this year: Derby native, Bonnie Barrup worked as a Lake Salem Greeter about six years ago.

Bonnie summers at Charbo Campground and winters in Florida. You'll know Bonnie is on duty when you see her golf cart parked next to the greeter shed.

Alyssa Costa and her family are current Derby residents.



Bonnie Barrup (L) and Alyssa Costa (R).

Alyssa operates a dog kennel from her home, regularly attending dog shows. She comes to us with US Coast Guard experience. Stop by and welcome them! And remember to say hello to familiar faces - Frank & Julie Drauszewski, Karla Braunesreither and Bonnie Shattuck. We are very fortunate to have all of them on our greeter staff this year.

Please remember to keep your boat, trailer and gear free of weeds, mud, and water when entering and leaving the lake, especially when greeters are not around to help you. Not only is it a state law subject to fines, but it's also the right thing to do for the environment. Thank you very much for your help.

Lastly, the association will be looking for someone to fill the role I've held for the past five years as greeter coordinator. It's been a great volunteer job and I'll miss it. But it's time to move on to other challenges. Contact [Tim Votapka](#) if you or someone you know is interested.

Greeters play a vital role in protecting Vermont's freshwater lakes by serving as the first line of defense against invasive species. They welcome visitors, provide friendly education about aquatic invasives, and conduct voluntary watercraft inspections to prevent the spread of harmful plants and organisms. Their efforts help preserve the natural beauty, biodiversity, and recreational value of our lakes for generations to come.

HAVE YOU BEEN FOLLOWING US ALL THIS TIME?



**STAY CURRENT ON OUR
SOCIALS ALL YEAR LONG!**

— THE LITTLE BIT OF STRING THAT TIES IT ALL TOGETHER

BY TIM VOTAPKA

I bent down today to pick up a piece of old fishing line—a leftover scrap from some somebody's forgotten fishing outing, no longer than a foot. It curled like a question mark in the grass by the dock, half lost in the shadows of late afternoon. I slipped it into my pocket, almost without thinking. It might come in handy someday, I told myself. Maybe to hang that wind chime whose string snapped last summer. Or maybe it'll just live in the junk drawer for a decade. Either way, I kept it, right next to the old fireplace match sticks. Old habits, as they say.

It was my father who taught me to see string differently.

He never threw away bakery box twine. I can still picture the neat little bundles he'd make—perfect coils, tied with a hitch only he seemed to know. He'd stash them in the kitchen junk draw, right next to the screwdrivers and weathered masking tape that had more dust than stick. If you asked him why he kept them, he'd shrug and say, "You never know."

At the summer camp those strings found purpose. He used one to rig a pull-chain light in the shed that doubled as a workshop and storage for things too valuable to throw out—an old push lawnmower, assorted coffee cans, three broken lawn chairs that "still had good bones." I remember standing in that dark shed, watching him fumble for the knot-end of a string, giving it a tug until the light bulb blinked to life. It was magic, really. The way he could will the world into working again with nothing but leftover twine and quiet resolve.

Years later, I realized he wasn't hoarding string—he was preserving options. Tiny acts of readiness. The same way he saved the match sticks like sacred relics.

Continued on next page



THE STRING THAT TIES IT ALL TOGETHER

From prior page

Those do come in handy when you have a wobbly cabinet door knob that just won't sit right. There was a certain practicality to it all and certainly good policy as well. He'd use string to tie back the curtains in the cabin when the wind picked up, or to bind up stacks of old newspapers before recycling day. Once, he even rigged a pull-chain light on the second floor of our camp all the way down to the bottom of the stairs (with a corner turn I'll add) to make it easier to avoid tripping in the dark. "Works just fine," he said. And it did.

Funny how that string followed us through time. I swear he had some of the same coils from when I was a kid by the time I was grown and helping him patch the screen door at the camp. He was older then, slower, but his eyes still lit up when he found a new use for an old thing. My eyes light up the same way while others in the family merely roll to signal mild annoyance with the frugality.

After he passed, I found one last coil of that

bakery string in an old coffee can marked "Misc." It smelled musty enough to merit attention and respect. I couldn't bring myself to use it. Still haven't.

Now I sit here with this scrap of fishing line in my pocket, thinking of the wind chimes out by the dock. I understand what my dad had in mind. We, like so many other great men, see potential in things most people overlook. A little string—real or remembered—can keep the world from unraveling, at least for a while.

And maybe that's the real magic of old string—not just in the way it holds up a lightbulb or ties down a loose tarp, but in how it gathers moments and holds them close. Each knot and loop carries a whisper of laughter echoing across the dock, the steady hum of crickets at dusk, the creak of a screen door swinging wide on a sun-soaked afternoon. It's more than twine—it's a thread that stitches summers together, year after year, until memories stretch as long and strong as the string itself, always ready to pull us back home.



SALEM LAKES
PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION

Get briefed on what we've been doing with our stewardship programs as we continue to whack the invasive water weeds and other matters. 9 AM, Char-Bo.



WHY WE'RE SO FOND OF FOVLAP

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) is a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of Vermont's inland waters. By uniting lake associations, scientists, policy makers, and concerned citizens, FOVLAP serves as a powerful voice for clean, healthy lakes.

The group provides education, advocates for sound water policies, and supports local efforts to combat threats like pollution and invasive species—ensuring Vermont's treasured lakes and ponds remain vibrant for communities, wildlife, and future generations.

Amidst all of the many activities FOVLAP has on its plate this year, we are looking directly at a hot time to celebrate Lakes Appreciation month in July. Here is a short list of ways we can commemorate this:

- Organize a shoreline cleanup
- Develop an educational self-guided lake tour
Organize a hike or biking event with a focus on your local lake
- Help monitor your local waterbody or watershed
Have your septic system pumped if you live close to a waterbody
- Create a shoreland buffer with native plants
Learn how to search for and protect a lake you love from aquatic invasive species

Take a few minutes to browse through [FOVLAP's website](#) to learn more about the organization. The depth and breadth of resources will impress you.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wondering who's steering the ship to keep our lakes healthy and thriving? Meet the dedicated members of the Salem Lakes Preservation Association Board of Directors!

President

Tim Votapka

Vice President

Ed Wells

Treasurer

Andrea Ogilvie

Secretary

Sharon Kelley

Directors

Dennis Bond

Jason Brueck

Janet Cartee

Beckie Eakin

John Guyette

TJ Jackman

Ross Ogilvie

Paul Roy

Jim Sullivan



Salem Lakes Preservation Association
2025 Membership Renewal Application

Member:
Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Mailing Address (if different from above): _____ City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Comments: _____

Please indicate if you are a: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member ☐ Life Member ☐ Sustaining Member ☐ Patron ☐ Other (please specify): _____
Annual Membership Fee: \$10.00
Additional Donations: \$_____ (This form can be used to indicate if you have a PayPal account.)
Total Amount: \$_____
Please send me my renewal packet (check), and be sure to include your mailing address above.
Please do not include your card with your application.
Salem Lakes Preservation Association
PO Box 134, Derby, VT 05829
If you prefer to donate online, please visit our website.
Thank you for your generous support!

**CLICK HERE TO
DOWNLOAD OUR 2025
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**MAILING ADDRESS
SALEM LAKES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
C/O ANDREA OGILVIE
P.O. BOX 134, DERBY, VT 05829**

MORE TO DO AFTER THAT BIG WIN

ROSS OGILVIE, TJ JACKMAN, TIM VOTAPKA

In the following report, you'll find an overview of the ongoing mitigation efforts and key activities that have taken place since the successful application of ProcellaCOR in our continued battle against Eurasian watermilfoil. With this treatment marking a significant step forward in our lake management strategy, the report highlights the progress made, lessons learned, and proactive steps being taken to monitor regrowth, support native plant recovery, and keep this aggressive invasive species in check.



Roger Cartee (L) with Ross Ogilvie (R) prepare to deploy the barrier netting before last year's DASH attack.

In 2023 the SLPA commissioned Solitude to treat the EWM infested areas of the lake with ProcellaCOR. This treatment was quite successful, all known EWM infested areas of Big Salem Lake were void of EWM after the treatment with the exception of one EWM patch at the entrance of the Clyde River. With the success of the 2023 ProcellaCOR treatment much less EWM mitigation activity, effort, and cost was required in 2024.

The 2024 Rundown:

Our 2024 spring EWM survey by Arrowwood Environmental was our first holistic look in 2024 at Big Salem after the 2023 ProcellaCOR treatment. Two field visits were conducted as part of this early-season survey. On May 21, 2024 the initial survey visit was conducted from a motorboat and consisted of viewing the aquatic vegetation from the boat. The lake was still undergoing the spring transition and visibility was only fair at best.



John Guyette (L) with Ross Ogilvie (R) look over water samples taken on Big Salem after ProCellaCOR treatment.

The only milfoil documented was in the previously mapped population noted in the southern end of the lake at the entrance of the Clyde River. It was estimated that there were 50-70 plants present in this area at that time.

A second site visit was conducted on May 28, 2024, and focused on conducting underwater SCUBA surveys. Areas that were treated with herbicide in 2023 were prioritized for these surveys. In order to cover these areas, the SCUBA diver was pulled by the motorboat using a planer-board. The depth of these surveys varied from four to 15 feet deep. No additional milfoil was documented during these surveys.

Going After That Patch

In 2024 the SLPA decided to mitigate the EWM patch at the Clyde entrance with Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH).

Continued on next page

EWM UPDATE

From prior page

To help prevent EWM fragments from entering the lake, the EWM Committee (EMC) assembled and deployed a fragment fence during the DASH process. The fragment fence was assembled by TJ Jackman and Ross Ogilvie prior to the DASH harvesting. On June 17 Roger Cartee, John Guyette, Anna Ogilvie and Ross Ogilvie helped Rob Patten (SwampGuana) install the fence before the DASH harvesting started. DASH harvesting pulled 2,000 EWM plants from the area and the fragment fence prevented at least 12 fragments from reaching the lake.

On July 14 Swampguana installed the bottom barriers around the DASH site at the entrance of the Clyde. The crew surveyed the area in August and September. During these searches it was noted that the bottom barriers had no billowing. Swampguana removed the bottom barriers toward the end of September.

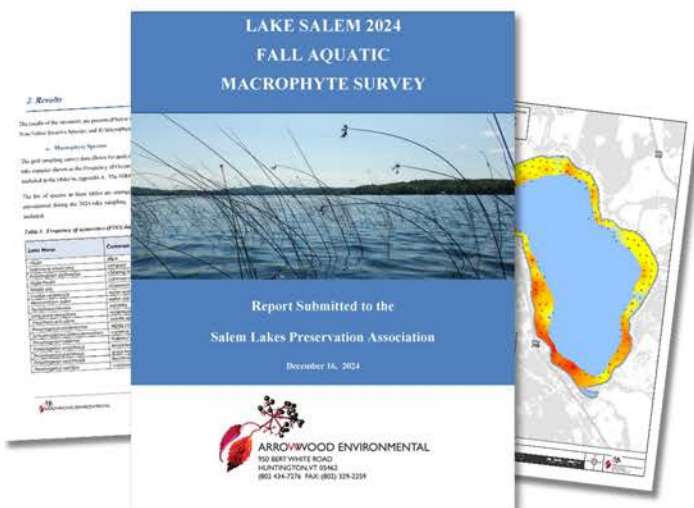
Following Vermont state permit requirements, a comprehensive aquatic plant survey was done by Arrowwood. Two areas of EWM were documented in the lake during the fall survey. A single plant was found on the western shore and 57 plants were found in a 0.11 acre area in the southern lake.

The previously reported Clyde River entrance EWM patch (0.11 acre) was recorded and mapped. Buoys were placed around the patch boundaries and GPS locations were taken to map the area. Hand-pulling of the plants was undertaken while SCUBA diving. In total, 57 EWM plants were pulled from this area. The second single plant location was found along the western shore of the lake.

The success we had with ProcellaCor in 2023 was clear from observation both in the water and in what we spent in 2024. In our five-year plan we had budgeted \$74,500 for 2024, and we spent \$18,237.24. The EMC plans to continue to monitor the lake and act in accordance with the five-year plan submitted to the State of Vermont in 2023.

Fragments of milfoil have been spotted floating in the lake in the past few weeks, and we are awaiting results from our first Arrowwood survey of 2025. We will provide updates as the season progresses, but we are optimistic. Of course, we encourage anyone out paddling to report anything they find, even if they are not certain about the type of milfoil they see. Native and hybrid variations of this plant do exist and it can be difficult to make an accurate identification.

CURIOUS?



*A copy of the **Aquatic Survey** at Salem Lake is available online.*

THE MEMBERSHIP

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ARE AMAZING!

2023 proved to be a very challenging year for the SLPA Board of Directors and the Eurasian Water Milfoil Committee. As I am sure you are all aware, an application of ProcellaCOR was done in mid-August with encouraging initial testing results. The planning, permits, surveys, plant inventories, testing, notices and ProcellaCOR application expenses exceeded \$100,000. The response from lake property owners in the amount of \$29,500 in support of this effort was encouraging and very much appreciated. Your support along with the generous award of \$75,000 in ARPA funds from the Town of Derby allowed us to proceed with the application. Following is a listing of property owners and others interested in preserving Salem Lakes who joined and supported the Association by paying their dues, making a donation and/or a four-year pledge to our Fundraising Campaign. We can't thank you all enough for your support.

Eunice Anderson & Vincent Forese	Leslie Delhaie	Sharon Kelley
Laura Andrews	Kevin Dirth	Scott & Patricia Laber
Tom and Carol Bailey	Frank & Julia Drauszewski	Michael Ladd
Sue Barnett	Peter & Deborah Duffy	Mark Lalime
Diane Beck & Mary Nault	Jim & Beckie Eakin	Gilles & Laura Lehouillier
Bellemore Snowdusters, LLC	Josee Fauteux	Dana & Maureen Lemieux
Gordon Best	Thomas & Anne Flynn	Peter & Geri Marchessault
Joseph & Christine Biernat	Doug & Mary Frazier	James Mattso
Ted & Laurie Bolognani	Richard & Kathryn French	Memphremagog Watershed Assoc.
Dennis & Darlene Bond	Erik & Kerry Golembeski	Gloria Menard
Leonard & Judy Boulanger	Colleen Goodridge	Conrad & Marilyn Miller
Bill & Carol Bradley	Shawn & Christa Kelley Goodwin	Annamae Miller
Paul & Lisa Brennan	John & Diane Guyette	Bruce & Mary Muir
Jason & Annie Bruek	Matt & Karen Hammond	Ken & Eileen Newton
Anne Carballeira	Bob & Carla Harlow	Kevin Nolan & Diane Muise-Nolan
Roger & Janet Cartee	David & Kelly Harris	Ross & Andrea Ogilvie
Char-Bo Campground	Wayne & Colleen Haskins	Mary Ann Ozdarski
Allison Comtois	Margaret Huessy Laggis	Robert Page
Paul & Carol Comtois	Gary & Sharron Heywood	Tanya & Mike Pappalardo
Paul & Laura Cornacchini	Jeff & Nancy Houghton	John & Suzanne Patenaude
Rene & Christina Cotnoir	Terry & Linda Howe	Amity Perman & Todd Dextraze
Kevin & Judy Coy	Dan & Meredith Huberty	David & Lindsay Peterson
Doug & Cathy Davis	TJ & Linda Jackman	Anne & Eric Plaskonos
Ted & Sue Davis	Ed & Alta Jenness	
	Robert & Bonnie Julian	
	Philip & Amanda Kelley	

THE MEMBERSHIP

Jennifer Powers

Josh & Amy Provost

Raytheon

Eleanor Riley & Cassandra Califano

Tom & Claire Roberts

Carol & Thom Rodgers

Madeleine Roy

Paul & Madeline Roy

Harold & Susan Sandals

Brendon & Deann Sanders

Barbara Sheperd

Bruce & Barbara Sherman

Jacalyn Slaiby

Gary & Merrily Slawson

Eric & Barbara Sleeper

Adam & Taylor Sokoloski

Helen Speckels

Gary & Paula Staples

Jim & Sherri Sullivan

The Surdy Family

Anthony Tanguay & A. Muise

Jana & Kevin Therrien

Diane Toscano & Gary Schachter

Rachel Towns

Allen & Sheri Tremblay

David Tuttle

Tim & Dawn Votapka

Jonathan & Dawn Walters

Calvin & Sharon Ward

Barrett Wells & Nicola Graham

Edmund & Susan Wells

Todd & Cindy Willis

Raymond & Tammi Williams

Philip Wilson

John & Penny Wood

Doug & Lisa Young

Jaclyn Young

James Young & Tricia Tyo

Mike Zakos

PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE 2025 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (AVAILABLE ONLINE). YOUR \$20 DUES AND ADDITIONAL DONATIONS ARE VITAL TO OUR PROGRAMS.

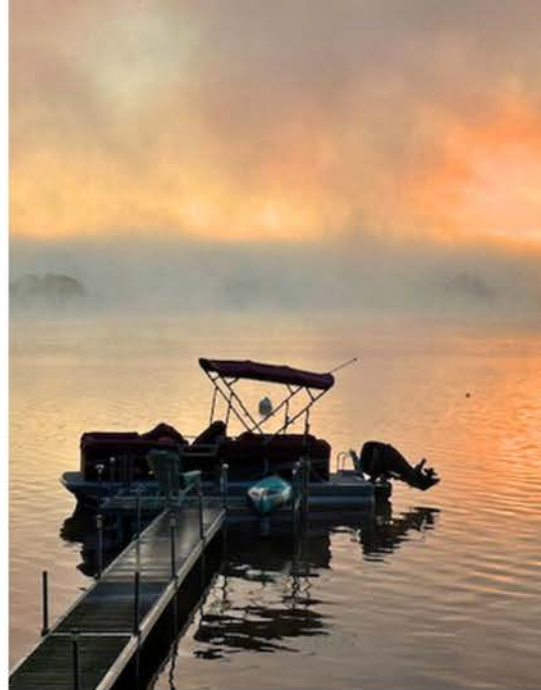
WE ARE FAMILY!



From the 65th Annual Newton Family Reunion last July. Submitted by Eileen Newton.



Left and Right: Anne Carballeira



Tim Votapka



Tim Votapka



Linda Jackman

A SALEM LAKES PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

IF THEY ONLY KNEW.



WE WILL NOT BE FOILED AGAIN!
THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO'S BEEN A PART OF
THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.

DONATE TODAY



salemlakesvt.org/capital_campaign