

# SINGLETONARY SUN

Fall 2008

THE VOICE OF THE LAKE SINGLETONARY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



*“Dedicated to the Preservation and Protection of Lake Singletary and it’s Watershed”*

## President’s Message

### Your Association

#### Board of Directors

##### President:

Tim Vanderlinden  
508-865-3019

##### Vice President:

Paul Kawolis  
508-865-0741

##### Treasurer:

Bob LeClaire  
508-865-6763

##### Secretary:

Mona Kawolis  
508-865-0741

##### Board Members:

Mark Briggs  
508-865-7839

Rose Drenzo  
508-865-4780

Sharie Grant  
508-865-8649

##### Walter Hagstrom

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508-865-4977

##### Dan MacNamara

508-865-1016

Brian Mellen  
508-865-5631

Dick &  
Karen Nortin  
508-865-2581

Mike Salem  
508-865-3761

John Silverberg  
508-865-8130

Well there goes another season. This is the season ending edition of our newsletter. It was a very unusual summer on our lake. The weather could have been better, but most association members seemed to take maximum advantage of those precious good days. On the fanwort front, the results of our drawdown last winter were mixed. We seemed to control the “edges” and some of the fanwort in the thickest area but continued to see a fairly good amount in the heaviest areas from last year. Our best treatment plan for the indefinite future continues to be maximum drawdown to expose the fanwort to the coldest elements. (See captain’s corner article in this issue.) We are in the process of taking a detailed well survey of each lake property to determine any properties that might be effected as we deepen the drawdown each year. Please cooperate and fill out the survey for our files. This year we spent some \$20,000 on weed treatment and weed pulling with some reasonable success.

Latest news on the new dam is that we are contracted for the new stainless steel gate valve to be installed in mid-November. This project will only minimal funds from our treasury and promises to be the single most significant accomplishment of our association that will “outlive” all of us. Thanks again to Representative Jennifer Callahan for her support.

On the social front, virtually all the events this summer were a great success. The boat parade was great and can be previewed on “YouTube”. The rafting party was the best ever with lots of new members attending. We had as many as 15 boats at one point. The last event was the annual meeting which was well attended. In this newsletter, you will see listed all of this years officers and board members. I would like to thank all that have served and helped our association. See you around the lake.

Tim Vanderlinden

# 2008 LSWA Honor Roll

Paul&Lee Adams  
Roy & Marilyn Ahlen  
John & Maureen Anderson  
Steven P. Anderson  
Louis & Betty Atherton  
Bill & Charlotte Bedord  
Scott Bennet\*  
Margareta Berg  
John A. Bergin  
Ken & Kathleen Bergeron\*  
Carl & Penny Bergeson  
Ed Bettke  
Paul & Joan Bjork  
Virginia Bliss  
Mark Briggs  
John & Carolyn Brigham  
Elaine Bryant  
Brad Bumpus  
John & Stacy Burl  
Thomas Capistran  
Norman & Joyce Cardin  
Lee Carman  
Michael Catino \*  
John & Cynthia Charest\*  
David,Sherry & Tom Chevalier  
Robert & Judy Clark  
Robert & Jeff Clark  
Roger & Catherine Corey  
Deborah Cox  
James & Amy Craft  
Helen Largess-Crewe  
Bob & Barbara Daigneault\*  
Dan & Mary Daly  
Alan & Dorothy Dearnley  
Joyce De Rosa  
John & Rose Direnzo  
Mike & Judy Dunn  
Alan & Ronnie Engstrand  
John Esler  
Bill & Jenny Fields  
Craig & Amy Flemming\*  
Diane Fulten  
Barbara & Julio Fusaro  
Greg Gauthier  
Dana & Diane Giampa  
Michael & JoAnne Goodfriend  
Everett& Janet Grahn  
Nancy Grant  
Travis & Sharie Grant  
Karen W. Green

Conrad & Mary Hagstrom  
Walter & Joan Hagstrom  
Tony & Elaine Halpin  
Janet Hammarstrom  
Paul & Lorna Hammarstrom  
Michael & Deborah Hanlan  
Tom & Marie Haynes  
David & Deborah Hebert  
Jon & Donna Heslin\*  
Kathleen & David Holt  
Donal & Dina Jamieson  
Fred & Nancy Jarvis  
Pam Jernberg  
Johnson Family Trust  
Gordon Johnson  
Greg & Nancy Johnson  
James & Ruth Johnson  
Jeff & Suzanne Johnson  
Russell& Mary Johnson  
Wayne & Ann Junnila  
Paul & Mona Kawolis  
TA & Cindy King  
Paul Larson  
Clifford & Linda Lavallee  
Paul & Kathy Laverdiere \*  
James & Pamela Lavoie  
Paul & Diane Lavoie  
Kenneth & Karen LeBlanc  
Bob LeClaire  
Jim & Ruby LeClaire  
Brian Letourneau  
Charles & Lynn Lidz  
Axel Linder  
Kenny Linder  
Alan & Ellan Marcell  
Paul & Vivian Marcell  
David Marois  
Normand & Gloria Marois  
Lynda Martin &  
Craig Warneke  
Garth Maynard  
John Maynard  
Kevin McCarthy  
Patricia McCarthy  
Theresa McDermott  
Bill & Baarbara Nartowt\*  
Daniel & Kyrenya Mc Namara  
Frank McNamara  
Garry & Peggy Melia  
Garry T& Karen Melia

Brian & Laurie Mellen  
Wayne Mong  
Dennis & Nancy Mulhane  
Richard & Karen Norlin  
Bernice O'Gassian\*  
David & Ruth Parker  
Robert & Ginny Picking  
Brad & Cathy Pierce  
James Pietro  
Paul & Helen Poirier  
Frederick Poland Jr.  
Anthony & Julie Prigmore  
Ken & Karen Rapp  
Amelia Rawzinski  
Frank G. Rourke  
Alan Rudge  
David Rudge  
Ronald & Janet Rudge  
Richard & Carol Rudman  
Michael & Rosemary Salem  
Marna Hasz& Donald Salerno  
Mark & Timothy Salmon  
Lucille & Jack Sampson  
Tom Scagnelli  
Ann Sevigny  
Jacqueline Shakar  
Mark Shirman\*  
John Silverberg  
Ronald Stead  
Letty Wheelock &  
Robert Strong  
Dottie Sundquist  
Don & Dolores Swatik  
Bill & Wendy Talcott  
Dominic & Cheryl Triola  
Fran & Kathy Triola  
Dana & Dolores Tschirch  
Steve & Lisa Vaillancourt  
Tim & Deb Vanderlinden  
Thomas Vassar  
Francis Venincasa  
Tom & Betsy Vinciulla  
Carolyn Wellington  
Parker & Diane Wellington  
Bonni Westerback & Jennifer Kapenas  
John & Jeanne Willis  
Beth Winchester  
Chris & Kellie Windle  
Terrence B. Windle  
David & Nancy Winn

*Thanks to all LSWA members... It is not too late to be a 2008 member!!!*

Send dues to: Robert LeClaire c/o Benjamin Insurance  
497 Central Turnpike, Sutton, MA 01590

## Water Level and Drawdown

This 2008 season we had nearly perfect water level . Thanks to all involved in monitoring and adjusting. We have started the year end drawdown in order to accommodate installing the new dam in November. Please take the time to respond to the well survey so we can establish any problem areas as we incorporate drawdown as a weed control practice. If you are one of the few association members who have a shallow well, please consider replacing it with a deep well so we can use a deeper drawdown for fanwort control.

## Rafting Party

The 3rd annual LSWA rafting party was held on Saturday August 9th. The weatherman cooperated and the weather was perfect. The party began in the early afternoon with just two boats at "party time rock"! By early evening fourteen boats were all tied together! As the night went on our "barge" was freed from the anchor and we floated up and down the moonlit lake. The company was super, the food delicious and plentiful and the music, singing and dancing to the oldies was lots of fun! A great time was had by all. Make sure to put this LSWA event on your calendar for next year. It is not to be missed!

## E-mail Address request

Sending emails is the fastest way to communicate to our membership and inform them of happenings and things of interest regarding our lake. Your email WILL NOT be given out and will only be used by the lake association. Please email your address to [shariegrant@verizon.net](mailto:shariegrant@verizon.net)

## Grant and Funding Update

Another earmark of \$50,000 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was secured by our State Representative, Dr. Jennifer Callahan but unfortunately was cut due to the State's budget crisis.

Our articles for \$5K of funding in both Sutton and Millbury were passed this year. Thanks to all of you that attended the Spring Town Meetings to vote on these.

The \$50K grant awarded by the Commonwealth last fall is being used to replace the valve mechanism in the outfall gate in Millbury. The gate mechanism is being manufactured and is scheduled for a November installation.

If any of you want to help out with any of these initiatives, please contact Dick Norlin (508-865-2581) or Mark Briggs (508-865-7839) or email through our website [www.lakesingletary.org](http://www.lakesingletary.org).

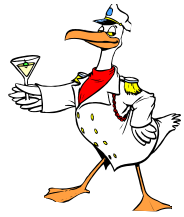
## July 4th Boat Parade

Don't you just love a parade! Our lake sure does. Hope you were there to see all the wonderfully decorated boats either by being in the parade or on shore. Next year, we will again have a scheduled rain date of July 5<sup>th</sup>, if the boat parade has to be cancelled on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Check out the pictures in this newsletter and the video footage at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT3dDtS1JB8>, compliments of Don Swatik.

# The Singletary Sun

## The Captain's Corner

**Question :** I'm new this year to Lake Singletary and I noticed the dam has been opened to lower the lake level. I thought this was to install the new gate valve in the dam, but my neighbor says it happens every year. Why is this done?



**Answer :** The lowering of our lake level each fall and winter is a lake management tool known as "drawdown". This year we did start the drawdown a few weeks earlier than normal to insure we would have the lake at a level, which would allow for the installation of our new stainless steel gate valve scheduled for mid November.

The annual drawdown of Lake Singletary has been primarily for control of invasive aquatic weeds, but it has many additional beneficial effects for our lake. To help explain some of the current thoughts on lake drawdown the following information was taken from an article written by Lee Lyman of Lycott Environmental.

Aquatic biologists have used lake-level drawdown for many years to aid in the management of aquatic plants in water bodies. Most of the literature published on this management technique indicates that many aquatic plants can be reduced by desiccation and/or freezing. Prior to instituting lake-level drawdown some items like downstream impacts, loss of well water, impacts to bordering vegetated wetlands and fisheries need to be considered.

It is recommended water level be drawn down at a rate no greater than approximately one to two inches per day. The lowered water level should be maintained during November and December until there is a prolonged period (5-7 days) of temperatures below 15 degrees F, or the hydrology budget and weather conditions dictate refilling.

Some of the benefits of a successful lake level drawdown program include the following items. Many of the invasive aquatic plants in New England can be managed with drawdown. When the water is removed from the lake, large concentrations of phosphorus and nutrients that would otherwise be available for additional plant growth the following year will be flushed out of the lake. Due to the exposure to various weather conditions during fall and winter, the sediments will be scoured, moving small particles laden with nutrients to deeper portions of the lake. Solar flexion takes place during drawdown, which converts organically rich sediments into gravel-type sediments. During the winter months the ice pack expands and cracks during freezing, reducing the ability of aquatic plants to become re-established the following spring. While the lake is in a draw down condition, the sediments can be examined for seeps and leachates. Many residents look forward to fall drawdown as an opportunity to rake and cleanup their shoreline or repair walls and other shoreline structures.

I hop this information helped you to understand why we have historically used drawdown as a water quality management tool for Lake Singletary.

# Lake Singletary Water Testing

We are nearing the end of our 15<sup>th</sup> season of volunteer water quality monitoring! Every month between April and October we check for clarity, pH, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, phosphorus, and chlorophyll.

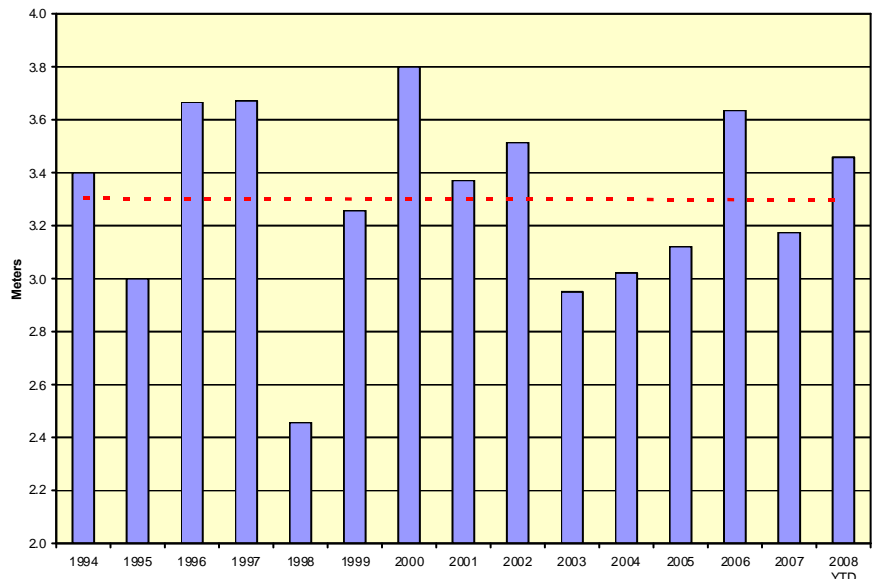
One of the most important physical characteristics of a lake is water clarity, because it gives an indication of the overall water quality. High levels of nutrients cause dense algae blooms in a lake. The resulting brown or green color reduces water transparency significantly. In general, better clarity means better water quality.

Clarity is most often measured by the technique called Secchi disk transparency. The Secchi disk, invented in 1865 by Pietro Angelo Secchi, is a device used to measure water transparency. A disk measuring 8 inches in diameter, with alternating quadrants of black and white, is lowered into the water. The depth at which the pattern on the disk is no longer visible is taken as a measure of the transparency of the water.



The Secchi disk is a simple and inexpensive way to measure water clarity and therefore is used by many volunteer monitoring groups. Secchi disk readings can be inaccurate, however, for several reasons including the amount of sunlight during the measurement, the eyesight of the viewer, the time of day the readings are taken, the color of the water, and so on. For that reason the greatest value of the Secchi disk measurements occurs when each lake compares its own readings from season to season.

Average Secchi Depth 1994-2008



The adjacent chart shows average Secchi disk clarity for Lake Singletary from 1994-2008. A Secchi depth value of 4.5 meters is used to characterize very good water quality. Swimming is not recommended in water where the Secchi depth is less than 1.3 meters. Lake Singletary's Secchi depth is generally between 3 and 4 meters, which is considered good clarity.

For a more detailed discussion of our sampling program, data, and interpretation visit our website at [www.lakesingletary.org](http://www.lakesingletary.org) and click on the link "Water Testing".

## Fun Facts - The Alewife



**Common Name:** Alewife  
**Scientific Name:** *Alosa pseudoharengus*

Alewives are members of the herring family; their close cousins are shad and blueback herring. Alewives are bluish green or bluish gray on the back, silvery on the sides, with faint, dark stripes. They have a single black spot just behind their eye, and their tails are forked. The alewife originated along the Atlantic Coast, from South Carolina northward into Canada, entering the Seekonk River at the head of the Narragansett Bay RI, then up over the Slater Mill falls into the Blackstone River and finally reaching Lake Singletary. The anadromous (lives in salt water, breeds in fresh water) alewife utilizes freshwater streams for spawning but spends most of their life at sea. However, over the years the alewife has adapted to living in both salt water and fresh water. The freshwater or landlocked alewife, also known as sawbellies, spends their entire life in freshwater lakes (such as the Lake Singletary Alewife), reproducing successfully and becoming extremely abundant. Saltwater alewives seldom weigh over one pound with a maximum length of 12 to 15 inches, while the Lake Singletary alewife is usually three to six inches in size. Its small size, large schools have made the alewife perfect prey for Lake Singletary's popular game fish such as Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass and Trout. The alewife is also a key player in the Lake Singletary food chain because not only are they eating zooplankton and small crustaceans at the surface, but because of their abundance, the growth rates of resident game fish mentioned above improve dramatically. Sea-run alewives move up freshwater streams from the sea to spawn during the period from late April to early June. Spawning takes place in lakes and sluggish stretches of rivers above tidal influence. Lake Singletary alewives move from deep water to shallow beaches to spawn in spring. Females usually move to the spawning areas just before the males. Spawning takes place at night in groups of two or three over a sandy or gravelly bottom. Freshwater females deposit 10,000-12,000 eggs, whereas their sea-run counterparts produce 60,000-100,000 eggs, but only a few eggs survive to the juvenile stage, and sometimes only as few as three juveniles survive to adulthood. Eggs are broadcast randomly, are demersal (that is, they sink), and are not particularly adhesive. Adults leave the spawning area after spawning; no care is given to the eggs or young by the adult fish. In less than a week, the young alewives hatch to begin feeding on minute, free-floating plants and animals. By fall, the young alewives make their way back to the sea or, in the case of Lake Singletary, to the deep waters of lake. Once at sea, young alewives typically remain there four to five years before maturing and beginning the reproductive cycle anew. Although adult mortality following spawning may be high (40 to 60 per cent), the surviving adults may spawn annually for several years. Ten-year-old fish that are believed to have spawned up to five times are known, but most spawn only two to three times before being caught in a fishery or dying naturally. The ability of alewives to spawn more than once helps to stabilize their numbers by protecting against the occurrence of years when the survival of young fish is poor.

# Boat Parade



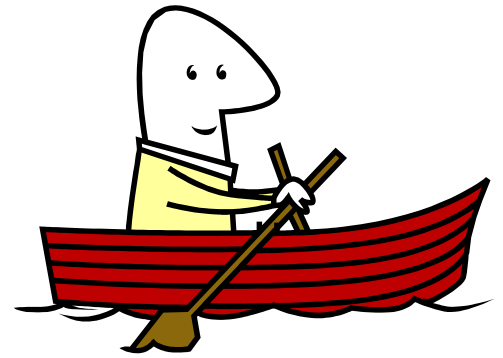






Rafting Party  
2008





# Summer Fun

