

SINGLETERARY SUN

Summer 2009

THE VOICE OF THE LAKE SINGLETERARY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



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

President’s Message

Your Association

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Welcome to spring/summer 2009.

Wow what weather. At the time of this writing (early June), we are still waiting for the lake to fill to its normal high water level. We are currently about nine inches from our normal high water, and hoping that all these cloudy bleak days send some real rain our way in order to finish filling the lake. Our lake, docks, and walls seem to have handled the winter pretty well and once the sun comes out, there may even be some boating fun.

It is still too early to determine how our drawdown impacted the weed population but soon enough we will be using our underwater camera to get a sneak peek at any new growth. Included in this news letter is a well survey. We are asking all members to please fill it out and return so that we can establish a baseline for wells and their location. The information collected will be used by an engineering firm we have hired to study and propose/design a comprehensive drawdown plan that we can use in the future as a guideline.

Since our last newsletter, we have successfully installed the new stainless steel dam mechanism which is working

very nicely and will surely outlive all

of us. This is a major accomplishment and with all the dam stories floating around at other lakes we got it done with very little cost to our association or surrounding towns. Great job all!!

On the social front, the Earth Day cleanup was a big success and included participants both young and old. The Spring Wing Ding was lots of fun with nice people to meet and greet. At this writing, we are anxiously waiting for the July 4th boat parade.

The latest hot news is our NEW WEBSITE, www.lakesingletary.org. Check it out it is very cool !!!! Thanks to the efforts of our board member Brian Mellen who did the redesign, it includes lots of history and news and very interesting information and pictures.

Last of all, I would like to encourage you all to support our lake association by joining and paying your dues. Please remember to use zero phosphorous fertilizer for the summer. See you around the lake.

Tim Vanderlinden

Your Personal Contribution to Cleaner Water

Homeowners in many part of the country are catching on to rain gardens . landscaped areas planted to wild flowers and other native vegetation that soak up rain water, mainly from the roof of a house or other building. The rain garden fills with a few inches of water after a storm and the water slowly filters into the ground rather than running off to a storm drain. Compared to a conventional patch of lawn, a rain garden allows about 30% more water to soak into the ground.



Why are rain gardens important? As cities and suburbs grow and replace forests and agricultural land, increased storm water runoff from impervious surfaces becomes a problem. Storm water runoff from developed areas increases flooding; carries pollutants from streets, parking lots and even lawns into local streams and lakes; and leads to costly municipal improvements in storm water treatment structures.

By reducing storm water runoff, rain gardens can be a valuable part of changing these trends. While an individual rain garden may seem like a small thing, collectively they produce substantial neighborhood and community environmental benefits. Rain gardens work for us in several ways:

Increasing the amount of water that filters into the ground, which recharges local and regional aquifers;

Helping protect communities from flooding and drainage problems;

Helping protect streams and lakes from pollutants carried by urban storm water . lawn fertilizers and pesticides, oil and other fluids that leak from cars, and numerous harmful substances that wash off roofs and paved areas;

Enhancing the beauty of yards and neighborhoods;

Providing valuable habitat for birds, butterflies and many beneficial insects.

Reprinted from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, DNR Publication PUB-WT-776 2003

For further information on creating your own Rain Garden, see <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/runoff/rg/rgmanual.pdf>

Calendar of Events

JULY 4TH- SATURDAY BOAT PARADE 8PM

JULY 5TH -SUNDAY RAINDATE FOR BOAT PARADE AT 8PM

AUGUST 1- SATURDAY 3PM RAFTING PARTY

AUGUST 8 -SATURDAY RAINDATE 3PM RAFTING PARTY

**AUGUST 26- WEDNESDAY ANNUAL LSWA MEETING AT
ST. MARK'S CHURCH, SUTTON AT 7PM**

Summer Rafting Party

SUMMER RAFTING PARTY

SATURDAY AUGUST 1- 3PM UNTIL ????????

RAIN DATE- SATURDAY AUGUST 8- 3PM

RAFT UP WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS NEXT TO ROCK ISLAND.

BRING ALONG YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE!

B.Y.O.B.!

BRING YOUR OWN BUOYS!

Membership News

Spring has finally brought some nice weather to Lake Singletary and we look forward to fun-filled summer activities. We would like to thank the 103 lake residents who have already paid their LSWA dues for 2009. Most have generously chosen to contribute more than the \$75.00 membership fee! We encourage all those who have not yet paid their 2009 dues to do so promptly. 2008 membership included 144 of 161 households~let's make membership 100% for 2009!

The LSWA needs your support to keep our lake clean and beautiful.

Earth Day Clean Up

Saturday April 18th was our Earth Day Clean up of the lake's watershed area. 21 volunteers gathered at the boat ramp at 8am. After fueling up with coffee, juice, donuts and granola bars, we headed out and collected 20 bags of garbage.

Thanks to all that participated: Tim Vanderlinden and his family, Julia, Patrick, Kyrenya and Dan Mcnamara, Laurie, Brian, Tony and Kyle Mellen, Mona and Paul Kawolis, John Silverberg, Paul Marcell, Jeff Clark, Wayne Junnila, and Gary Melia.

Spring Wing Ding - RECORD ATTENDANCE

Our 8th annual spring wing ding bash was held on Saturday May 9th at the Dudley Gendron., and what a bash it was! 97 people attended, a record number. All enjoyed seeing their "hibernating " lake neighbors and meeting new ones.

Once again, Brothers II Catering of Millbury served a wonderful Italian buffet. Ron and Donna Dickey were there to provide the songs we danced to all night long. Janet Hammarstrom sung her infamous karaoke version of "Harper valley PTA". Cindy and John Charest brought a collage of photos from last year's rafting party which reminded us all how much fun it was. We had many great raffle prizes thanks to our sponsors. Our Millbury sponsors were: Calabria Ristorante, Drenzo Towing and Recovery, Millbury Fish & Chips, Scales Seafood and Ice Cream, Millbury Savings bank, and Superior Oil. Sponsors from Sutton included: Blackstone National Golf Club and the Great Canadian Canoe & Kayak Company. Our Worcester sponsors were; Linder's Inc. and Marine USA. For those that like to plan ahead, next year's date has already been set for Saturday May 8th, 2010. Hope to see you there next year!

Water Level and Drawdown

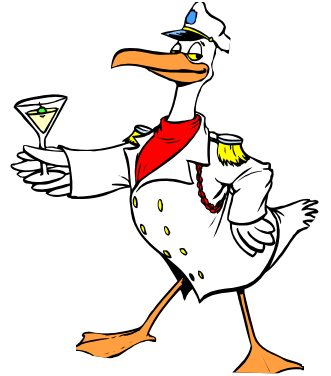
Well this is a first time in the last 6 or 7 years we were not faced with any decisions to open the dam to drop the water level at this writing. On the other hand, we had a rather dry spring causing the lake to be some 9 inches below desired high water level at June 1st. Things have been improving very gradually with the lake rising inch by inch. We are, however, very fortunate that we do have the new dam to regulate water when the need arises. Our association is planning to rebuild the dam house which holds the dam wheel and mechanism. We also may do some brush cutting and clean up to be sure we continue to be in great shape both in and around the dam and spillway. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help please contact one of the board members to be included in the schedule.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEB SITE

www.lakesingletary.org

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE PRETTY PURPLE PLANTS THAT KEEP MULTIPLYING AT MY WATERFRONT EACH YEAR?

The pretty purple plants you are referring to are a non-native plant species called purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Introduced from Europe, Holland in particular, as an ornamental plant in the early 1800s, we see it growing everywhere, especially in wetland and low marshy areas with moist, saturated soils. The plants grow from 4-10 feet and may have up to 30 stems, with profuse clusters of magenta/purplish flowers blooming from June through September. Each stem is capable of producing 2-3 million seeds which are dispersed as wind-borne or transported aquatically. They can also reproduce from propagules; for example muskrats are known to eat only the stem pulp and not the tops. Red-winged blackbirds find them appropriate for nesting areas and perching. Bumblebees are quite attracted to them. However, even more pernicious is the fact that the plants also form elongated rootstock, which also propagates vegetatively. There are reported instances where eradication by fire, hand-pulling and harvesting, herbicide application and biological containment appeared to eradicate them for a season only for the plants to re-emerge as before.



The range of purple loosestrife is worldwide in one form or another, and there are 12 genera established in North America. The plant's dominant range is Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, which were completely colonized by 1980. One species, (*Lythrum virgatum*) seems to have escaped from Massachusetts and New Hampshire gardens and greenhouses but its spread appears to be static. The Hudson and US Ontario watersheds are more than 1/2 colonized. The first serious infestation appears to have occurred in the 1930s in and around pasturelands of the St. Lawrence floodplain, possibly as a result of heavier transAtlantic ship traffic. It is pervasive primarily today not only throughout the Northeast but the upper Midwest and the Rocky Mountain Northwest as well.

The threat to ecosystems is tremendously significant as the extremely hearty plants have shown simply to take over important flora and fauna habitats creating their own monoculture. Certain types of endangered orchids and waterfowl in general are especially susceptible. Also reduction of a variety of pollen producing plants so vital to bees and in particular honey bees is a concern. Enough cannot be said for maintaining biodiversity. So-called "Guaranteed Sterile" cultivars are sold in Wisconsin and Minnesota and have proven to be capable of cross-fertilizing with stock in the "wild". Aside from being quite aesthetically pleasing, the only redeeming value seems to be that it's a distant cousin to the pomegranate.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEB SITE

www.lakesingletary.org

Brand New Web Site!!

www.lakesingletary.org

Lake Singletary Watershed Association recently completed a major overhaul on our web site. The new site provides all kinds of information such as who we are & what we do, interesting lake facts, maintenance programs such as water quality monitoring, invasive species & algae control, calendar of events, and much more. LSWA is always looking to improve our site, so feel free to click on the [Contact Us](#) and give us your feedback.

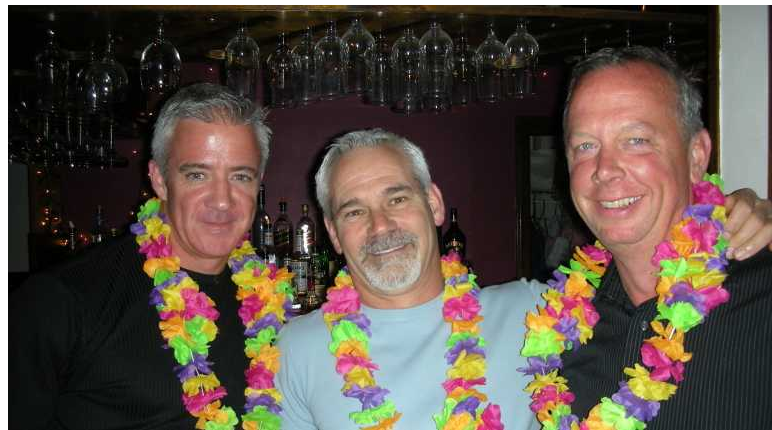
The screenshot displays the website's navigation menu with options: Home, About Us, Lake Facts, Maintenance, Projects, Safety, News, Events, Photos, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Water Quality" and includes a sidebar with links to "About Our Program", "Determining the Condition", "Water Clarity", "Nutrients", "pH and Alkalinity", "Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen Profiles", and "Actions You Can Take". The main text describes the Mass WWP as a volunteer water quality monitoring organization based at U Mass, Amherst, and details their sampling program which began in 1994. It lists parameters like clarity, pH, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, phosphorus, and chlorophyll. A "Graphs and Charts" section lists "Sampling Locations", "Water Clarity", "Chlorophyll", "Phosphorus", "pH", "Alkalinity", "Temperature", "Thermocline", "Dissolved Oxygen", and "Dissolved Oxygen On Bottom". A "Historical Data" section includes "Water Quality Data 94-08" and "DO & Temp Data 98-08". The footer shows "Done" and "Internet 100%".

JULY 4TH BOAT PARADE
SATURDAY JULY 4TH AT 8PM
DECORATE YOUR BOAT AND JOIN THE FLOTILLA
STARTING IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE LAKE.
THIS YEAR'S PARADE WILL HAVE RAIN DATE OF
SUNDAY JULY 5TH AT 8PM.
ALL ARE ALSO WELCOME TO ENJOY
WATCHING THE PARADE FROM SHORE!

Spring Wing Ding



Wing Ding Photos cont.



Two more Wing Ding Pics

