

# SINGLETARY SUN

Summer 2011

THE VOICE OF THE LAKE SINGLETARY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



*“Dedicated to the Preservation and Protection of Lake Singletary and its Watershed”*

## President's Message

### Your Association

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##### Treasurer:

Bob LeClaire  
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**Mark Briggs**  
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**Dick &  
Karen Norlin**  
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**Mike Salem**  
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**John Silverberg**  
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Hi everyone! Here we are on the doorstep of another official summer start. During the snowy winter our association board has been very busy advancing several initiatives to support the future of our Lake.

The late fall and winter start offered up what we hope will prove to be perfect weather for a lake drawdown freeze. Each year we look for weather conditions that would best promote an effective “weed kill” along large areas of the shoreline. Early winter 2010 weather conditions provided just that with plenty of cold weather days exposing the shore prior to any substantial snow. We are looking forward to testing how effective the freeze was.

On the weed front we now understand that the new treatment chemical called “Clipper” has been officially approved by the Federal EPA for use as a chemical for effective treatment for Fanwort. As you may remember Fanwort is seen as our biggest weed threat. We already have some eight to ten acres of this weed in our lake.

As part of our objectives last year we contracted Aquatic Control Technologies (our weed treatment company) to do a very comprehensive study of the lake bottom to provide a detailed map and list of weeds in our lake. This was done in a fashion that provides a base line with actual GPS points to be compared year after year to track all weeds, their location and density. This data is considered a big step forward in

monitoring our progress and moving forward in our lake management program.

The new stainless steel dam gate now has a new “house” to live in. Thanks to the team led by Brian Mellen the gatehouse has been completely rebuilt and the area leading down stream has been cleared of all the brush and misc. growth. Big job well done!

Even with the above average rainfall of the early spring the water level has been maintained just about at the spillway so far.

Finally on the social front the Earth day cleanup was a great success. More than 35 bags of debris was accumulated and properly disposed of. I heard a whisper that day. Still no news on what the note says. The Spring Wing Ding on May 14<sup>th</sup> was very well attended with some 90 plus people in attendance. Once again everyone seemed to have a good time getting re-acquainted with their lake friends and neighbors.

Please use zero phosphorous fertilizer on your lawns this summer. Phosphorous continues to be a major contributor to our weed problem. No leaf blowing into the lake. Keep wakes way down during high water times. You will be hearing more about our fuel oil coop initiative. Thanks for your continued support please make your dues payment if you have not done so already.

Tim Vanderlinden

## Calendar of Events 2011

July 4<sup>th</sup> Monday - Boat Parade 8pm

August 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday- Rafting Party 3pm  
Rain date: August 13<sup>th</sup> 3pm

August 24<sup>th</sup> Wednesday- Annual Membership  
Meeting 7pm- St. Marks Church Basement

## Summer Rafting Party

The Summer Rafting Party is scheduled for Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> at 3pm with a rain date of Saturday August 13 at 3pm. Come out and raft up with your neighbors next to rock island. Bring your favorite dish to share. B.Y.O.B! (Bring Your Own Buoys!)

## EMAIL ADDRESS REQUEST

Are you on the e-mail list? We regularly communicate via email for event reminders, drawdown timing, weed treatment timing and other useful news. Your e-mail address will not be shared and will only be used by the LSWA for membership communications. Please send an e-mail to [LSWABOD@gmail.com](mailto:LSWABOD@gmail.com) with Add Me in the subject and get all the latest news!

## DID YOU KNOW? GAS TAX CREDIT FOR WATERCRAFT

All gasoline purchased in Massachusetts comes with a tax (currently \$.21/gallon) that is used specifically for funding state roads and highways etc. Therefore, gasoline purchased for use in vehicles other than those that go on roads is exempt from the tax. Any gasoline used in our watercraft is subject to a tax credit of \$.21/gallon. The state provides a way (not too cumbersome) to claim the refund on a quarterly basis. Here is a link with more information and includes link to state form GT-9 to complete and file:

**<http://www.americanboating.org/fueltax.asp#Massachusetts>**

## SPRING WING DING

Our Annual Spring Wing Ding was again a huge success with 94 in attendance at the Dudley Gendron in Sutton. Everyone had a great time, which included eating a delicious Italian buffet catered by Brothers II of Millbury. We all sang Happy Birthday to Lynn Whalen and Don Swatik who both celebrated their birthdays that night. All attendees enjoyed dancing and mingling with their old and new lake neighbors and friends. Thanks to all who supported the raffle. Special thanks to the generous businesses that donated prizes: Linders, Inc. and Marine USA from Worcester, Scales Seafood & Ice Cream and Dorenzo Towing from Millbury, and Great Canadian Canoe & Kayak Company from Sutton. "Alice" made a special appearance and there are rumors that she will be at this years rafting party in August!

## JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> BOAT PARADE

Once again we are planning another fantastic boat parade!! Same time, same place as years past. 8 pm near the southwest corner of the lake. We can't wait to see all the wonderful decorations and the cheering spectators!!

## WATCH YOUR WAKE

Spring boating season is here on Lake Singletary. The water level is already high and keeping our boat wakes to a minimum is especially important during high water days. Proper trim and speed are the factors we can control to tame our wakes. Keeping your boat as level bow to stern as possible will minimize the wake. Whenever the bow is excessively high the wake will be greater, so trim to keep the bow lower. As for speed, the boat's wake is obviously minimal at headway speed (headway speed is the minimum speed a boat can be operated and maintain steering control). When accelerating above headway speed the bow naturally rises causing a larger wake until the boat planes out returning to a more level pitch attitude, which again reduces the size of the wake. Proper cruising speed to minimize wakes is either headway speed or a fast enough speed to allow the boat to plane, it's that "in between" speed that tends to produce excessive wakes.

Keep in mind that by law you are responsible for any damages caused by the wake of a boat you are operating, that includes shoreline areas and structures as well as other boats. Remember that when multiple boats are rafted together they are especially vulnerable. Also, by Massachusetts's law, in an effort to protect the shoreline and persons swimming near the shore, it is unlawful to operate any boat in Massachusetts inland waters at greater than headway speed within 150 feet of the shore.

## PHOSPHATE FREE FERTILIZER

Every few years we remind our association of the benefits of Phosphate Free fertilizer to the overall health of our Lake and here is the latest reminder.

Minnesota was the first state to do it way back in 2002, and other states such as Michigan and Florida have since followed them. These states have banned the use of Phosphorus in lawn fertilizer, and many other states are considering passing a similar law. So, what's the big deal? Well, excess Phosphorus in water runoff can lead to a condition in lakes and waterways known as Eutrophication. Eutrophication is basically a combination of excess aquatic growth and algae blooms, which in turn leads to depleted Oxygen levels in waterways. Of course we all know depleted

Oxygen levels will eventually lead to depleted aquatic life. Lawn fertilizer, especially when applied incorrectly, fertilizes a lot more than just your lawn. Excess nutrients are carried by runoff into streams and lakes. The same nutrients that help grass grow also help algae and pond weeds grow, leading to algal blooms and excessive aquatic plants that are not only unpleasant to look at and to swim in, but also affect food quality and habitat for fish and other organisms. They also can lead to very slippery rocks.

If you look at the data for Lake Singletary at [Lakesingletary.org](http://Lakesingletary.org) you will see that our Average Bottom Dissolved Oxygen has been decreasing over time from 1994-2010 and the Average In-Lake Phosphorus has been on the rise from 1996-2010.

### **How you can keep phosphorus out of the lake:**

- Use Phosphate Free fertilizer
- Use Phosphate Free detergents
- Maintain your septic system – pump frequently and conserve water
- Keep a vegetated "buffer" between the shore and developed land

Using phosphate free fertilizer will help to minimize the amount of algae growth in our lake and keep our dissolved Oxygen

levels normal. When buying look for 0% Phosphorus symbol K (it's the middle number in the string of 3 on the fertilizer bag). It is available at most home and garden centers; in fact Rays True Value in Millbury now sells only zero-phosphate fertilizer! Many lawn services offer it and it is an easy way to do your part to keep our lake healthy and clean!

# MARIONS CAMP UPDATE

After years of stagnation and inactivity significant improvements have been made and are still underway at Marion's Camp. Much credit is due to former State Representative Jen Callahan for her efforts in securing funding for these projects.

Initial improvements focused on preventing erosion, improving access and providing suitable parking. To accomplish this a 'tiered' approach was taken to alleviate major runoff and provide relatively flat parking areas. A total of 4 tiers are used to collect runoff gradually and divert it to multiple water gardens (detention ponds). The tier closest to the lake, which could produce beach erosion, is diverted to a swale just above the beach minimizing runoff and beach erosion.

The next phase in the process will be to grade and stabilize the multi use area (large field area just across the parking lot) and construct a pavilion for public and private use. New signage is due to be installed soon. The pavilion is seen as a critical component of the overall improvements as it will provide a revenue source for future upkeep.

While the LSWA has had limited involvement in the overall improvements, Town Planner Jen Hager has asked for assistance in planting vegetation in the water gardens. The water gardens are a critical component to the health of the watershed as they provide runoff protection, a critical 'filtering' area and runoff temperature stabilization. I hope that many Lake Singletary residents will be able to spare some time in the coming weeks to help with this project. Please contact me if you are interested in helping preserve the lake with this worthwhile project.

See you out on the lake... or better yet with a shovel.

John Silverberg - 774-230-3191.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEB SITE

[www.lakesingletary.org](http://www.lakesingletary.org)

# Fall Maintenance/Cleanup Update

Wow, we really knocked some items off the “Honey Do” list this year. The Gatehouse has been completely renovated from top to bottom, including new stainless steel rulers for measuring water levels (Zero = top of spillway). On the cleanup side of things, we aren't quite done yet but we did make quite a bit of progress. Only thing left at this point is to clear the other side of the Singletary outlet. Thanks to all volunteers, it really looks nice! And special thanks to:

**C & S Lumber (508 865-4822) and GA Siding (774 276-0435)** for donating the roofing and siding materials.

## Gatehouse Maintenance



**New Roof** - Donated by C & S Lumber, installed by Jeff Clark, John Silverberg, Paul Marcel, and Brian Mellen



**New Doors & Walls** - Installed by John Silverberg, Paul Marcel, and Brian Mellen.



**New Siding & Trim** - Donated and installed by GA Siding.

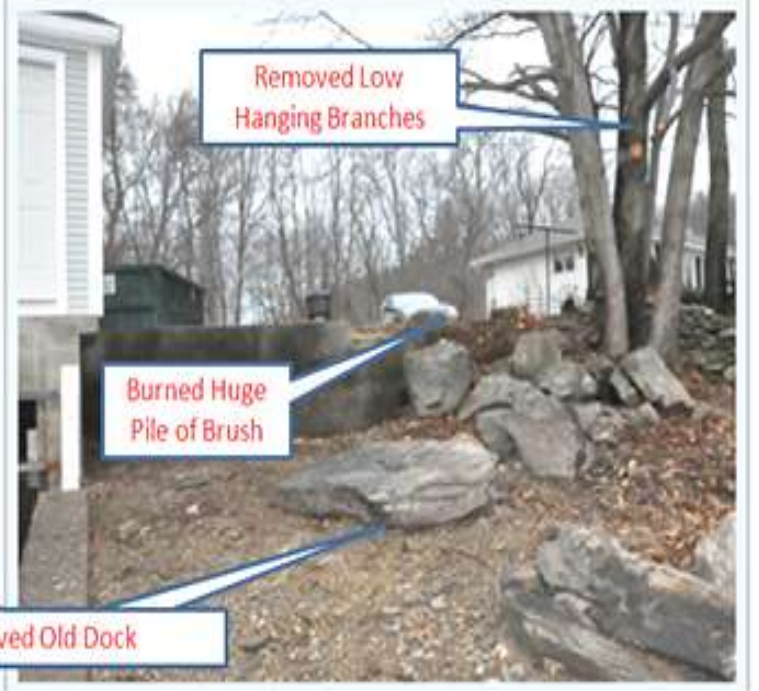
**New Stainless Steel Rulers** - Donated by Tim Vanderlinden and installed by Paul Kowolis, Paul Marcel, and Brian Mellen

More pictures on following page...

Our fall cleanup projects focused on 2 areas, around the gate house and both sides of the Singletary outlet.



Jeff Clark, John Direnzo, Mike Salem, and Brian Mellen clearing out the right side of the Singletray outlet.





# Earth Day Clean-up



You couldn't have asked for a better day to clean up around the lake. Our annual Earth Day cleanup was held on April 30<sup>th</sup> this year and we had a very successful day, as 13 volunteers not only collected 37 bags of trash but also cleared out the over grown area around the Singletary outlet. Thanks to all the volunteers, everyone can now enjoy a summer of fun on a nice clean lake!



## Light Pollution

Through the Lake Singletary Watershed Association and *The Sun*, we have done really well informing members of big problems like water pollution on our lake. *The Sun* has helped galvanize our community to action. To that point, we can and should address another form of pollution...Light Pollution.

Light Pollution is light that is shining in the wrong direction. Instead of shining onto the ground where it is needed it shines up into the sky or at a neighbor. Light pollution may not be the most obvious of issues, but it certainly affects us all. Importantly,

- It is wasted energy.
- It is wasted money.
- It causes increased air and water pollution.

Additionally light pollution affects the beauty of the nighttime lake. While none of us can dim the Worcester glow to the north, we all have the power to improve our local situation. Simple awareness can go a long way to enhance everyone's enjoyment of our nighttime sky. Light pollution is exaggerated on the lake because of its reflective nature; Floodlights pointed outward to the lake are particularly invasive.

Solutions may be as simple as adjusting existing lights or investing in energy saving and shielded solutions rather than maintaining existing sodium and floodlights. Please take a moment to consider whether your lights may be improved and take action if they are. We have done so well as a group recognizing and dealing with issues of quality on our lake, and we can tackle this one too.

Additional information can be found by simply Googling Light Pollution but here are a few links that may help:

<http://www.astronight.com/lp/lightpollution/slideshow.htm>

<http://www.starrynightlights.com/>

<http://osr.org/en-us/articles/the-facts-about-light-pollution/>

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

What a winter! In spite of all the technological advancements in our world, last winter proved that "Mother Nature" is still in charge! We hope she will cooperate and give us a great spring and summer to enjoy our beautiful lake.

You should have received your 2011 dues request in the mail. Thanks to everyone who has already paid their dues for 2011! Membership continues to be \$75.00 with many of your friends and neighbors contributing larger amounts. As always, the funds raised by the LSWA go entirely to maintaining our lake and surrounding areas. We encourage all those who have not yet paid to do so promptly. Dues can be mailed to: LSWA c/o Benjamin Insurance Company, 497 Central Turnpike, Sutton, MA 01590

The membership committee would like to note that Michael and Candace LeBlanc should have been included in the 2010 Honor Roll and were accidentally omitted.

We hope that membership will be at 100% for 2011!

CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEB SITE

[www.lakesingletary.org](http://www.lakesingletary.org)

# Lake Singletary Word Search "Underwater World"

- Alewife
- Blue Gill
- Brown Trout
- Calico Bass
- Chained Pickerel
- Crayfish
- Large Mouth Bass
- Mussels
- Rainbow Trout
- Salamander
- Small Mouth Bass
- Snails
- Sun Fish
- White Perch
- Yellow Perch

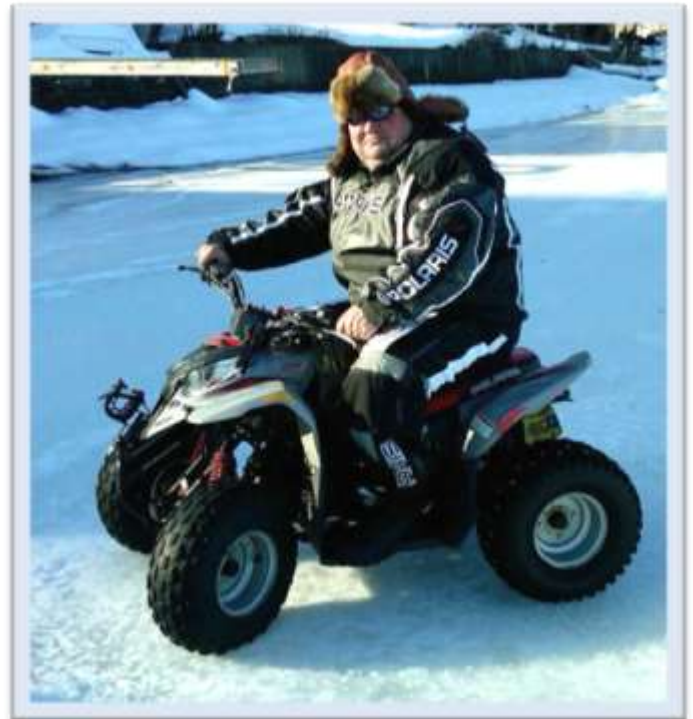
B	C	H	A	I	N	E	D	P	I	C	K	E	R	E	L
L	P	M	E	R	T	Y	U	O	K	N	I	J	S	B	U
W	A	L	E	W	I	F	E	H	V	Y	G	C	S	T	R
H	B	R	F	M	U	S	S	E	L	S	X	R	A	S	A
I	L	D	Z	E	A	Q	P	L	S	M	O	K	B	A	I
T	U	N	I	E	J	T	B	A	U	H	V	Y	H	L	N
E	E	C	T	F	M	U	B	X	D	Z	E	S	T	A	B
P	G	Y	E	L	L	O	W	P	E	R	C	H	U	M	O
E	I	S	A	Q	C	R	U	L	M	O	K	N	O	A	W
R	L	L	J	I	B	T	H	T	V	T	F	X	M	N	T
C	L	I	L	R	D	N	Z	E	H	S	A	W	L	D	R
H	Q	A	P	M	O	W	K	N	I	B	J	B	L	E	O
U	C	N	H	V	Y	O	G	C	T	F	A	X	A	R	U
R	D	S	Z	E	S	R	A	W	Q	P	L	S	M	O	T
K	N	I	J	U	H	B	C	R	A	Y	F	I	S	H	V

Can you find all of Lake Singletary's underwater species? Look for them on our website at:

<http://www.lakesingletary.org/Underwater-Species.php>

## Mario Cart's "BOWSER" visits Lake Singletary

Carl Bergeson tearing it up on Kyle's 4-wheeler



# WING DING





