SINGLETARY SUN

Fall 2008

THE VOICE OF THE LAKE SINGLETARY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

"Dedicated to the Preservation and Protection of Lake Singletary and it's Watershed"

President's Message

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

YourAssociation

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Tim Vanderlinden
508-865-3019

Vice President:
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508-865-0741

Treasurer:
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508-865-6763

Secretary:
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508-865-2581
Mike Salem
508-865-3761
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508-865-8130

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Bill & Charlotte Bedord
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Michael & JoAnne Goodfriend
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James & Ruth Johnson
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Wayne & Ann Junnila
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James & Pamela Lavoie
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Kenneth & Karen LeBlanc
Bob LeClaire
Jim & Ruby LeClaire
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Alan & Ellan Marcell
Paul & Vivian Marcell
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Dennis & Nancy Mulhane
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Robert & Ginny Picking
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Frank G. Rourke
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Ronald & Janet Rudge
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Michael & Rosemary Salem
Marna Hasz& Donald Salerno
Mark & Timothy Salmon
Lucille & Jack Sampson
Tom Scagnelli
Ann Sevigny
Jacqueline Shakar
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Letty Wheelock &
Robert Strong
Dottie Sundquist
Don & Dolores Swatik
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Dominic & Cheryl Triola
Fran & Kathy Triola
Dana & Dolores Tschirch
Steve & Lisa Vaillancourt
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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

CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEB SITE - www.lakesingletary.org

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

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 Stateôs 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.

July 4th Boat Parade

Donôt 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 5th, if the boat parade has to be cancelled on July 4th. Check out the pictures in this newsletter and the video footage at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT3dDtS1JB8, compliments of Don Swatik.

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The Singletary Sun

The Captainôs Corner

Question : Iôm 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 ñdrawdownò. 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 (5-7days) 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 flection 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.

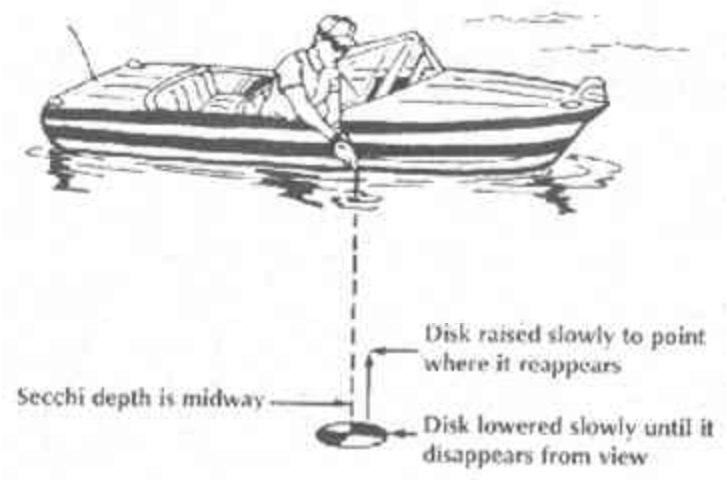
I hop this information helped you to understand why we have historically used drawdown as a water quality management tool for Lake Singletary.

Lake Singletary Water Testing

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

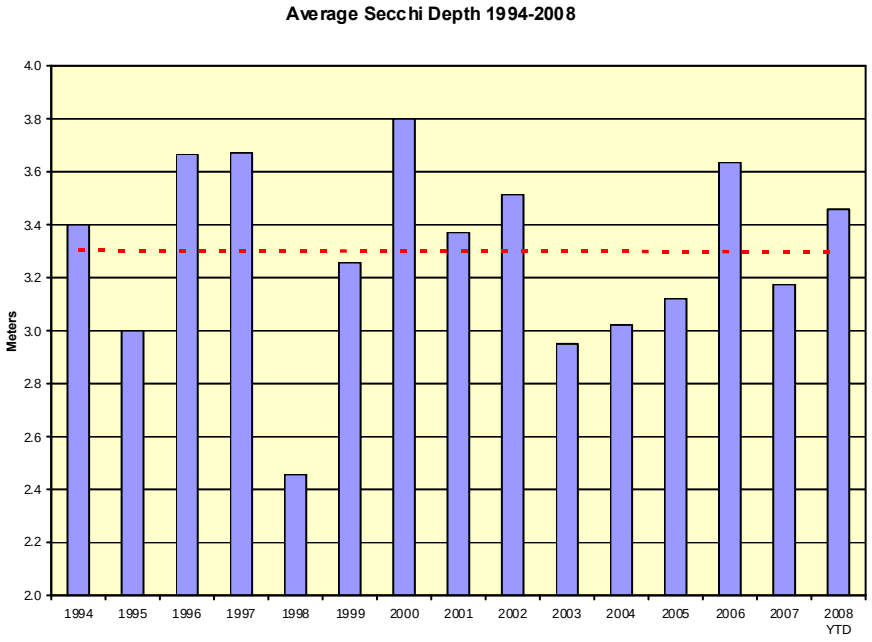
One of the most important physical characteristics of a lake is water clarity, because it gives an indication of the overall water quality. High levels of nutrients cause dense algae blooms in a lake. The resulting brown or green color reduces water transparency significantly. In general, better clarity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

The adjacent chart shows average Secchi disk clarity for Lake Singletary form 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 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. Theyôve got 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 sawbellys, 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 Singletaryôs 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

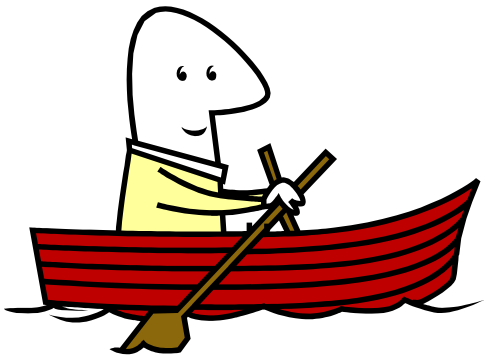
LARSON

JULY
4
Independence Day

GLASTRON
MS 5610 ZC

Rafting Party

2008



Summer Fun