SINGLETARY SUN

Spring 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

Hi all and welcome to the 2008 summer season. As of this writing, we anxiously await having nice weather to enjoy our beautiful lake. Our association has had a very active period since our last newsletter. To begin, last fall we had an aggressive drawdown in an attempt to give as much of the fanwort the deep freeze as mother nature would allow in order to remove as much from our lake as possible. This form of control is considered a very effective way to manage fanwort infestation and we plan to continue this practice going forward since there is little or no cost and historically very good results. This past winters results will not be determined until the ñgrowingò season when we use our under water camera to survey probably sometime in mid to late June.

Perhaps even bigger news is that as a result of the efforts of Representative Jennifer Callahan, we are in the process of contracting through the town of Millbury for design and replacement of the dam. This has the hopes of being manufactured now for installation this fall. This new dam will be made of stainless steal and should protect/regulate our lake for generations to come. This project is being almost entirely funded by earmark legislation sponsored by Representative Callahan. Our thanks to her and her staff for the support. This project could represent the single most significant accomplishment of our association to-date.

With the completion of phase one of a group of new protective storm drains, the Millbury sewer project finishing with some of our members hooking up, and a new state of the art dam, the preservation of our lake takes on a new meaning.

On the social front, the Earth Day group once again did a great job. We had some 19 members clean all the area roads around our lake and the area looks great. Hats off to all who gave their time to clean up other people's mess. The Spring Wing Ding could well have been the best ever, we had some 90+ people attend, meet new and old neighbors and friends, and win some great raffle prizes. Another great job by our social committee.

Our association was also well represented at the Marion's Camp design meeting and I hope you will all continue to be part of the planning process for this major facility on our lake.

Final piece of news, at the two recent annual town meetings we were successful in placing articles on both Millbury and Sutton town warrants and the voters agreed to approve both articles giving us $5,000 from each town to help defray weed management. Lots left to do and I would like to thank all that support and contribute to our terrific association especially those who do real work to make it happen. Participate in the events they are lots of fun, volunteer to help with the heavy lifting. Thanks to all.

Tim Vanderlinden

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:
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508-865-0741
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508-865-7839
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508-865-1016
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508-865-2581
Ginny Picking
508-865-3859
Dave Rudge
508-865-6537
Mike Salem
508-865-3761
John Silverberg
508-865-8130

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

Water Level Spring 2008

What a difference a year makes!!! Just last ago we were doing rain dances all spring and we were just praying the lake would refill from the winter drawdown in order to be at optimum water for June 1. This year we have been letting water out for weeks in order to keep the level below the top of our emergency spillway. As always, Dave Rudge has done a great job watching and regulating the water level. As we open the summer season we will bet at optimum water. This year as you may know, we are working very hard to secure a whole new dam mechanism that will be at no cost to either Sutton or Millbury or LSWA. The current plan calls for what might be a slightly early drawdown to reduce the water level in time for the new dam to be installed. If we pull it off, this new dam promises to be our biggest accomplishment to-date and will last for generations to comeé .. We will keep you posted.

Rafting Party

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH

Yes, once again, it is the infamous B.Y.O.B (Bring Your Own Buoys) Rafting Party, which will be held on Saturday, August 9th starting at 3pm, It starts near Rock Island and ends up who knows where! So bring your own beverages and favorite dish to share and we will see you there!!!

2008 Calendar of Events

JULY 4TH, FRIDAY
BOAT PARADE 8PM

AUGUST 9TH SATURDAY
RAFTING PARTY 3PM START

AUGUST 27 WEDNESDAY
ANNUAL LSWA MEETING AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH, SUTTON AT 7PM

MARION'S Camp Update

Recently, the town held a public meeting to discuss the future of Marionôs camp. Thanks to the great turnout of LSWA members, we were able to influence the overall direction of the campôs future and show our support for improving the site. Many thanks to Jennifer Callahan, our State Representative, for securing a $100,000 grant for the camp.

The meeting was well attended and very positive overall. Many town officials were in attendance with representation from the selectmanôs office, recreation committee, planning, board of health and others as well as many residents. The overall consensus was that Marionôs is a pristine parcel that is an asset to the town which has been neglected for decades and needs direction, improvement and a much bigger commitment from the town and its residents. With that as a backdrop, the meeting attendees broke up into groups of about 5-10 to óbrainstormô ideas to improve the camp. The information gathered from the groups was submitted to the firm contracted by the town to formalize a plan for the camp. While I was only privileged to conversations in my group, I think I can safely say that the overall sentiment of the groups was to keep the camp primarily open space, perhaps with a walking trail along the shoreline, improvements to septic and potable water, erosion control, better access, parking and improved security. Other ideas were kayaking lessons, swimming lessons, and a shore fishing area for those of us not fortunate enough to have direct lake access would be appropriate for all residents.

All in all, we are making progress in improving the camp. The planning firm hired by the town will be holding another meeting soon to discuss the input given during the meeting mentioned above. Iôll email all of you when I know the date. Please make every effort to attend as no one will be effected more by the long term direction of the camp than the LSWA members.

If you have any questions, feel free to call John Silverberg at 508-865-8130.

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The Singletary Sun

2008 Annual Spring Wing Ding

One might have thought it was a ñCinco De Mayoò celebration (see pictures). The Spring Wing Ding was held at the Dudley Gendron Post in Sutton on May, 3rd and everyone in attendance can agree, it was a BLAST! We got to meet new lake residents, Karen and Brad Bumpus, Cindy and John Charest, and Amy and Craig Fleming, and see those we had not seen all winter. The Italian Buffet was delicious thanks to Brothers II catering of Millbury. Thanks, also, to Ron and Donna Dickey who provided the tunes we danced to all night long. The raffle was a huge success thanks to our sponsors. Our Millbury sponsors were: Calabria Ristorante, Direnzo Towing and Recovery, Millbury Fish and Chips, Scales Seafood and Ice Cream, Superior Oil and the Wright Place. Sponsors from Sutton included: Blackstone National Golf Club, Great Canadian Canoe & Kayak and Heritage Recreation Supplies. Our Grafton sponsor was Paramount Realty and those from Worcester included: Ballard Mack, Linderôs Inc., Ninety Nine Restaurant, Smittyôs Auto SPA, Marine USA Inc. and Viva Bene Restaurant. For those that like to plan ahead, next yearôs date has already been set for Saturday, May 9th, 2009. Hope to see you there next year!!

LSWA **Membership News**

Spring has brought some nice weather to Lake Singletary and we are looking forward to fun-filled summer activities. We would like to thank the 93 lake residents who have already paid their LSWA dues for the year 2008. Most have generously chosen to contribute more than the $75.00 membership fee! We encourage all those who have not yet paid their 2008 dues to do so promptly.

Dues can be mailed to:
LSWA
C/O Benjamin Insurance Company
497 Central Turnpike
Sutton, MA 01590

Membership for 2007 set a record with 146 of the 161 households participating. Let's make membership 100% for 2008! The LSWA needs your support to keep our lake clean and

Earth Day Clean up
April 19th, 2008

Once again, courageous volunteers gathered at the boat ramp at 8 am with one mission in mind, well maybe two; cleaning up our watershed area and eating donuts and drinking coffee. The weather was perfect and what great enthusiasm we all had. Thanks to all that participated; John Anderson, Rose Direnzo, Mona and Paul Kawolis, Cindy and Ta King, Brian Leterneau, Vivian and Paul Marcell, Kyrenya McNamara, Laurie, Brian, Anthony, and Kyle Mellen, Sue Mong, Mike Salem, and John Silverberg. A special thanks goes to our ñJuniorò volunteers, Julia and Patrick McNamara.

Fourth of July Boat Parade

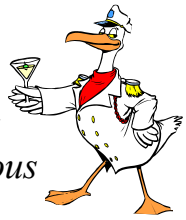
START 8PM-SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LAKE

DECORATE YOUR BOAT AND JOIN THE FLOTIILA
OR ENJOY THE PARADE AND WATCH FROM THE SHORE!

RAINDATE IS SATURDAY JULY 5TH AT 8PM

The Captain's Corner

WAKE UP TO WAKE HAZARDS



QUESTION: *Sometimes boats speed by my dock, close enough to cause my boat (Presumably tied up to your dock) and dock to rock severely and bang into each other. Are there any laws that covers this potentially dangerous operation of a boat?*

ANSWER: This question raises several issues worth reviewing and sharing with the member ship. First, Massachusetts statues refer to operating a boat at ñheadway speed when within 150 feet of a marina, ramp, raft or float é or shoreline used as a swimming areaò. By definition ñheadway speedò is ñthe minimum speed a vessel may be operated to maintain steerage, but not to exceed 6 miles per hourò. It sounds as if speed and distance from your dock may be in violation. Also if the boat is pulling someone (i.e. a skier or tuber) regulation requires the operator to ñremain at least 150 feet from structures on the shorelineò, twice the length of a standard tow rope. Another rule that may apply is the inland waters maximum speed limit of 45 mile per hour, unless otherwise posted for a lower speed by local regulation.

And finally, a boat operator is legally responsible for any damage caused by the wake of his or her boat. This may be the most important operating guideline to abide by from a legal and courtesy standpoint. We should all ñwatch our wakeò, using proper speed and trim when operating near docks, shorelines or other boats. This is especially true when operating near boats that are rafted together on the lake, when they are most vulnerable to wake damage. On many summer week ends boats can be found rafted in the southern end of Lake Singletary near Rock Island, it is important to keep our wake to a minimum in this area when rafting is observed. Most boats produce their maximum wake off plane at mid-range speeds when the bow tends to ride high. A smaller wake is generated at a higher speed when the boat comes on-plane, and the minimum wake is produced at slowest or headway speed.

Letôs all boat responsibly and courteously and keep an eye on our wake, as we all do our best to make this season safe on the water.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO " THE CAPTAIN "
VIA OUR ASSOCIATIONS WEBSITE:
www.lakesingletary.org

Wing Ding

Wing Ding

Winter Fun

Earth Day

Before

After