

SINGLETARY SUN

Spring 2012

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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Welcome to the latest challenge. The lake subject that seems to be what everyone is talking about is WATER LEVEL. Our 2012 season is literally inching toward opening day. In order to inform all our members with accurate information I thought I would offer the following. We started the annual drawdown on the regular fall schedule. We drew the lake down to a level not quite as low as the previous years. The dam was monitored and closed to add water earlier than normal due to no snow conditions. Then no rain came. So here we are at this writing some 30 inches below our target to begin the year. If it makes anyone feel better (and it won't) we are surely not alone. Many if not all area lakes, ponds and streams are in the same situation.

Our regular lake business is moving quite nicely with a very well attended Earth Day clean up and a sell out crowd at the Spring Wing Ding. This spring event has become a very popular event with neighbors and guests making it an annual event.

Our most recent initiative is that we have applied for funds using a grant program called 604B that we hope to use to both update and expand our formal Lake Management Plan. This formal plan was last done in 1995.

With all the advances in technology and lake engineering we felt that our association will be well served with a revised/new plan to guide the association for several years to come in the stewardship of our lake. The grant was submitted and we hope for approval in the near future so the work might begin. The plan will include among other things in depth studies of the condition of the lake and impact and assessment of existing and future challenges to be managed. The budget for a project with this scope is likely to be \$30 to \$50 thousand dollars. Fingers crossed.

The weed treatment season is around the corner and low water levels do not help our cause. Low water equals more light on more lake bottom which may mean more weed issues. On the fanwort front the new chemical Clipper still being approved in Massachusetts is having great success in other states controlling fanwort. So we continue to wait for the approval from our state.

Well that seems like enough for now. Our association continues to be healthy and active and for that we thank all of you. Please take a moment and pay your dues if you have not. If you have thanks for your support.

Tim Vanderlinden

Calendar of Events

July 4th Wednesday- Boat Parade 8pm

August 4th Saturday- Rafting Party 3pm
Rain date: August 11th 3pm

August 29th Wednesday- Annual Membership Meeting 7pm
St. Marks Church Basement

Summer Rafting Party

The Summer Rafting Party is scheduled for Saturday August 4th at 3pm with a rain date of Saturday August 11 at 3pm. Come out and raft up with your neighbors next to rock island. Bring your favorite dish to share and don't forget to **B.Y.O.B!** (Bring Your Own Buoys!)

JULY 4TH BOAT PARADE

Start gathering your patriotic decorations! The Annual boat parade will be the at the same time, same place as years past. On Wednesday July 4th at 8 pm near the southwest corner of the lake. Find your inverters and get your red, white and blue lights out! We can't wait to see all the wonderful decorations and the cheering spectators!

E-mail Address Request

Are you on the e-mail list? Has your e-mail address changed in the past year? We regularly communicate via email for event reminders, drawdown timing, weed treatment timing and electronic versions of the Singletary Sun!. 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 with Add Me in the subject and get all the latest news!

Membership Committee News

Even though we had a winter that wasn't, we can think of having fun once again if Mother Nature cooperates and gives us plenty of rain to fill up the lake! Be one of the first to support our beautiful Lake Singletary by becoming a dues paying member of the LSWA.

You should have received your 2012 dues request in the mail. Thanks to everyone who has already paid their dues for 2012!

Membership in LSWA is now \$100.00. Many of your friends and neighbors generously contribute larger amounts. As always the funds raised by the LSWA membership goes entirely to maintaining our lake and surrounding areas. We hope that we will have 100% membership for 2012!

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

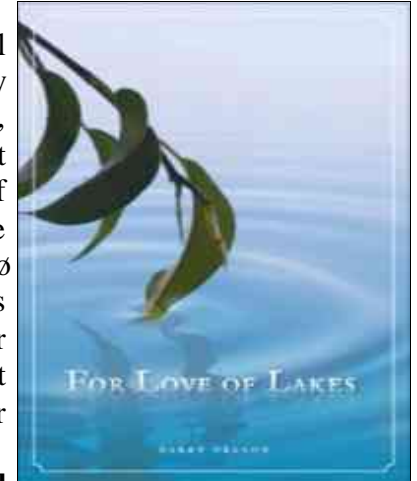
Sutton Town Meeting

The LSWA had an Article on the Warrant at the Town of Sutton Annual Meeting on Monday May 14, 2012. The Article on the Agenda, which passed, gives us \$5,000 from the town, taken from boat excise taxes, to help cover weed control costs.

BOOK REVIEW “For Love of Lakes” by Darby Nelson

Description:

America has more than 130,000 lakes of significant size. Ninety percent of all Americans live within fifty miles of a lake, and our 1.8 billion trips to watery places make them our top vacation choice. Yet despite this striking popularity, more than 45 percent of surveyed lakes and 80 percent of urban lakes do not meet water quality standards. *For Love of Lakes* weaves a delightful tapestry of history, science, emotion, and poetry for all who love lakes or enjoy nature writing. *For Love of Lakes* is an affectionate account documenting our species' long relationship with lakes — their glacial origins, Thoreau and his environmental message, and the major perceptual shifts and advances in our understanding of lake ecology. This is a necessary and thoughtful book that addresses the stewardship void while providing improved understanding of our most treasured natural feature.



“For Love of Lakes” is available in on Amazon.com in paperback and Kindle editions and at Barnesandnoble.com in paperback and Nook editions.

Review:

For Love of Lakes by Darby Nelson (Michigan State University Press, 2012) provides a distinctive overview of the conditions of and in numerous lakes and ponds across the north central US and southwest Ontario. In his book, Mr. Darby, who holds a doctorate degree in aquatic ecology, and from his 35+ year career recounts his various limnological surveys and studies of Lake Winnipeg, Rainy Lake, Walden Pond, Flint Pond, the Boundary Waters, Lake Mendota as well as many others. Extending notions from early ecological pioneers like Agassiz, Leopold, Lindeman, Birge, and especially Henry David Thoreau, he also references more significant research conducted in the late 1990s and early 2000s to shed contemporary light on and understanding of his field observations. His basic premise of the book explores what he refers to as “the love lakes-but-degraded them paradox.” Man’s history reflects this conflict in that on one hand, lakes can inspire poetry and provide food, and on the other hand they may be clean and healthy or choked with silt and weeds with only small open pools here and there.

It is however underneath a lake or pond’s surface that Darby describes a separate world unto itself, composed of millions of plankton, microcrustaceans, daphnids and cyanobacteria amongst the thousands of other plants and animals. He assesses and records the impacts of phosphorus, mercury and acid rain. He talks of one lake, Lake Nellie, nestled in Ontario’s La Cloche Mountains that is so acidic that absolutely nothing grows there, though in nearby lakes there is very little evidence of sterility, because they are not surrounded by bedrock and soils composed of quartzite, which repels acid absorption. His Secchi disk, vivid at more than 50+ feet. In his home state of Minnesota, he with his beloved wife, Geri, harvest wild rice like the native Ojibwa in Hayden Lake once did; he nets and dissects lake herring, called tullibee, in Lake Itasca, which die *en masse* because of summer deoxygenation; he observes in Cedar Bog Lake how invasives like loosestrife encroach a meter or more a year of matted and decomposing vegetation. His departments of research reach deeply into how a lake’s interdependent components, including man, affect entire ecosystems. His purview extends across the full range of lakes and ponds’ micro- and macroscopic biotic communities, reflecting on their smell or tannic appearance, cataloging the diversity of their botanical and zoological species, describing the chemistry of their waters and the air and ambience of their viewscapes.

Throughout the book, Darby draws particularly upon the ideas, which Thoreau had *or would have*, especially in the comparative observations of his visits to Massachusetts’ Walden and Flint Ponds. Though vastly different in depth and shoreline, water clarity is similar at 15’ On numerous occasions Professor Darby quotes Thoreau who says, “A man sees only what concerns him.” I take from the book’s last chapter: “Mountains may last for eons of geologic time, but lakes for only a geological moment. It is [mankind’s] cosmic good fortune to be on earth at such a moment.” Absent love, lake protection is an impossible mission. Absent understanding, lake protection is a fool’s dream.” Science and religion become one emotion. If you love lakes and ponds, this book is a must-read.

Fishing Tournament Schedule

According to the Massachusetts Office of Fishing and Boating Access Summer Event Permit Report the following Bass Fishing Tournaments are scheduled for this spring/ summer on Lake Singletary:

Date	Time	Group	Max Boats
Sunday June 3	7 am - 3 pm	RI Bass Anglers	12
Sunday June 10	6 am - 2 pm	Silver City Bass	12
Tuesday June 12	6 am - 3 pm	Lunker Landers	12
Sunday June 24	6 am – 2pm	Norfolk County Bass Anglers	12
Sunday July 8	7 am – 3 pm	RI Bass Anglers	8
Sunday July 15	7 am – 3 pm	Weed Hawg Anglers	8
Saturday July 21	7 am – 3 pm	Assabet Valley Bassmasters	8
Sunday August 5	6 am – 2 pm	Happy Hookers Bass Club	8
Sunday August 12	7 am – 3 pm	Classic Bass Anglers	8
Sunday August 19	6 am – 2 pm	Greater Lowell Fly Fishers	8
Tuesday August 21	6 am- 2 pm	Lunker Landers	8
Sunday August 26	6 am – 2 pm	Bass Bums	8
Sunday September 9	7 am – 3 pm	Wayne Cooper	12
Saturday September 15	6 am – 1 pm	Bushwackers Bass Club	12
Sunday September 16	7 am – 3 pm	Baystate Bass Anglers	12
Saturday September 22	7 am – 3 pm	Worcester County Bassers	12

Boat Massachusetts 2012

BOAT MASSACHUSETTS is a state and nationally approved boating safety course, concentrating on the equipment and operating guidelines needed to enjoy boating in a safe and responsible way. All graduates in the 12 through 15 year-old age group will be issued a safety certificate allowing them to operate a motorboat without adult supervision, as required by state law. The same is true for 16 and 17 year old youth who wish to operate a personal watercraft (jet ski, wave runner, etc.) The course runs 10-12 hours in length. The normal format is 5-6 two hours classes, though this may vary. All classes are free of charge. Classes are for adults and youth 12 years of age and older. Family participation is encouraged and has proven to be very rewarding.

For a listing of courses and more information go to <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/courselist.htm>

Massachusetts Boating Laws

Revised in January 2012

From <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/boatinglawssummary.pdf>

Minimum Age Restrictions. No person under 12 years of age may operate a motorboat, unless accompanied on-board and directly supervised by a competent person 18 years of age or older. Personal watercraft (PWC) users must still be at least 16 years of age in order to operate, with no exceptions.

Safety Education Certification. Youth who are between 12 and 15 years of age must complete an approved basic boating course in order to operate a motorboat without adult supervision. Upon successful completion of such a course, students are issued a state "boating safety certificate" which must be in the possession of the certified operator when underway. Personal watercraft users who are 16 or 17 years of age must also complete such a boating course. Youth less than 16 years of age are not allowed to operate personal watercraft.

Accident Reporting. The operator of any motorboat involved in an accident which results in personal injury, death, or property

damage (over \$500) shall immediately notify the MA Environmental Police and file the appropriate accident report within the required time frame. (2 days-fatality; 5 days - all other accidents)

Safety Equipment. Most of the state equipment carriage requirements are similar to federal laws. This primary list includes life preservers, fire extinguishers, signaling devices, visual distress signals, and navigation lights. In Massachusetts, life preservers are required to be worn by: (1) youth less than 12 years of age (2) personal watercraft users (3) water-skiers (4) canoeists/kayakers from September 15 - May 15. A boat owner or a boat's operator is responsible to ensure that passengers on-board wear life preservers as required. Additionally, the state requires that all motorboats (with the exception of personal watercraft) be equipped with an anchor, manual bailer, and line. A paddle or an oar is required on boats less than 16 feet in length. Motorboats towing skiers must also be equipped with a boarding ladder. Registration and numbering of all boats powered by machinery is required.

Prohibited Operation

The following types of operation are extremely unsafe and are prohibited:

- Operating any vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs. A blood alcohol concentration of .08 BAC is the current standard of intoxication in Massachusetts. Penalties have increased substantially and may include the loss of a motor vehicle driver's license.
- Operating a motorboat within 150 feet of a swimming area, whether public or private.
- Operating at an excessive speed considering weather conditions, boat traffic, and other hazards. For inland waters, operating at a speed greater than 45 mph is considered negligent operation.
- Operating a motorboat without properly working lights. Operating a motorboat during the nighttime while towing water-skiers, tubers, etc.
- Operating at greater than headway speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of a swimmer, water-skier, mooring area, marina, boat launch, or when the operator's vision is obscured in any way.
- Operating in an overloaded condition (carrying total weight that exceeds capacity plate recommendations or is excessive considering water conditions)
- Operating with passengers on the bow, gunwales, or any other place where there may be a chance of falling overboard.

Personal Watercraft Operation Personal watercraft (PWC) are considered motorboats by law and must comply with all boating laws and navigation rules, including the speed and operation provisions above. Additionally, PWC users must adhere to state regulations specific to personal watercraft operation:

- Wear an approved life jacket (PFD) at all times (operator and passengers).
- Attach the safety lanyard to the operator and the cutoff/kill switch.
- Always operate at slow, no-wake speed (6 mph or less) within 150 feet of the following:
 - Swimmer
 - Water-skier
 - Raft or float
 - Shoreline
 - Boat launch
 - Moored or docked boat

You must not operate:

- If less than 16 years old
- Between sunset and sunrise
- On waters under 75 acres
- Under the influence of alcohol
- At high speed in congested areas
- While towing persons on skis, tubes, etc.

This is only a summary of boating laws. All boaters must know and observe all local, state, and federal laws. For further information on boating laws, boating education, or to obtain accident report forms contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police at (508) 564-4961 or visit our website at www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dle

BOAT SMART FROM THE START- WEAR YOUR LIFEJACKET!!

Earth Day Clean-up

On Saturday morning, 4/21, 15 eager volunteers showed up at the boat ramp with gloves in hand. After having donuts and coffee, teams dispersed around our lake's watershed area and filled trash bag after trash bag. We would like to thank the following people that volunteered that day; Mike and Rose Salem, Paul Marcell, Wayne and Ann Junnilla, Michael LeBlanc, Ken and Karen LeBlanc, John and Cindy Charest, Lynn Whalen, Bob Symonick, Letty Wheelock, Bob Strong and Paul and Mona Kawolis. Thanks to all for their great effort!!!



Wing-Ding

We had another great turn out this year at our annual Spring Wing Ding, held at the Dudley Gendron in Sutton on Saturday 4/12/12. Lake residents and their friends attended and all had fun socializing with each other. We ate an incredible Italian buffet that was catered by Brothers II from Millbury. Then we had our infamous raffle, where 30 prizes were given away. We especially thank the local businesses that donated prizes; Linders Inc., Marine USA and Piccolo's Restaurant in Worcester, Drenzo Towing and Recovery, Scales Seafood and Ice Cream, Calabria Ristorante, and Paramount Realty in Millbury, and Blackstone National Golf Course in Sutton. The evening continued and ended with dancing to the tunes played by DJ Ron Dickey. And yes, Alice did make her annual appearance.











