

SINGLETARY SUN

THE VOICE OF THE LAKE SINGLETARY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The long cold winter is finally passing off our stern, soon to be just a fading memory over the horizon. After several short, false starts, it seems that spring finally arrived at Lake Singletary. The spring is a harbinger, heralding the arrival of our most active season, both in and around the lake. Water from the melting snow and early rains filled the lake as the surrounding flora has burst into vibrant life after a long dormant winter.

The warm season ahead affords many social and recreational opportunities centered on and around our lake. The dramatic increase in activity on the water places an added responsibility on all of us, to be aware of the additional safety concerns for ourselves, families and friends, during this busy season. We all must operate intelligently, and work together, towards the goal of another safe year on our lake. As boaters, we should pay particular attention to our wakes, to avoid damage to shorelines, structures, and other boats rafted together, which are especially vulnerable to damage. In Massachusetts, as in most states, a boat operator is legally responsible for any damage caused by their wake. Let’s all take a moment to think safety, before we engage in any activity in or around the water.

While all of us look forward to warmer water and the aquatic activities it provides, unfortunately that same warmth and sunshine promote the proliferation of invasive weeds in our lake. It seems that every year, we expend the majority of our treasury to combat these non-native invading weeds. This year we are anticipating another major expenditure for weed and algae control. To help the association with additional funding required, beyond our dues collection, we again submitted warrant articles to both Sutton and Millbury, asking for \$7,500.00 from each town. Millbury failed to fund our request, while Sutton approved funding of the article. On behalf of all our members, I would like to thank the officials and residents of Sutton, who realized the importance of maintaining this tremendous natural resource. They understand that Lake Singletary provides public access for swimming, boating, fishing and many other activities and that maintaining the quality of our lake enhances property values, providing the towns with substantial additional tax revenues. Particularly, I want to thank the members of the Sutton Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee, Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator Jim Smith, for their unanimous support.

For anyone interested in learning some of the ‘science’ behind the money we spend on the care and feeding of our lake, I invite and encourage you to attend the presentation of our recently completed lake management plan. This is an update of our 1995 management plan, and incorporates nearly twenty years of water quality data collected by the association. The presentation will take place on the third floor of the Sutton Town Hall on Monday, June 23rd at 7:00 pm, and will be given by Robert Hartzel, CLM, CPESC of Geosyntec Consultants.

Finally, I want to wish everyone, a happy, healthy and safe season on our great lake.

Paul Kawolis, LSWA President



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME/ PLACE
Presentation of Lake Mgmt Plan	June 23, 2014	7:00 pm Sutton Town Hall
Fourth of July Boat Parade	Friday, July 4, 2014	8:00 pm Meet at Southwest end of lake
Rafting Party	Saturday August 2, 2014 Rain date August 9th	3:00 pm Rock Island
Annual Membership Meeting	Wednesday August 27th	7 pm St. Marks Church Basement



“Couldn’t Wait For Summer” Tailgating on Rock Island, Superbowl Sunday February 2, 2014



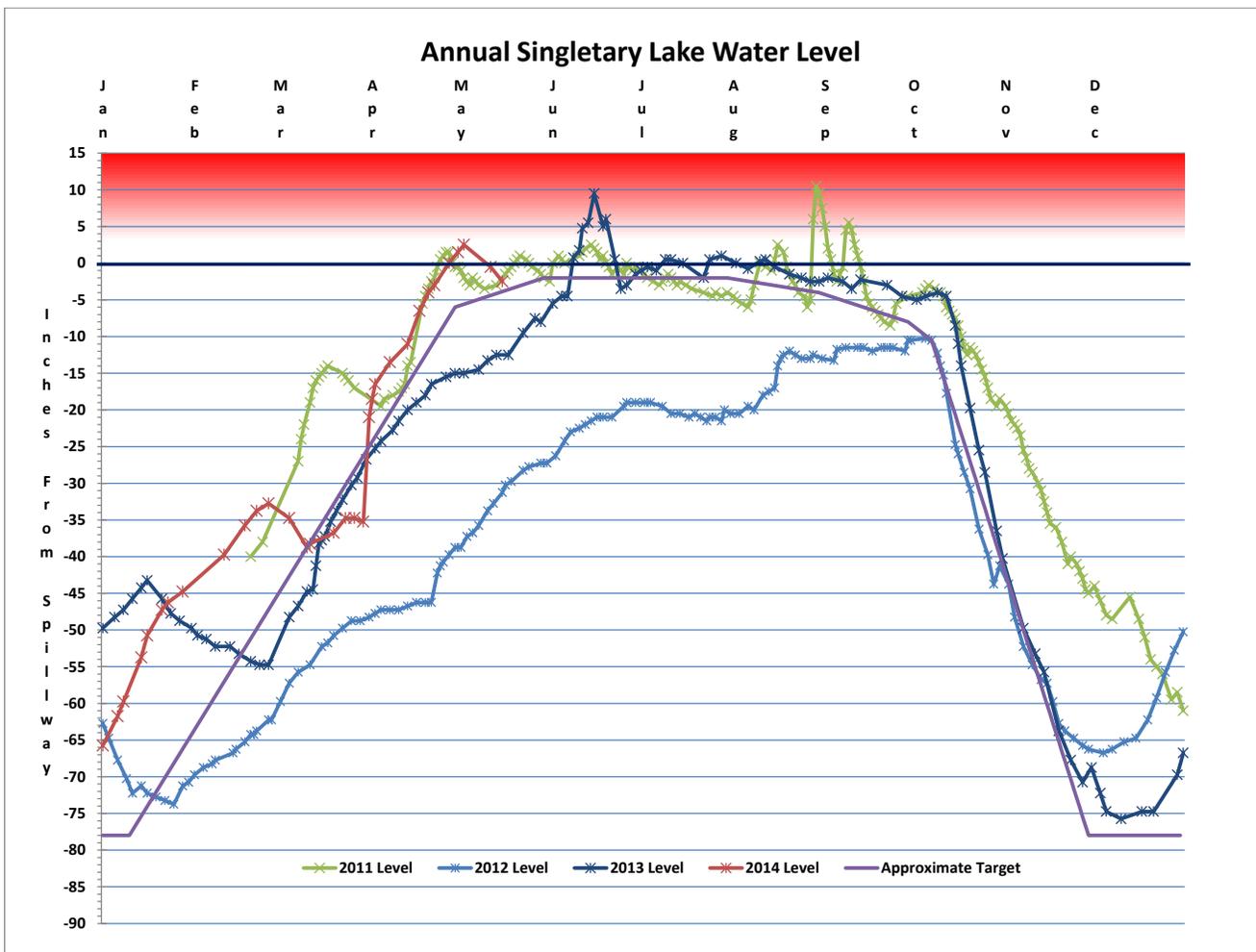
WATER LEVEL

WATER LEVEL

Not all that long ago, as we all anticipated the terminus of a winter that would not seem to end, I thought the title of this blurb might have to be 'ICE LEVEL'. Fortunately, warmer temperatures finally arrived and the runoff from the melting ice and snow, along with the late April showers, filled our lake.

This past fall we were able to draw the lake down, exposing shallow areas to the weed killing effects of a hard freeze. In the next few months we will be able to gauge the effectiveness of this process based on the weed density.

By the beginning of May, our water level was at the top of the spillway structure, and has since receded several inches. Hopefully Mother Nature cooperates and we are able to maintain adequate water level throughout the season.



MEMBERSHIP & WEED TREATMENT

WEED TREATMENT UPDATE by Matthew Salem, Aquatic Control Technology

Aquatic Control Technology has been managing Singletary Lake for a majority of the past two decades. We've seen non-native milfoil densities decrease to near non-nuisance levels requiring only small-scale, annual maintenance treatments and native pondweed cover increase creating beneficial wildlife habitat without impairing recreational pursuits. Fanwort has become the new focus of management and thwarting its spread while reducing its density is paramount.

We work in conjunction with the LSWA Board of Directors to establish the scope and scale of all management practices undertaken on the lake. These have included herbicide and algaecide treatments, diver hand-pulling of invasive species, qualitative yearly inspections, and quantitative, detailed surveys, in addition to the annual drawdown. Fanwort control was the topic of discussion when we met with the BoD in late April. Both parties agree that the new US EPA/State registered herbicide, Clipper, may be a useful new tool to manage the fanwort infestation. Unfortunately, current restrictions on Clipper applications are limiting its use to manage fanwort on a lake-wide scale. ACT, state regulators, and industry professionals are working together to have some of the restrictions modified in order to allow us to manage your lake more effectively.



We at ACT hope you have a safe and fun-filled summer enjoying one of the top lakes in the region.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

WE MADE IT THROUGH!!!!

The long cold winter has finally come to an end and we can begin to enjoy activities on the lake for another year. You should have received your 2014 dues request in the mail. Membership in LSWA is \$100.00. Many of your friends and neighbors generously contribute larger amounts. As always the funds raised by LSWA membership goes entirely to maintaining our beautiful Lake Singletary.

We mistakenly omitted John Murray from the Membership Honor Roll for 2013 included in the Fall 2013 newsletter. Sorry about that John and thanks for being a member!

Thanks to the 106 members who have already paid their dues for this year! We hope to have 100% membership for 2014! 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



LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Lake Management Plan

We have finalized our new Management Plan! As most of you know, our last plan which was completed in 1995, needed to be updated to incorporate our 20 years of volunteer water quality data and utilize the latest science. We feel that Geosyntec Consultants did a great job on this project and gave prompt detailed responses and revisions from our questions on the draft. This plan will allow us to focus our efforts on the most important issues and provide a basis for future grant awards.

The good news is that the results indicate that Singletary is in a better state than the last plan indicated, mainly due to more accurate phosphorous analysis results. Geosyntec also found a couple of errors in the 1995 document. A major difference between the old and new plans is that the new estimate of the amount of phosphorous contributed by working septic systems is much less than the 1995 estimate.

During our monthly analysis, we perform a dissolved oxygen profile at the deepest part of the lake. During the summer months, the oxygen is depleted in the lower reaches of the lake as nutrient rich sediment oxidizes. This is bad for the fish that like the cold deep water. During review of the draft plan, we told Geosyntec that our "gut feel" was that the low dissolved oxygen lower lake layer was growing with time although this is difficult for us to actually measure. To check this, they did an extensive data analysis at no extra cost. The good news is that there is no statistically significant increase in low DO during the years that we have been monitoring. More data could provide a more definitive answer, but if the increase had been large, it should have shown up in their analysis.

The following is a partial list of goals for LSWA from the plan:

- Continue water quality monitoring, drawdown, and aquatic vegetation programs
- Analyze sediment samples in deep part of lake to investigate oxygen depletion
- Perform a weed survey in the Stockwell ponds
- Investigate watershed protection and low impact development bylaws
- Reduce nutrient inputs using 319 grants for road drainage improvements, rain gardens, etc.

The document also contains a field guide to the plants in Lake Singletary that will allow us all to identify the names of the plants and whether that are native plants or non-native invasives. The document "The Lake Singletary Trophic Status Model and Management Plan" can be viewed on the LSWA website, www.lakesingletary.org.

Robert Hartzel of Geosyntec Consultants will be presenting a summary of the plan and will answer any questions on June 23 at 7:00 PM at the Sutton Town Hall.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY COMING SOON!

The LSWA is currently working on a Lake Association directory that should be available to members this fall. The first version will contain basic public information such as names and addresses and email contacts, unless specifically requested withheld. We hope the membership will find this a convenient way to connect with their neighbors around the lake.



SPRING WING DING

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Our annual Spring Wing Ding was once again held at the Dudley Gendron in Sutton on Saturday May 10th. After the brutal winter we had, it was nice to get out and see our lake neighbors and their friends. All enjoyed a delicious Italian buffet that was catered by Brothers II from Millbury. We had our infamous raffle where great prizes were given away. We would especially thank the local businesses that donated prizes; Linders Inc. and Marine USA both in Worcester, Dorenzo Service Center, Clearview Country Club, Scales Seafood and Ice Cream, A & D Pizza, Calabria Ristorante, and Millbury Fish and Chip, all from Millbury, Heritage Recreation



and Blackstone National, both from Sutton, Lakeview Marina in Webster and Colony Liquors in Auburn. The dance floor then opened up and we danced to the tunes specially prepared by Diane and John Greenlaw which of course, included "Alice" using a Bose sound system provided by Ken Rapp. Thanks to all who attended and all who helped make this event a success and a lot of fun!



MORE WING DING PICTURES





Butler Farm Bark Park

Dog lovers from Millbury and Sutton have an exciting opportunity to convert this underutilized meadow into a 1.5-acre haven where dogs and their people can run, play and socialize in a secure environment.

Plans for the dog park include an ADA-accessible parking area, surfacing, fencing, a separate play area for small, old and timid dogs, agility equipment, benches, a pavilion for shade, dog refuse stations, and a dog wash station.

The dog park will be located at the Butler Farm- a 50-acre Town-owned property located at 44 Singletary Road in Millbury. Well-behaved, licensed dogs from Millbury and Sutton will be welcome at the park.

How Much Will It Cost?

Dog park design, a cost of approximately \$10,000, was fully financed through a private grant from an anonymous donor. The design will be finalized in May 2014. 90% of dog park construction, an out-of-pocket cost of approximately \$120,000, will be funded by the same anonymous donor upon their approval of dog park design and the successful collection of the municipal share. The municipal share, a sum of approximately \$12,000, is being raised by a small group of dedicated dog lovers known as the Bark Park Planning Committee.

Won't You Help?

Please join the effort to develop a dog park at Butler Farm by making your tax-deductible contribution today. Time is of the essence! Our goal is to raise the Town's share by July 1st so that construction can begin during Summer 2014. To date, the Committee has raised more than \$8,500. Please make contributions payable to "Town of Millbury" for the benefit of the "Butler Farm Bark Park", c/o Laurie Connors, Town Planner, Municipal Office Building, 127 Elm Street, Millbury, MA 01527 or by visiting <http://www.gofundme.com/barkpark>.

Please also visit www.butlerfarmdogpark.com/ to view the preliminary dog park design, read about upcoming fundraising activities and learn about our buy-a-brick and buy-a-bench programs.

EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP

This was the first year we had to postpone our scheduled Earth Day clean-up day of April 26th due to rain. The rain date did not prevent a great turn out on the following Saturday, May 3rd. As usual, we started at the boat ramp at 8am and after having donuts and coffee, teams set out all around our lake's watershed area. In record time, we were able to clean up our watershed. We would like to thank all the following people that volunteered that day; Lee Carman, John Charest, Jeff Clark, The Esler family, Diane and John Greenlaw, Janet Hammarstrom, Mona and Paul Kawolis, Cindy and Mike LeBlanc, Vivian and Paul Marcell, Laurie and Brian Mellen, Dan McNamara, Lynn Olson, Karen and Ken Rapp, Lynn and Giles Whalen, Letty Wheelock and Bob Strong. Thanks to all for your great effort!!!



YOUR ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

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THE SINGLETARY SUN

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The Singletary Sun is published by the Lake Singletary Watershed Association (LSWA) biannually in the Spring and Fall. Past editions can be found at www.lakesingletary.org. Contact us individually at the numbers above or at lswabod@gmail.com. Send article and photo submissions to lswabod@gmail.com. To join e-mail distribution list and receive the Singletary Sun and other LSWA communications via e-mail contact us at lswabod@gmail.com.

