


# Lake Front

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Volume 7 Number 1  
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The Salem Lakes Association newsletter

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**Remembering former lake  
association president  
David Wood  
See Page 3**

## What Lies Beneath Salem's Clear Waters?



One day last summer I woke up to a morning that could not have been any better. The sky was as clear as it could be, and the surface of the lake was perfectly still. As I looked down through the shallow water beneath the dock, I could see every detail of the bottom as if I was looking into a goldfish tank at the local pet shop. Absolutely high-def.

I slide the paddle into the canoe and pushed off just to get a few minutes out on the open water before the conditions changed. I was amazed at how clear the water was below even with 10 feet between me and the bottom. And as I started off around the point, I had my attention on milfoil, but within a few hundred yards, my mind wandered to more exotic targets known to be down there. Objects that very likely have been preserved by the cold deep in which they've been laying and by the material of their construction.

Objects that were lost by members of the family well over 40 years ago by now, a pair of eyeglasses from one uncle, and an anchor that belonged to another.

So like some armchair Indiana Jones, I ventured off toward the area of the lake where the legend

of the eyeglasses is believed to have taken place; wondering if today after all these years, I'd catch a glint of sunlight off the edge of a lens sticking up in the mud, or perhaps see the last filaments of anchor line reaching up from 80 feet below beckoning with a ghostly wave for help.

I wasn't on board any of the boats at the time these items went down. I never heard the *ker-plunk* of the glasses as my uncle bent over the side only to watch his spectacles slide off his nose and into the drink. I don't even know how the anchor line snapped so many years ago as that story never had much to it anyway. Yet, there remains a mystery to these objects. How far down are they? Could they be retrieved with the right equipment? What condition are they in? What else may be lurking down there I don't even know about? Might some scrap of treasure from Rogers' Rangers adventures across the border be lying right alongside my uncle's pair of prescription bifocals?

After about 20 minutes of mindless paddling and staring, I called off the recovery mission. The breeze had just arrived and a light ripple was now obscuring the view below.

But what a story that would have been. A trophy to hang on a wall. And don't think I wouldn't. Imagine a set of rusted up eyeglasses mounted on a wall plaque like a shellac trout.

Yes, it would be a cool thing to find. I'd have a documentary crew mock up the recreation. Me (played by Dennis Quaid) out there in the elements with no food or water, only my wits and will to guide me. Out on the open water with no power, compass or bacon.

But then again, some things are best left in mystery. Forget the film crew. After all, someone might drop a lens overboard.

**Tim Votapka**

### **Lake Front**

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## Honoring a Long-Time Friend, Administrator, Educator

**David H. Wood (1932-2009)**

The Salem Lakes Association took a loss last summer after the passing of its original founders and long-time president and ally, David H. Wood.

David was born and raised in Derby Line, VT, the son of Leland and Helen (Heyer) Wood. He was the loving husband to Marlene, their children and grand children. He was also one of the most dedicated stewards of the Salem Lake waters serving as a key advocate, researcher and monitor over many environmental issues and events that influenced the quality of life here for so many friends, neighbors and visitors. His energy and guidance helped shaped an association that has held fast to its charter now for 26 years.

Dave graduated from Derby Academy and the University of Vermont. He earned his Master's Degree in Education from Boston University. His career in education as teacher and principal spanned a period of 34 years; 12 of which he served as principal of the Lake Region Union High School.

In his younger years, Dave spent his summers organizing and teaching swimming lessons and as a lifeguard to youngsters at the Salem Lakes 4-H Camp. In later summers, he was employed as an Immigration Inspector.

Dave and Marlene purchased a cottage on Big Salem and resided there for more than 45 years. He enjoyed fishing and woodworking, and was always busy at some task. Through the years, Dave's passion became the Salem Lakes, their evaluation and preservation as places of beauty, recreation and valuable resources to family, residents, visitors and to the Town of Derby.



*Dave Wood enjoyed many years at Salem Lake.*

In 1984, Dave was among one of the original founders of the Salem Lakes Association, a group chartered to conserve the ecological quality of the lakes and protect the lakes from invasive species, plants and animals. He was a key spokesman for the association and represented the best interests of lake front property owners any time he dealt with state and regional government and environmental policy makers and opinion leaders.

To this end, David in conjunction and cooperation with the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, instituted the Lay Monitoring Program whereby the water quality of the Lakes is monitored for clarity, phosphorous levels, E-coli count at various times and locations during the summer, thus providing valuable information to all in determining the ecology of both Big and Little Salem lakes.

David also instituted the Greeter/Monitoring Program, which is in its seventh year at the Salem Lakes boats accesses. Monitors are employed to check any and all water equipment entering the lakes, checking for noxious and invasive animals and or plants. Monitors also provide printed and verbal educational information to any and all persons in regard to protecting the lakes.

"Dave's passing was very sad news to receive," said current association president Andy Major. "Much of what Dave did for this lake will benefit us now and for generations ahead. We're very fortunate to have had such a dedicated, caring individual. He was a model example of what it means to be a true steward. We at the Salem Lakes Association are determined to continue his work."

## Public Access to be Named In Honor of David H. Wood



*The access area on Big Salem will be dedicated to David Wood. A new dock will also be part of the landscape at the ramp.*

Now that summer is just about here, many people are anxious to get their boats into Big Salem for good fishing, sailing or a lazy cruise around the lake. And as of this July, that access ramp will no longer be a number on state map. It will be named the David H. Wood Access, to honor the former lake association president who passed away last August.

To commemorate the dedication, the Salem Lakes Association has scheduled a special visit to the site on Saturday, July 24 at 9 a.m. where members of the Wood family will be on hand to view a new state sign to be installed at the entrance to the access area. A new dock will accommodate launches alongside the ramp.

The dedication will precede the annual meeting which will take place at 10 a.m. at the Coutts-Moriarty camp on the opposite end of the lake. Everyone who would like to be at either event is cordially invited to attend.

## Long-Time Lake Advocate and Co-Founder Si Houghton, 83

Si Houghton, 83 died peacefully last February at his home on Salem Lake as per his request. Si and his family lived on Salem for 60 years or more. Si was a kindly man who loved the lake and all that it provided and represented. The best days of his life were spent gardening near the lake, he would say. His interest was not only for him to enjoy the lake, but to protect it for future generations. He was an active lakeshore owner.

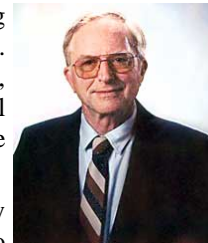
Si was one of the original founders of the Salem Lakes Association, which has as its objective to protect the lake and surrounding environment for all to enjoy now and for future generations.

He was very active in the association, as a director and chairman of several programs including the fisheries committee.

This committee supported the stocking of fish in the Clyde River and the lake. Si monitored the lake levels all his life, especially when lake levels were harmful to other lakeshore owners as they were able to be controlled by man.

He attended annual meetings faithfully and contributed much in positive ways to monitor and protect the lake. He served the Association and the lake unselfishly when he was able to do so.

The current association members endeavor to continue Si's noble objectives in regards to the lake. Surely there's a lake in heaven and Si is gardening on its heavenly shores.



### Annual Meeting—July 24, 2010

10 a.m. Coutts-Moriarty Camp

Potluck brunch. Bring your favorite breakfast or lunch.

Coffee, tea and juice will be provided.

Catch up with your fellow association members, neighbors and friends.

Hear firsthand what's going with regard to our conservation efforts.

Adjournment at Noon.

## Check Out the New Salem Lakes Website [www.salemlakesvt.org](http://www.salemlakesvt.org)

Not too many years ago, many of us came to the lake for a week or two, wore out a pair of flip-flops, got a few fish, ate a lot of ice cream and then packed up to go home. Now however, we can keep the experience alive year round thanks to the Internet and a good color monitor on which to surf!

Welcome to the new website for the Salem Lakes Association!

Salem Lakes Association  
Derby, VT

Home About Contact Our News Image Gallery In The Area

**Welcome to the Salem Lakes Association**

The Salem Lakes Association is non-profit organization of Vermont property owners who share a vested interest in the state of Salem Lake, located in Derby, Vermont. The association's purpose is to conserve and protect the natural beauty of the lake's water quality and to encourage environmental stewardship among the people around its shoreline.

With a big job to do and few hands to pitch in, the association is always looking for volunteers willing to lend time to a variety of tasks year round. If you want to learn more, take a quick tour around this site. If you are an organization, an annual \$10 to start.

... have been recruited for in the burden to your schedule. They can either here at the lake lead patrols, while others take basis. If you're at all interested get in touch with us via the quickly as possible.

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**Our News**

Want a copy of our more recent newsletters? Click on the cover images to the right for complete coverage on just some of the following programs.

**Upcoming Events This Summer**

**July 3** - Independence Day Parade through Derby Village. Starts at 10 a.m.  
**July 10** - Fundraiser Coin Drop 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
**July 24** - Annual Meeting at Coutts-Moriarty/4H Camp at 10 a.m. Potluck Brunch. Coffee, tea, juice will be provided. Bring your own favorite breakfast and settings.

**Lay Monitoring**

Paula Staples and Claire Roberts deserve our appreciation for their service last summer. They are offering their services again this year, provided the program is funded by the State, including the State laboratory, which is pending budget approval in Montpelier. More on this to come.

**Greeters Man Access Areas to Prevent Weed Intro**

Lake monitors took up positions last summer at both accesses, Big and Little Salem. Three monitors, Jarren Puckett, Jeremiah Barker and Cynthia Wood, along with Andy Major, initially prepared for their work by attending a Training Program sponsored by the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources in Montpelier earlier this year.

Want to view the newsletter in color?  
Now you can download past issues just by clicking on the covers.

Fresh content keeps the site interesting and useful as a favorite reference for everyone who has an interest in the lake. Have a great photo you want to share? Perhaps there's a funny story in your family's past, or simply some fact about the lake you think others may find interesting. As an association website, the door is open to new ideas and contributions.

Contact Tim Votapka at  
[votapka14@aol.com](mailto:votapka14@aol.com)

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**About Us**

**Our Association Has A Lot Going On...**

The Salem Lakes Association is a volunteer-based, not-for-profit organization that oversees environmental conservation efforts and activities affecting the greater Salem Lake area. This encompasses:

- Water Quality Monitoring
- Milfoil Prevention
- Coordination with State/Local Government Agencies
- Community Affairs

Sounds too formal? Don't worry, we have a lot of fun too with other activities that are open to anyone interested in participating.

**July 4th Parade in Derby**

The association is always well-represented with its own parade float during the annual July 4th parade in Derby, VT. Kids, adults, residents, renters get involved a day or two in advance to design and decorate our float and there's always room for more people to ride on the float itself right through the heart of town.

**Annual Meeting**

Usually held the third Saturday of each July, the annual association meeting enables all members and lakeside property owners to get updated on the major developments affecting Salem Lakes. Guest speakers are usually invited to make presentations about conservation and water quality.

### Independence Day

The annual parade will be on Saturday, July 3 at 10 a.m. Expect we will have the usual generosity of Jim Ritson's equipment and locale for decorating on Friday afternoon and on the morning of the 3rd. The theme this year; "Education in the Schools." Join us for the march through Derby, starting at the Elks club on the Newport-Derby Rd. Parade starts at 10 a.m. For more info contact Andy Major, 802-766-2662.

### Lay Monitoring

Paula Staples and Claire Roberts deserve our thanks for the time and effort applied to our ongoing lake monitoring program.

### Milfoil Search

More volunteers make less work through the warmer months, so if you've got a canoe, kayak, paddle boat or anything else seaworthy, please consider applying a watchful eye toward our milfoil watch. Volunteers are needed to help match money made available through grants from the state and town.

### Coin Drop July 10

The Derby Select board has authorized the Lake Association to run a coin drop fundraiser for the organization. Volunteers are needed and wanted to help man the drop station between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Main St. in Derby and Derby Line. Contact Roger Cartee, 802-334-5469 ext. 3312.

### Duck, Duck Goose

We've all enjoyed throwing scraps of bread and Cheerios to the water fowl near our camps. However the truth is this creates more problems for the lake and for the birds. Let nature take its course and avoid feeding these appealing lake shore visitors. It will definitely help prevent bacterial issues from surfacing in the water, and keep the animals' nutrition where it belongs.

## 2010 SALEM LAKES ASSOCIATION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Salem Lakes Ad-  
dress \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 Membership fee included \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider an additional donation to support milfoil inspection, education and general support of the association \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you. Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

I'm interested in helping with (check as many as you like)

- Lake Monitor    Fundraising    Communications    Director/Officer  
 Recruitment    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to (or give at Annual Meeting)

Mail to: Janet Cartee  
Salem Lakes Association  
17 Northern Ave.  
Newport, Vt. 05855