

Silver Lake

OCTOBER 2007

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION *Caring for the future of the lake*

5TH ON THE 4TH FISHING CONTEST

The 5th annual SLIA fishing contest drew a record number of participants this year. A 4th of July tradition, the contest is open to all SLIA members and potential members. Close to 40 anglers on 11 boats caught and released lots of fish. Prizes consisting of rod and reel combos, tackle boxes, gift cards and fishing books were awarded to those lucky enough to have their entry drawn. Everyone was automatically entered and, if a fish was caught, a "bonus" entry was earned. Thanks to the SLIA for funding the prizes.

This is just one example of **YOUR** lake association working for you!



"It's A Family Occasion"

"... And the Winner Is"



PRESIDENT'S COVE

WOW!!! What a great summer to live on and enjoy Silver Lake! Thanks to all of you who were courteous to the boaters, swimmers and anyone else who was using the lake for their enjoyment. We appreciate all your efforts, as it is up to us to keep Silver Lake an enjoyable lake to live on. Just a reminder that we use Silver Lake for many uses: fishing, boating, swimming, skiing, wakeboarding, cruising and sometimes just sitting on the deck or beach watching everyone else having a good time. Please respect all users of the lake so it can be enjoyed by all. As winter approaches, let's respect all winter users as well.

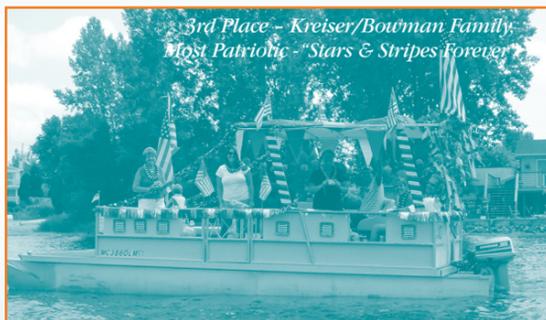
Some residents seem to think our association is responsible for enforcing lake laws and regulations. That is not the case. Our association board is a group of volunteers who spend many hours providing activities on the lake, recruiting new members, working with the townships, monitoring water quality, trying to insure Silver Lake is and will be an enjoyable lake to live on and to protect our land values. If you notice people abusing the lake or violating lake laws, please report them to the proper authorities.

Have a great fall and winter
Dick Bogard - President, SLIA

JULY 4TH REGATTA

Thank you so much for all who participated to make this another successful "Regatta Occasion". Special thanks to Chuck Hathaway for the photos and interviews. Start thinking about next year, please call me if you can help.

Nancy Knight, Social Chairman



3rd Place - Kreiser/Bowman Family, Most Patriotic - "Stars & Stripes Forever"



1st Place - Blonsbine Family, Most Creative - "Margaritaville"



4th Place - Thirlby Family, Most Enthusiastic - "Hawaiian Vacation"



2nd Place - Classens Family, Most Original - "Miller Lite"



(above) Special Recognition - Popp Family, Shoreline Display - "God Bless The USA"

THANKS TO YOU!

We as the board of the Silver Lake Improvement Association would like to thank all of you who attended our annual meeting on August 4, 2007. It was a record turnout and it makes those of us who spend time preparing for and presenting the meeting appreciative of your participation. Many topics were discussed; some had answers and some did not. We as a board do not have all the answers to your questions and concerns, but with your help and input we can; hopefully, address more of them. If you haven't sent in your membership form and your check for \$25, consider doing it now!! We hope to see all of you again next year and maybe you could invite a neighbor to come with you. If you have never attended an annual meeting we suggest the first Saturday in August 2008 would be good time to start.

Your SLIA Board

We fished, we paraded, we whistled and cheered, We judged and were judged - in spite of our fears. The fish weren't biting, but we did our best, There were winners and losers, we were put to the test.

Extravagant creations were displayed with much pride, While others were content to be along for the ride.

From the shoreline or on board there was no debate,

IT WAS THE 4TH OF JULY ON SILVER LAKE!

WHO DO YOU CALL?

If you see a life threatening or dangerous violation, call 911. For other marine violations, call the Sheriff's Dept./Marine Div. @ 922-4514. Remember to get the boat number if possible, as well as a description of the driver.

For violations at the boat launch site, call local dispatch 941-1911.

For Lost and Found call Jim Lievense at 943-3757.

NEW SILVER LAKE WEB SITE!!! (www.silverlakeimprovement.com)

Starting this month the SLIA has a new web site. The new name is [silverlakeimprovement.com](http://www.silverlakeimprovement.com). The new site is much more user friendly than the old one, so we hope you will visit and find many items of interest.

The home page will feature our goals, current board members and officers, and whom to contact with information or questions. A sidebar will provide you easy access to the other pages on the website.

There will be more links to important sites like the DNR and Grand Traverse Sheriff Dept, with information relating to rules and regulations governing our lake. We will also feature Silver Lake historical articles and pictures. Lake conditions and fish population will continue to be recorded as well as other useful data regarding lake water quality testing, with links to what it all means. The social committee will feature happenings such as the summer boat regatta and fishing contest with pictures of both events. Current and past SLIA newsletters will also be available.

The website will serve as a valuable tool to educate SLIA members about our riparian rights and responsibilities. This new web site will grow as we progress with experience and information, so we value your feedback and suggestions for additional improvement.

Contact me at waynelknight@aol.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Perhaps you are new to the lake, perhaps you have been away for awhile or maybe you just decided to join us, whatever the reason, we welcome our new SLIA members!

Nick & Molly Agostinelli
Scott & Nicole Blonshine
Paul & Darcy Britten
Norm & Peggy Campbell
Brian & Kelly Case
Carol Harrigan
Robert & Susan Isles
David & Judith Reed
Silver Shores Association
Shirley Wehre
Paul & Lisa Wiley
Jack & Cathy Wunderlich

RUMORS - RUMORS - RUMORS

"The reason the lake levels are so low is because they are draining all of the water out of Silver Lake through that *\$#%* dam"

Folks, we want to reassure you that these rumors are entirely unfounded but easily believable when indeed the water levels are down - so we'd like to share a few facts and some history with you.

If you watched TV7&4 recently, they had a special interview with the Army Corps of Engineers because of public concern that the Great Lakes are down, especially Lake Superior - they also cited area lakes and the bay with pictures of the beach at Old Mission. The Corps' answer was that levels are largely cyclical with some influence of drought, hot summers and light winters.

Now to Silver Lake - the SLIA was formed in 1965 because the levels were at an all time low in this century (much worse than now). They petitioned the county to divert water from Bass Lake to raise the levels. After 3 years in red tape and petitions, by '68/69 the levels were rising so the effort died.

In 1974 the levels were extremely high, people were flooded, sandbagged and trees died all along the shoreline. Again the county was petitioned to establish a level - this time it was contested because it would require pumping groundwater back into the lake if the level went down and would have been an ongoing high cost to riparians, so this effort also died and the waters receded.

In 1986 the levels were higher than 1974 - more sandbags - add pumps, flooded septic and some evacuation of homes. This time a more educated plan was presented to the county - set only a high water level and only an overflow dam. This was accomplished in early 1987. The cost was shared fairly and the maintenance has been manageable.

In 1993 the levels were again high in the great lakes and other lakes according to the representative of the Corps of Engineers, although not to the extremes of 1974 and 1986. Silver Lake was a little high in the spring that year, but drain down during the winter and early spring months prevented a potential problem for Silver Lake residents.

And then came 2007

This drain works only as an emergency drain off when the water cycles high, but does nothing when it is low - which was the intention - it is doing its job! Read back through this article and notice that the cycle has hit high or low in mid-decade for the last 40 years. "We don't really understand it all - it will come back" as the gentleman from the Army Corps of Engineers said when asked.

To dispel ideas of what a normal drain looks like with water flowing out of it as most of us perceive, let's take a look at the Silver Lake dam. Our dam doesn't look like a normal dam, it looks more like a glass of water set in a bowl - rising up out of the water, it is an "overflow" dam, it only drains when the water rises higher than the rim of the glass (drain). The drain is operated with a valve which is shut off in May or June when the water temp reaches 68 degrees. THERE HAS BEEN NO WATER DRAINED OUT THIS YEAR, with only a minimal amount in the early spring for several years, as the levels have been receding in their cyclical fashion.

This information was taken from old SLIA minutes and records and court documents. Submitted by Nancy Knight

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL UPDATE - 9/2007

This past spring, Chuck Hathaway found a second patch of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in the northwest corner of the lake, offshore from 1412 N. West Silver Lake Rd. The new patch and the original infestation near the boat launch were treated with herbicides in early July. We were particularly concerned about the new patch because it was in a fairly shallow, heavily trafficked area of the lake. As the EWM grew to the surface it would be chopped up by passing boat props. Each fragment of the plant has the ability to establish new growth so there was a likelihood of rapid spread if we didn't act quickly.

We scrambled to get the new patch treated quickly. We had to hire a contractor to apply the herbicide. The Michigan Department Environmental Quality permit had to be amended. We had to get funding (thanks again to Garfield Township for funding the additional treatment) and we had to get written permission from property owners.

Getting written permission from property owners proved the most difficult task. We opted to get the required signatures from several owners either side of the patch in case the EWM infestation was more extensive than expected. The Burritts personally collected the signatures from the property owners within the known area. Mediocre response was received from mailings to others nearby (thanks to those who did respond). If the infestation had been more wide spread we wouldn't have been able to treat all of it.

As a consequence, and because we don't know where EWM will pop up next, we decided to get permission from every property owner on the lake so we would be ready to act quickly when the next patch of EWM appears. Permission slips were mailed to every property owner and brought in roughly 100 signatures. At this writing we have signed permission from 132 of the roughly 350 required.

An aquatic vegetation survey, by Professional Lake Management in early September 2007, identified three new areas of EWM. Patches of EWM were found scattered along the stretches of shoreline described below. The stretches are:

1. The area off the Northwest and North shores of Campbell Island. That includes 302 to 338 Roman Dr. (roughly 1100 ft of shoreline).
2. From 425 to 578 Brakel Point Dr (roughly 2500 ft of shoreline).
3. From 5284 Van Petten Dr. north including 391 S. West Silver Lake Rd. to 100 N West Silver Lake Rd. (roughly 5000 ft of shoreline).

The vegetation surveys aren't perfect and precise, therefore, EWM may exist beyond the areas described.

HELP!

Your written permission is required by law before Eurasian Watermilfoil can be treated on your bottomlands. Please fill out and return the permission form mailed with this newsletter if you have not already done so.

No one can predict where Eurasian Watermilfoil will pop up next so we need permission from everyone on the lake. We urge you to encourage your neighbors to return a form as well. If their bottomlands are not treated you will suffer the consequences too. A form is also available on the new website (silverlakeimprovement.com). Any questions call Chuck Hathaway 943-3912 or Russ Adams at 947-5502.

LOON-IE TUNES

LOON-IE TUNES, which actually sound more like a yodel, combined with the "penguin dance" are loon's way of chasing away other birds, water craft and silly people. (The "penguin dance" is when they splash with their wings and kick their feet so they're walking on water.) My son was out swimming and not aware of the loons nearby, when Daddy loon started in on him. My son decided to yodel back and flap his arms - it was quite a hilarious show.

Loons lay 1 - 2 eggs in June on island type areas near water. Incubation time is about a month. They often carry their chicks on their backs to avoid predators such as sea gulls, eagles, crows and turtles. They are also very territorial. The loon family you see at the north end of the lake is a different one than you see further down by Brakel Point.

Besides being fun to watch, like when mommy loon is teaching chick to dive, they eat leeches!

Loon trivia: The loon is the state bird in Minnesota; and Mercer, Wisconsin is the Loon Capital of the World!
Submitted by Cathy Kuhn

HAVE A QUESTION? CALL:

Publicity, newsletter - Pat Adams - 947-5502
Lake Monitoring - Russ Adams - 947-5502
Exotic Weeds - Russ Adams - 947-5502
Fishing Issues - Kevin Gagnon - 943-5226
Township Liaison - Peter Haddix - 943-8825
Drain Liaison - Bill Helke - 943-4779
Historian - Nancy Knight - 943-9487
Webmaster - Wayne Knight - 943-9487
Welcoming new residents - Robb Raetz - 943-4358
Membership - Janet Wheeler - 943-4443
President SLIA - Dick Bogard - 943-4845

If you would rather email us our address is:
info@silverlakeimprovement.com



Silver Lake
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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