

Silver Lake

SUMMER 2003

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Caring for the future of the lake

A GOOD TIME TO SPEAK UP

As you may already know, Garfield Township has purchased an 85-acre parcel northeast of Silver Lake for a park. Roughly 60 people attended a meeting held to gather input from the community regarding activities residents would like to see in the park. Aaron Mead, Garfield Township Deputy Supervisor, conducted the meeting.

Aaron showed some conceptual drawings that showed some potential uses. They included both active activities like baseball, soccer and tennis as well as passive activities like hiking, picnicking and bike riding. A citizen committee will be formed to analyze suggestions and make recommendations to the Township board. Let Aaron know what activities you would like to see in the park. Aaron will pass on information to the committee (*see Aaron's contact information below*).

Other issues brought up at the meeting are:

BOATING AND SWIMMING

Concerns were expressed about noise and traffic problems if park lake frontage is used for boating and swimming. Aaron Mead indicated the township feels Silver Lake is already heavily used and there is no intent to develop a boat launch or swimming area. However, given the swimming activity at the public boat launch, it is likely there will be pressure at the park as well. Special effort may be required to prevent such activity. If you are concerned let Aaron Mead know. (*contact information below*).

PARK ACCESS

The lack of bike and pedestrian walkways to get to the park from township residential areas was noted. Adding walkways to existing roadways is a County Road Commission function. Express your wishes for pedestrian walkways on existing roads to county officials (*contact information below*).

FISHERY IMPROVEMENT

The lack of fish in Silver Lake is a frequent topic of discussion. One presumed cause is reduction of spawning habitat that has occurred as lakefront properties have been developed. A small channel between Silver Lake and the pond to the north would provide access for adult fish from the lake to the spawning habitat in the pond, Pike being the primary beneficiary. This idea has been discussed with former DNR fish biologist Ralph Hay, who thinks the channel is a good way to improve spawning habitat. An open channel a few feet wide would be adequate. A small bridge or barrier would prevent boat traffic in the channel. An 1881 plat book shows the pond being a part of the lake. Aerial photographs dating back to 1938 show a barrier between the pond and lake. Please express your feelings pro or con regarding a channel to Kevin Gagnon or Russ Adams (*contact information below*).

PARK PROPERTY DESCRIPTION 128 feet of frontage on Silver Lake.

West boundary: The west shore of the 14-acre pond at the north end of the lake.

East boundary: East Silver Lake Road.

South boundary: About 1000 feet north of Silver Pines Road.

North boundary: The southerly edge of the stand of pines. The township has several diagrams (including possible uses) and overhead photographs that can be viewed at the township hall.

CONTACTS

Aaron Mead - Deputy Supervisor - Garfield Township

E-mail amead@garfield-twp.com • Phone 231-941-1620 • Fax 231-941-1588

Grand Traverse County - Board of Commissioners

E-mail ccramer@co.grand-traverse.mi.us

Grand Traverse County Road Commission - Board of Commissioners

E-mail dhunt@gtcrc.org

Kevin Gagnon - Silver Lake Association

E-mail kgnon53@aol.com • Phone 231-943-5226

Russ Adams - Silver Lake Improvement Association

E-mail rsa@traverse.net • Phone 231-947-5502

CHAIRMAN'S COVE

The winter months are normally very quiet, as we all have settled in for the cold, peaceful Michigan winter. Not so this year! The Silver Lake Improvement Association has been "hard at it" dealing with the many issues that continue to affect the quality of life on Silver Lake. We have been busy dealing with the new Garfield Township park and how this could affect the usage of Silver Lake; we have continued to improve the water quality by expanding our water testing to include chlorophyll and dissolved oxygen testing in addition to the current phosphorous testing; we have continued to educate and inform all lake residents about the pending threat of Eurasian Milfoil; and in addition to planning and publishing this news letter, we have even found time to plan our, now annual fishing tournament and boat regatta to bring lake residents closer on a social basis. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of board members who unselfishly take on these tasks. Please take the time to say thanks the next time you see a board member but most of all show your support by paying your dues and continuing to be a member of the Silver Lake Improvement Association.

NOTE: A special thank you is extended to Russ Adams for attending the annual Michigan Lakes and Streams Association annual conference. As Russ has pointed out, it is much better for us to prevent water quality problems than to be in the position of many lake associations by having to bring back their respective lake water quality. Many lakes are on the "wrong side of the problem". Thanks so much Russ, for your interest, time and dedication to Silver Lake!

Dear Silver Lake Neighbors:

The Silver Lake Improvement Association is soliciting your help. We know many of you have pictures, stories, documents, and/or information about our lake's history. At our next annual meeting we are planning a display of Silver Lake yesteryears. If you have any information you feel would be interesting to your Silver Lake neighbors, please send it to Pat Adams at 1742 W. Silver Lake Rd. TC. 49684. We will be happy to accept photocopies.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's that time of year again to start thinking about renewing your annual dues. You will find a membership form enclosed in this newsletter, if you wish to pay your dues by mail. You may also pay at the annual meeting in August. Please make sure that you renew before September 1, 2003. Your association is hard at work for you and appreciates your support. Please send your checks to SLIA - Nancy Knight, secretary, at P.O. Box 2133, Traverse City, MI 49685

FABULOUS FISHING ON THE FIFTH

Attention all anglers.

Circle July 5th, 2003 on your calendar. The 2nd Annual fishing contest will be held then. Last year's inaugural event drew 30 enthusiastic contestants. Winners in every category (walleye, bass and pan fish) claimed top prizes of rod and reel composites. This year promises to be even bigger. To enter, fill out the enclosed entry form and mail it in, or contact Kevin at 943-5226.

Join the fun! It will be FIN-tastic!

SOCIAL EVENTS

Torches

Yep, it's the beginning of another summer season on the Lake! Yipee! Bring out those beach torches to start the season right of July 4th weekend. Light your torches each evening of the holiday weekend as a welcome sign to everyone. I can't wait to see all the lights! It would be fun to see the torches throughout the summer too!

Boat Regatta!

Terry Berden and his gang will lead the parade starting at 3 pm, again at the boat launch. We will head north from the launch, touring the entire lake. Decorate your boats, costume yourselves, play music or provide entertainment (do we all remember Captain American last year?), it's a day of celebration so join in the fun. Those of you staying on shore can join in too! Bring your chair's applause and voting cards for your favorite decorated boat!

A day of fun awaits. Everybody join in!!!

2ND ANNUAL Fishing Contest

Saturday July 5th, 2003 • 7 am - 11 am
Like last year we will meet at the boat launch off E. Silver Lake Road. and contestants age range will be 1 to 101. Kevin Gagnon will be in charge of the contest. For registration, contact Kevin at 943-5226.

Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 9, 2003 at 9am
Garfield Township Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive, Traverse City. Join us, meet some of your neighbors and get the update on the lake happenings. Refreshments provided. Your attendance and input is very valuable. We hope to see you there!

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Silver Lake Improvement Association (SLIA) is participating again this year in the Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Lake and Streams Association.

In this program volunteers provide the labor to collect data and water samples for testing to determine the water quality of the lake and water quality trends of the lake as the quality changes over time. Recent additions to the testing program include a survey of lake aquatic plants and fish evaluation.

This year SLIA will participate in water clarity, phosphorous, chlorophyll a and dissolved oxygen tests. For more information on these tests and what the results mean, visit the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations and DEQ websites (www.mlswa.org and www.michigan.gov/deq). On the DEQ site, click on water, click on inland lakes and streams, click on water quality monitoring, click on Inland Lakes monitoring. Results of last years Silver Lake water clarity and phosphorous testing can be found at this DEQ location also.

Water clarity is measured weekly from May through September. Phosphorous testing is done in the spring and again in the fall. Chlorophyll samples are collected once a month. Dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles from lake surface to bottom are taken three times during the summer. All measurements are taken at the 96 foot deep point of the lake.

If you would like to participate in this effort contact Russ Adams at 947-5502.



Things Do Wash Up! ...or Sometimes they get hooked!

FOUND

- 1 Kneeboard
- 1 Waterski (Part of Pair)

Call 943-7713 and identify

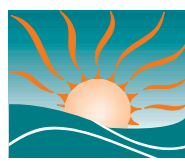
Things do get lost & found during the year and we only do 2-3 newsletters.

As a service to our lakeside friends, our board president, Jim Livense, at 943-3757, has volunteered to be a year-round information center for the lost and found. So just call Jim, if you have found or lost an item.

DO NOT bring items, just call!

Connector Proposed

The Zimmerman Park project has presented an opportunity to improve fishing in Silver Lake. In order for any fish species to survive and perpetuate, they need suitable spawning habitat. Net surveys in Silver Lake indicate a decline in the northern pike population. This toothy predator is an important link in the food chain. As weeds become sparse due to loss of shoreline cover, so do the fish nurseries that insure survival of fingerlings. The marshy area bordering the park property on the west is a prime fish rearing area. At the planning meeting for the park, it was suggested that a covered, non-navigable connector be considered during the planning stages, to allow fish migration between Silver Lake and what is now called North Silver Lake. Contingent on approval of the DNR, this project seemed to be favorably received. We'll keep you informed of any developments.



Silver Lake
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 2133 • TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49685-2133

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Chairman's Cove
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Summer Social Events
- Connector Proposed

SLIA Board Members: Jim Livense - President, David Green - Vice President, Nancy Knight - Secretary/Treasurer, Barb VanderZouwen - Assistant Secretary, Donald Crewes, Jack VanderZouwen, Ruth Bloomer, Don Burrell, Raelene Collins, Peter Haddix, Chuck Fricke, Warren Mikula