

# AUGUST 2005 Silver Lake

## IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

*Caring for the future of the lake*

### WOW! WE DID IT AGAIN -

Again, the weather was inclement . . .

Again, it didn't stop the faithful . . .

Again, a good time was had by all . . .

*The difference was how difficult it was to judge winners -the creativity was fantastic !*

#### Congratulations to :

**1st Prize** - The most creative was judged to be the yellow "fish" pontoon - and what a fish it was . . .  
Congratulations Paddock family!

**2nd Prize** - The most unusual was judged to be the "Just Married" boat - and they were - on July 3rd . . .  
Congratulations Margo & Mike and your group !

**3rd Prize** - The most patriotic was judged to be the Palko family with the large red flag in the center - which they hung onto for dear life for 2 hours in the wind - bravo !

The Patriotic theme was so well presented on many boats - it was extremely difficult to judge - all of your entries were amazing - and truly represented the day.

**Honorable mention** to Vance's Tahitian pontoon and Asher's patriotic red jet boat . . .

**And then there was the "almost ran" - Christmas In July** - perhaps the reindeer got their days mixed up? If you were in the parade, they joined you in spirit as you passed their dock - and spirited they were! The rest of you saw them the next weekend finally parading the lake. Congratulations Christmas family and better luck next year!

Thanks to all the boaters, the peanut gallery on shore, the judges, the photographers - it was another successful "Regatta on Silver Lake". *Nancy Knight, social committee.*



### WHAT DO WE DO WITH YOUR "DUES"?

Our largest expense is publishing the Silver Lake Newsletter. We feel it is critical that property owners on Silver Lake be informed and educated on how to care for their lake, so the newsletter is sent to every property owner on the lake, whether they pay their annual dues or not.

#### We also:

- Purchase supplies for, and monitor the quality of the lake water and recommend ways to keep it safe to swim and fish in
- Find out what kind of fertilizer to use on your lawn so that the lake is free from overgrowth of weeds
- Learn about invasive weeds such as Milfoil and Purple Loosestrife, and how to best rid the lake of them
- Found out that the "green globs" were because we have zebra mussels in the lake
- Found out that there is no way to get rid of the zebra mussels or the globs, at least for now
- Found out that feeding the ducks gave us swimmer's itch
- Work with our townships to be sure our lake isn't overwhelmed with too much traffic to be safe
- Organize the 4th of July boat regatta
- Set up our new web site and will keep it updated
- Organize the annual Fishing Contest
- Join the Michigan Lakes & Streams Association and attend conferences they host
- Order the Riparian magazine for lake residents at a group rate

Please make the decision to pay your dues and become a member of the SLIA. You can do this at the annual meeting on August 20th, or mail your membership form along with your check for \$20 to the address at the bottom of the membership form.

### CHAIRMAN'S COVE

#### *What a great summer on Silver Lake! (At least so far...)*

During the 4th of July weekend we were entertained by what seems to be an ever increasing number of fireworks displays. I started thinking, first of all "Where do people get all these great fireworks and how much money must they spend?" Then it dawned on me that any similar individual efforts put forth by any of our Silver Lake property owners could greatly improve or possibly degrade our common Silver Lake experience.

As we wind up our "summer of '05" let's all try and remember to make the right decisions and show respect for Silver Lake and all of the people who enjoy the lake with us, thus ensuring us all many great experiences and memories for many years to come.

**Jim Lievense**

**Chairman - Silver Lake Improvement Association**

### It's Annual Meeting Time Again!

**Saturday, August 20, 2005**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Garfield Township Hall  
3848 Veterans Drive**

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**

**8:30 a.m.**

Sign in • Refreshments • Get Acquainted Time

Changing our Annual Meeting format to include a picnic at Garfield Park didn't materialize. Some very good ideas were presented, but apparently this isn't the year.

We realize many had problems parking last year at the Township Hall. That problem has been resolved. There is plenty of parking and we are looking forward to an outstanding turnout.

**SEE YOU THERE AT 8:30  
(Early bird special)**

### FISHING CONTEST RESCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 21

The only rain and thunder that we've seen this summer forced the cancellation of the SLIA fishing tournament on July 4th. August 21st is the rescheduled date. Meet at the launch at 7:15 a.m. Prizes will be awarded at 11:15 a.m. at the Beacon Hills beach adjacent to the launch. If you have already registered, just show up. Anyone not registered who wishes to become a part of the contest,



please call Kevin Gagnon at 943-5226. No charge for members and \$20 for non-members. Hope to see you there!



# PROTECTING YOUR LAKE

With the possibility of increased development on and near Silver Lake, there are concerns regarding the increased use and impact on our already crowded lake.

Blair Township and Garfield Township have adopted “Keyholing”, or anti-funneling ordinances that are intended to restrict access to the shore line by subdivisions or developments that have relatively little lake frontage but, have abundant non-lakeshore property. These ordinances, as written, do little to restrict lake access but, rather encourage it. The ordinances require that the first lot have 50 feet of shoreline with only 5 feet of additional shoreline required for each lot thereafter. Under these “restrictions” a 100 foot lot would allow access by 11 back lots, a 200 foot water front would allow 31 lots etc. There are some vacant parcels on the lake that are over 600 feet and thereby would allow up to 110 lots with access. The ordinances also allow one dock per 50 feet of frontage, however, there are no restrictions as to how many boats can be moored on a dock. The Blair Township has no restriction as to number of boats and Garfield Township makes the number of boats subject to review by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

IN 1994 SLIA undertook a lake capacity study to determine just how many boats could occupy the lake without overcrowding. The results of that study indicated that the lake could safely handle 120 motorized watercraft. A count of boats made in 1994 indicated there were already 217 power boats on the lake, so we were already over capacity.

A lake survey made this last July 8, 2005, indicated that there are presently 409 watercraft with over 5 HP motors, on the lake. (See :MORE BOATS” Article) This count included moored boats only and did not count boats on the water or at the public launch site. Obviously the lake is already almost four times over capacity and the possibility of future “keyholing” development could greatly impact the future desirability of living on the lake.

Your board will be meeting with the township officials to propose modifications to the keyholing ordinances to make them more restrictive and to protect the lake from excessive population and use increases.



# GARFIELD TOWNSHIP WORKING OR YOU

What is local government doing for you? Garfield Township funded a biological control for purple loosestrife this spring that has been introduced to the purple loosestrife stand in the pond just North of Silver Lake. The biological control is several hundred, non-native, purple loosestrife chomping beetles. Typically it takes two to five years for a beetle introduction to expand enough to significantly reduce established stands of purple loosestrife. Eventually the beetles and plants reach a balance. The purple loosestrife will not be eradicated, just held in check.

If left alone purple loosestrife would more readily spread to Silver Lake and become a greater nuisance for riparians. Purple loosestrife has become pervasive in our region and riparians should be on the lookout for it. If just a few plants are found pulling and destroying them is the best solution. Cutting off and destroying flower heads before they go to seed is the next best action to take (mature plants produce upwards of two million seeds each year). Left alone purple loosestrife can become unmanageable in just a few years. Biologists expect that eventually the many beetle populations being introduced will grow and expand and keep purple loosestrife under control.

Learn to identify purple loosestrife and find out more about it at [www.miseagrant.umich.edu/pp/index.html](http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/pp/index.html).

Thanks to Garfield Township Board for approving the expenditure for purple loosestrife control.

## MORE BOATS

SLIA counted boats moored on Silver Lake on July 8. The count is one component of an update of a Carrying Capacity Analysis SLIA is undertaking. The earlier (1994) Carrying Capacity Analysis found 217 powered watercraft on the lake. The analysis determined the lake to be “overcapacity”. Only moored boats or watercraft powered by engines 5HP or greater were counted.

### The 2005 count:

Inboard Boats	108
Outboard Boats	85
Pontoon Boats	111
Personal Watercraft	105
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2005 Total	409

### Other observations:

The total dock count was 312

The south bay of the lake has 20 percent of the boats but only ten percent of the lake surface area.

Some 19 properties have two docks.

## NEW MEMBERS

Perhaps you are new to Silver Lake,  
perhaps you’ve been away for awhile,  
perhaps you forgot to pay your dues (oh no!),

whatever the reason,

## WE WELCOME YOU

- Terry & Rae Berdon  
Erick & Cindy Blazok  
Tom & Marian Brady  
Thomas & Barbara Dierwa  
Jeff & Rosanna Doombos  
Stanley & Connie Drossart  
Thomas Gray  
Holiday Park Campground  
John & Kathy Jagels  
Eric & Barb Peterson  
David & Janet Reed  
William & Karen Snyder  
Roger & Nancy Weller  
Larry Wesholski

## WEBSITE ADDRESS: [www.mlswa.org/slia-930](http://www.mlswa.org/slia-930)

As you probably noticed on the front of this newsletter just below the P.O. Box address, we have printed the website address for your convenience. Wayne Knight has been working on the site so you might want to check it out. If you have any comments or information you would like put on this website, contact Wayne at [waynelknight@aol.com](mailto:waynelknight@aol.com)

## IT’S ANNUAL MEETING TIME AGAIN!

9:00 A.M.

Saturday, August 20, 2005  
Garfield Township Hall  
3848 Veterans Drive

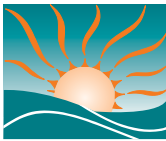
EARLY BIRDS AT 8:30 A.M.  
Sign in • Refreshments  
Get Acquainted Time

### SLIA BOARD OFFICERS

Jim Lievense, *President* ..... 943-3757  
Dick Bogard, *Vice President* ..... 943-4845  
Pat Adams, *Secretary* ..... 947-5502  
Janet Wheeler, *Treasurer* ..... 943-4443

### SLIA BOARD MEMBERS

Robb Raetz      Nancy Knight      Russ Adams  
Paul Wiley      Vicki Bush      Bill Seltz  
Peter Haddix      Shirley Wares.



Silver Lake  
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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[www.mlswa.org/slia-930](http://www.mlswa.org/slia-930)