



JUNE 2004 Silver Lake

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Caring for the future of the lake

BITS FROM THE PAST

The following information was gained from a recent interview with Frank and Esther Hall.

Esther was born on the Brakel farm (on East Silver Lake Road) in 1922. The Brakel farm is a centennial farm, still being worked by members of the Brakel family. She is one of seven children who eventually shared in the dividing of what is now Brakel Point.

Esther met Frank in 1939 and they married in 1946 after Frank's service in WW11. They lived on Brakel Point and were one of only two winter residences. The Wards being the other. The only other buildings on Brakel Point were one other cottage and the Fashbaugh Resort and Dance Hall (built in 1929). Spending the winter of 1946 on Brakel Point required parking the cars at Silver Lake Road and snowshoeing in.

During the summer, the Brakel cattle grazed in the woods of Brakel Point, with the children being responsible to keep them from the wild leeks, to prevent the tainting of the cows' milk with a distinctive onion taste.

Silver Lake was known locally for its abundance of Blue Gills and Walleyes. Some people from Traverse City would take the train to Grawn and walk to the lake to fish. In fact, early spring (illegal) catches took place because it was a spawning area and was isolated.

What is now Holiday Park was once an island that was removed enough from the mainland to allow row boat travel and was a coveted fishing site. There was filling when the park was established to join it to the mainland.

Ice was cut from the lake until rural electrification reached the area. An ice house stood off Silver Shores Road and ice was also packed in sawdust and stored in ice houses on the area's farms. A ritual enjoyed (?) by the ice cutters was to bet who would be the first to jump into the newly open hole in the lake. The jumper was rewarded with the wagers of the group, usually about one dollar.

In the 1920's, the Pringle family lived on the island at the south end, using a raft to transport supplies.

In 1954, Mrs. Brakel had Brakel Point surveyed, but died before it was completed in 1955. The lots were divided among the seven children and some of them began selling parcels in the late 1950's. In 1955, Mr. Hall and his nephews used cross-cut saws to clear the many trees to form a new road onto Brakel Point. When they had almost completed the task, they were lent a chainsaw for a small bit of the work

CHAIRMAN'S COVE

Welcome to the 2004 edition of "Summer on Silver Lake". Your association continues to monitor any and all issues that affect the quality of life in our beautiful area of the world. Water quality has been our most recent focus as a result of potential pollution problems with Silver Shores Mobile Home Park's septic system. Thanks to the efforts of board member Russ Adams we are actively taking steps to avoid potential increases in phosphorous and nitrate levels in our lake. (Please read the accompanying article.)

Membership dues are needed this year to continue to help us work with the various State, County and other Government agencies as well as expenses for Gourdie Frazier's engineers to make sure we properly protect our lake.

We are also closely monitoring the Garfield Township Park project to make sure the small lake frontage portion of this property is used in a wise and prudent way.

I would also like to welcome our new board member, Bill Seltz and mention that volunteer positions on our various committees are always available to those members who are interested.

Please feel free to contact board members about

When they had almost completed the task, they were lent a chainsaw for a small bit of the work remaining. A bulldozer was brought in, a washout occurred, another bulldozer, and finally a gravel road resulted that allowed access to the lots.

The residents of Brakel Point recently paid off the debt on the county paved road that was laid over the roadbed that was cleared by hand by Mr. Hall and his nephews almost 50 years ago. Now, almost all of the lots have full-time residences; quite a change from the winter of '46 that began the married life of Frank and Esther Hall.

Submitted by Vicki Bush

C O M I N G E V E N T S

LIGHTING THE TORCHES

It's the beginning of another summer on beautiful Silver Lake. Let's get out the beach torches and start the summer tradition. Be sure to light them each evening during the holiday weekend as a welcome sign to everyone. If you don't have a torch, they are selling them everywhere pretty cheap. Join the fun and start your tradition. It would be great to see the lake's beaches lit up for the 4th and throughout the summer.

BOAT REGATTA!

It's almost that time of the year again. The boat parade will start at 3 p.m. on the 4th of July 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. It's a day of celebration so join in the fun. Those of you staying on shore can join in too! Bring your chairs, applause, and voting cards for your favorite decorated boat!

Judges will be around the lake choosing the top 3 best decorated boats. Winners will be announced in the July newsletter.

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

FISHING CONTEST

Sunday, July 4th, 2005 - 7am – 11am
Like last year we will meet at the boat launch off E. Silver Lake Road. Contestants age range will be 1 to 101. Kevin Gagnon will be in charge of the contest. For questions, contact Kevin at 943-5226
Pre-registration forms are on the back of the enclosed membership form and should be mailed before June 22, 2004.

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, August 7, 2004 at 9 a.m. at the NEW Garfield Town Hall, 3848 Veterans Drive
Mark your calendar and plan on joining us. Meet some of your neighbors, get the update on the lake happenings and see the new Garfield Town Hall. Refreshments will be served at 8:30.
Take this opportunity to renew your membership. The annual dues are \$20 plus \$7, if you want to subscribe to the Riparian Magazine.
More information in the July newsletter.

A TRIBUTE TO A GOOD MAN

Howard Kraft served for many years on the SLIA board. He loved his (our) lake and quietly did his part to preserve our environment, not asking for praise, only the reward of a job well done. Howard left us on May 8th, and will be greatly missed.

Please feel free to contact board members about any issue that you feel may affect the quality of life on Silver Lake and most importantly have an enjoyable and safe summer!

Jim Lievense,
President

SAFETY ON THE WATER

The marine division of the Grand Traverse sheriff's department has some thoughts to share with us. We were surprised to learn that non-moving violations are the most common citations. Boat registration, either expired or nonexistent, as well as the lack of adequate life preservers are the most common offenses.

When it comes to safety, the biggest problem they see is young people with access to too much power and not enough maturity to handle it responsibly. Michigan law does say that a child 12 years or older, who has passed a boating safety course and has the certificate on board, can operate any boat alone. However, there is no way to determine the maturity level of these kids, so it is up to the parents to be sure their child has the maturity to handle themselves in a manner that is safe for them and the rest of us.

Every year, the sheriff's department ends up with several non-motorized items such as canoes, rafts, skis, pedal boats and other "water toys", that have floated away. If you put your name and phone number on these, they would be able to be returned. Use a permanent marker, or etch the information on the items.

Who do you call ?

If you see a life threatening or dangerous violation call 911. For other violations call the Sheriff's Dept./ Marine Div. @ 922-4514. You need to have a boat number, and a description of the driver would be helpful. Call only for marine violations. For violations at the launch site - this is not under the marine division - call local dispatch 941-1911.

A TEST FOR SILVER LAKE ANGLERS

Can you name the 12 species of fish that call Silver Lake home?

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |

Bonus Question: Can you name another species that swam in the lake years ago?
(Answers below)



NEW UGLY WEED ON ITS WAY

Seems pretty bad. We don't have Eurasian Milfoil yet in Silver Lake (we don't think) and we are threatened with yet another exotic plant from abroad. The latest is Hydrilla. A cold-water version, from Korea, first showed up in North America in the Potomac basin in 1985. It since has spread through much of the Northeast. More recently it has appeared as far west as Western Pennsylvania.

Hydrilla is mainly introduced to new waters as castaway fragments on recreational boats, their motors and trailers and in live wells. Stem pieces root in the bottom and develop into new colonies, commonly beginning near boat ramps. Once established, boat traffic continues to shatter and spread Hydrilla throughout the water body.

Once established, Hydrilla results in ecosystem disruptions. Changes often begin with its invasion of deep, dark waters where most plants cannot grow. Hydrilla grows aggressively and competitively, spreading through shallower areas and forming thick mats in surface waters that block sunlight penetration to native plants. Hydrilla has altered the physical and chemical characteristics of lakes. Sport fish weigh less and are shorter when Hydrilla occupies the majority of the water column. Stratification of the water column has been observed as have decreased oxygen levels in Hydrilla infested waters. Fish kills have been documented.

Please get familiar with Hydrilla and Eurasian Milfoil. They are expensive to control, especially if they get a strong foothold. We need to spot them early and act quickly. More info on Hydrilla at www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/topic/invasives/by1.htm. Check out Eurasian Milfoil at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/factsheets/milfoil.htm. A downloadable 6 page booklet identifying common native aquatic plants of Michigan is available at www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-lwn-inlandlakes-commonplants.pdf.

To prevent spread of these species follow the guidelines in the Michigan DNR publication "*The Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities*", page 46.

LAKE LEVEL

Plenty of water this spring. Had to raise the dock

COMMITTEES WORKING FOR YOU...

Committee

Contact Person

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Elizabeth Ackerman	Scott & Sherry Overholt
Dennis & Vicki Begue	Dave & Ellen Rapson
Gail Broderick	Robert & Jacqueth Reisig
Barbara Brown	Ted Riehrick
Dave & Terry Clark	Ron & Constance Roy
Ed & Shirley Davenport	Tim & Linda Schell
Rich & Carole	John & Kay Schumacher
Halmekangas	Allen & Pamela St. Amour
Terry & Joanne Herban	Bob & Norma Thomas
Al & Cathy Kuhn	Leslie Tyler
Mark Matheis	Shirley Wares
Don & Bonnie Miller	Ethlyn Watson
Robert & Kristen Miner	Harris & Carol Weaver
Dan & Heidi Mogielnicki	Roger & Linda Wood

Beach Bocchi

Having recently moved back to Silver Lake on a fulltime basis - we adopted the "No Feed, No Grow, No Mow Club".

So what do you do with your Bocchi Ball game with no manicured lawn to play it on? The answer - "Beach Bocchi" - which actually turned out to be more fun than the traditional game.

You throw the bocchi in the sand and you throw the balls instead of rolling them - otherwise the rules are the same. (The old red, blue, green & yellow are a better choice than the new designer metals to spot in the sand.)

We hope you'll try it out - and have a "Bocchi Good Summer" on Silver Lake!
Submitted by Nancy Knight

Have you netted any other species? If you have, let me know and we'll list them in the next newsletter. And #13? It is the rainbow trout. They were planted decades ago but did not adapt. Perhaps a 25ft monster resides in the 90ft hole in the lake! Tight lines!
-Kevin Gagnon - Fisheries
continues to disappear from the shoreline, so does the pike's spawning habitat. The proposed fish passage to the north end of the lake is vital to the pike's continued existence.

Plenty of water this spring. Had to raise the dock two times by the middle of May. Lake level at the Roman Road gauge was 862.1 feet on April 22. That's a little more than an inch over the control level of 862 feet. Record Eagle reported .85 inches of rain the previous day. By May 16 the level had increased to 862.35, four inches above the control level and the drain was operating. We had something like an inch and a half of rain the previous week. Average precipitation for May is 2.3 inches. We had 3.17 inches through May 16 this year.

Committee	Contact Person
Environmental/Watershed/Drain Liaison	Russel Adams, 947-5502
Fisheries	Kevin Gagnon, 943-5226
Social	Barb VanderZouwen, 943-5495
Membership/ Communication	Pat Adams, 947-5502
Township Liaison	Peter Haddix, 943-8825
Rules	Jack VanderZouwen, 943-5495
Nomination	Janet Wheeler, 943-4443
Lake Dredging	Dave Fashbaugh, 943-8543
Finance	Vicki Bush, 943-8533

A TEST FOR SILVER LAKE ANGLERS (Answers)
 According to the last DNR fish survey conducted in 1994, the 2 most prolific species were the walleye and smallmouth bass. Largemouth bass, rock bass, white suckers, northern pike, yellow perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead and the black bullhead made up the rest of the list. Of noted interest in that survey was the scarcity of northern pike. These voracious fighters are an important link in the food chain and reproduce naturally (not planted like walleye). As vegetation continues to disappear from the shoreline, so does

SLIA BOARD MEMBERS 2004-05

Russel Adams	1742 W Silver Lk Rd N	947-5502	rsa123@chartermi.net
Pat Adams	1742 W Silver Lk Rd N	947-5502	paa123@chartermi.net
Dick Bogard	218 W Silver Lake Rd N	943-4845	dbogard@cherrycentral.com
Vicki Bush	462 Brakel Pt. Dr.	943-8533	vlbush@chartermi.net
Peter Haddix	347 Paradise Pt. Trail	943-8825	plharch@chartermi.net
Nancy Knight	5149 Silver Lk Shores Rd	943-9487	waynelknight@aol.com
Jim Lievense	367 Roman Dr.	943-3757	jlievense@worldmagnetics.com
Bill Seltz	1293 Lake Dr.	946-4062	lwseltz@aol.com
Barb VanderZouwen	917 Harbor Court	943-4595	coachbarb@chartermi.net
Jack VanderZouwen	917 Harbor Court	943-4595	jackvz@chartermi.net
Janet Wheeler	468 Brakel Pt. Dr.	943-4443	janet41@charter.net



Silver Lake
 IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 2133 • TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49685-2133

It's Annual Meeting Time Again !

9:00 a.m., Saturday, August 7, 2004

NEW Garfield Township Hall • 3848 Veterans Drive

Mark your calendar and plan to join us!
 See Inside Article For Details

Early Birds at 8:30 a.m.

Sign in • Refreshments • Get Acquainted Time