

JUNE 2007 Silver Lake

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION *Caring for the future of the lake*

ANNUAL MEETING 2007

August 4, 2007 (first Saturday in August) at 9:00 a.m.
Garfield Township Hall

More information will be in the next newsletter. Mark your calendar and plan to join your neighbors in supporting your Silver Lake Improvement Association.

FISHING CONTEST – JULY 4TH

The 5th annual SLIA fishing contest will be held July 4th. Meet at the beach next to the DNR boat launch around 7:15 a.m. for a 7:30 start. The contest is free to all SLIA members and \$25 to non-members, which then makes you a member of SLIA. (Sneaky way to get you to join our great organization) No need to register, just show up at the launch around 7:15 a.m. Lots of great prizes will be given; so get everyone who likes to fish out of bed and join the fun. If you have any questions, call Kevin Gagnon at 943-5226. Hope to see you on the 4th.

ARE YOU READY TO REGATTA ???

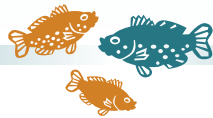
Wednesday, July 4th • Launch time – 3:00 p.m. • At the Public Landing

It's time to be thinking about your parade boat entry theme, the 4th is coming sooner than you think! The originality you all come up with is impressive – although topping the “Red Neck Yacht Club” with “The Crapper” in tow from last year is going to take some doing!

We pick winners but everyone is a winner when the spirit of the lake community is in force, so plan on joining the festivities ... whether you decorate or not – you're guaranteed to have a great time! We hear from the boaters how much they enjoy the score cards from the shore – everyone vying for the big “10” – don't stop!

Do remember to identify your boat with a last name & a number - call Nancy Knight for details, questions or suggestions @ 943-9487. We could use a volunteer in a small boat to be at the launch to take pictures and get boat identities. We could also use another judge on the north end. If you can help please call Nanc.

And happy sailing to all



FISH PASSAGE

The proposed fish passage at the north end of the lake has seen no progress at the Garfield township level. The SLIA endorsed the project at the annual meeting and the DNR has also given it a thumbs up. The passage is critical for the future of the Silver Lake fishery. As development around the lake has increased, the spawning habitat for northern pike has decreased. Northern pike play a critical part in the food chain. They are voracious eaters and keep a balance in the fish population. The white sucker is a favorite menu choice. There seem to be an over abundance of suckers in the last 10 years. The marshy area known as North Silver Lake is a perfect spawning area for these toothy fighters. If a passage is built, the pike will swim through the meandering creek during high water levels in the spring. They will leave their eggs in the protection of the weeds and return to the lake. The following spring, when the passage is passable again, the young pike enter the lake. If the passage is approved by Garfield township, an engineering study will be done. This will answer concerns raised by some of the nearby riparians. The scheduled fish survey in June should show any unbalance in the lake's fish population.

SPRING FISH SURVEY – JUNE 4-8

If you have never seen a fish survey here's your chance to observe one. The DNR will be surveying Silver Lake June 4-8. Nobody will be allowed on the DNR's boat, because of liability; however, if you want to observe what they are doing you may follow them in your own boat. The DNR encourages boaters to approach the survey boat when they are working up the fish (after they have finished tending the nets) to observe and learn about their fisheries assessment techniques. The best days to observe are June 5 and 6. Keep a safe distance from the DNR boat, while they are netting the fish, and enjoy the experience.

DNR contact person is:

Todd Kalish, Fisheries Management Biologist

kalisht@michigan.gov

231-922-5280 ext. 6870

Fax: 231-922-1853

CHAIRMAN'S COVE

Spring has sprung and the boat traffic on Silver Lake is showing it. We all have to be reminded to be cautious and to respect the other boaters on the lake. Boaters also have to have respect for lake residents regarding the volume of their radios etc. while using the lake, especially at night. Remember sound travels vividly across the lake, much more than most people realize. The amount of boats using Silver Lake has increased substantially the last few years, so be careful!! Hope you all have a great summer and look forward to seeing you on the lake.

Dick Bogard

Chairman - Silver Lake Improvement Association

HELP KEEP PHOSPHOROUS OUT OF THE LAKE

Dr. Roberta Dow of MSU Extension authored an article in the Grand Traverse Herald some time ago about phosphorous in the environment and noted the threat to water quality too much phosphorous poses (nuisance amounts of algae and weeds).

She also pointed out that typical northern Michigan soils have adequate phosphorous for plant growth and recommends using zero phosphorous fertilizer (middle number zero) unless a soil test indicates otherwise. Another indicator of low phosphorous is grass with purple blades. The article also noted that because our soils are naturally high in phosphorous soil erosion contaminates our surface waters with phosphorous.

Zero phosphorous fertilizer is available locally at Ace Hardware, Garden Goods, Home Depot, Lowes, McGough's, Meijer's and Wal-Mart.

Roberta also recommended low phosphorous automatic dishwasher detergent. The run of the mill detergent contains 4 to 9 percent phosphorous. Palmolive Gel contains 1.6 percent phosphorous. Citra-Dish, EcoVer, Mrs. Meyers, Seventh Generation, Shaklee and Bi-O-Kleen have no phosphorous.

LIGHTING YOUR TORCHES

Some of us on the lake have been lighting torches for several years; starting Memorial Weekend and continuing to light them throughout the summer. If you haven't started this tradition why not join us and get into the swing of summer by lighting your torches and continuing throughout the summer; especially on special future holidays.

Have a wonderful, safe summer on the lake.

EURASIAN MILFOIL

Garfield Township has contracted again this year with Professional Lake Management of Caledonia, Michigan to survey Silver Lake for Eurasian Milfoil and treat with herbicide. Tentative plans are to use “Reward” herbicide. The first survey and treatment were scheduled for May 21. A second treatment if necessary is scheduled for July 9. A second survey is scheduled for August 27.

Vegetation surveys are fallible. Therefore you are encouraged to become familiar with Eurasian Milfoil and keep an eye out for the weed. Early detection and control efforts are less expensive and minimize the unpleasant effects of Eurasian Milfoil. A guide that will help you identify Eurasian Milfoil is available on the web at www.mlswa.org/UnderWaterPlantGuide/. If you find what you think might be Eurasian Milfoil in Silver Lake please call Chuck Hathaway (943-3912) or Russ Adams (947-5502) with the approximate location. Chuck or Russ will verify and pass on the information to the herbicide applicators.

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. You need to have the boat number, and if possible, 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.

SLIA BOARD OFFICERS

President, Dick Bogard	943-4845	dbogard@cherrycentral.com
Vice President, Robb Raetz	943-4358	rbraetz@juno.com
Secretary, Pat Adams	947-5502	patadamsdean@yahoo.com
Treasurer, Janet Wheeler	943-4443	janet41@charter.net

SLIA BOARD MEMBERS

Russ Adams	943-5502	rsa123@chartermi.net
Vicki Bush	943-8533	vlbush@chartermi.net
Peter Haddix	943-8815	plharch@chartermi.net
Bill Helke	943-4779	wehelke@aol.com
Nancy Knight	943-9487	waynelknght@aol.com
Cathy Kuhn	946-8789	ckuhn6427@aol.com
Jim Lievense	943-3757	jlievense@worldmagnetics.com
Charles Hathaway	943-3912	cnhath@charter.net

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!

Steve & Lindsay Dewey
Tony & Shirley Aboudib
Michael & Elizabeth Kevwitch
Manuel & Mary Rodarte
Brian & Judy Browning
Chad & Lisa Debolt
Rueben & Rachel Levinsohn
Mike & Dusty Doriot
Marlene Evans
Jim & Shirley Robertson
Marguerite Hays
Michael & Beth Kaufman
Harry & Pamela Riehl
William & Loreen Schaldenbrand
Joyce Vanderlaan

The membership committee tries very hard to welcome people who are new to the lake, but we could use the help of everyone. If you know of someone who has recently moved here, please call or email Robb Raetz at 943-4358 or rbraetz@juno.com. Robb will personally welcome them and offer information about our lake that they may be interested in. People who do not live on the lake, but are interested in or use the lake, are welcome to become "associate members" of the lake association. Doing so means that they can receive our newsletter, and offer comments about lake activities, but they are not allowed to vote on lake issues.

A SHOCKING EVENING

In May of 2006, the DNR planted 39,000 walleye fingerlings in Silver Lake. DNR fisheries biologist Todd Kalish noted that the lake received an extra 19,000 fry as part of a hatchery surplus. As a follow up to the stocking, the DNR had planned a survey in the fall to check on the progress of the young walleye. This is accomplished by "shocking" the water and netting any walleye that happen to be in the electrical field. The fish are momentarily stunned and are not harmed. Russ Adams, Jerry Wheeler and Kevin Gagnon were invited to tag along and observe this interesting operation. The autumn, windy weather finally subsided and on a dark and foggy early November evening, we assembled at the public launch. We were met by Todd and his crew at 6:30. They pushed their 18' jon boat into the fog and fired up the generator, powering up several flood lights and delivering a charge to the two 10' booms on the bow of the boat. The plan was to start at the north end of the lake and work south in 2-3' of water. We would follow in Kevin's boat. On the bow, two netters stood against a rail and netted the walleye and placed them in a large, aerated tank. After a mile, the boat was stopped and the walleye were measured. Scale samples and a dorsal spine were taken to determine age and health and then released back into the lake. Total results were 18 walleye netted, with the largest being 21". The biologists commented that the fish looked very healthy, including the young walleye that were now about 8". The shocking then continued south. The fog was very thick now, so we thanked Todd for the invite and inched our way back to the launch. Todd observed that in addition to the walleye, there were many minnows, lots of rock bass, small (3-5") perch, numerous large and smallmouth bass, white suckers, bluegill and 2 pike. This June, a netting survey will be conducted to gauge the lake's fish population as a whole.

COMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JUNE 4TH – 8TH

General Fish Survey of Silver Lake

JULY 4TH

Boat Regatta and Fishing Contest

AUGUST 4TH

Annual Meeting – 9:00 at Garfield Township Hall

Thoughts for a Safe Season



I recently contacted the Marine Division of the Grand Traverse Sheriff's Department. I wanted to know what concerns they had that would affect boater and water safety on Silver Lake. Most of us realize that playing safe can make the difference between having a great day on the lake or opening the door to a tragedy. My contact, at the Sheriff's Department was Deputy Mike Kellams who's knowledge of water safety comes from his years of experience with the Sheriff's Department and as a member of the United States Coast Guard. Here is what he told me:

"In 2006, our Department spent approximately 130 hours patrolling the Silver Lake. We checked 411 vessels, gave 56 warnings and issued only 4 citations. Due to the heavy amount of use that Silver Lake receives, we try to make our presence known on a regular basis. Some of the violations I've personally witnessed are overloaded vessels, operating a Personal Water Craft (PWC) without a Boater Safety Certification, improper distance from docks-rafts or swimmers, pulling skiers without an observer and improper child PFD's. I believe that the biggest offenders are people that don't live on the lake. A lot of times they are people from out of town that are staying with lakefront property owners.

In regards to PWC, the law states any person born after December 31st 1978 may operate a PWC only if he or she has obtained a Boating Safety Certificate and has it in their possession. Unless at a Slow No Wake speed, all vessels (and their skiers) must stay at least 100 feet away from the shoreline, any moored or anchored vessel, a dock or raft, and any marked swimming area or person in the water. Vessel operators need to remember that all children under the age of 6 are required to wear either a Type I or Type II Life Jacket when riding on the open deck of a vessel (Type III Vests are not allowed because they offer no head support).

During the boating season, if you have concerns or questions, please contact Marine Division at 995-5006. If you witness and would like to report an unsafe action on the water, please call Central Dispatch at 922-4550. People using the water need to remember that in addition to the violations I've listed here there are several more laws that need to be obeyed when operating a vessel. There are approx. 100 laws that are enforced on the water with all but 2 of them being misdemeanors. We've asked several times for an average cost per ticket, but are always told there is none. I would say that due to the fact the majority of these crimes are misdemeanors, the fines will be very high. If you would like more information on the Rules & Regulations of boating we offer free courses throughout the spring or the DNR has just started a new on-line Boating Safety Course that can be accessed by going to www.boat-ed.com."

Deputy Kellams had one other concern. There are times when those on the lake feel like the Sheriff's Department is out there to harass them. I think most of us know that is not true. When you see Deputy Kellams and the other officers out there, you might want to go up to them and thank them for the good work that they are doing.

Submitted by Andy Fowler

KEYHOLING - ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

Work continues on revising the "Easement to Waterfront" (keyholing) zoning ordinance in Garfield and Blair Townships. A meeting was held with the Garfield Township Planning Commission on May 9th and once again our recommendations for ordinance revisions were presented. The Planning Commission then directed the planner to prepare recommendations for changes to the ordinance. Blair Township has also received our request and plans to follow Garfield Townships lead.

The present ordinances only require land used for group easement and beach purposes to have a minimum frontage of 50 ft with an additional 5 ft for each family unit having easement privileges. Further the ordinances allow one dock per 50 ft with no limit on the number of boats that can use the dock. Note that these ordinances would allow 11 families to use 100 ft. frontage whereas the single family residential ordinance only allow 1 family per 100 ft.

We are requesting that the easement ordinance be revised to require a minimum of 100 ft of frontage for a group easement, with an additional 50 ft for each family unit having access. Further we request that docks be limited to two motorized watercraft per dock.

In addition we have learned that the DEQ requires a marina permit for all group easements that serve more than one residence. We are further requesting that if the easement lot is to be for common use boating, a marina permit be obtained from the DEQ as a condition of approval of the easement lot.

As we reported in earlier newsletters, the safe carrying capacity of Silver Lake has been exceeded by about 5 times. (Safe carrying capacity = 120 boats. Actual number = 409 boats, not including the public launch). To provide for the safety and quality of the lake it is important to try to limit the further expansion of boating activity.



Silver Lake
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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