

JUNE 2009 Silver Lake

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION *Caring for the future of the lake*



**calling
all
boaters!**

**July 4th
3 p.m.**

Public Landing

IT'S THE SILVER LAKE ANNUAL REGATTA

Parade Marshall Chuck Hathaway and his crew will be there taking pictures and registering boats for the competition. Judging by last year's numbers, it might be a good idea to be there by 2:30...

A new event last year was meeting back at the landing again at parade's end for prize drawings. People were visiting each other's boats, getting acquainted, taking pictures and comparing notes. It was such a success that we plan to make that an annual event as well.

Shoreline watchers – have your score cards ready – those "10's" are much coveted by the entrants – your appreciation spurs their creativity to new heights!

Whether you decorate or not – a great time will be had by all – so please be sure to come and join the fun!

Any questions, please contact Nancy Knight at 943-9487.

LIGHT THOSE TORCHES!!!

If you haven't already started the tradition of LIGHTING YOUR TORCHES, now is a good time to start. Inexpensive torches are for sale lots of places, so why not get a couple and begin the tradition on summer holidays. Memorial weekend has passed,

but we have the 4th of July coming up. Wouldn't it be cool to see lighted torches all around Silver Lake every evening of the holiday weekend?

Have a wonderful, safe summer on Silver Lake.

EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) is an invasive aquatic plant that out competes native plants and will overwhelm a lake if not controlled. EWM has been spreading across the US for decades and finally appeared in Silver Lake in 2005. Blair and Garfield Townships paid for EWM control efforts in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

A fall 2008 vegetation survey found an estimated 10 acres of EWM. Future anticipated control costs were reaching a point where additional funding would be needed. Silver Lake Improvement Association (SLIA) requested that Blair and Garfield Townships to establish a Special Assessment District to ensure funding would be available for EWM control. Michigan Law provides for aquatic plant control to be accomplished at the township level and for Special Assessment Districts to fund the control.

Blair and Garfield Townships agreed to initiate the process to establish Special assessment Districts. Because of time constraints both townships agreed to start the process without petitions signed by more than 50 percent of lakefront property owners which would have been politically more comfortable for them.

SLIA requested and received control proposals from four vendors. A hearing was held to consider the control plan followed by a hearing to consider the assessment roll. Comments at the hearings favored control efforts but many comments suggested someone else (DNR, County, Townships etc) pay for control costs.

Special Assessment Districts have been established in both Blair and Garfield Townships to control invasive aquatic plants in Silver Lake. Assessments will be approximately \$65 per property per year for the next five years. Blair Township will be contributing about \$2000 and Garfield Townships about \$4,000 to the control effort (the difference because more of the lake lies in Garfield than Blair). The assessments plus township contributions total \$31,000 a year.

Savin Lake Services of Hale, Michigan has been contracted to treat EWM with the herbicide Renovate this year. Treatment is planned for the first or second week of June. Use of weevils, a EWM biological control, will be considered in future years.

Based on projections of last year's applicator, Professional Lake Management, 15 to 20 acres of EWM are expected this spring. If unusually rapid spread occurred from last year to this year, they projected as much as 35 acres of EWM might be found.

We'll likely be hearing more about invasive species in the future. Silver Lake is home to zebra mussels, purple loosestrife, phragmites and Eurasian Water Milfoil already. According to a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality publication 140 invasive species have been identified in Michigan Waters.

Questions or comments?
Call Jim Lievense, Chuck Hathaway or Russ Adams

CHAIRMAN'S COVE

What a winter we had!! I hope all of you snowbirds are back and that you had a warm and sunny winter. Your lake association has been busy working with the Townships on a Special Assessment District to pay for the treatment of Eurasian Milfoil. We owe a big thank you to both Garfield and Blair Townships for their cooperation and willingness to work with us on financing the cost of treating our lake. Plan to come to the Annual Meeting this year to learn more about the treatment and control of Eurasian Milfoil.

Please remember to be safe and thoughtful of our neighbors and guests on the lake so that we can all enjoy the summer.

Don't forget the Regatta on July 4th and Annual Meeting on August 1st.

See you on the Lake

Dick Bogard

Chairman – Silver Lake Improvement Association

NO FISHING CONTEST

ALAS!

NO FISHING CONTEST

ON THE 4TH THIS YEAR . . .



Due to poor turnout the last couple of years, we won't be having the contest this 4th of July.

We know this will disappoint the faithful anglers who enjoy this so much – Soooo, we need to hear from you if you want to have one next year, and we need a volunteer to head it up. If you have ideas or would take on this project, call a board member.

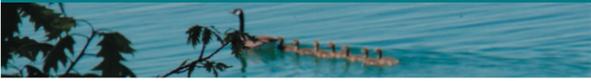
A huge thank you to Kevin Gagnon who made this annual event a great success for many years! You will still see him trolling around the lake and he "might" give you a hint where the big ones are, but it's time for someone else to step forward.

ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars and plan to attend
Garfield Township Hall
Saturday, August 1, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

We plan to have a special display of artifacts and some great stories about the Hoot Owl/Silver Lake Inn from Bob Schmidt. He has been working with members of the Willsey family and has some very interesting information regarding the history of the property. We also expect to have more information about Eurasian Milfoil and how best to deal with it in the future.

DEAR GOOSE GUY...



Dear Goose Guy,

This past summer we curtailed the geese from coming on our property by following the advice given in your column. We stopped feeding our feathered friends and trained our dog to nicely shoo them away. But now we write to you with another problem as follows: When we arrived to open our cottage this spring we were shocked to find that every wooden window pane and piece of surrounding trim was chewed up by some critter, like corn off of the cob. We also found a hole in the adjoining bath house floor where the same critter chewed his way to freedom. The damage is both extensive and irreplaceable as our wonderful Grandpa built our seventy-five-year old cottage with his own hands. What do we do now?

Signed, (SOSL) Sobbing on Silver Lake

Dear SOSL,

If I arrange the letters you've given me to work with above I could come up with something like: "Sorry-S...-Outa-Luck", man! But I do feel your pain, or is that pane? (Hopefully you will appreciate my punishing sense of humor through your grief). There are over 2300 members in the world wide rodent family, and that number doesn't even include our politicians and attorneys. Being you're in Northern Michigan, I'm thinking a squirrel found its way through your chimney flu and then went berserk! No sweet Mary Poppins slipping down the chimney to care for the family; Secret Squirrel had two goals in mind; survival and freedom. He chews for survival because if he does not his front teeth eventually grow up into his brain and end his squirrel life, and he chews for freedom because once in your cottage he simply wanted back out. Now, back to "Sorry-S...-Outa-Luck". Some insurance policies won't cover rodent damage. I know of a family that incurred a \$5,500 loss and the insurance agent measured the bite marks in the wood to determine that the culprit was indeed a rodent and not a teething toddler. (Don't know how insurance companies feel about damage caused by teething infants). For future reference - I'd do some research on how to deter rodents from entering the cottage and then follow through; check the fine print in your insurance policy to verify coverage; and, if absolutely necessary contact an attorney to help you out if they'll still return your call after being picked on once again. And, please know that Grandpa is in a better place where all of creation is loved and appreciated; including rodents and attorneys.

Dear Goose Guy,

My wife keeps insisting that I write this letter because according to her, "if goose guy knows what to do about problematic geese, he will know what to do about chipmunks." My wife thinks chipmunks are cute and adorable and has an old 78 RPM of Christmas music that she actually believes was sung by chipmunks. Personally, I'd just as soon take Theodore, Alvin and Simon on a hunting trip where I'm the hunter and they're the huntees. I've seen some of those Silver Lake Improvement Association 4th of July floats that feature rednecks and hunters so I'm thinking there are real men around this lake and we can solve this over population of chippies in our own way. Get back to me on this one. Oh yeah, my wife says I need to say please and thank you.

Signed, DHH (Desperate House Husbands)

Dear DHH,

Boy, where to start with this one? First of all be nice to your wife if for no other reason than because she's your wife and she's a girl. If she pre-deceases you, those chipmunks (that are probably gophers) may start looking like pretty cozy company; if she outlives you, she may dedicate a gopher reserve in your memory and you'll have nothing to say about it. Seems to me gophers like the sandy soil on the banks of Silver Lake as it's easy to burrow in and the hardwood trees surrounding the Lake make for acorns and great climbing. Speaking of girls and gophers; as a tween I was sent to church camp on a lake for one week during the summer. Gophers overran the cabins, the tabernacle and the dining room. During our free time boys who were "elevenish" armed themselves with sticks and chased gophers. The guys who were slightly older splashed on a whole bunch of "High Karate" cologne and chased the girls. Both groups of boys got into trouble with the camp counselors if they got too close to either the gophers or the girls. So, going back to being a real man...live trap 'em and go dump in the woods...the gophers, that is.

BITS FROM THE PAST... THE FASHBAUGHS

Nestled along about 900 feet of lake frontage in the Fasbbaugh cove on the southeast side of Silver Lake are the fashionable remnants of the Fasbbaugh resort. The former hotel is now a light yellow colored residence. The remaining cabin has been renovated, all part of a new vision for the property, now owned by the Egelus. Its current peaceful appearance belies its sometimes raucous past.

The land was originally part of a homestead grant, secured by the Brakel family. The Brakels still farm some of the land and live on some of its parcels on and around Brakel Point.

In the 1920's, Oliver Fasbaugh, from Canton, Ohio struck a deal with the Brakels for the property that would become the Fasbaugh Resort. After purchasing the empty parcel, Oliver went about the task of securing two contracts for rental cabins. He then returned to the property to build the cabins, just in time for the arrival of the tenants.

Oliver then built the hotel, which was a boarding facility that also housed his family. He then added two more cabins. Many people came for the entire summer, especially single professional men who stayed in the hotel. Of course, this was during the era of Prohibition and Oliver was a keen businessman.

He built a copper whiskey still and supplied some of the area's most prominent people with rye whiskey. His wife had the recipe and Oliver was the bootlegger. The whiskey still remained in the residence until the Fasbaughs sold it to the Egelus, so Don Fasbaugh, the grandson of Oliver, donated it to the Buckley Old Engine Show, and it has been displayed there.

In the 1930's, Oliver built a dance hall, named Fasbaugh's Pavilion. The building was 75 feet square, with a maple dance floor that measured 50 feet by 50 feet. Considering that it was built in the midst of the Great Depression, it was a risky business venture, but one that paid off nicely. There was a sizable demand for a speakeasy that also provided music and dancing. People drove great distances to be part of the action. The dance hall was used into the 1950's with its latter years holding fund raiser dances for the Grawn Sportsmen Club. After that, it was used as storage, with this author's boat, among others, wintering there. The dance hall was torn down in the 1980's.

In the late 1940's, Oliver left his wife and family. He also left his hotel/residence, with three rental rooms, one large community bath and a large parlor. He left his still, his dance hall, his four rental cabins. His son Art took over the property and helped his mother continue to run the resort. They added a boat livery in the 1950's.

Art married Matilda and they operated the resort into the 1980's. Then his son Don built a home on the property and helped his mother, who continued to rent the cottages into her late eighties. Don's son Dave and his family currently live on a parcel that was once part of the resort. Dave's children make five generations of Fasbaughs that have occupied land along the shores of Silver Lake.

(The information for this article was supplied in a phone interview with Don Fasbaugh, whom the author wishes to thank.) Submitted by Vicki Bush

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WHO DO YOU CALL?

Life threatening or dangerous violations.....911

Lake violations
(Sheriff Marine Division)
(Boat MC number required)
922-4514

Launch site violations
(local dispatch)
941-1011

DNR Traverse City Office
922-5280

Lost and found (Jim Lievense)
943-3757

For more information
go to our web site:
www.silverlakeimprovement.com



Silver Lake
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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