

JUNE 2011 Silver Lake

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION *Caring for the future of the lake*

IT'S REGATTA TIME – JULY 4TH AT 1:45 P.M.



Hello to all Silver Lake Improvement Association members. Welcome back to all the snowbirds! I hope you all had a wonderful winter. It is time to start thinking about how you will be decorating your boat for the annual boat regatta. It will be held on Monday, July 4th beginning at 2:00. I am just amazed at the quality of the boats that we have seen the last few years. What a wonderful dedication you have to putting on a great show for everyone on the lake.

Last year we made a few changes. We registered your boat with a number, we added a few judges, and we tried to keep everyone together and to circle the whole lake so that everyone could enjoy the fruits of your labor. Well some changes worked, and some didn't, so this is what we came up with for this year.

Please identify your boat with a family name on the right side of your boat. We will all gather at the regatta staging area, the public boat launch, at 1:45. Here you will be given a registration form as always to fill out. There will be a lead boat to follow. Please keep close to the boat in front of you. There will be one judging station. The judges will be from several families. No SLIA board members will be serving as judges. You will be judged in three categories; **overall effort**, **patriotism** and **crew participation**. It will be located at the Popp's cottage which is located about half-way down the lake on the west side. That is the only place you will be judged so make sure you are at your best at this point!

After you finish there will be a regatta gathering back at the staging area at the boat launch for door prizes and sharing of float building stories. All boats that come to the after party will be given a prize! As always, the official winners will be announced and awarded at the Silver Lake Improvement Association meeting on Saturday August 6th. This year First, Second and Third places will be awarded a plaque and a gift certificate.

Start decorating now. See you on the 4th!

Chuck Hathaway

CHAIRMAN'S COVE

Welcome to another beautiful (but late coming) spring on Silver Lake! The ice was off the lake around the 14th of April this year. I thought this was quite late but Chuck Fricke, keeper of all important Silver Lake statistics, tells me that April 21 was the latest in recent history. That is all a distant memory now as we look towards enjoying warm and sunny days on the lake this summer. While the Association board continues to monitor all aspects of Silver Lake, I think I can safely say things are in very good shape for now. The Eurasian Milfoil seems to be under control, our membership is growing, participation has been increasing and our water quality is very good. Now if we could only catch some fish..... Rather than looking for trouble, let's all put our worries aside and take full advantage of the beautiful blessing we have by being able to enjoy this wonderful part of the world. See you at the annual meeting on Saturday August 6th.

Jim Lievense, Board President

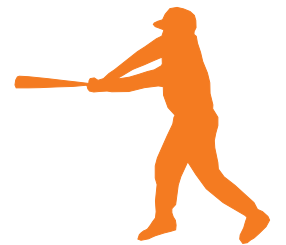
TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME...

When: Tuesday, June 21

Where: Wuerfel Park

Cost: \$5

Details: We will be in section 102. When purchasing your tickets, simply say you are part of the Silver Lake Improvement Association group. Join us in meeting some of your lake neighbors and having some fun!



Broken Wing Dinah

Dinah was a beautiful Canadian goose. She had a very happy life. In the summer she lived on Silver Lake in Northern Michigan. She swam around the lake with a large flock of geese, nestled on the shore of a small cove at night and ate grass and snails and other things that geese like to eat. In the fall she flew a long way south with the others, for in winter the lake froze over and they couldn't obtain food and water.

But one summer Dinah had an accident and her wing was broken. When it healed it dragged lower on one side and she was no longer able to fly or keep up with her friends. They were not patient with Dinah and largely shunned her. She sometimes felt sad, but because she was a resilient little goose, she made the best of it. She stayed pretty much in her small cove where she still had plenty to eat and she made friends with a group of Mallard ducks and swam around with them.

Then came fall and the small cove froze over, so she moved out to the larger lake, but that too soon froze over. What was she to do?

Unbeknownst to Dinah, she had human friends who also lived in the cove. They had watched her trials during the summer and gotten very attached to her. What could they do to help? One family called the DNR, and such good news! They would capture her and relocate her to the Boardman River at Logan's Landing. Another family fed Dinah (usually a "no-no") each morning and soon she huddled by their garage at night because she was hungry, and somehow she trusted them. One morning two nice men from the DNR came, and joined by the two families they captured Dinah - oh my was that exciting!

Dinah was pretty frightened, but soon she went to live on the Boardman River and she found her friends the Mallards were already there, so she is swimming around with them to this day!

Submitted by The Knight Family, Dinah's Human friends.



Fishing Contest

Sorry to report that due to the unexpected death of Larry Wesholski, our Fisheries Chairperson, we will not be having a Fishing Contest again this year. Larry was working on many projects for the lake association and his enthusiasm and hard work will be missed by all of those who knew him. We will bring up the fishing contest again at our Annual Meeting, August 6, 2011 to see if someone is ready, willing and able to take on this project. Kevin Gagnon organized and ran it for years and it was something many looked forward to. Hopefully, someone will step up and make it happen again.

Let's All Be Good Neighbors

In these hard economic times more of us are renting our homes to keep afloat and that is good! With that comes a responsibility to our neighbors. Please provide the **Marine Law booklets** (available from Sheriff's Dept, free), **"Don't Feed The Ducks" flyers** (from the SLIA), and **PLEASE ask your renters to douse campfires at night!** (Actually that's good advice for all of us!). Many owners use leasing agencies to rent their properties who may not be as conscientious about our lake as an owner - Please communicate this message to them. (Last year most of the neighbor complaints came about Agency rented properties) Let's all have a happy summer on Silver Lake!

Volunteers Needed

The SLIA will be losing a few board members this year and needs to find some new people to step up and take their places. The present board is made up of hard working individuals who spring to action whenever the need arises and we are looking for like-minded people to be part of this group.

If you are interested in a rewarding experience and have time to contribute to the well being of our lake, please call Nancy Knight, nominating chairperson, at 231-943-9487 or e-mail her at waynelknight@aol.com.

SLIA PICNIC

How about a chance to enjoy a picnic with our SLIA family? Maybe the first Saturday after Labor Day? Please contact Ron Grin if you are supportive and if you have ideas. Phone: 943-0293. Email: pointgrin@sbcglobal.net

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2011
Garfield Township Hall at 9 a.m.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Silver Lake Improvement Association. Plan on coming early (8:30) for coffee and donuts and socializing with your neighbors. Your input is important for the success of our lake association. We are always looking for willing volunteers to take on projects and also to serve as board members. If you are interested in becoming a board member contact Nancy Knight, nominations chairperson, at 943-9487. Have a fun, safe summer on the lake.

BITS FROM THE PAST

Russ and Pat Adams are the sources of information that focuses on the north end of Silver Lake. Their property abstract dates back to 1856. Their land was part of the development known as Prospect Park, platted in 1912. A read of the abstract yields many familiar names in the area, among them Dunn, Kratochvil, Robertson, Birkholm.

Russ's family was introduced to Silver Lake in 1914 by his grandmother. In 1935, in the midst of the Great Depression, his parents bought a cottage on the north end for \$1400. They paid \$15 per month and owned it by 1939. They rented it out to resort visitors, mainly from the Midwest, in order to make the payments. Most renters stayed two to three weeks and enjoyed the rustic amenities that included a hand water pump, outhouse, and ice box. By 1951 the property taxes were \$7.64.

Spending his boyhood summers on the lake, Russ picked cherries for 35 cents per lug, helped with the hay and spud potatoes on the Robertson farm (with ice cream as a reward), picnicked by Harbor Court, and enjoyed the usual lake activities.

In 1952, his life changed forever when he met 16-year-old Pat at a birthday party. He overturned her in a canoe and she eventually married him anyway! They dated through high school and married in 1958. Then it was college at Central Michigan College (now CMU) and then on to MSU for Russ and an engineering degree. They had two kids by the end of college and went off to Seattle where Russ was employed by Boeing. But Silver Lake beckoned.

In 1981, Russ and Pat bought a piece of property two doors down from the original Adams cottage. Their sprawling lot included a 600 square foot stone cottage and a stone boathouse. In fact, there were stone structures everywhere - a stone arch, stone basement, stonewalls around flowerbeds, stone flowerpots and stone pillars. The lore suggests that a previous owner had an affair with the bottle and his wife kept him busy hauling stones from the lake for numerous projects.

In 1999, Russ and Pat built their present home. They converted the 1925 boathouse into a guest cottage and added a large garage to house all the things that accompany lake living. Their beautiful home with the most amazing view of the length of Silver Lake continues to host the 5:00 bell, a tradition begun by the previous owners. People meet when the antique bell is rung and enjoy libations and conversation. They have hosted three weddings, family reunions and numerous parties. Many SLIA board meetings are held there.

The Adams have been at the core of the SLIA in many capacities for about a decades. Their stewardship of the lake includes Pat currently, and for several years, serving as secretary of the SLIA. She is also in charge of the newsletters, from creation to distribution. Both have served several terms on the board. Russ has been the point man in the environmental issues of Silver Lake, testing for water quality at least once per week and spearheading the efforts to control invasive species such as Eurasian milfoil, purple loosestrife, and phragmites.

He has not only supplied the scientific expertise, but has also met with the political leaders to secure the necessary funding.

Now Pat and Russ have decided to turn the page and begin a new chapter in their lives. They plan to move to California to be near children and grandchildren. We wish them well as we grapple with the huge void they will leave in the SLIA.

Thank you, Russ and Pat!

Submitted by Vicki Bush

ARE YOU FOLLOWING THE RULES?

Please read the enclosed brochure put out by the Michigan Lake & Stream Association, Inc. so you and your guests are aware of the regulations while boating on Michigan Lakes.

Barry Andrews, a SLIA board member, recently talked to Sergeant Chris Oosse (officer in charge of our local marine patrol) about citations given on Silver Lake during the summer season of 2010. He reported that citations are up from previous years. BUI (boating under the influence) arrests were up and there was an increase in the number of complaints regarding loud music (primarily for boats wakeboarding)

Barry was able to obtain a chart with the number of warnings and citations for all the lakes in the Grand Traverse area. If interested in obtaining this information go to our web site at www.silverlakeimprovement.com.

If you want to report a violation call the non-emergency central dispatch number 231-922-4550. (911 should always be called in case of an emergency). The violation is recorded and if a deputy subsequently sees the violation again, it will likely result in a citation rather than a warning. Make sure you get the MC number of the boat, description of the operator, nature of the violation, location, date and time. The more information you have the easier it is for the violation to be dealt with. Date stamped photos or video of the violation is very helpful in processing the violation.

We want everyone on our lake to have fun but we also want everyone to be safe. PLEASE, know the rules and make sure everyone follows them.

INVASIVES CONTROL

Late last year, on the recommendation of the SLIA board, Blair and Garfield Townships hired a lake manager (Lakeshore Environmental of Grand Haven) for the invasive species control effort. A major consideration in hiring the lake manager was to maintain continuity in the control effort. Secondly, the applicator we used the past two years was asking for sharply higher rates that the lake manager could likely improve on. That turned out to be the case. Lastly, we will have professionals surveying the lake that will be more likely to identify new invasive species that are known to be coming as well as identify other potential lake problems promptly.

Lakeshore Environmental will be paid \$6800 annually for its services which include:

1. Bid out invasive plant treatment services and make recommendations to township boards
2. Conduct spring and fall vegetation surveys
3. Provide on-site oversight of herbicide application
4. Provide a Lake Progress Report on past treatment efforts and proposed future treatment efforts
5. Provide information to Township Boards on lake ecological status and factors affecting the ecological balance of the lake
6. Attend up to 3 township or SLIA meetings
7. Provide assistance with future special assessment districts or public hearings

As of May 11, 2011 Blair and Garfield Special Assessment District accounts had a balance of \$18,992.64. That figure does not include revenues from the 2011 assessment.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Whether you recently acquired property on Silver Lake, happened to find a membership form in your desk, or just realized how valuable your membership is to our association we would like to welcome our newest members:

Terry & Rae Berden

Eric & Cindy Blazok

Tim & Carol Brock

Dennis & Debra Coburn

Craig & Amber Fountain

Martin & Marcia Hayward

James & Mary Lyle

James & Julie Runstrom

If you have new neighbors on the lake, please let us know so we can welcome them. Email janetwhee41@aol.com or phone 943-4443.

WHO DO YOU CALL?

Life threatening or dangerous violations
911

Lake violations Sheriff Marine Division
(Boat MC number required)
922-4550

Launch site violations
800-292-7800

DNR Traverse City Office (Mon. - Fri. 8-5)
922-5280

Lost and found (Jim Lievense)
943-3757

New residents moving on Silver Lake -
(Ron Clingaman)
943-4976

For more information and a current list of SLIA Board Officers and Committee Chairs, please visit:
www.silverlakeimprovement.com



Silver Lake
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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