

OCTOBER 2009 Silver Lake IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION *Caring for the future of the lake*



REGATTA

It is amazing that another year has gone by since I wrote this article last year for Boat Regatta '08. Although the number of boats participating in the parade shrank a bit this year, the outpouring of talent was amazing. We had pirates, vikings, movie scenes, numerous patriotic displays, entries dedicated to our cherry industry and our beloved Detroit Tigers, even a visit from the President of the United States!

Shoreline participation seems to grow every year. As I floated from boat to boat for registration, I couldn't believe the pride of craftsmanship that people had put into their entries. Even more impressive was the joy people were experiencing being with family and friends. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful lake community.

Once again this year I was fortunate to have help on my craft. Thanks to my wife, Nancy, and our good friend, Mickie Moeggenberg. A big thanks also to the judges. The Popp/McManus, Fifarek/Borucki, Wheeler and Hathaway families - it gets harder each year to select a few among so many fantastic creations. This regatta would not even take place without Nancy Knight who continues to dedicate many hours to making sure everything runs smoothly and is enjoyed by all. Thanks to her and your Silver Lake Improvement Association, prizes were randomly awarded to all boats that completed the entire parade and met back at the public beach.

*Please note that we did not do water balloons this year, being advised the balloons could endanger wildlife - however there was a major watergun battle between a raft of young gents and the star wars crew! It is reported there were a few other encounters with the Empire, as well as a few Vikings and Pirates under siege as the day progressed.

We've included a 2nd page featuring many of the entries and spectators, look it over carefully, you may be a star! Thanks to all who participated whether from shore or on board a vessel. I personally can't wait to see what next year brings!

See you on the lake,
Chuck Hathaway, Parade Marshall



1st Place - Blonshine Family & Friends, "Silver Lake Tooner"



2nd Place - Duane & Lucie Irlen & Family, "Viking Ship"



3rd Place - Kreiser/Bowman Family, "Life Is Just A Boat Of Cherries"



4th Place - Bogard Families, "Great American Bail Out"

"IT'S BACK" 4th of July Fishing Contest



Hi, everyone. My name is Larry Wesholski and I will be organizing the July 4th 2010 Fishing Contest. The emphasis will be on the young anglers in your family or neighborhood. I would like to hear your comments and suggestions for this upcoming contest. Yes, this will be a contest where fishing skills will help you. The art of fishing is more than just throwing out a line and waiting. Parents, Grandparents and other adults, why don't you share the techniques you have learned with the

young fishermen/fisherwomen around you to give them an edge in winning a prize and having a fun time on Silver Lake!

All of the particulars will be in the June 2010 newsletter, but you can mark your calendar now. We expect to start around 8:00 a.m. and finish at 11:00 a.m. so that you can get home to get your boat decorated for the regatta in the afternoon.

Anyone interested in helping can contact Larry Wesholski at 943-0632 or searcherc@aol.com.

Happy Fishing!

CHAIRMAN'S COVE

Well the summer (what summer?) of 2009 has come to an end and we can be thankful for many things. Our Milfoil problem appears to be under control and the funding is in place for future treatments as needed. A huge thanks to Russ Adams for identifying the problem and working towards a reasonable solution. The Boat Regatta hit new highs for quality of entries thanks to Nancy Knight and Chuck Hathaway. Our bank account has hit a new high of over \$9,000.00 thanks to Janet Wheeler and Pat Adams. The water levels are higher and appear to be on a rising trend thanks to Mother Nature. Our relationship with Garfield Township, Blair Township and the County Drain Commissioner is much improved, thanks to Peter Haddix and Bill Helke. Our news letter articles have improved thanks to Vicki Bush and Rob Raetz. Our annual meeting was made more interesting thanks to Bob Schmidt and Guy Savin. And finally our entire lake association was made stronger by the tireless efforts of our president (for the past several years) Dick Bogart. Dick you lead us well and we owe you a lot for your hard work and dedication to Silver Lake. We also want to welcome our two new board members, Barry Andrews and Ron Clingaman, as well as Larry Weslowski, who volunteer to take over for Kevin Gagnon as head of fisheries. Everyone have a great fall and winter and we will look forward to actually having a summer of 2010!

Jim Lievense, President

How Do You Feel About Muck?

Good news - Bad news

"Below the big black arrow". What appears to be sand or land is actually a very large surface cluster of leaves that someone put into the lake. A good neighbor went out and removed them, kudos to him. Perhaps the person who raked these leaves into the lake did not realize they would eventually settle to the lake bottom and contribute to the muck problem.

With the fall season upon us, let's all be good neighbors and dispose of our leaves and other yard waste appropriately and be good stewards of our natural resource.



LOST AND FOUND

12' Aluminum Boat washed up on the shore of Ed Thirlby. If it belong to you or if you think you might know who it belongs to call 231-357-1442. To report a lost or found item call Jim Lievense at 943-3757.

DEAR GOOSE GUY...



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 predeceases 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 them in the woods...the gophers, that is.

Dear Goose Guy,

How do I keep Sea Gulls from roosting on my dock and swim raft? I already have three teenagers that I clean up after and don't need one more raft or dock to scrub. Thanks in advance.

Signed,
Stressed and Tired (SAT)

Dear SAT,

Well, this SAT sounds like a very challenging test. Anyone raising teenagers knows this: their rooms often smell of dead fish, there's a lot of crap to clean up after they've eaten, and, when they argue with you their voices can be as shrill as any feisty gull. When I raised teenagers I sought as much advice as I could and tried to be consistent while understanding that each teen was a unique case - much like gulls. I've had gulls and teens that just needed to be sent packing when they overstayed their welcome, gulls and teens that just needed another gull friend to hang out with, and, most recently, have become acquainted with a brown colored gull I've nick-named "Jonathon Livingston". He seems to just want to hang on the end of my dock and be a gull. I've been able to get within three to four feet of him and have found that given a chance this gull like most teens is pretty cool. How about having your teens clean up after those gulls? When they're through scrubbing the dock and the swim raft feed 'em something and then have them tackle their rooms. Good luck!

If any of our readers is doing battle with Mother Nature on Silver Lake (or with teens or tweens or spouses) and would like to share a story or two - write: The Goose Guy, c/o SLIA newsletter.

2009 ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Hear ye, hear ye, all ye who were absent from the 2009 annual meeting, you missed a good one. It included spirited debate, vital information about the health of the lake and some impact on our pocket-books. There were incredible homemade donuts and coffee and a very interesting presentation about the Silver Lake Inn, including a picture display and mounted fish that were taken from our lake.

The first topic of discussion was the drain, how it operated, when it was last opened, how it is funded and the role of the courts in setting the level at which it is opened. Bill Helke gave an update on the drain, indicating that the last time it was opened to lower the lake level was 2005. He also explained the special assessment coming our way to maintain the drain.

Next came committee reports, complete with both interesting and also mundane information, as required by the bylaws, in order to keep members informed. Russ Adams, our environmental committee chair, reported that both Garfield and Blair townships are providing monies to treat the Eurasian watermilfoil, that a special assessment district is being formed to fund further treatment, and that the viability of using weevils in certain areas is being investigated. Pretty important stuff...

Pete Haddix, The SLIA liaison with the townships reported on the issue of keyholing and the need for stronger ordinances to regulate it. It impacts the number of boats and docks on the lake.

Guy Savin of Savin Lake Services, gave a special presentation about the Eurasian milfoil treatment of Silver Lake, as done by his company. His presentation included visuals of Silver Lake and the areas that are being treated. Since this invasive species can grow to the point of choking a lake, the information provided by Guy was pretty important to those of us who use the lake, look at it and/or care about our property values. Guy congratulated us on being so proactive in its treatment, unlike many other lakes in Michigan. He also discussed the efficacy of using weevils. More information is available at www.LakeandPond.com or Guy's email at GuySavin@LakeandPond.com.

Janet Wheeler, chair of the membership committee reported that about 50% of lake front property owners are members of SLIA. Non-property owners can join as associate members. There are many challenges in protecting Silver Lake and there is strength in numbers...

Nancy Knight and Chuck Hathaway, co-chairs of the July 4th regatta reported that 17 registered boats participated, along with those on shore applauding, shooting water balloons, and flashing score cards. See more about the Regatta in this newsletter.

Jim Lievens explained what a lake management plan is and sought input via a questionnaire. The SLIA board is exploring the option of creating a lake management plan. The election of board members followed. See list of board members and officers in this newsletter.

After adjournment, Bob Schmidt, Conservator for the Willsey family, gave a presentation on the Silver Lake Inn and the Hoot Owl gift shop. The Inn began as a stagecoach stop, with barns and room and board. Later came rental cottages and a gift shop with items from all over the world, from inexpensive trinkets to valuable art work, and the county's first cement tennis court. Interesting artifacts, guest registers, picture albums and stories led to a good time for all.

So, if you were not in attendance, the minutes are available on the website. If you were there, but are not a morning person, check the website for what you might have missed while munching on those really good donuts. And, make sure to attend next year so you can get the information first hand and be heard if you want to be.

Submitted by Vicki Bush

*P.S. And by the way a regular feature of the SLIA newsletter is a series of articles entitled **Bits From The Past**, based on interviews with people who have information about the history of the lake and its people. If you, or someone you know, fits the bill, please contact me, Vicki Bush at vlbush@chartermi.net.*



SLIA BOARD OFFICERS

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Bob Schmidt	943-9050	thedonutguy@chartermi.net

www.silverlakeimprovement.com

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 Lievens)
943-3757

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

REGATTA ENTHUSIASTS



5th Place – Honorable Mention – Adams, Vincent, Fowler Families “It’s Five O’Clock Somewhere”



6th Place – Honorable Mention – Hinds/Paddock Families, “The Movie ‘UP’”



Beach Luau – The “Fab Five” – Borucki & Friends



Uncle Sam – “Go America” – Kuhn Family



“Detroit Tiger Fans” – Thirlby Family



Star Wars – “The Empire Strikes Back”



“Bollywood” – Britten Family



“Sputnik” – Schmidt/Wilcox Families



“Four Generations On The 4th” – Weaver Crew



“Patriotic” – Taplin Family



“Little Grass Skirts on Silver Lake” – Flynn Family



“American Flags” – Gekus Family



The “Row Boat Kids” join in the fun



“Mega group of Judges”



“There’s a party going on right now”



Mingling at Parade’s End



The Parade Marshall “Boarding Ship”



“Head Viking On Patrol”

SILVER LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION SHARED VALUES SURVEY

Below is a summary of the results from the survey taken at the annual meeting. Rather than publish all of the responses, I have listed the ones that appear to be where the association should focus its efforts. Please feel free to call me with your comments.

- Most agree that they would like to see the lake bottom cleaned up of old tires, cans etc. and agree that having a "lake clean up day" would be the best solution.
- Most would like to see the association promote vegetative buffers as a means to prevent pollution from reaching the lake and agree that we should encourage the Townships to adopt ordinances regarding fertilizer types and application. We should also lobby for septic system inspections and mandatory remediation.
- Most would like to see a "wash station" at the launch site but provide no means to fund this issue.
- Most are happy with the clarity and condition of the water.
- Most are not bothered by boat traffic or concerned about boating safety or wave erosion.
- Most do not want to see the lake level go any lower but are otherwise not concerned.
- Most are not happy with the present fishing conditions and would like to plant fish to improve the fishery and improve the fish habitat.

All other issues are either equally split between positive and negative responses or are not an immediate concern.

Jim Lievens
231-943-3757 Evenings

GOODBYE SUMMER!!!

It's been another wonderful summer on Silver Lake. Cooler than some, but it's still nice to live on the lake. We count our blessings everyday when we look out our windows and know how lucky we are to live on this beautiful lake. We hope everyone had a glorious summer.

Try to stay warm this winter while some of us older folks bid you farewell and leave for a little more summer in Florida, Arizona, and California. We will return in the spring just in time to get the June newsletter ready for press with all the exciting things that will be happening on the lake next summer.

THINK SPRING!!!

SLIA newsletter committee

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:

Kerry Canello
Lois Pahl

Silver Lake View Mobile Home Park
Arlene Tremain

For those of you who haven't joined our lake association for this year but have lost your membership form, you can put your name, Silver Lake address and phone number on a sheet of paper and mail it with a check for \$25 (\$33 if you want to subscribe to the Riparian) to:

SLIA – Janet Wheeler, Treasurer
P.O. Box 2133
Traverse City, MI 49685

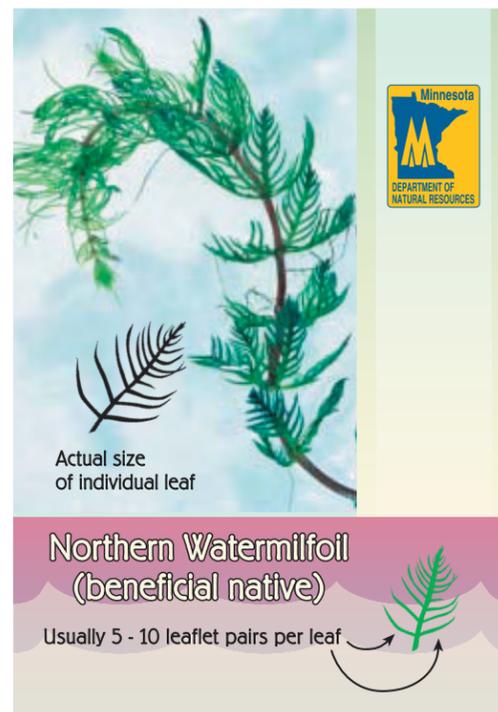
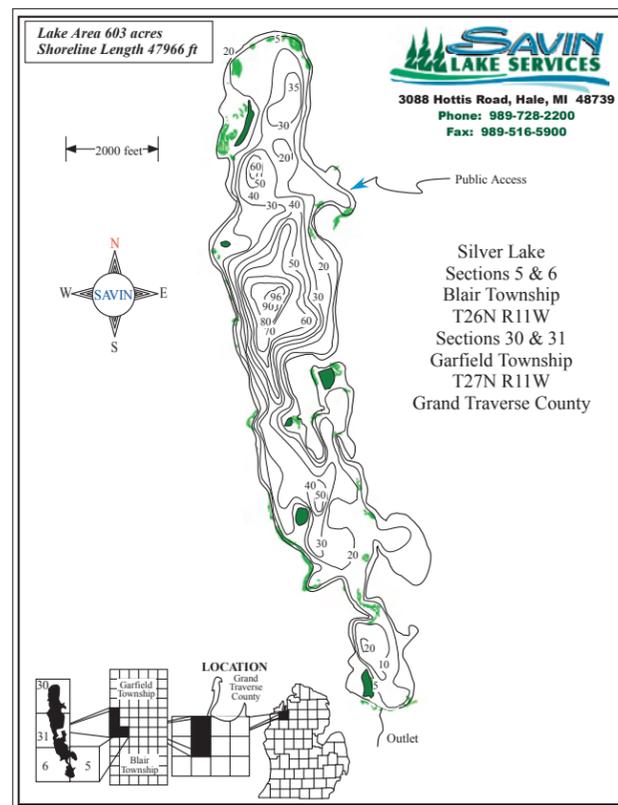
You may want to check out our web site:
www.silverlakeimprovement.com

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL & PHRAGMITES CONTROL EFFORT

The eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) control effort for this year started with a survey in May. The cool spring slowed growth of the weed and so a second survey was done in June. EWM was found in areas near where it was found last year. On June 23, twenty-two acres of the lake were treated with Renovate OTE, a granular herbicide (see the treatment map in Fig 1). There were fewer than twenty two acres of EWM but we extended the treatment area beyond the plants we could see to be sure we got everything in the area.

A follow up treatment was applied August 11. Approximately two acres of EWM were treated. A half dozen new but very small stands of EWM were found and treated. Since that time three new stands of EWM, one very substantial, have been found and will be treated during the fall survey which will be conducted late September or early October.

Because we continue to find new patches of EWM, in spite of having excellent viewing conditions during surveys, makes it clear we need all lake residents to be looking for EWM, recording it's location (preferably with GPS coordinates) and letting Chuck Hathaway 943-3912 or Russ Adams 947-5502 know so we can inform the applicator. The best time to survey is late fall because the weed has grown tall by then and is readily visible. EWM found by mid-June can



treated. There are several photographs of phragmites at www.invasive.org/browse/subthumb.cfm?sub=3062&start=1 The plant is difficult to differentiate from native reeds. To be sure it's phragmites, ask MSU Extension to identify a sample.

be included in the first treatment of the season. Figure 3 is a copy of an ID card for EWM.

\$18,250 has been spent on EWM and phragmites control so far this year. We expect to end the year having spent less than \$20,000 (not including one time attorney fees for setting up the special assessment district).

We've asked about starting to use weevils on part of the lake for EWM control. The recommendation has been against the use of weevils because the stands of EWM are too small and too spread out to sustain weevil populations.

Last year phragmites, another invasive plant, was found near the boat launch and on the East side of the lake just north of the Blair Township boundary. On August 11 those patches were treated along with a new growth found on "government" island. Since that time Bill Van Petten found it on his property. I also found a single plant on my property on the North end of the lake. As with EWM lake residents need to be alert to phragmites infestations and report their location if you want them



Silver Lake
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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