

OCTOBER 2010 Silver Lake IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION *Caring for the future of the lake*



REGATTA 2010

It's been a real, old time, "Long Hot Summer" on Silver Lake this year, and the 4th was not a disappointment – what a glorious day for a parade – and what a parade it was!

With fire engines, fiestas, cherry pickers, paddlewheels, casinos, hunters, singers, hula dancers, tropical cafes, alligators, kayaks, umbrellas, remembrances of those who've passed, and the traditional patriotic themes – the creativeness and ingenuity of our neighbors continues to amaze! Compliments to the Blonshine family for taking the extra time to share the fire engine lights, siren, and formidable hose with the youngsters around the entire lake, last to finish but not last in performance – how thoughtful - what a show!

Not to be outdone by those on parade, the show on the shoreline was spectacular as well, as crowds gathered to share in the fun with their cheers and score cards. The young warriors on docks and rafts lying in wait with their water projectors to skirmish as the floats passed by, and dancers waving and dancing to Jackson favorites. And then the finale; with prize drawings, sharing and comparing, and getting acquainted. What a good time!

Special thanks to parade marshal, Chuck Hathaway and crew for registering and organizing, and to the judges – Popp/McManus, Fifarek/Borucki, Wheeler, Cole and Hathaway families – it gets harder each year to select a few among so many fantastic creations. The scores were so close that we chose to honor the top 6 this year with certificates at annual meeting.

The evening was crowned with an incredible fireworks display in Kreiser cove on the south end. Many people gather in the narrows to watch the ballpark fireworks each week – the consensus was that the Kreiser, Cole and Harrigan families gave them a real run for their money. The spectator count on Saturday night was 30 boats for the ballpark and 25 on the 4th for our own "Silver Lake Spectacular" – Thank you, Cove families!

Thanks to all who shared! Nancy Knight and Chuck Hathaway, Social Committee



1st Place – Blonshine Family & Friends, "Silver Lake Fire & Rescue"



2nd Place – Kreiser/Bowman Family, "Thriller"



3rd Place – Irmen Family, "Mexican Fiesta – T.C. Cherry Pickers"



4th Place – Bogard Families, "Kill It & Grill It"



Honorable Mention Tie – Clingaman Family, "Summer Fun"



Honorable Mention Tie – Cronin/Krumm Families, "Casino River Boat – Silver Belle II"

CHAIRMAN'S COVE

WOW! What a wonderful summer on Silver Lake! Anyone who didn't have the best summer possible should definitely consider moving closer to the equator.

I have a few notes to wrap up the year:

1. Thank you to all who attended the annual meeting. We had another good turn out and the direct input of all lake residents means so much to the board and helps give us direction for the coming year(s).
2. Thank you to all of the SLIA board members for another job well done.
3. Thank you for your membership support. We are approaching record membership and really appreciate the support your membership and dues give us.
4. Thank you to all of the committee members and chairpersons. Everything seems to be in order.

And finally to all of you snowbirds: Don't leave too early as it looks like we are in for a beautiful fall and plan on returning early as we are planning on another beautiful summer in 2011.

Have a safe and healthy winter!

Jim Lievense, President

Disinfection Station at Launch Site

The SLIA board is looking into the possibility of putting a disinfection station (cleaning station for boats) by drilling a well at the launch site. Permit(s) need to be gotten as well as a plan for operation and maintenance. We are checking on some funding from the State and are pursuing some other options as well. We also need to have some way of making sure people who use the lake use the cleaning station. Many questions!! But we are looking into it. More info later. If anyone wants to work on this project, please contact Larry Wesholski at SearcherTC@aol.com. We need the input of all lake owners.

New Board Members, Officers and Committee Chairs

The board would like to welcome our newest board member, Leone Powell. We are also pleased to announce two new officers: **Ron Clingaman** as Vice President and **Barry Andrews** as Treasurer. Changes in our committee chairpersons are as follows: **Barry Andrews** as Drain Liaison, **Ron Clingaman** welcoming chair and **Vicki Bush**, Township Liaison. **Jim Lievense** will serve another year as President and **Pat Adams** as Secretary. Thanks to all who volunteered for these positions.

If you want to contact a board member or a committee chair please go to our website at www.silverlakeimprovement.com. You will find a complete list with phone numbers. We also have an email address on the website if you prefer to contact us that way. Your email will be directed to the proper person who will answer your concerns.

BITS FROM THE PAST

In 1951, Jim Tremain paid \$500 for a lot on Silver Lake in preparation for his marriage to Arlene. He then built a garage, with bathroom, that they occupied for about three years until moving into the house that he built.

As a youth, Jim spent his summers in Northport working on the family's charter fishing boat and developed an affinity for the water. Arlene grew up in Traverse City and longed for water frontage. Thus began their love affair with Silver Lake. After rearing their two children and losing her beloved Jim, Arlene still lives on the lake year around. She still kayaks, cross-country skis, and even ice skated on the lake.

Arlene has many memories of Silver Lake. Their first winter involved walking from East Silver Lake Road to their residence. The county did not plow their road at all then and only partially the next year. There was only one other year around resident then. Gradually, houses and cottages filled in their subdivision and other housing developments popped up around the lake.

Some problems came with the development. There were disputes regarding subdivision easements, resulting in sugar in their gas tank and their license plate being stolen. The public boat launch was built, resulting in a huge increase in boat traffic and an impact on fishing. The high lake level threatened water quality, prompting Jim to become involved in the SLIA's successful effort to install the drain system for the lake. And now there are some problems with the weekly rentals in their neighborhood.

However, the problems pale in contrast to Arlene's love for living on Silver Lake, evidenced by her many fond memories. She remembers rearing her children and how the lake was the center of their activities, year around. Jim taught his children, along with at least twenty others, to water ski. Instead of taking vacations, the Tremains spent money on boats. Through the years, they had a row boat, canoe, sail boat, three power boats, a paddle boat, two pontoons and kayaks. Winter lake activities included cross-country skiing, ice fishing, skating and sledding down hills onto the lake.

Arlene remembers some cars driving on the ice by party revelers and her worrying about their safety. Also, there used to be dozens of ice shanties on the lake. Few are now seen. She thinks it is difficult to park around the lake now and there are fewer fish, as well.

Although she grew up in Traverse City and has happy memories of city activities, such as ice skating on Thirby Field (Yes, the whole field was flooded!), she says that she could not live in town again. She loves Silver Lake.

Submitted by Vicki Bush



Remember:

- leaves in a pile are great fun to tumble in!
- leaves in the lake settle to the bottom and cause muck!
- burning too close to the shoreline leaches phosphorus into the water!
- enjoy the pleasures of the season, but please be a good steward and dispose of your leaves properly...

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

In case you missed it or just have a case of fuzzy memory, here is what happened at the annual meeting, held August 7, 2010.

First, there were refreshments, including the outstanding donuts created by Bob Schmidt.

Then President Jim Lievens opened the meeting by thanking all of the volunteers that drive the Silver Lake Improvement Association.

A parade of reports followed, providing information about the finances, fisheries, environment, drain, township politics, the website, communications, social activities, and membership. Some highlights follow:

- There will be an attempt to restart the annual fishing contest.
- The DNR planted 35,000 walleye in 2008.
- The VHS disease is a problem in the state hatcheries, halting current plantings.
- SLIA is investigating a disinfection station at the public landing.
- Eurasian Milfoil was detected in 2006, treated in 2007.
- Much more detected in 2008, retreated.
- Less in 2009, but still hot spots. (2009 treatment costs were \$23,000, with Blair and Garfield townships contributing, plus special assessment funds.)
- 2010, SLIA changed treatment companies, different chemical, better results. (\$4000)
- Phragmites treated in 2009, seem to be gone. Will treat again in 2011

- SLIA newsletters best means of communication and education.
- 2 newsletters published each year, spring and fall.
- Contact Pat Adams with information or ideas for articles.
- SLIA continues to encourage Blair and Garfield townships to enact and enforce viable keyhole ordinances.
- There is a need for help with maintaining the SLIA website. Contact Wayne Knight.
- 2005 was the last time that the drain was opened to drain water from Silver Lake.
- The special assessment monies for drain maintenance should last another 3 years.
- SLIA membership is currently 178 (354 property owners, some publicly owned, some owners with multiple parcels.)
- Associate memberships are encouraged for those who use the lake but do not own lake frontage.
- July 4th boat regatta a great success. 14 registered participants, enthusiastic viewers.
- A lake management plan was investigated and has been abandoned. Too much for a volunteer group.
- September 25 was set for a Silver Lake clean up day. Volunteers signed up.
- Board members were elected, as per the advice of the nominating committee.
- Special presentation by Benjamin Fruchey and Troy Langer on riparian law, with audience questions fielded.

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY!!

We have a couple of safety issues we would like to remind drivers of boats and personal watercrafts.

1. **Boats pulling skiers or tubers without spotters.** Several people have been stopped by the sheriff for this violation and the ticket was over \$100. I bet they were sorry for not being safe. The law is: You must have a spotter and when pulling someone behind a personal watercraft you must have room on the craft for the person you are pulling. That means only 3 passenger personal watercrafts should be used to pull skier, wake boarders or tubers.
2. **Boats going too fast.** We do not have signs stating that certain areas are no wake areas, but boaters should be very careful when traveling in areas where the water is shallow and the shores are close. Remember there are people swimming and diving from rafts and maybe they

are swimming beyond the raft. If you are going fast, pulling someone behind the boat and not paying close attention, you could have a serious accident. Just be mindful of your surrounding and drive your boat safely.

3. **Who to Call.** If you see someone you feel is not following the law you have the right; in fact the obligation, to report them to the Sheriff. Be sure you have a description of the boat and if possible the license numbers.



SLIA BOARD OFFICERS

President	Jim Lievens	943-3757
Vice President	Ron Clingaman	943-4976
Secretary	Pat Adams	947-5502
Treasurer	Barry Andrews	943-7005

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Social	Nancy Knight	943-9487
Environmental	Russ Adams	947-5502
Drain Liaison	Barry Andrews	943-7005
Welcoming	Ron Clingaman	943-4976
Township Liaison	Vicki Bush	943-8533
Membership	Janet Wheeler	943-4443
Publicity	Pat Adams	947-5502
Rules	Jim Lievens	943-3757
Fishing Issues	Larry Wesholski	943-0632
Web Site	Wayne Knight	943-9487
Muck Eradication	Mike O'Brien	943-0764

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



Hodges Family – “Happy 4th – American Dream”



Brock Family & Friends – “USA #1”



Adams Family & Friends, “5 O’Clock Gang – Friends of Bill Weitschat”



Kuhn Family – “Hawaii”



Hull Family – “Tropical Café”



Weaver Family – “USA, United We Stand”



Thirlby Family – “Don’t Rain On Our Parade – Red, White & Blue”



Joseph Family – “Freedom Voyager”



Who? – “Patriotic Celebration”



Wannabe’s – “We can Join The Parade”



Shoreline Participation – “Front Row Seats”



Shoreline Participation – “Frederick’s Tiki Bar Group”



Judges – Popp Family, “We really get into this”



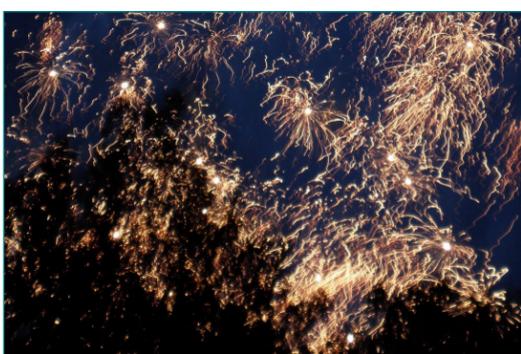
Finale – “And the Winner is”



Finale – “The Gang’s All Here”



Fireworks – “The Silver Lake Community - Sharing”



“...And The Rockets Red Glare...”



“It’s A Grand Old Flag...”

HISTORICAL INFORMATION REQUEST

Our webmaster, Wayne Knight, has requested information about the history of our lake for the website. If you or someone you know has information about the beginnings of Silver Lake as a recreational lake; such as, how it got its name, old pictures, old maps, names of people who built the first homes on the lake and the dates they built them or any other history, please email that information to info@silverlakeimprovement.com. Wayne will then compile this information and put it on the website for everyone's pleasure.

Also, if you have information you would like to see in the newsletter please contact Pat Adams at patadamsdean@yahoo.com. We will be publishing another newsletter in the spring and would appreciate your input.

CLEAN UP DAY It didn't happen!!!

Because of circumstances beyond anyone's control our first clean up day didn't happen. We will certainly try again next year.

Remember when you are cleaning up your beach and lawns this fall that leaves in the lake cause muck. Yuck!!



WHO SAID THERE ARE NO FISH IN SILVER LAKE

This fish was caught by Jack Hertel in the channel just off Frederick's on 8/12/2010. It was 34" long and weighed 10lbs. Jack is a member of the Michigan Airstreams Park; more commonly known to the public as Holiday Park. HAPPY FISHING!!

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:

Ken & Anne Hall
Greg & Ellen Irmen
Carolyn Kesor

Nathan March & Anessa Songer
Michael & Rebecca Reese
Michael & Cindy Anderson Schwartz
Bill & Diane Seeloff

Want to see your name here? Print a membership form off our website and mail it with your check for \$25.00.

ATTENTION THOSE WHO USE THE LAKE BUT DO NOT OWN LAKE PROPERTY

Silver Lake Associate Membership - \$25 a year

The Silver Lake Improvement Association (SLIA) board of directors would like to invite those who enjoy our lake, but do not own waterfront property, to become associate members of our association. The goal of the association is to care for the future of our lake and educate those who use it.

What does an associate member get out of joining the SLIA? They will receive our fabulous newsletters, reminders to attend the annual meeting (first Saturday in August) where they can hear about what is happening on the lake, meet their neighbors and give us ideas regarding the lake. Although they cannot vote (sorry, only

property owners are allowed to vote) we still want to hear what they have to say about the lake and how it is used.

Therefore, if you know of someone who uses our lake and would like to become an associate member have them call or email Janet Wheeler, membership chairperson at 231-943-4443 or email to janetwhee41@aol.com. She will be happy to mail them a membership form. Or they could go to our website www.silverlakeimprovement.com and print out a membership form and mail it along with their check for \$25 to Barry Andrews, Treasurer, P.O. Box 2133, Traverse City, MI 49685-2133

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

We continue to ask for your help identifying locations where invasive plants have established themselves in and near the lake. The more eyes at work identifying new growth the better our control efforts will be. To date Eurasian Water-milfoil, Purple Loosestrife and Phragmites have been found and it's very likely additional stands of those plants exist, we just haven't found them. If you find suspected invasive plants please tell a lake association board member. We'll need a location of the growth; GPS coordinates are best but an address of the nearest residence may do. For help in identifying plants refer to the following websites:

Eurasian Water-milfoil

www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/pubs/EWMCARD.pdf

Purple Loosestrife

www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/plantsci/weeds/w1132w.htm

Phragmites

www.invasiveplants.net/phragmites/phrag/morph.htm

www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3681_3710-178183-,00.html

This year some 30 patches of Eurasian Water-milfoil

in Silver Lake were treated with less expensive Navigator herbicide with what appears to be excellent results. Renovate herbicide was used in prior years with good results in shallow water (under 5 feet) but produced poor results in deeper water. Total expenditure for Eurasian Water-milfoil control this year is \$4200 as compared with just under \$23,000 spent on control last year.

Barry Andrews has found Purple Loosestrife on the south side of the Roman Road causeway and South of Roman Road on the east shore of the lake. Herbicide and biological controls are available to control purple loosestrife. Garfield Township funded the purchase of beetles to control Purple Loosestrife a few years ago. Excellent results were achieved but only after the beetles had been in place several years. It's likely this approach will be tried next spring on Silver Lake. One drawback, the stands of loosestrife is fairly small and may not support a beetle population.

Phragmites had become established in four locations on the lake by fall 2009. It was treated with the herbicide Garlon with excellent results. None was found this year.

"LOST AND FOUND"

Here's how it works!

Hi. I am Jim Lievense, 231-943-3757. I am in charge of the Silver Lake Lost and Found. Here is how it works: If you have lost something, call and tell me.

If you have found something, call and tell me. If I can match a lost item with a found item I am happy. If I cannot, I am sad. Any questions?



Silver Lake
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 2133 • TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49685-2133
www.silverlakeimprovement.com