



# Sylvia Lake Breeze

Sylvia Lake Association Newsletter

Fall 2005

## *Shooting the Breeze*

*Lea E. Dickson, Sylvia Lake Association President*

For many of us, spending a few days weeks or summer months at the lake it means idle conversation, relaxing, reading, swimming, boating and fishing. As I sit glancing out the window at the spectacular fall colors of Sylvia, it brings a sense of reflection. The summer season residents have left. The snowbirds are busy packing. The year rounders are making last minute preparations before the first snow falls. Most of the docks and boats are out of the water. Plywood has been placed on the screened porches, furniture has been put underneath the camp, and a handy stack of firewood is placed near the door. The generators have already been put to the test as a result of the September 27th windstorm. It is time for Sylvia to rest. She has had a very busy season.

While preparing for the responsibility of Association President and helping to gather information for the new edition of the Sylvia Lake Book, I read 37 years of Association minutes. The organization is rich in history and it was a terrific experience reading about the wonderful people of the lake who dedicated so much of their time and energy to the preservation and protection of Sylvia Lake and its watershed.

I had no idea that my father, Andy, served as the first secretary and later as vice-president. My mother, Norinne, still holds the distinction of being the longest serving association

officer. My parents were officers in the association for 19 years.

As your new association President, I hope to use my previous experience with water quality concerns. I served as Chair of the Shellfish Commission in Fairfield, CT and as a member of the Fairfield County Soil and Water Conservation District. More recently, I have been asked to represent Sylvia Lake on the St. Lawrence County Water Quality Coordinating Committee.

County resources will be assisting the SLA Board to prioritize issues that may be impacting Sylvia's water quality and helping us identify the steps our community can take.

We hope the Sylvia Lake Breeze newsletter recaptures some of the memorable times of this past summer and provides important news and information.

Have a safe, healthy holiday.  
See you in the Spring!

### *Milfoil Salad, anyone?*

Once again, Jonathan Lookwood, (Dave and Faye's son) and his diver friends pulled invasive weeds around the lake on September 17 and 18, 2005. On Saturday, invasive weeds were pulled at Old Beach, Wintergreen Bay, and Hotel Bay. On Sunday, the divers worked off Robinson Point and along the shore of Parker Bay.

Saturday was gloomy and rainy. We had just experienced an overnight torrential downpour that washed out roads in the area and raised the water level of the lake by over a foot. But the sandwiches were made and the divers were ready...and they certainly didn't care if it was raining or not.

Volunteers emerged out of the fog in small boats to scoop the weeds as they floated to the surface. On Sunday, the sun began to shine and it turned into a beautiful day.

Thank you to Dave and Faye Lockwood, Jim Moses, Lynne French, Jeanette Perry, Gary and Linda Scott, Katie and Peter Pistolesi and granddaughter, Tessa, Shari Barnhart, Lea Dickson and Mark Truax. Providing pontoon boats for the divers and also scooping were Ernie Hutt, Bill and Joanna deLorraine and mom, Gale Ferguson, Sue Emrich, Betsy and Dan Kalina and friend, and Donnie and Shirley Putman.

And a very special thank you to Carole and Tony and all the divers.



Jonathan Lockwood surfaces during this Fall's milfoil harvesting.

**Sylvia Lake Dues and Contributions**

Annual Dues of the property owners shall be \$10.00, payable to the Treasurer or the lake representatives before September 1st of each year. (Sylvia Lake Association Constitution) Suggested donation to the SWAT/PEST FUND is \$50.00

Thank you to all who have generously given to the Sylvia Lake Association year after year. Your gifts of time and money are what makes our community strong and the success of the Association’s programs are dependent upon your support. Since the beginning of the SL Association, in 1968, all property owners have been considered members. Property owners contribute time, money or both. Membership dues and contributions provide essential funding for our Standing and Special Committees.

The Fish and Game Committee is responsible for the water level, beaver control and fish management. Sanitation and Water Quality Committee provides sanitation and sewer education, water testing and monitors factors impacting the purity and safety of the water.

Over the years, the Navigation Committee has conducted swimming instruction, boat safety courses, sailing lessons, water skiing shows, sailing and canoe races. More recently, the Association has had to address the negative impact on our watershed and lake basin from devastating storms, caterpillars and invasive weeds.

Your dues and contributions are essential to provide funding for newsletter mailing, water testing, the Annual Picnic, 911 road signs, concerts, milfoil harvesting, Tour de Camp, Sylvia Lake Online, the Sylvia Lake Book update and other mailings and activities. Many thanks to Mona, who has been our dedicated treasurer since 1998.

Please mail dues and contributions to:  
Mona Allen, 130 Jones Road, Gouverneur, NY 13642



Lynn French, Linda Scott and Jeanette Perry race to weed the milfoil. 9/17/05



Special Events like Concerts, are supported by raffles and other fund raising.



Maybelle Pistolessi and daughter, Mona Allen, enjoy the annual picnic.

**Save These Dates...**

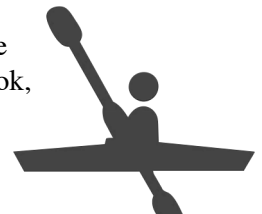
SLA Board Meeting.....	April 6, 2006
Spring Meeting (tentative).....	June 9, 2006
Canoe/Kayak Instruction.....	July 1-2, 2006
Canoe/Kayak Races.....	July 4, 2006
Light Up the Lake.....	July 4, 2006
Charlie Ferguson Fishing Derby.....	July 2-3-4, 2006 (25th Anniversary)
38th Annual Boat Parade.....	July 22, 2006
Sylvia Lake Picnic.....	July 22, 2006
Tour de Camp (tentative).....	August 5, 2006
Annual Fall SLA Fall Meeting.....	August 25, 2006
<i>Concert dates to be announced in the Spring Newsletter</i>	

**Canoe & Kayak • Instruction & Races**

Jeff Dickson grew up on Sylvia Lake and is a certified American Canoe Association instructor.

He will be offering canoe and kayak instruction on the July 4 weekend. Jeff has also volunteered to organize and supervise canoe and kayak races.

Assisting with this event will be Alex Perry, Kate and Elissa Cook, and Shirley Putman. If you are interested in helping, contact Lea Dickson.



**Book Update 2006 • Sylvia Lake : 1880-1980**

The committee has been meeting regularly since the summer. A mailing was sent to all property owners, giving them the opportunity to update their entry in the Sylvia Lake book. We welcome all suggestions. We look forward to receiving the following property updates ASAP.

**The Book Committee**

Katie Pistolessi  
Jeanette Perry  
Olive Horning  
Mary Whalen  
Linda Scott  
Shari Barnhart



Bernstein 11 ES	Petrovic 3 HR
Colton 4 WS	Raymond 5 LL
Davis 35 ES	Reilly 28 ES
Deitz 1-D OB	Ritter 1-A OB
Drum 22 WB	Segar 15 NS
Ferguson 19 OB	Sleeman 6 HR
Forsythe 6 LL	Spilman 59 WS
Gadbaw 13 NS	Spinelli 7 WS
George 15 ES	Sprague 5 SS
Griebisch 11 SS	Toomey 25 ES
Hitsman 9 WS	Trop 49 ES
Hurst 1 NS	Truax 24 WB
Kennedy -Cole 2 WS	Tyler 18 IHT-N
Kraker 58 MG	Undercoffler 64 MG
Kraker 60 MG	VanOrnum 29 WS
McAdam 13 ES	VanValkenburg 19-A OB
McDougell 72 MG	Wagar 66 MG
Miller 14 HR	Webb 54 MG
Mills 29 OB	Whalen 12 HR
Morehouse 10 PR	Whalen 23 WS
Moses 21 WS	Whalen 2-A OB
O'Shaughnessy 18 WB	Wright 35 OB
Parow 31 OB	Wright 23 OB

Committee meeting reports, *the form* and other information about the book publication can be found online at:

[www.sylvialake.org/thebook/info.html](http://www.sylvialake.org/thebook/info.html)

**You don't need a form. Just send your update to the committee.**

**Information can be mailed to:** Katie Pistolessi, 162 Park Street  
Gouverneur, NY 13642 - Questions? Call 315-287-1994.

**ONE MORE THING...**

We are looking for "signature" recipes of Sylvia. If you have a recipe that is a tradition at your place and you are willing to share it, please send it to the committee. (at Katie's address)

**Sylvia Lake Guidebook, 2006****Table of Contents****Introduction**

- Title Page
- Certificate of Ownership
- Forward- From the Association
- Credits & Acknowledgements
- Publication Committee
- Table of Contents

**The Lake**

- Lake Features Map
- The Water
- Ice-Out Dates
- Water Temperatures/Level
- Geology of the Lake
- Depth Map

**The Community**

- A Voice from the Past
- History of Sylvia Lake
- Sylvia Lake Associations
- Association Activities
- Wild Flowers
- The Critters
- Fishing on Sylvia
- Beaver Busters
- Road Crews
- Sylvia's Seasons
- Signature Recipes\*\*
- Pontoons of Sylvia Lake
- The Online Community

**The Properties**

- Camp Chronology
- Map of Homes and Camps
- Homes and Camps History

**The Index****Additional Materials**

- 2006 Map- by B. deLorraine
- CD- 1980 Book

## Summary of Sylvia Lake Association Annual Meeting

**August 12, 2005**

**Town Hall, Fowler NY**

<b>Account Balance</b>	\$6,093.64
General Fund:	\$1,597.64
Concert 2006:	\$629.00
PEST/SWAT:	\$2,867.00
Book Revision:	\$1,000.00

88 property owners are paid SLA members thru August 2006. 105 property owners contributed to the 2005 **PEST/SWAT Fund**. Mona Allen provided us with a detailed accounting of our finances. Mona has been our trusted treasurer since 1998. We are grateful for her dedication.

Many thanks to Maria McGrath for making and donating another gorgeous quilt for the **Concert Raffle**. Dr. Dodds drew the winning ticket. The SLA took in \$1,369.00 from raffle sales. The winner of the quilt was Nancy Spilman. Mona Allen won the cord of wood. The community appreciates the generosity of Betsy Kalina and Rob Meyer for allowing the concerts to be performed from their dock. Suggestions are being accepted for next years concert.

Approximately 22 people took advantage of the **Boater Safety Course** organized by VP Jeanette Perry and skillfully taught by Navigation Committee Chair and former SLA President, Ralph Undercoffler. Thank you to both for many years of providing this much needed service to the community.

We had great weather for the **Annual Picnic**. 86 SLA members and guests attended. Delicious grilled treats and camper specialities were served. Our many thanks go to our organizers, cooks and go-fers... especially to Gary

and Linda Scott, Randy and Cindy Gadbaw, and Joe and Ann Reilly. T-shirts made by Charlene Oukes were special give aways. Mona Allen has again agreed to chair the event this coming summer.

The **Tour de Camp II** was enjoyed by 23 people and our appreciation is extended to Donna Besaw, SLA Director for organizing the event. Many thanks to Ernie Hutt, Carl and Mary Colton, Dave and Linda Syrek, Dave and Faye Lockwood and Mary Neuroth for generously sharing their camps or homes to the Sylvia Lake Community. The beautiful brochures were designed by Shari Barnhart and printed by Ferguson Printing. If you would like a copy, contact Donna Besaw or go online where it is downloadable.

**The Youth Corps** is still in its organizing stage and its purpose and activities are still in development. The bottle drive has been an overwhelming success with over \$150.00 collected to date. Some campers suggested dockside pick-up. Any youth interested in getting involved should contact our Youth Directors, Alex Perry or David Sleeman.

The **Book Update** Committee has been progressing with the revision. See the report in this newsletter.

Once again, the **Boat Parade** was a favorite. Harland Brown continues to sponsor the event and provide beautiful awards. There were 10 boats and Shari has made available on the web site a special video of the event. This is the 37th anniversary of the SLA boat parade. We want to thank our retiring parade organizers, Andy and Crystal Leonard. Great job!!

**Water quality** was discussed at length. Rob Meyers has agreed to Chair the Water Testing Committee. The results of the tests suggest that we may have multiple factors impacting the quality of the water. Rob indicated that he had experience working with DEC in Cranberry Lake and would develop a baseline for the lake at ice-out. (the lake is purest at this time) The coliform test is relatively simple and he feels qualified to conduct the tests. Rob was going to check into purchasing "Water-sticks" that can test the water at various depths. It was suggested that we explore the possibility of participating in DEC/Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program available through the NYS Federal of Lake Associations. Lea Dickson indicated that she had joined the organization and would look into the availability of water monitoring training.

The **Beaver Busters** have been active this summer and conducted swamp rat activities to help improve the flow.

**Milfoil** and other invasive species continue to pose a threat to the lake. Dave and Faye Lockwood have organized the Milfoil III.

Gale Ferguson thanked everyone for their support during his term as President and noted that the sense of community has strengthened as a result of the effort we have made together addressing numerous issues.

The **new slate of officers** was presented by Ann VanSlyke and the nominating committee and the slate was approved.

Once again the Association thanks Shari Barnhart, "Sylvia" for providing

(Sylvia Lake Association Minutes, con't.)

the community with the **web site**. It provides an opportunity for those who love Sylvia to share in her activities even if they are not physically able to be at the lake.

The website has been an invaluable resource for sharing information and has helped the Association communicate with its membership. Betsy Kalina made a motion for a \$300.00 stipend to help defray some of Shari's costs.

Recommended by the **Nominating Committee**, the membership voted to Review the Constitution/ Bylaws and Mission Statement. Many thanks to Ann Vanslyke, Katie Pistolesi and Randy Gadbaw for serving on the committee. It is difficult to say no to Ann. Olive Horning was welcomed as a new member of the committee.

The **Fort Drum** air space was discussed and the lake community will continue to monitor the activities. Gary Scott and Lea Dickson have been serving as the liaison to the Air National Guard Range Tower. Please report any low flying planes over the lake to Lea or Gary and they will call the officers in charge of the range.

Many many **thanks and appreciation to Gale Ferguson** who has dedicated many years to Sylvia Lake monitoring the water flow, busting beavers, improving fishing opportunities, identifying milfoil and providing his fundraising skills that have allowed us to enjoy concerts, and his providing endless print services for the lake community.

**Betsy Kalina**, outgoing SLA secretary spent countless hours pulling together addresses for the SWAT/PEST Fund mailings at the town hall in Fowler. We owe much of our successful PEST fund drive to her organization skills and time coordinating the mailings.

**Faye Hopper**, a former President of the SLA just completed her term on the Executive Board. She is valuable resource to the Board and we will continue to rely on her experiences.

— The Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM —

## ***The Water Level : It's All About the Flow by Gary Scott***

The cement dam at the outlet of the lake, controls Sylvia Lake's water level. The dam was built by St.



Joe (the mining company) in the late 1960's. Since the 1970's, lake residents have monitored the level of the lake by adding or removing boards in the dam to maintain a consistent flow in spring, summer, and fall. By doing this, the water remains constant even if we have a long dry spell and that helps to keep our lake clean.

Over the years, many, many campers and their kids and relatives have gone down to the dam and beyond to bust beaver dams, remove debris, dynamite (when needed) and canoe or kayak to Harmer's White Talc Road. At Harmers Road, there are three big tubes that the lake water flows through. They are at 10-12 foot level lower than the lake.

Another big water tube is just down from the cement dam and goes under the railroad track. The mouth of this tube has to be cleaned every couple of years at both ends.

Last year, a group traveled from the lake outlet to Harmers Road and cut the trees that fell across the stream. They removed old logs, dug the channel deeper in spots, and generally opened the stream bed up as far as the tubes at Harmers. Once the lake water goes through those tubes, whatever the beaver does, does not effect the level of the lake.

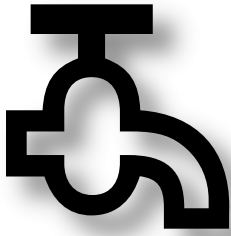
Over the years, the mine companies, D.E.C., Town of Fowler, and caring Sylvia Lakers have helped keep the outlet clear and, as a result, the lake stays as clean as it remains.



*Gary Scott doing yoga? ->*

**Meet Your Sylvia Lake Association Board**

**Is Sylvia Your Water Source?**



Myrna Barney, St Lawrence County Health Department, strongly recommends a filter system be added to your water supply.

( a UV light is highly

desirable) Sylvia Lakers are proud of Sylvia's reputation for its clean, pristine waters, however, she would like all of us to consider this extra measure of safety.

Sylvia is home to many mammals, including beaver and otter. Your intake valve is at risk of contamination by bacteria, virus or fuel spills. Please let an officer or director of the association aware of any known illness as a result of your family or guests drinking or swimming in Sylvia.

**2006 Calendars Available**

Shari Barnhart has created a 2006 Seasons of Sylvia Calendar. \$2.00 of each sale goes to the Association. It will made available locally and online. Featured photographs have appeared on the SylviaLake website.

The calendar may be purchased online at: [www.sylvialake.org](http://www.sylvialake.org)

The Association is also selling the calendars for \$20.00 each plus shipping.

**Contact:** Mona Allen  
315-287-2206 or  
monaall2000@yahoo.com

**Lea Dickson**, President  
Hotel Road - 287-4043  
leaellen@busygal.org

**Jeanette Perry**, Vice President  
West Shore - 287-7442  
jperry@sllbores.org

**Mona Allen**, Treasurer  
West Shore - 287-2829  
monaall2000@yahoo.com

**Kelley Lacks**, Secretary  
West Shore - 287-7911  
kelley\_lacks@cargill.com

**Gale Ferguson**, Director  
Past President  
East Shore - 287-2116  
gferguso@twcny.rr.com

**Donna Besaw**, Director  
East Shore - 287-1390  
DBesaw@westelcom.com

**Faye Lockwood**, Director  
Indian Head Trail - 287-1193  
jstplndv@verizon.net

**David McGrath**, Director  
Mansion Grounds - 287-2005  
david.mcgrath@worldnet.att.net

**Sandy Kraker**, Director  
Mansion Grounds  
315-655-9860  
jkraker@twcny.rr.com

**Alex Perry**, Junior Director  
West Shore Rd

**David Sleeman**, Junior Director  
Hotel Road

**Looking for Volunteers...  
Sylvia Needs Your Help**

Faye Lockwood, a new Sylvia Lake board member who donates many hours of her time to the greater Gouverneur area, has agreed to coordinate our community volunteers.

Faye will help connect you with a committee that could use your skills and talent.

**A Sample of the Sylvia Lake Community Activities:**

- Concerts
- Beaver Busters
- Road Crews
- Youth Corps
- Picnic
- Fishing Derby
- Boat Parade
- Canoe/ Kayak Races

Faye: 287-1193  
Email: [jstplndv@verizon.net](mailto:jstplndv@verizon.net)



## ***Navigation Law Update***

### **Personal Watercraft - Minimum Age of Operation**

On July 28, 2005 Governor Pataki signed a law amending Section 49, Subdivision 1-a of the Navigation Law raising the minimum age of operators of personal watercraft (PWC) to fourteen (14). This new law will take effect January 1, 2006.

However, in order to minimize the impact on riders currently under the age of fourteen (14) certain allowances have been to phase in this new law.

Until January 1, 2009, those operators age ten (10) through thirteen (13) that have a boating safety certificate may continue to operate a PWC if they are accompanied by:

- \* someone over 18 years of age and
- \* within 500 feet on another personal watercraft or vessel and
- \* within sight of the personal watercraft and
- \* holding a safety certificate of their own.

A Boating Safety Certificate is a certificate issued by the Commissioner, the United States Power Squadron, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, or in the case of a non-resident his/her home state or country, as a result of completing a boating safety course.

This law only affects the operation of PWC's. Anyone over the age of ten (10) that holds a boating safety certificate can still operate a motor boat alone.

## ***Constitution and Mission Statement Review***

Joel Hopper has offered to Chair the difficult task of examining the SLA Constitution and Mission Statement. The constitution was first adopted December 11, 1969 and has been amended 4 times in the last 37 years. "The Purpose of the Association shall be to preserve, protect, and promote the welfare of Sylvia Lake, its area and environment, for the use and enjoyment of it by the camp and property owners."

Members are encouraged to contact Joel with your thoughts and comments. A report to the Association will be presented at the Annual Meeting in August 2006

Joel Hopper: 562-3486, Email: JoelHopper@TDS.net

## ***Annual Charlie Ferguson Memorial Fishing Derby Results 2005***

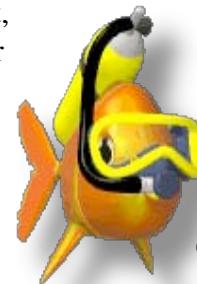
The Annual Charlie Ferguson Memorial Fishing Derby, established in 1982, was an outstanding success with excellent weather and many families participating. Many thanks to the Corbett camp and Joe Lacks for special gifts for the participants and the Force family for the trophies.

Almost 900 Rock Bass were entered with the Spilman Camp capturing the trophy for most fish with 227 caught on day one. Jimmy Harter of the Orford camp landed the largest bass and his cousin Matthew Orford was the youngest fisherman. Both cousins are avid fishermen, taking after their parents. The Force camp reclaimed two trophies with Sierra leading the trout division and Brittney entering the largest Rock Bass.

## ***Diving Instruction at Sylvia***

The Phoenix Scuba dive team is offering to conduct a certification class for those interested in learning scuba diving. Classes will be held at Sylvia Lake next summer. Contact Carole if you are interested in participating or have questions.

Carole Bloomquist  
dive@phoenixscuba.com





*Sylvia Lake Association  
C/O Mona Allen, Treasurer  
130 Jones Road  
Gouverneur, NY 13642*

## ***Know Your Sylvia Lake Trivia***

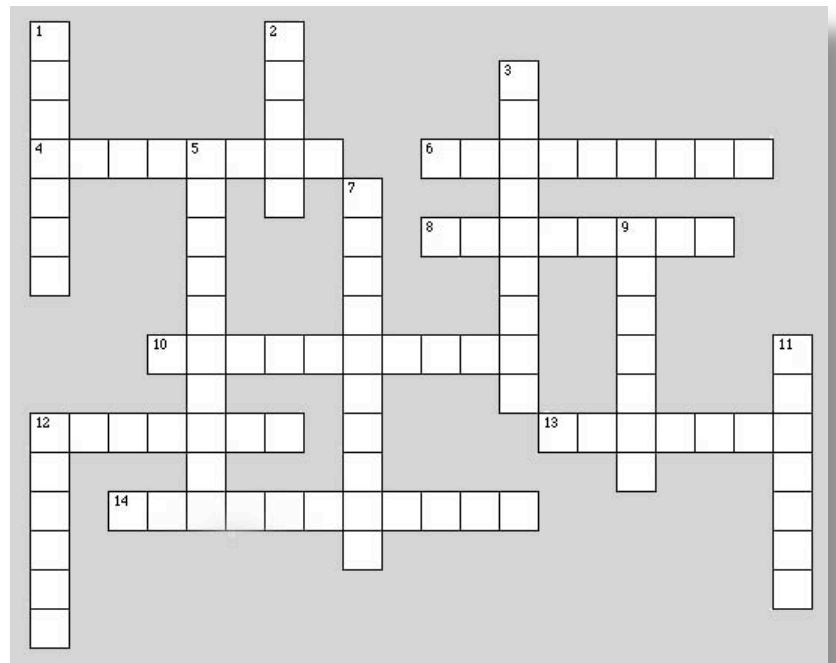
*Sponsored by Sylvia Lake Online | [www.sylvialake.org](http://www.sylvialake.org)*

### **ACROSS**

- 4 - The new minimum age for operating a jet ski.
- 6 - The freshwater species of this creature was found in Sylvia Lake this summer.
- 8 - A pesky, biting insect that comes in May.
- 10 - People love watching this. (2 words, no space)
- 12 - A favorite local diner.
- 13 - Gone now, this home of Sylvia and her husband was built from Gouverneur marble. It was known as the \_\_\_\_.
- 14 - This institution began in 1968 at Sylvia Lake.

### **DOWN**

- 1 - Divers help us control this invasive weed.
- 2 - There once was one of these on the lake.
- 3 - Sylvia Lake's original name.
- 5 - This person (first name) renamed the lake, "Sylvia."
- 7 - The famous jumping rock. (2 words, no space)
- 9 - Sylvia Lake is well known for this sport.
- 11 - This is the most popular boat see on the lake.
- 12 - This animal can make the lake water rise.



Answers are posted online at: [www.sylvialake.org/solution.jpg](http://www.sylvialake.org/solution.jpg)