



PHOTO: GARY SCOTT



PHOTO: HEATHER HILTS BURDICK



PHOTO: LEA DICKSON



PHOTO: AUGUSTUS MACGUILLICUDDY

Sylvia Lake Breeze



Shootin' the Breeze

by S.L.A. President, Bill deLorraine

I start this edition of “Shootin’ the Breeze” down by the shore, 90+ degrees, “settin’ in the breeze,” luxuriating in one of our Adirondack chairs. A little bit hard to write, but doesn’t feel like 90! Or is it the Angry Orchard hard cider that’s making it difficult to write? At any rate, nice and relaxing down here, and we catch occasional views of the loons and sound bites as well. This is the life here on Sylvia Lake, indeed.

As a whole, we’re pretty lucky as several natural characteristics of Sylvia Lake and its basin portend well for Sylvia’s long-term health and survival. For one thing,

underlying (marble) bedrock ensures that it will never become acidified. It’s fed largely by cold, 55 degree spring waters. Just stretch your feet in one of those springs and you will see, unlike most other NW Adirondack lakes, it’s deep- 155’ in the northern lobe and somewhere near 70’ in the southern. Deep, cooler waters tend to inhibit the growth of otherwise prolific invasive milfoil, which has essentially clogged shallower lakes elsewhere. In many places, water meets clifflike bedrock-dominated shoreline with broader steep drop offs, to very, very cold depth. Those thermoclines are something to experience! Those same rocky, craggy shorelines are inhospitable to milfoil, as are the deep cold waters over much of the lake.

But wait! Those conditions don’t hold true for all parts of Sylvia Lake, as residents of the South Shore, Inlet Bay and other areas are acutely aware. Shallow waters floored by muddy sediment cover provide ideal conditions for thick growth of milfoil. We’ve tried hard over the years to slow its spread by utilizing lots of manpower and ingenious post-conventional methodologies. By any metric, we have to try something new, different—and more effective, in the long run.

See the report on page two, from a group of fellow Lakers who have devoted their time and energies to researching the “Milfoil problem.” In a nutshell, seems to me, that we’re “small potatoes” for commercial harvesting companies. Alternatively, something that seems to hold some promise, and which seems to have a good track record, environmentally speaking, is to targeting specific areas with safe chemical treatments. Again, read their report in this newsletter.

On another matter, Gary Scott, Jim Tyler and I took Prof. Brad Baldwin from St. Lawrence University on a water sampling tour of the lake. Dr. Baldwin does this for a number of lakes in the region for comparative studies of oxygenation, nutrient levels, etc. Too much for me to remember all of it. Dr. Brad describes his mission as “Underwater weather profiling.” His results give an idea of the 3-D habitat of the lake. He drops an instrument called a Hydro Lab into the lake. He then measures acidity (Ph), temperature and productivity. (continued on page 2)

What we pulled up from the varied depths wasn't just "cold water" it was a wonder to behold, and a real eye-opener for me. For in the big jars one could see that they were teeming with life, Zooplankton, to be specific. In times past Gary and Jimmy told me they pulled up fresh water jellyfish!

What I saw interspersed throughout some of the jars was a variety of zooplankton described best as the size of a tiny ant, shaped like perhaps a shrimp. Looked like hundreds of them to me, all making tiny bending movements. That ol' jar was just a "hopping" and teeming with life, the kind of stuff the smelt like to dine on— called copepods and cladocerans— which in turn are dined higher up the food chain by the "lakers."

I learned too from the Hydro Lab that at 20' depth water temp. is 48 degrees (May 20th,) at 32' temp. is 46 degrees and at 40' water temp is 45 degrees. The Ph is 9, a little bit on the basic side, just above neutral.

That's all for now folks, keep your distance, (social that is,) be safe and have a wonderfully great and happy summer. See you soon at the Paddlepalooza, Boat Parade and Regatta, and other summer events. Thanks, all! Bill

Urgent Information Regarding the Spread of Milfoil

by Sandy Kraker, Ralph Undercoffler, Jane Dodds, Mike Tersmette, Gale Ferguson, & Emmy Sprague, Milfoil Task Force (MTF)

Most of you have seen bits and pieces of Eurasian Milfoil floating on the lake, especially after a very busy 4th of July weekend. For those of us who have been on a task force, laying and moving benthic barrier mats for the past 15 years, we feel we are fighting a losing battle in our efforts to smother these invasive weeds, especially near the South East inlet to the lake. This is the area where you see some buoys marking the mat locations, but the weeds continue to expand there and in other lake locations. We urge all boats to pass on the outside of the reef and two large buoys in that area.

Alternative methods we have explored, with little confidence, are as follows:

- Physical removal w/ hose suctioning – limited contractors available for the small areas we require and expensive. Multiple sessions are required.
- Weevil placement – expensive, lack of availability and panfish feast on them
- Barrier Mats – limited coverage, lack of manpower, repetitive maintenance & safety concerns

Discussions with Eco professionals from Cornell, St. Lawrence and the NYS DEC have given us new hope that a chemical treatment can be utilized safely and efficiently.

We have been consulting with a company from Carthage who treated a 10 acre area of Pleasant Lake and this option is something we are very seriously considering. Please know that we are sensitive to lake community input and welcome all comments to the SLA Board and MTF (Milfoil Task Force) committee as we evaluate this option. The timetable for this strategy is critical for permitting, DEC approval, and of course gaining lake resident consensus.

There will be more comprehensive information posted on the SL website and Facebook pages in the coming weeks. We want to educate the community with information, photos and technical data about the severity of this invasive weed.



Photo: Caroline Sprague

Sylvia Lake Life



Photo: Barb Wilson Langevin



Photo: Gale Ferguson



Photo: Kathy Hogan



Photo: Alan Moses

(continued from page 2) We plan to have an open outdoor informational meeting in August, time and place TBD and it is our intent to video the presentation to post on our website. Notification and ballots will be mailed to all lake owners in the early fall and it is imperative that a decision to move forward should be made by late fall, if a treatment were to happen next spring. The Milfoil Task Force appreciates your initial comments, here—> www.sylvialake.org/MTF.html

Secretary's Report by Lea Dickson

This will be my last report as secretary and a member of the Sylvia Lake Board of Directors. It has been my privilege to serve as a Director and as President from 2003-2008 and currently as secretary from 2013-2020. My dad, Andy, was the 1st Association secretary from 1968-1971 and Vice President in 1973. My mom, Norinne, served as the Association treasurer from 1975-1988. The Dickson's have been members of the Board of Directors for 33 years.

I will be turning over the office and records in August. The job needs someone who is familiar with spreadsheets, word processing and search tools. All our address records are current with the most recent Town of Fowler Tax roll. I use the tax roll and Taxlookup.net to cross check address changes. I usually update the database before a newsletter goes out and after we get returns from the newsletter and our Friendly Reminder dues mailing.

Our spreadsheet fields can be sorted by name, 911 address, zip code, property tax ID etc. Since the list has been primarily used for newsletter mailings, which includes anyone who wishes to receive it, we will be adding a field for primary property owner for the future mailing from the Milfoil Task Force. (Only one vote per property would be valid.)

All of our minutes are online and go back to 2004. In addition, our newsletters are online, going back to 2008. Our water quality reports are also online going back to 2009. As secretary, I forward the documents to our web master, Shari Barnhart and she posts them on the website.

All of our documents are both on my computer, and in a hard copy in our association notebooks. I will pass them on to the next secretary in whatever format you use. All of the SLA records are currently stored in my attic. The board discussed donating the early records to the Town of Fowler Historian.

If you are interested in serving as the Sylvia Lake Association Secretary, please send your name to our nominating chair, Olive Horning, ohorning@aol.com

Treasurer's Report by Cindy Shaw

- 107 members paid in 2019
- 16 members paid for 2020
- Bank Balance ending 2019 is \$13,402.12
- Bank Balance June 19, 2020 is \$13,736.76



Calling all kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, and paddle boats; let's fill the lake with non-motorized boats and have some nautical socially distanced fun together. Meetup in the middle at 11:45AM on August 2



for a drone photo and to receive a special vinyl Paddlepalooza sticker (donated by Joe Laurenza.) Thanks to the Grout/Sprague family for organizing.

All Sylvia Lake Campers are invited to celebrate the First Annual Paddlepalooza 2020, a NoMo(torized) paddle party, on Sunday morning from 10:30- Noon, Sunday, August 2nd, the day of the 6th Annual Nori Grout Regatta, which will held at 2:00 that afternoon.

Motorboats/Jet skis are encouraged to PLEASE stay off the water from 10:30 till noon, to minimize wakes and provide safe water for paddlers of all ages.



Meet at Indian Head at 1:45 PM. (Note the new time!) Parade at 2:PM Thank you to Carrie Runner for organizing and all of our judges around the lake.

Prize Categories:

- *Creative Children's Award* - Float that was created at least 50% by children. Must have children on board, participating.
- *Best of Show - Pontoon* - Original Theme Award. The most creative and original pontoon entry.
- *Best of Show - Other Boat* - Original Theme Award. The most creative and original other boat entry.
- *Sylvia Lake Spirit and Enthusiasm Award* —Shows true spirit and enthusiasm for Sylvia Lake.



Under blue skies and beautiful weather, 738 Rock Bass were entered. Thank you to the Ferguson family for continuing this tradition to new generations. And thank you to the Force family for providing spectacular trophies.

RESULTS

- Monahan Camp most dedicated – first time over 100 rockies! They also won Joe Laurenza’s secret prize which may go towards new puppy.
- Brayden Kirby – Largest Rock Bass
- Drake Roberts 20 “ Large Mouth Nara Roberts 14.25 Smallmouth
- Sophia Peck Youngest fisher by 7 minutes over her twin brother Hunter.
- Jerricka Walton – most Rock Bass (246)



Photos: Gale Ferguson

Friendly Reminder

Have you paid your Association dues? If not, please mail your \$25.00 to:

Cindy Shaw, Treasurer
 Sylvia Lake Association
 9810 Mixer Road
 Adams, NY 13605



Questions? Call Cindy at 315-771-6459.

For your convenience, you can use a credit card to pay securely online. The Association uses PayPal for the transaction and charges \$1.06 as a fee. If you pay online, the dues are \$26.06.

www.sylvialake.org/dues/paydues.html

Your dues support the ongoing committee work, newsletter mailings, water testing, boat parade awards, annual picnic, 911 road signs, concerts, milfoil abatement, navigation aids, the Sylvia Lake website, pump house signage, parties, and other miscellaneous projects and activities.

Association Projects Around the Lake

THE OUTLET DAM

As part of the Association’s commitment to water quality, permission was given by the property owner, Empire State Mine, to refurbish the outlet dam.

This feature helps control lake water flowing down the outlet. In the spring, this flow helps clear the lake of pollen. In the summer, when the lake is low, the dam keeps too much water from flowing out. It had fallen into disrepair and misuse.

This Spring, in the midst of building his new family camp, Bill Cook, Hotel Road, donated lumber and labor to refurbish the system. Thank you, Bill!



Photos: Elissa Cook



WEST / NORTH SHORE KIOSK

Phase Two of the Association’s 9-1-1 safety initiative involves posting maps for first responders at critical locations. West/North Shore volunteered to be the first location.

The project was organized by Robyn Esty and Lea Dickson, Tim Knowlton’s 2019 BOCES class built the structure. Dan Esty, Lynn Allen, Wayne Jones, and Carrie & Kurt Runner, set it all up securely. Shari Barnhart produced and installed the map.



Photo: Lea Dickson

Sylvia Lake Store

Pins, Magnets, Mugs, Sweatshirts, TankTops, TeeShirts, Keychains, Phone Cases, Drinkware, Camp Decor, Bumperstickers, and much more. Go see...!!

*There is no markup on any of the items.
 The Sylvia Lake Association pays the shop fees.*

Sales, Production, and Shipping are handled by CafePress.com

www.sylvialake.org/sylvialakestore

Sylvia Lake Health and Safety Guidelines

EMERGENCY ~ Call 911. Don't forget to post your 911 address in a prominent location on your property and camp. Be sure you are registered... call the 911 operator from your camp phone to verify the directions to your place. Tell them "This is not an emergency..." then give them your location information.

NEW YORK STATE BOATING RULES OF THE ROAD ~

DEC officials and the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Dept regularly patrol Sylvia Lake. Some general rules of the water are:

- You may not ride within 500 feet of a marked swim area except when going directly to or from a launch site. Speed is restricted to 10 MPH.
- In New York State, speed is limited to 5 MPH when within 100 feet of the shore, a dock, pier, raft, float, or an anchored or moored boat.
- A PWC (jet ski) is subject to all the laws that motor boat operators must follow. Regardless of age, all personal watercraft (PWC) operators are required to have a boating safety certificate.
- New law requires everyone born on or after 5/1/96 to successfully complete an approved course in boater education in order to operate a motorboat or Personal Water Craft (jetski.)
- You may not ride between sunset and sunrise and times of restricted visibility.
- Weaving in and out of traffic, jumping boat wakes, splashing others is dangerous and illegal.
- You must have and carry your boating safety certificate on board.
- One life saving device for each person aboard.
- Use lights after dusk.
- Be wise and carry an extra line, paddle and anchor.
- All vessels towing a person must have an observer/spotter on board at all times.

SWIMMING ~ Swim with a buddy, have a boat with you when swimming long distance. Look before leaping. Do not wash your hair/body/clothing in the lake unless you use environmentally neutral soap.

SUBMERGED ROCKS, DEBRIS & MILFOIL ~ Be aware of their locations. Water level changes, storms and ice break-up create new hazards every year. Some hazards may not be marked.

AVOID GAS AND OIL SPILLAGE ~ Check your motor for leaks. Fill up the tank away from the water.

CAMP ROADS ~ Use slow speed (15 mph is recommended) Please be courteous, ATV riders please use good judgement and avoid roads where you may be considered a nuisance. If you think violations have occurred, identify the violator and call the sheriff or state troopers. Call parents when appropriate. Please remind family and guests to not use the woods to discard bottles, cans and garbage. Be a good neighbor and keep the woods beautiful.



OUR PETS & OWNERS ~ The Town of Fowler has a Leash and Nuisance Law. Dogs may not run at large, bark habitually, or chase or intimidate any person. Complaints may be filed with a peace officer, Town Justice or Fowler Dog Warden, Jeremy Bowser : 315-528-7988

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ~ Watch for suspicious activity, trees falling, evidence of broken pipes or anything unusual. Be aware that smoky campfires can drift through neighbor's windows. Be considerate, noise carries over water... so remind your guests or renters of the "quiet time." We share this beautiful space and each of us enjoys different ways to recreate. Have a great season!

Suggested "quiet time" around the lake is from 10:00 PM until 10:00 AM.



www.sylvialake.org
Online since 2003

Boater Safety Certificate

All PWC (jet ski) operators are **REQUIRED** to have taken this class. Online classes are being formed now and you can register by calling 315-605-8041 or email to cgauxogdensburg@gmail.com.

Sylvia Lake's Facebook



Thank you to Caroline Sprague and Julia Sprague Wright for moderating our Sylvia Lake Facebook Group.

facebook.com/groups/sylvialake

Emergency? Call 911...

But if you have a question, like for the Town of Fowler, you can contact them at their website: fowlerny.com
Other information:

- Town of Fowler — 315-287-0045
- New York D.E.C. — 315-785-2231
- Sheriff's Dispatch — 315-379-2222
- NY State Troopers — 315-287-2311
- Fort Drum concerns — 315-772-5461

Community Losses

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of these Sylvia Lakers. (If we have missed anyone, please accept our apology.)



- James Abrantes
- Carlton Force
- Randy Gadbow
- Ernie Hutt
- Shirley Pendell
- Bette Tyler
- Lee Ann Undercoffler
- Janice Hayden Wall

Ice Out 2020 - March 26

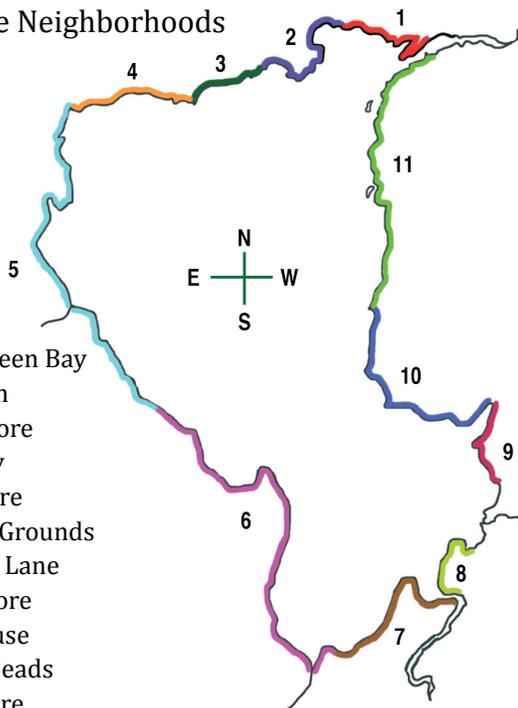


Congratulations to our 2020 IceOut Winner, Frank Lallier.



Lea Dickson, Secretary
Sylvia Lake Association
PO Box 267
Hailesboro, NY 13645

Sylvia Lake Neighborhoods



1. Wintergreen Bay
2. Old Beach
3. North Shore
4. Hotel Bay
5. West Shore
6. Mansion Grounds
7. Langevin Lane
8. South Shore
9. Pumphouse
10. Indian Heads
11. East Shore

SUMMER EVENTS

- 38th Annual Charlie Ferguson Derby - July 4th weekend
- Lakes Challenge Golf Tournament - July 18th, 10:00 AM - @ Gouverneur Country Club. Contact: Frank Lallier.
- Sylvia Lake Boat Parade - August 1st, 1:45 PM @ Indian Head
- 1st Annual Paddlepalooza - August 2nd, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- 6th Annual Nori Grout Regatta - August 2nd, 2:00 PM
- Concert on the Lake - Working on this. Watch the trees.
- Fall Sylvia Lake Association Meeting & Election of Officers - (TBD, due to covid-19 restrictions.)

Many thanks and much gratitude to our retiring Board members, Ralph Undercoffler, Shirley Putman, Missy Tersmette, and Lea Dickson.