



Sylvia Lake Breeze

www.sylvialake.org

Fall, 2009

Shooting the Breeze

Sandy Kraker, Sylvia Lake Association President

It seems like it was a couple of days ago that we put the docks in and the same sentiment is now felt by everyone... "where did the summer go?" Waiting for the sultry summer weather to arrive -then for only a couple of weeks in August- may have had something to do with our summer flying by. But the cooler weather certainly didn't dampen the spirits of our lake community.

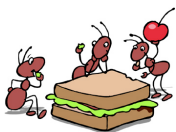
As of this writing, the intermittent rain has been contributing to the water level the lake had lost and the fall weather reminds us that that our North Country summer season is short lived. However, for those that either live on the lake or still visit this time of the year, the fall is a special time. The stillness resonates...

We are again thankful to Shari Barnhart for her tireless effort in updating website articles and photos, maintaining the professional look of the Sylvia Lake website as well as the many behind the scenes graphic design projects she does for us.

The SLA Board of Directors would again like to give our thanks to Lea Dickson as she steps down from the Board as past president. Please contact a board member if you are interested in participating as we truly welcome new faces and ideas. As always, a special thank you to our current board members for their behind the scenes participation!

Summer Concert on the Lake

On July 18, "Fishbone" rocked the gathering at the deck "stage" in front of Betsy Kalina's camp. Sandwiched between rainy days, we lucked out once again, with a clear night for the flotilla party gathering. Folks truly enjoyed the sounds of Fishbone and we hope to have them again for next year's summer concert.



SLA Summer Picnic

Once again, many thanks to Dick and Mary Jane Jones for hosting the the Sylvia Lake Picnic for the 2nd year as we were blessed with great weather and a great turnout.

Kudos to Barb Maloy and Roger LaPierre for again organizing the event.

Safety on the Water and on the Shore

Ralph Undercoffler has agreed to teach the boater safety course for 2010, but needs at least 10 people signed up. Children need to be at least age 10 on the start day of the course to be eligible. Please reply via the website if you are interested. The number of requests will determine if we will be able to offer the course. The red buoys will continue to be put out in marking some of the submerged rocks around the lake.

A message to the website this summer reminded everyone about safety at night on the water:

"The evening of August 1st there were two kayaks out after dark... WITHOUT LIGHTS! If we hadn't seen them before dark we would not have known they were on the water. Everyone on the lake after dark should have lights on their craft. We don't need a tragic accident."

4 Wheelers – Please slow down and obey the posted speed limit! That's 15 miles per hour on our roads... None are public roads - they are all considered private "driveways."

Save The Date

June 18, 2010 for the Kickoff to Summer Party. This will be the 4th annual start to the summer held at the Gouverneur Country Club and will be preceded by the Spring Sylvia Lake Association meeting. It's a great time to meet your neighbors in a social setting. Specific times and details will follow in the Spring newsletter.

Ban on Open Burning

The burn barrel is one of those ubiquitous – and smelly– symbols of country living in New York State. But as of October 15, 2009, burn barrels and other forms of garbage burning will be illegal statewide. The DEC has included exceptions to allow campfires, cooking, on-site burning of agricultural waste, flag disposal and celebratory or ceremonial bonfires. A first-time offense carries a potential fine between \$375. and \$15,000.



State officials have said burning household garbage produces over 12 dangerous chemicals which can cause ill health and possibly death-related illness from direct and or long-term related exposure. The high cancer rates in Northern New York are believed to have a link to open burning of garbage.

Milfoil Control

Milfoil eradication continued with the laying of (4) 20' x 12' Benthic barrier mats in certain large infested areas. Special thanks to Gale Ferguson for the use of his pontoon boat and continued assistance and to divers Sandy Kraker, Mark Scott, Chris Scott and Jon Lockwood.



There were also many lake volunteers too numerous to list here that also assisted for the 4 times the barriers were laid, moved and removed. We will be applying to the DEC for permitting next year to continue this practice. You can do your part by making use of Weed Winders (contact a SLA Board member or request via the website) to clear your waterfront.

Association Dues and Contributions

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated to the Sylvia Lake Association and/or paid their dues! We know you understand it is a small price to pay to help fund standing and special committees, mailings, water testing, picnic, 911 road signs, concerts, milfoil abatement, navigation aids, Sylvia Lake website, pump house signage, and other miscellaneous projects and activities. Dues cover the calendar year, so in order to be current for 2009, dues must be received by December 31, 2009. Please mail contributions and your \$10 dues to:

Mona Allen, Treasurer, 130 Jones Road
Gouverneur, NY 13642

You can also pay your dues securely online:

www.sylvialake.org/dues/paydues.html

Sylvia Lake Legacy Book

There are still a few books left from the second printing. \$60.00 plus \$5.00 shipping. Contact: Jodi Hatch, SLA Secretary, PO Box 131, Hailesboro, NY 13645



2010 • Sylvania Lake Association

Contact Information for Officers and Directors

President Sandy Kraker 315-289-8098	Vice President Faye Lockwood 315-287-1193	Secretary Jodi Hatch 315-287-7776
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Director Diane Link 480-836-0232	Director Barb Maloy Kane 315-491-5222	

Sylvia Lake Water Quality by Lea Dickson

The Sylvania Lake Association's Water and Sanitation Committee has continued our two separate methods for evaluating the water quality in Sylvia Lake.

Our first testing method is done as part of the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program. This tracks trends and tests the health of the lake in comparison with other lakes in the Adirondacks. This is the fourth summer that we have participated.

In June, July, and August samples were taken in two areas: the inlet and the center of the lake. These samples were frozen and taken to the Adirondack Watershed Institute for testing. We will receive the results of these tests in the spring. Previous years results are available on the website.

(Continued below...)

Be sure to visit Sylvania Lake Online to see photos and information about the past summer's happenings.

Sylvia Lake Association

C/O Mona Allen
130 Jones Road
Gouverneur, NY 13642



Sylvia Lake Water Quality (cont.)

The second method of water testing at Sylvania Lake measures Coliform bacteria. Public health officials use the Coliform bacteria count to determine whether a lake is safe to swim in or safe to use as a source for drinking water. Sources of coliform bacteria can include geese, ducks, loons, any warm blooded animal swimming in the lake and also storm water runoff. On a periodic basis, the Sylvania Lake Association takes water samples from specific locations around the lake. Our results have always confirmed that our water is safe for swimming. A count of 100 or lower is considered safe for swimming. Sylvia Lake has never had lab results greater than 50 in any area tested during the 25 years of records available. Some places have tested at 2. This test is only valid measure for that specific location on that specific day and time, since the sample is taken from the water's surface. A count of 0 is considered safe for drinking.

If you draw your water from Sylvania Lake as your drinking water source or you use it to brush your teeth, wash dishes, clean vegetables or make ice cubes, etc., the St. Lawrence County public health department encourages you to use some type of disinfectant to kill virus and bacteria that may make you, or a member of your family, very ill. A filter does not disinfect.

"Grey water" from sinks, showers, and washing machines should not bypass your septic system. It will find its way into the lake. So bathing in the lake is obviously a bad thing for water quality. The Water and Sanitation Committee works closely with the county Public Health Department for advice and guidance. The committee reviewed properties on the lake for possible future septic failure. Many property owners should be commended for upgrading their systems. However, some of the older camps are potential sources of lake pollution. Gone are the days when someone comes knocking on your door to put dye in your toilet to see if your system is working properly. We look to each property owner to be a responsible member of the community and help maintain our high water quality. If you have questions regarding an aging, fragile septic system, or if you suspect that your neighbor has a faulty or failing septic system, do not hesitate to call Myrna Barney at the County Health Department (315-386-1040 - Your call will be kept confidential.) or contact a member of the SLA Board of Directors or for assistance.