



Preserving, Protecting, & Promoting the Welfare of Sylvia Lake Since 1968

Shooting the Breeze Sylvia Lake Association President, Bill DeLorraine

Well folks, it's certainly been a good summer and fall this year, hasn't it? Fall colors are a little muted this year compared to years past perhaps due to the dryness we've experienced this season, don't know for sure.

Part One: The Caterpillars: We ended the season with lots of foliage on the trees despite the best efforts of two species of caterpillars, the Eastern and Forest Tent Caterpillars. The Eastern variety is characterized by a solid white stripe down its center back while the Forest tent variety is marked by chains of white markings down the back, simply put. Both are voracious leaf eaters and during heavy infestations such as during the summer of 2004 the "summer without leaves" their numbers were so many that the woods were completely denuded of leaves. Such devastating cycles are said to occur about every 50 years while lesser but still serious infestations recur in 10-year cycles. This season's invasion would qualify as one of the 10-year scenarios.

Control of the caterpillars is accomplished through aerial application of an environmentally friendly insecticide called "BTK". It's a common bacterium that has crystal proteins poisonous to the feeding larvae and it's activated only in the alkaline environment of the gut of the organism. Hence when sprayed on the leaves of the trees on the canopy where they're feeding, the bacterium is ingested along with the rest of the leaf. In the alkaline environment of its gut the toxins from *Bacillus thuringiensis* (the bacterium) are activated and the organism soon dies. There aren't any chemical residues and the agent biodegrades quickly.

The current status of the issue is this: the Association is committed to 2 additional years of spraying with Duflo company. We will have a contract in hand within a week or two for the 2019 season. Cost? ~ \$9,500. - \$10,000.

Part Two: The Milfoil Scenario: We at Sylvia Lake are fortunate in a number of ways with respect to the invasive aquatic species Eurasian Milfoil. Lots of other lakes aren't as fortunate because of reasons tracing back to their bedrock geology. For instance, Sylvia is a deep, cold, spring-fed lake underlain by metamorphic crystalline marble bedrock which is not particularly hospitable to plants or weeds rooting in or on it. Heavy milfoil infestations grow in pockets of sandy or muddy sediments.

The Association retained Steve LaMere of *Adirondack Ecologists (AE)* to survey the lake, the water samples, and to provide us recommendations as to future courses of action that we can take to prevent further incursions of milfoil and eliminate the nests that we now are experiencing. We have received a draft report, but as of this writing, the final report has not been submitted. Given the nature of the Milfoil infestation around the lake, it is the opinion of *AE* that physical control techniques (i.e., utilizing diver hand harvesting and the application of benthic barriers) are the most cost-effective and environmentally-sensitive approaches to invasive plant management.

Site #1 at the south end of the lake is a large, problematic area and there may be more Milfoil growing there than what can be handled by volunteer divers. Thus, the Association should consider hiring a professional company experienced in hand or suction harvesting techniques to address the infestation there. Adirondack Ecologists estimates a week's worth of work (estimate of \$1,000/day x 5+ days = \$5,000 to \$6,000) in this area to perform an initial clearing harvest and then to conduct a thorough post-harvest swim over and clean-up at this site. (continued page 4)

Sylvia Lake Association's 50th Birthday Bash 1968-2018

Many thanks goes to our 50th Celebration Committee members Judy Brown and Joe Laurenza who were instrumental in scheduling and arranging with the Casablanca for our party. Robyn reported at the August Sylvia Lake Association meeting that we had 128 reservations.

Robyn Estey and Missy Tersmette solicited community donations for the raffle. Shari Barnhart publicized the event by creating promotional material and the website. Lea Dickson organized the mailing and Robyn Estey coordinated the reservations. Thank you to our top-notch raffle ticket sales, Ralph Undercoffler, Missy Tersmette, Robyn Estey, and Cindy Shaw.

We are very appreciative to the following individuals and businesses for their generous donations to the Sylvia Lake Association. All proceeds from the ticket sales and raffle benefitted the Caterpillar Spraying and Milfoil Eradication Fund. We would like to thank these generous donors:



Brown's Jewelry
Casablanca Restaurant
Empire Northeast
Ferguson Printing
Gouverneur Country Club
Gouverneur Museum

Mary Kay
Mrs. Beasley's Liquor & Wine
Dede Scozzafava
Small Town Supply/
Ace Hardware
Tangle's

The Flower Shop Girls
Tripp's Fuel/
Bob's Market & Diner
Walton's Auto
Shari Barnhart for creating
and donating the hand fans.



Benthic Barrier Mat Moving

August 11, 2018 - Thanks to Alex Carpenter and to his crew, Joe Lacks, the Kraker, Dodds, Griebisch, Sprague, Undercoffler, Reilly, and Tersmette families for providing diving, muscles and cleanup.

Milfoil continues to be a threat around the lake and we all appreciate the volunteers who step up to do the difficult and hazardous task of mat moving. The Association continues to work on additional alternatives to address our Milfoil problem.

Tentative Event Schedule for Summer 2019

- ☀ Sylvia Lake Association Spring Board Meeting, Saturday, May 11, 2019. 16 Hotel Road, 10:00 AM.
- ☀ Association General Meeting, Friday, June 14, 2019, 7:00 PM, Fowler Town Hall
- ☀ Concert, Saturday, July 6, 2019. (Tentative)
- ☀ Charlie Ferguson Memorial Fishing Derby, July 5 & 6, 2019.
- ☀ Sylvia Lake Association Summer Board Meeting, Saturday, July 14, 2019. (Time and Location-TBD)
- ☀ Lakes Golf Tournament, July 20, 2019.
- ☀ Nori Grout Memorial Regatta, Sunday, August 4, 2019.
- ☀ Sylvia Lake Association Meeting and Election of Officers, August 16, 2019, 7:00PM, Fowler Town Hall



Photo: Heather Hilts Burdick

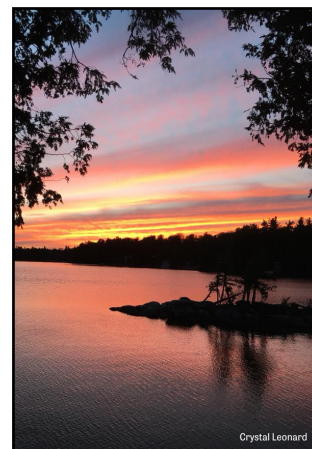


Photo: Crystal Leonard

Lakes Golf Tournament - Join Us Next Summer!



2019 will be the 3rd year of the Lakes Golf Tournament. It started as the Tri Lakes: Sylvia, Bonaparte and Trout, as a way to spark a little competition and get lake people together for a fun day. The 9 hole tournament with lunch served afterwards. was arranged so you are back on the lake by 2 or 3 pm.

We had great success this past summer, with 40 golfers, mostly from Trout and Sylvia. Frank Lallier led the Sylvia Lake Team to victory as the low stroke winner. Congratulations, Frank!

Nori Grout Memorial Sailing Regatta



1st Place: Emily Sprague
 2nd Place: Tricia Grout Garrett
 3rd Place: Greg Force
 Commodore: Don Grout

Ice Out - April 16, 2018



Thank you to our judges, Gale Ferguson and Allen Turner. See all the Ice Out dates from 1938 to 2018 at www.sylvialake.org/iceout



Millie Hayden
 Faye Hopper
 David Lockwood

Please forgive if we missed anyone. The community sends condolences to the friends and families of those we've lost.

Charlie Ferguson Memorial Fishing Derby



Youngest Fisher- Eddie Lacey
 Most Dedicated - Evan Howard
 Halei Loya - Largest Largemouth Bass
 Hunter Gillett - Largest Rock Bass
 Danielle Syrek Largest Small mouth
 Brayden Kirby – Most Rock Bass (95)



Another fine derby with beautiful trophies donated by the Force Family. There was a lot of help with fish management from Ferguson Family and Friends!



Shooting the Breeze (continued from page 2)

All work should be performed during the summer, and benthic barriers are generally very effective at killing all aquatic vegetation that they cover within 30 days of placement. They can be placed in May and used several times in different locations throughout the course of the summer. A permit from the NYS DEC is required to utilize benthic barriers, and some pre- and post-project monitoring may be required by this state regulatory agency as a permit condition.

Recommendations for Sylvia Lake:

- A. Establish a “scout” program to look for new weed infestations around the lake.
- B. Use benthic barriers to control the small Milfoil bed on the East shore.
- C. Use a professional dive team to hand harvest or suction harvest the Milfoil in the expansive bed on South Shore. (estimate of \$6,000 to \$7,000.)
- D. Use volunteer divers to hand harvest stray EWM and CLP plants wherever encountered in the lake as a result of the scout program work.
- E. Enroll in the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) in order to monitor the lake’s quality and clarity on an annual basis.
- F. Develop and implement a lake-wide environmental outreach and educational campaign to help shore owners understand the importance of initiatives like:
 - a.) Maintain proper septic systems.
 - b.) Avoid phosphorus fertilizer use adjacent to or upslope of the shoreline.
 - c.) Manage and minimize storm water runoff into the lake.
 - d.) Use buffer strips (with a width of at least 6 feet) on the shoreline using native vegetation to intercept nutrients.
 - e.) Minimize shoreline tree cutting.

New 911 Road Signage



Robyn Estey and Lea Dickson met with Tim Knowlton on September 19, 2018 at BOCES in Fowler to discuss the 2nd phase of our 911 signage project. Our timing was excellent, because he had just received the specs from Joel LaPierre for a county trail head sign. We decided that the style being used for the county would be perfect for our purpose.

After discussion of placement, permissions needed for installation, timing, and other details, Lea and Robyn and Tim made the decision to begin the project for the neighborhoods of West Shore, North Shore and Hotel Road. It will be easier for us to manage the process since we both live in those neighborhoods. Tim and his class will be building the county trail head sign first and then will move on to our project. After the 1st build, his class will know if our project will require some adjustment to accommodate all of the 911 addresses. Robyn has found a few companies that make plastic name plates that can be screwed into

the board. When a property changes ownership we can just order a new name plate. The sign board/ Directory will have battery/solar lighting for night viewing. Tim also suggested the "Directory" be covered with Plexiglass or Lexan to guard against vandalism.

We will be consulting with the West Shore road boss, Joe Lacks, for best placement and then we will get permission from Empire State Mines for installation. Bill Cook, Hotel Road, has volunteered to help with installation.

SLA Treasurer's Report

INCOME

404	Dues - 2017	\$75.00
405	Dues - 2018	\$2,200.00
411	Donations	\$157.00
413	Interest Income	\$5.13
417	Pest Control	\$17,405.00
418	2018 Party	\$1,080.00
420	Raffle Money	\$341.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$21,263.13

EXPENSE

600	Concert on the Lake	\$500.00
602	Newsletter	\$141.61
604	Trash Removal	\$151.20
605	Water Testing	\$225.00
606	Web & Tech	\$780.00
607	Misc. Expenses	\$33.99
617	Pests/Spraying	\$9,565.00
618	Credit Cd Service Chg.	\$185.09
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$11,581.89

Treasurer, Robyn Estey, reports a final balance as of 10/11/18:

\$20,242.82

Please send your dues to:

Robyn Estey, Treasurer
Sylvia Lake Association
72 Cambray Street
Gouverneur, NY 13642

Or pay securely online

sylvialake.org

Dues provide funds for lake management projects, community social activities, as well as a website, an online store, mailings, contests, and awards. Please pay your dues and support your Association.



Sylvia Lake Association Officers & Board Members

On Stairs Top-Down	Position	Lake Location
Missy Tersmette	Board	West Shore Road
Robyn Estey	Secretary	North Shore
Lea Dickson	Secretary	Hotel Road
Cindy Shaw	Board	Old Beach/Wintergreen
Shirley Putman	Board	Mansion Grounds
Ralph Undercoffler	Board	Mansion Grounds
Alex Carpenter	V. President	West Shore Road
Bill deLorraine	President	Indian Head



For Board contact information, lake history and news & photos... go online: sylvialake.org