



# Sylvia Lake Breeze

Sylvia Lake Association Newsletter

Spring 2006

## Shooting the Breeze

Lea E. Dickson

Sylvia Lake Association President

The sun is setting on this beautiful spring day at the lake and the temperature is hovering around 60 degrees with very calm winds. The daffodils are dazzling and the leeks are peaking out of the leaves of the forest bed. The day has been busy with the sounds of chain saws, hammering and woodpeckers searching for ants. The sights and sounds of spring at the lake are everywhere. It is wonderful to be back home.

I would like to thank so many of you who sent condolences after my father's passing. It was very much appreciated. I am grateful to be a part of this wonderful community.

Please note the Pest Fund appeal letter in this newsletter. We hope this is the last time you will see this kind of appeal.

Unfortunately, egg masses have been spotted and the Board has determined that we need to spray a 3rd (and hopefully, final) year. Due to fuel increases, our cost for 400 acres has increased.

The Sylvia Lake Board hopes to expand its water testing program, sanitary/septic system maintenance education, and reforestation efforts. In addition, safe boating will always be priority.

Enjoy the Spring.



## Events Schedule 2006

**Mid-Spring-** Caterpillar spraying. Notice will be placed on camp roads.

**June 9- Annual Spring Sylvia Lake Association Meeting.** Fowler Town Hall, 7:00 PM. Regular meeting and a short, special program about Septic Systems. *Cabin Life* Magazine subscription door prize. Refreshments.

**July 1 and 2- Canoe and Kayak Instruction:** A great alternative lake transportation and excellent exercise. Instructors and Assistants: Jeff Dickson, Sandy Kraker, Kate and Elissa Cook and Shirley Putman. Fowler Public Beach. 9:00-12:00. Contact Lea Dickson for sign-up and info. 287-4043, leaellen@busygals.org

**July 1 and 2- Charlie Ferguson 25th Anniversary Fishing Derby.** 10 am to 3 p.m.. 10 cents per rock bass. Trophies for most rock bass, largest trout, largest bass, largest panfish. Special anniversary prize. All kids who enter a fish will have their name put in a drawing for \$25 cash.

**July 4- The 3rd Annual Light Up the Lake.** Proceeds to the Concert Fund. Light your flare at 9:30 to complete the spectacular display. Flare should be placed in sand and away from flammable items. Please make sure flare residue and debris does not enter the water. Flares available from Gale Ferguson, 287-2116.

**Boating Safety Course-** Dates to be announced. The minimum age for personal water-craft operation has

been raised to 14. All operators must have a certificate of completion. For more information Contact Jeanette Perry, 287-7442.

**July 22- The 38th Annual Boat Parade:** Start time 1:00 PM Pumphouse Bay. Join the fun. The video of the 2005 parade can be seen on the website. More info on how to enter will be available at the Spring meeting and on the web. Contact Mary Smith, 287-4563.

**July 22- Annual Sylvia Lake Picnic, 3:00 PM. Public Beach.** Rain Location: Fowler Town Hall. It will be free to all association members and a charge of \$2.00 will be asked for all guests and nonmembers. Please bring your own place setting and a "covered dish" to pass. Hot dogs, sausage and soda will be provided. Contact Mona Allen, 287-2206.

**August 5- Tour de Camp.** Join us for the 3rd Tour. Locations to be announced. \$5.00 donation. 1-4 PM. Tickets available at each location and also at Mrs. Beasley's. Contact: Donna Besaw, 287-1390.

**Concert(s):** Dates to be announced at Spring Meeting, June 9th. Contact Gale Ferguson, 287-2116.

**August 25- Annual Fall Sylvia Lake Association Meeting.** Fowler Town Hall, 7:00 PM. Election of officers. Presentation of the 1st draft of the new mission statement. Hopefully a mock-up of the updated Sylvia Lake Book.

## Reforestation of Sylvia Lake

The Sylvia Lake's watershed has lost hundred's perhaps thousands of trees over the last 10 plus years. microburst, ice storm, pests, logging, power lines, and property owner's constructions projects have taken their toll on the forests.

It is time to think about replanting.

220 trees have been ordered from the SLC Soil and Water Conservation District. Most have been purchased for less than \$1.00 per tree. We are hoping to sell them for at cost plus a small planting fee. Lea Dickson has agreed to serve as the tree farmer while the program gets organized.

Species ordered: White Pine, Scotch Pine, Balsam Fir, Tamarack. Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Native Birch, Black Cherry, Burr Oak, White Ash, Black Walnut, Hybrid Poplar, Purple Lilac, and Juneberry. 10 of each species except for 50 each of the Birch and Sugar Maple. Lea will pick them up on April 28th at the Cornell Ext. Office in Canton.

Anyone wishing to help us with this very important project, please contact Lea Dickson, 287-4043.

## 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.* 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.

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.

Please mail dues and contributions to:

Mona Allen, Treasurer  
Sylvia Lake Association  
130 Jones Road  
Gouverneur, NY 13642



## State Officials Warn Against Feeding Water Fowl

*Story from WWNY-TV*

*Saturday, April 15, 2006, 10:25 p.m.*

They gather at ponds and streams throughout the north country. It can seem natural to want a closer look. But when you give ducks food, the state says you're feeding a larger problem.

"It's been our long standing practice to advise people against feeding waterfowl," said Stephen Litwhiler of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. According to Litwhiler, when large numbers of ducks and gulls are in unnatural areas, it can be harmful to the health of the birds.

Officials say bird flu doesn't seem to be an imminent threat right now, but Litwhiler says that doesn't mean people should ignore the precautions. "People continually enjoy waterfowl. Bird watchers like to go out with their binoculars, watch them at a distance and encourage people to enjoy wildlife in their natural surroundings," said Litwhiler.

Distance is the key word from the state's perspective. While some towns have laws against feeding ducks, New York state does not. "May we see a regulation in the future about the feeding of waterfowl? That's a possibility," Litwhiler said. Even without a law, Litwhiler says the state is preparing for the best way to keep residents informed if bird flu hits the U.S.

"We are discussing at a state-wide level the best avenues to follow and education is education is currently one of these things they are discussing," said Litwhiler.



## Sylvia Lake Health and Safety Tips

The suggested "quiet time" is from 10:00PM until 11:00 AM.

### EMERGENCY

Call 911. Don't forget to post your 911 address in a prominent location on your property and camp. Call the 911 operator from your camp phone to verify the directions to your place.



### NEW YORK STATE BOATING RULES OF THE ROAD

A PWC is subject to all the laws that motor boat operators must follow, as well as:

- 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.
- 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 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.



**SWIMMING-** Swim with a buddy, have a boat with you when swimming any long distance. Look before leaping.

**SUBMERGED ROCKS AND DEBRIS-** 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 parent 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.

### PET OWNERS

The Town of Fowler has a Leash and Nuisance Law. In summary, 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 Dog Warden.



### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

With more year round residents than ever we might be able to advise you of suspicious activity, trees falling, broken pipes. Please send all updates of addresses, phone numbers and email addresses to our Communications Director, Shari Barnhart. 287-4043 or [shariba@rainbowtech.org](mailto:shariba@rainbowtech.org)

Please be considerate of your neighbors. Noise carries over the water so please remind yours guests or renters that the suggested quiet time is from 10:00PM until 11:00 AM. We share this beautiful space and each of us enjoys different ways to recreate. Have a Healthy, Happy and Safe Sylvia Season.

## The Ice Goes Out: March 31

For the past few years, visitors to the Sylvia Lake website have been asked to guess when they think the ice will go out on Sylvia Lake. The winner receives an "Ice Out" mug.



This year, Margaret VonColln Soluri of Champlain, NY and Gary Scott of Sylvia Lake, guessed the date correctly. For their prognosticative prowess, they each received an Ice Out mug. Congratulations!

## Save Your Bottles and Cans

Proceeds from the collection of bottles and cans will provide funds for Sylvia Lake Youth Corps projects. Dates for pickup at the lake will be announced. Watch your tree clipboard.

You can also take your bottles and cans to the Redemption Center at the Trackside Plaza in Gouverneur. Tell them you want to donate the proceeds to the Sylvia Lake Youth Corps.

Seaway Industries Container  
Redemption Center  
7 Factory Street  
Gouverneur, NY 13642  
287-4866



## Sylvia Lake Book Update

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)

Information can be mailed to:  
Katie Pistolesi  
162 Park Street  
Gouverneur, NY 13642 -

Questions? Call 315-287-1994



### Book Committee

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

## Sylvia Lake Association - Board of Directors 2006

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

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

**Mona Allen, Treasurer**  
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**Kelley Lacks, Secretary**  
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**Gale Ferguson, Director**  
Past President  
East Shore - 287-2116  
gferguso@twcnv.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**  
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att.net

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

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

**David Sleeman, Junior Director**  
Hotel Road



Visit Sylvia Lake Online to read the message boards. There have been some interesting discussions over the winter months. Browse the family albums and the many feature stories. Some even have multimedia. You can even watch a video of last year's boat parade.

## Septic System Maintenance

### Beautiful Sylvia Shoreline Management Recommendations and Reminders

*Edited from the Wisconsin Waterfront  
Management practices checklist.*

1. Leave or maintain a buffer zone of natural vegetation.
2. Consider preserving or re-creating a natural, wooded setting.
3. Ensure that you have appropriate stormwater and erosion controls.
4. Consider smaller lawns with shrub borders or native plantings to replace the lawn area.
5. Choose grass and/or ground cover that minimizes maintenance, fertilizer and pesticide application.
6. Construct docks, decks, and other outdoor structures from sustainable, low-toxicity materials such as ACQ treated wood or recycled plastic composite materials (no CCA-Chromated Copper Arsenate-treated lumber).
7. Maintain the existing elevation of the lot so as to not significantly change the flow of water from the land.
8. Use no- or low-phosphorus detergents and use soaps and other cleaning agents carefully—never allow them to wash into a lake, stream or wetland.
9. Pick up and dispose of pet waste immediately, properly and away from the water.
10. Maintain sewage systems.
11. Keep garden and grass clippings and leaves out of the water.

We will have a detailed program on septic systems at the June 9 Spring Meeting, Fowler Town Hall, 7:00 PM. Jim Yaeger, from Witherbee & Whalen, Inc. (septic tank manufacturers) will present options for waste water systems and recommendations for lake front property. The county health department will be providing us with material for system maintenance and we also hope to have Myrna Barney, SLC Public Health Sanitarian, on hand to answer specific questions.

David Lockwood, Sylvia Lake Association Sanitation Chair, has been reviewing Fowler septic system codes and we hope to meet with the code enforcement officer to review local regulations. If you are planning a building project, the SLA board encourages you to assess your current waste water system to ensure that it can handle new showers, dishwashers etc. Untreated sewage contains disease-causing bacteria and viruses, as well as unhealthy amounts of nitrate and other chemicals. Failed septic systems can allow untreated sewage to seep into wells, groundwater, and Sylvia's surface water.

A few reminders;

- If you are having a large crowd or family reunion, consider renting portable toilets.
- Conserve water to reduce amount of wastewater disposed of by your system. Do laundry over several days. Do not use separate pipes to a side ditch. The gray water contains germs and can wind its way to the lake or seep into the groundwater.
- Have your septic tank regularly inspected.
- Call your county health department when you experience problems or if there are any signs of failure.
- Keep detailed records.
- Don't use septic tank additives. They can cause your drainfields to clog.
- Limit the use of garbage disposals.
- Don't plant anything over the drainfield with an extensive root system.
- Don't drive over you tank and drainfield

David and Myrna remind us that pumping your system is probably the single most important thing you can do to protect your system. If the buildup of solids in the tank becomes too high and solids move to the drainfield, this could clog and strain the system to the point where a new drainfield will be needed.

### Local Septic Pumping Resources

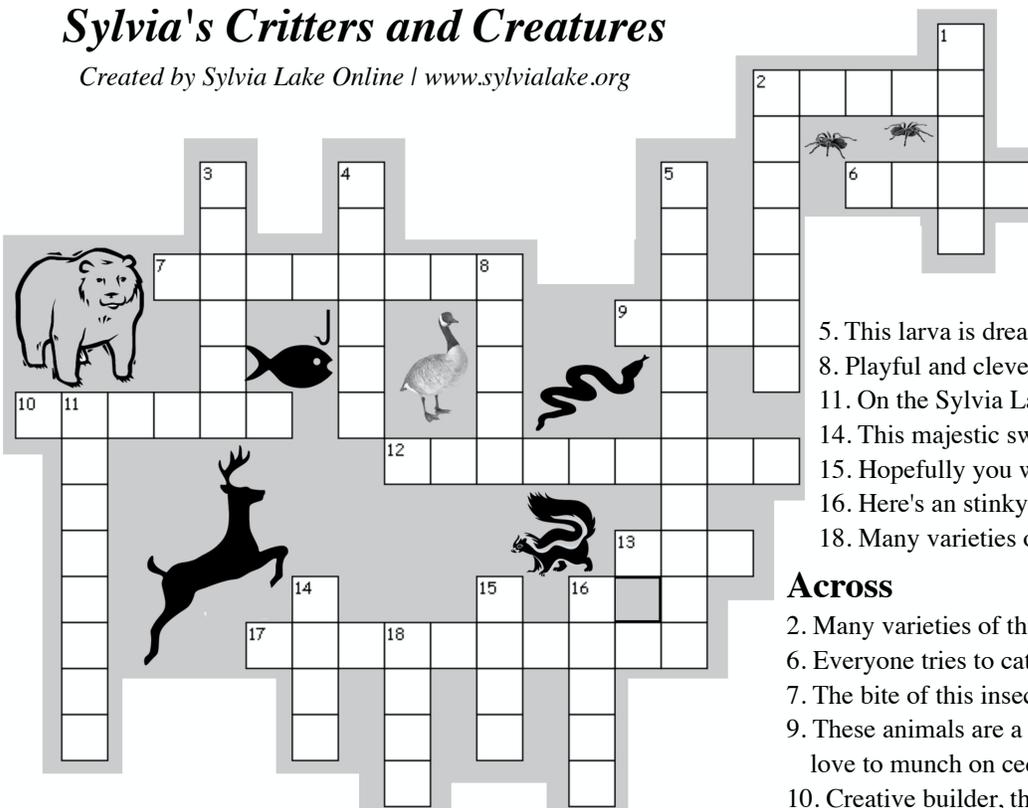
- Gary Williamson, Natural Bridge- 644-4000
  - Langevin Excavation- 848-3358
  - Gleason Septic Service- 773-4135
- <[www.sewersucker.com](http://www.sewersucker.com)> Also rents portable toilets.



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

## Sylvia's Critters and Creatures

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



### Down

1. The honking of these travelers as they go south is a common sound in the Fall.
2. With eight legs, there are more of these in one camp than we'd like to think about.
3. One of these game birds visited the Van Slyke's this winter, through the window.
4. This winter, tracks for this big cat were reported in the Sylvia Lake area.
5. This larva is dreaded by the lake's flora and fauna.
8. Playful and clever, these animals love to swim.
11. On the Sylvia Lake Road, you can see this gray (granite) creature.
14. This majestic swimming bird is a symbol for the Adirondacks.
15. Hopefully you won't run into any of these while hiking.
16. Here's an stinky animal you don't want to encounter!
18. Many varieties of this bird are seen swimming in Sylvia Lake.

### Across

2. Many varieties of this creature slither around the shore of Sylvia.
6. Everyone tries to catch 'em...including the loons.
7. The bite of this insect leaves a welt and an itch for days.
9. These animals are a common sight all year round at Sylvia. They love to munch on cedar trees and every variety of shrub.
10. Creative builder, this animal can control our water level.
12. These prickly animals are slow getting around on the land.
13. In May, these insects can torment everyone.
17. The Pileated version looks just like a famous cartoon character.

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