



SYLVIA LAKE BREEZE

Newsletter of the Sylvia Lake Association Fall 2011

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

Barb Maloy Kane.....Sylvia Lake Association President



The end of summer always brings with it a little sigh of sadness. Shorter days, cooler nights, and the quiet quiver of the approaching winter, leaves one with the dutiful tasks of taking the docks out, draining the pipes and closing up. As my 6th summer on the lake comes to a close, I think of all the old friendships I have renewed and the new ones I have made.

When asked if I would become the new president of the Sylvia Lake Association, I was somewhat hesitant. Since becoming a property owner in 2005, I have served on the Board of Directors and most recently Vice President of the Sylvia Lake Association. Accepting the President's position was yet another way of giving back and having the opportunity to work with an incredible group of people.

Topics like water quality, milfoil, history, constitution, mission, ice out, fishing derby and yes, the forever battling of the beavers, are just a few of the buzz words heard year round. I think I can safely say for all of us here on the lake, the health of Sylvia remains our top priority.

As I was handed over all of the prior history minutes, notes, and photos of summers passed, I realized that this material would be something I would peruse on a cold, - 20 degree below zero, Sunday afternoon, curled up on the couch with a hot cup of cocoa. My dad always said, "time flies, especially as you get older." He was right, and so even before you know it, the sound of laughter, "hi neighbor" and such will be common noises around the lake.

See you in the Spring!

Barb



Your 2012-2013 SLA Board

(Standing) Wayne Jones, Ralph Undercoffler, Jim Jackson, Dave Syrek, Sandy Kraker
(seated) Barb Maloy Kane, Robyn Estey
(missing) Bill deLorraine and Michele Lallier

Thank You to SLA Officers, Board and Committee Members

A huge THANK YOU goes out to Sandy Kraker as he steps down as President of the Sylvia Lake Association. Also to Al Lehigh who is stepping down from the Board, to Jodi Hatch for her years of service as Secretary and to Linda Scott for serving many years on the Nominating Committee, we thank you.

Welcome to: Dave Syrek, Vice President, Ralph Undercoffler, Secretary, Robyn Estey and Bill DeLorraine, Board Members. Lea Dickson joins our Nominating Committee.

If you would like to volunteer on any of the committees, please contact one of the committee members, officers or board members.

SLA CONSTITUTION'S STANDING COMMITTEES *

* Sanitation & Water Testing

Lea Dickson
David Syrek
Linda Syrek

*Fish & Game

Gale Ferguson
Gary Scott

Dave McGrath
(Pumphouse)

*Navigation

Gail Ferguson
Sandy Kraker

Ralph Undercoffler
(Safe Boating Course)

*Social Committee

Linda Syrek
Faye Lockwood
(Spring Meeting)

Wayne Jones
Barbara Kane
(Picnic)

Gale Ferguson
Sandy Kraker
(Concert)

*Nominating

Olive Horning
Linda Syrek
Lea Dickson

Website
Graphic Design
Tech Support
Shari Barnhart



Thank you to Gale Ferguson and company for their continued perseverance in battling the beavers. Beaver activity has kept water levels consistently higher than normal. Ferg and company are making headway in keeping the outlet open as seen with the dropping of the water level. Trapping season starts in October...

If anyone has a weed winder used to pull milfoil and have no further need of it, please let the board know. There are several others who would like to use them. As of last count, there were 13 weed winders.

Sandy Kraker and company continue to place buoys and milfoil mats each summer. If you have a question or concern, please contact Sandy.

The Sylvia Lake map is in the process of being updated by Bill deLorraine and Gale Ferguson. Final copies will be available at the spring meeting in June.



Panorama Photo by Tom Laverghetta

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Thank you to our friends
at Empire Northeast for
printing this newsletter!

Water Quality Committee Report

by Dave Syrek, Sanitation & Water Committee

Our committee consists of Lea Dickson, Water Quality Chair, Dave Syrek, SLA Director and Linda Syrek, boat captain. The committee is presently involved with Bacteriological testing, waste water and septic management, the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP), and a St. Lawrence University Grant to assess our lake's overall health. The Adirondack and St. Lawrence University studies will be reported at our Spring meeting.

You can review the 2010 (most recent) ALAP report on the website. www.sylvialake.org/ALAPSummary.html

BACTERIOLOGICAL TESTING REPORT

We test the last week of June, July and August, and during each monthly testing did six or more locations. Our total bacteriological testing was done in 12 different locations, for a total of 19 separate water samples. Some areas were retested because they had a higher fecal coliform level and the Public Beach was tested each month. Sampling various areas gave us a chance to analyze the lake as a whole.

In 2011, we had tremendous amount of rainfall and much higher inlet water flows which increased our overall coliform total. July was very warm and the higher lake levels led to all around higher coliform levels. In August, with a decrease in lake water temperature and a decrease in water levels, in addition to several windy days, our lake was able to purge and thus lower the coliform bacterial levels.

WATER TESTING CONCLUSIONS

- * You should NOT drink Sylvia Lake water without treating it for bacterial control. No area of the lake tested less than 2 fecal coliform/unit. The state level for drinking water is less than 1 fecal coliform/unit.
- * Greater populations in bay areas seem to mean a higher coliform and fecal coliform count. These areas must carefully monitor their septic and waste water. Areas of concern are Wintergreen Bay, Hotel Bay, the Public Beach Area, East Shore and the West Shore between Robinson's Point and High Rock.
- * We can safely swim in all areas of our lake.

To enhance septic and wastewater management, do a self-analysis of your own septic and waste water system. Some questions to ask would be:

- Do I know where my septic tank or leach field is? Do I know how old it is?
- Do I have my holding tank pumped? How often?
- Do I understand how my waste water and septic system functions? How could I improve the systems?
- Do I have any strange odors around my home or lake front?

Let's keep our beautiful lake clean and healthy for future generations.

New to the Neighborhoods!

- ★ Karl and Peggy Muller - West Shore
- ★ Bryan and Brenda Perrigo - Mansion Grounds
- ★ Tim and Donna Tyler - Mansion Grounds

Our apologies if we missed someone... let us know!

Milfoil Matters

Eurasian water milfoil is a weed. Native to Europe and Asia, it's now found across the United States. In the 1940's, milfoil was imported for people to use in their aquariums, but it soon found its way into lakes and ponds all over the country. Scientists say it's so pervasive it's destroying native plants.

In ecosystems like Sylvia Lake, its growth is attracted to areas of nutrient-rich sediments. It is an opportunistic species that prefers highly disturbed lake beds and lakes that receive nitrogen and phosphorous-laden runoff, like from lawn fertilizers, etc. Warmer water temperatures promote multiple periods of flowering and fragmentation.

Since 2004, the community has been battling Milfoil around the lake with strategies ranging from "harvesting" the weed with divers and skimmers on the surface, weeder-winder devices, and most recently, benthic barrier mats were laid over the weedy areas to smother the growth.

You can read a complete history of our Milfoil efforts, on our website:

www.sylvialake.org/2011/milfoil11.html

Support Your Association

by Sandy Kraker, Past SLA President

Effective for Calendar Year 2012, the annual dues have been increased from \$10 to \$25. This increase was voted in by a majority of members at the Spring SLA meeting following a discussion that the budget was falling short of the costs associated with projects and activities undertaken each year by the Association. It is also important to remember that the reserve account (funds raised from book sales and caterpillar eradication) remain in a separate interest bearing account for future emergencies.

We appreciate your understanding that it is a small price to pay as your dues provide funding for: The Standing & AdHoc committee work, newsletter mailings, water testing, annual picnic, 911 road signs, concerts, milfoil harvesting, navigation aids, Sylvia Lake Website, pump house signage, and other miscellaneous projects and activities.

Please remember that your dues now cover a calendar year, so in order to be current for 2011, dues must be received by Dec. 31, 2011.

Mail your dues to:

Michele Lallier, SLA Treasurer
13 Rosebriar Avenue
Massena, NY 13662

You can also pay dues securely online...

www.sylvialake.org/dues/paydues.html

If there are any errors (or updates needed) to your mailing address, please notify Shari Barnhart at shariba@mac.com so the database can be kept current.





Sylvia's Lending Library

The community would like to extend our thanks to the Wixted family (Old Beach) for coordinating a lending library this summer. The library was located in a

red shed along Old Beach Road to the right of the Wixteds' garage. The library was open daily, but it was requested that we use it between the hours of 10 am and 6 pm.

The library worked on the honor system; returning the books when the reader is finished with them. If you would like to donate any books to the library, they will be very welcome.

Enormous thanks also to the O'Shaughnessy families, who donated the majority of the books and a couple of the book cases to the library.

SLA Picnic 2011

The annual Sylvia Lake Association Picnic was held at Dick and Mary Jane Jones' camp again this year.



We all appreciate their generous hospitality. Big thanks to all who lent a hand at this event to make it so successful. Special thanks to Arne Roberts for the tent setup and Wayne Jones for the tables and chairs.

Raffles of SLA hand crafted items included loon stepping stones done by Mary Jane Jones and a fish table and wine rack, which were provided by an anonymous donor.

Ice Out 2011

Sylvia Lake Online was happy to award the Annual Ice Out Mug to Gary Scott, Vern Gonyeau and Lora Hatch. The Ice Out occurred on April 5 this year. As always, thanks to our Ice Out Judge, Gary Jones.

29th Charlie Ferguson Fishing Derby

July 2 & 3, 2011

Thank you to the Ferguson family for continuing to run this annual event. And thank you to the Force family for providing great trophies each year.

Most Rock Bass—The French Camp captained by Sylvia topped their 2010 winning total with 127 fish.



Largest Large Mouth Bass — The Porter Boys



Most Dedicated Fisher — Michael O'Shaughnessy

Largest Rock Bass

Kaitlyn Cyrus
Truax camp

Largest Smallmouth Bass

Dan Kalina

Youngest Fisher

Madison Faye Hopper



Thanks, also to Gale Ferguson for providing photos.

TENTATIVE DATES FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES 2012

- Spring SLA Board Meeting : May 26 / 3:PM – Maloy Camp
- Summer Kick Off & Spring Meeting : June 8 / 6:PM – Gouverneur Country Club
- Charlie Ferguson Memorial Fishing Derby : June 30 - July 1
- Safe Boating Course : Dates to be announced
- Summer Concert : July 7 / 6:PM (Tentative)
- Sylvia Lake Picnic : July 21 – Dick and Mary Jane Jones Camp
- Fall General Meeting : Aug 10 / 7:PM – Fowler Town Hall
- Fall SLA Board Meeting : Aug 25 / 3:PM – Maloy Camp

Sylvia Lake Association
C/O Michele Lallier, Treasurer
13 Rosebriar Avenue
Massena NY 13662