



Shooting the Breeze

A 2026 message from
SLA President, Emily Grout Sprague
& Vice President, Mike Hatch



To quote the inimitable Beatles: “It’s been a long, cold lonely winter, ” and “here comes the sun.” Our long-awaited lake season is approaching at last. The days grow longer; the ice melts, and the loon calls return.

Please visit the Sylvia Lake website sylvialakeny.com. Many thanks to the generous and talented Shari Barnhart for her work on our behalf in maintaining our website. You can use the link found on the website to pay Association dues and get more information about lake activities. A \$25 donation helps support lake management, this newsletter, website updates, lake activities, and environmental action. Let’s celebrate our lake community. We have several fun events scheduled again this summer. Please join us, bring a lake neighbor or friends. All are welcome.

The SLA board has paused professional Milfoil mitigation due to 1/3 fewer detections in our 2025 lake survey. Please monitor your lakefronts, remove milfoil responsibly, and contact the board if you need additional information.

We are looking for a few Sylvia Lakers to join our volunteer board of directors. Please reach out to me or any member if you’re interested in helping to keep our lake and its community safe, happy, and healthy. It’s fun, and not terribly time-consuming.

Please join us at the first event of the lake season for Annual Summer Social at the Fowler Town Hall, on Sunday, June 28th, from 3-5 PM. There will light refreshments and an opportunity to catch up with lake neighbors. Please come to see old friends and make some new ones. Cheers to a wonderful summer!



See you on the lake.

Emily Sprague, SLA President

Mike Hatch, SLA Vice President

Sylvia Lake SUMMER 2026

- ◆ Summer Kick-off Social
Sun., June 28 - Town Pavilion, 4:00 PM
(bring finger food /hors d'oeuvres to share)
- ◆ Ferguson Memorial Fishing Derby
Fri/Sat July 3-4 - Hayden's Dock 10:00
AM-3:00 PM
- ◆ Sylvia Lake Boat Parade
Saturday, July 18, 2:00 PM
- ◆ Nori Grout Memorial Regatta
Saturday, August 1, 2:00 PM
- ◆ Paddlepalooza
Saturday, August 15, 2:00 PM
- ◆ Sylvia Lake Picnic & Meeting
Saturday, August 15, 4:00 PM
Fowler Town Pavilion (bring a dish
to pass, SLA provides hots & burgers)
- ◆ Light Up the Lake
("grownups' boat parade") Saturday,
September 5 - after sunset

PLAY BY THE RULES:

- New York Law: Everyone must complete a boating course and obtain a license before operating a motorized boat or Personal Water Craft/PWC jet ski.
- Boats or PWC (Personal Water Craft, aka jet skis) may not operate within 500’ of marked swim areas except to dock or launch at 10 mph.
- Jet Skis may not be operated between sunset and sunrise or in times of restricted visibility. Jumping wakes, splashing others, or interfering with traffic is dangerous and illegal.
- A motorized boat or PWC (Personal Water Craft), such as a jet ski, must carry one life-saving device per passenger and have a valid license. When pulling skiers or tubers, all watercraft must carry a spotter in addition to the driver.

We love our pets, but remember, Fowler has a leash law that applies even at Sylvia Lake. Please keep your dogs under control.



April 3 marked the 2026 Ice Out. Thank you to our judges, everyone who participated, and our three winners! Andrew Hughes, Clara O’Shaughnessy, and Jane Dodds.

VISIT SYLVIA LAKE ONLINE

www.sylvialakeny.com

Explore these tabs for more than 25 years of Sylvia Lake life.

- Home
- Lake Stories & News
- Association
- History
- Classified
- Maps
- Contacts
- Store



Be sure your 911 address is clearly posted on your property.

EMERGENCY?
CALL 911

Other questions or problems?
Here are some phone numbers.

- Town of Fowler — 315-287-0045
- Dog Warden— 315-528-7988
- NYS DEC— 315-785-2231
- Sheriff Dispatch— 315-379-2222
- State Troopers— 315-287-2311
- Fort Drum— 315-772-5461
- Empire St.Mines— 800-632-9709

REMINDER TO OUR NEIGHBORS

SLA Events are for everyone! Join us on the lake, learn more at our website, and connect on our Facebook page. We welcome new neighbors and visitors!

Voices carry over the water, and your conversation in the middle of the lake can often be easily heard on shore. We kindly ask you to remind your guests of the traditional Sylvia Lake “Quiet Hours” - 10:00 p.m. til 10:00 a.m. This small act of consideration can go a long way in maintaining the peaceful atmosphere of our community.

Please be considerate. Campfire smoke and loud music can drift through neighbors’ windows. If you’re planning a loud celebration (music or fireworks), you can notify neighbors through the Facebook page so others can prepare their children and pets for the excitement.

The Town of Fowler has a bottle/can collection program – you can drop empties at the Town Barn. By participating in this program, you’re not just disposing of your waste responsibly but also supporting the playground and the Pavilion, where we’ll meet in August. Your small contribution can make a big difference!

Our roads are challenging. To preserve their integrity, please drive slowly. Most roads suggest 15 mph. A sincere THANK YOU to the dedicated volunteers who maintain our roads year-round. Each access road has its own Road Crew, with varying levels of cost and service. Please be a good neighbor and chip in to your “road dues” to help cover material costs incurred by our volunteers!

SLA Milfoil Task Force Update - Spring 2026

The SLA Board and Milfoil Task Force voted to **pause the ProcellaCOR permit application for Spring 2026**. The **Milfoil Mitigation Fund Drive** will continue for a potential 2027 application. All funds will be tracked separately and returned if not used.

Notes from the SLA Board:

1. **Natural Reduction:** Milfoil growth dropped ~30% in 2025, likely due to weather and environmental factors. The Board will monitor 2026 trends closely.
2. **Necessity of Herbicide:** Manual harvesting alone has proven ineffective. Experts advise that herbicides are necessary for long-term eradication.
3. **Community Support & Safety:** 70% of owners supported herbicide use in 2022. ProcellaCOR has a strong safety record, including use in drinking water reservoirs, with no known adverse effects.
4. **Addressing Opposition:** While some opposition exists, the Board is acting on the majority view (from the 2022 survey). No evidence of harm from ProcellaCOR has been presented to date.
5. **Chemical Safety (PFAS):** The EPA and NYS DEC have confirmed that ProcellaCOR is **not** a PFAS ("forever chemical").
6. **Cost Efficiency:** Treating the lake now, while milfoil levels are lower, would be more effective and less expensive than delaying.
7. **Lost Funding:** The Town of Fowler withdrew its \$5,000 pledge when Covid-19 recovery funds expired.
8. **Grant Ineligibility:** Sylvia Lake does not qualify for current NYS DEC grants, which are reserved for new infestations.
9. **Benthic Mats:** SLA mats are available for free, but owners must obtain their own DEC permits to use them (allowed July 1 – Oct 31).
10. **New Signage:** The Board proposes posting signs at all access points reminding boaters to clean and inspect watercraft to prevent invasive species.
11. **Transparency:** The Board is committed to educating the community and ensuring a democratic, transparent decision-making process.
12. **Learn More:** Owners are encouraged to research "Eurasian milfoil" and "ProcellaCOR" on state environmental websites or the Sylvia Lake site (www.sylvialakeny.com) for more information.



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