



# Loon Calls

www.lakesylvia.org

Fall 2019

GREATER LAKE SYLVIA ASSOCIATION

## What is Happening in Lake Sylvania?

By Blaine Barkley

What is happening in Lake Sylvania? Most would say it is a mixed bag.

1. According to Secchi disk measurements of the East and West Lake, the lake continues to have improving water clarity. So clear in fact that the team monitoring it is looking to lengthen the rope used to lower the white metal plate into the lake until you can no longer see it which then gives us our measurement of relative water clarity. Clearer water is better! Well, not necessarily. Zebra mussels always improve lake clarity because they filter nutrients from the water 24 hours per day and we likely have hundreds of millions of zebra mussels at work in the lake, mostly still small in size. It is likely zebra mussels are a major factor in the clearer water. As they filter the water, they feed on micro-nutrients that are the primary food source for newly hatched fish.

Cleaner water will in time impact fishing in the lake, making it better initially as each size fish in the food chain will end up with fewer smaller fish to eat making them eager for whatever is being presented to them by anglers. Lake Mille Lacs is a perfect example of this. As upsetting as it is to have zebra mussels in the lake and to have your dock, lift, boat, or other watercraft covered by them, eventually they will peak in numbers and then likely decrease since there is not unlimited food in the lake to keep feeding them. An equilibrium of food and zebra mussels should be reached. Fish that are adverse to light, such as walleyes, will also begin to move to deeper and deeper water during daylight hours.

2. Because of increasing water clarity, we



**Zebra Mussels have the effect of filtering the lake, but eventually they will run out of food.**

can also expect native weed growth to accelerate and weeds to grow to deeper depths. This summer seems to give some credibility to that. This is the worst summer for weeds I have ever observed on a lake wide basis, both native weeds and invasive weeds such as Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed, native Chara, ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chara\\_\(alga\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chara_(alga))) and others. Worsening weed growth is due to multiple factors in addition to increased water clarity. Rain has been increasing both in quantity and intensity with this year challenging prior yearly rainfall records.

*Sylvia Continued on page 3*

## High Water

## Lake Levels Remain High on Sylvania

By Chris Hector

The water level on 2019-09-15 was 1050.42 or 4 inches above the Ordinary High Water mark (OHW). Levels have remained above the OHW all year with a maximum of 1050.78 on May 28th.

The graph on page 3 shows the levels all year compared to 2018 and 2011 (the year with the highest water level on record.)

Lake Sylvania is in the Crow River watershed with Goose Lake, and Lake John upstream of us and downstream of us the water flows into

Moses, and Francis and then to the Crow River. It takes a long time for the water levels to recede because in the three miles between the outlet of Sylvania and the outlet of Francis the elevation drops only one foot.

*Water Continued on page 3*

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**Al's Almanac**  
by Al Ostlund

2019

### Precipitation

Jan. . . . .	.0.69"
Feb. . . . .	.2.85"
March . . . . .	.1.53"
April . . . . .	.1.88"
May . . . . .	.5.36"
June . . . . .	.5.29"
July . . . . .	.3.45"
Aug. . . . .	.4.02"
Sept. . . . .	.2.53"
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>.27.60"</b>

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- Communications  
Dave Wefring (Chair)
- Fundraising Committee  
Russ Fortner (Chair)
- Governance Committee  
Jim Gray (Chair)
- Membership Committee  
Lisa Peery (Chair)
- Nominating Committee
- Picnic Committee  
Mike McNellis (Chair)
- Water Quality & Clarity Committee  
Mike Mischuk (Chair)
- Wildlife Conservation Committee

Please contact any chair to join their committee.

## GLSA Loon Calls Editor

- Stephanie Schaunaman  
2stephm@gmail.com

# A Few Words From Your President

Russ Fortner

It is hard to believe that summer is over. All of the GLSA events were completed and considered successful. Starting with the boat parade, then the fireworks, next the golf tournament, and lastly the picnic. Weather was great for all events except the picnic, still the turnout was very good.

The year was “wet” and water levels are higher than ever. In the future, if anyone wants to complain about boat waves please call Wright County Sheriff’s Department. Do not call our AIS chairman Blaine Barkley. There is nothing he can do if it is not related to AIS. There is nothing we (GLSA) can do, as it is not our lake, but the DNR’s.

For next year, I would like the GLSA annual meeting to be better attended. The speaker will be from the Wright



Country Sheriff’s Department, who will be speaking of their policing on Lake Sylvania. Hopefully he will be able to speak of their past and future scheduling, scheduled time on the water, and answer any of your questions.

Well, let’s all have a good winter and see you back next year.

# A Century of Memories

By Millicent Dally  
Rudolph, 1987,  
age 98

Excerpts of an interview by Glen Keepers (Page 55 of “Remembering Lake Sylvania.”)

When I was a little girl, they used to say there were 17 lakes within 7 miles of Annandale. French Lake and a couple smaller ones were counted. There was once a story of a man from the twin cities that came out to Lake Sylvania, went out in a canoe, tipped over and drowned. Lake Sylvania is considered the deepest lake in the area and it was presumed he drowned in 90’ water. In 1918, my husband, Charles, a dentist in Minneapolis, was asked to help Dr. Johnson

(dentist) and Mr. Carlson (florist) find property on Lake Sylvania. They soon built their cabins on the peninsula. They built on this land for \$400, and now it’s worth \$400-\$450 a foot. We built our cabin in 1919 and lived there ever since. Everything came over on boat—all the furnishings, machines, materials. Everything except the piano, which came over the ice. We had to come by boat until 1949. We had right-of-way through Nordberg pasture and built boat-houses and garages for the three families. In 1949, they got the settlement opened up and the new road through. We had to buy an extra lot to connect up with our property and could then get electricity, however, still

no phone until long, long afterwards.

When Dr. Johnson and Mr. Carlson sold out of the property, my husband introduced two more dentists to the property and they loved it immediately. Dr. Damon and their 2 kids, and Dr. Wiethoff and their 4 kids, joined us on the peninsula with our 5 children. They used to call it Prophylactic Point. I called it Pyorrhoea Point. We had quite a colony of youngsters here. Dr. Damon’s daughter owns the first cabin, Dr. Wiethoff’s son owns the second one, and my son, Jim owns the last one.

The cabins can be seen when passing through the channel.

## GLSA Event Calendar for 2019

Oct. 12 - Bd. Mtg. 9 a.m.  
Southside Township Hall  
8209 Co. Rd. 3 NW

All members are welcome to attend Board Meetings. To request a presentation to the Board, contact President Russ Fortner.

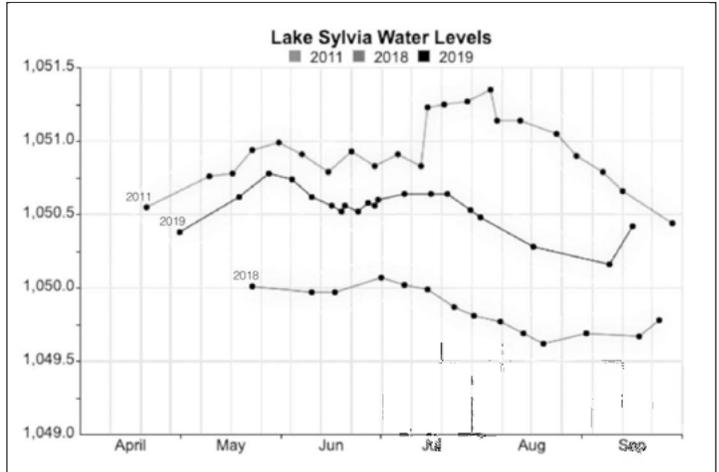
# Water

*Continued from page 1*

Compounding that we have had a very wet summer.

The Lake Association does check the culvert and ensure that there is no debris restricting the flow of water out of the lake. In years past we would periodically have projects to remove cattails down below the culvert, but we can no longer pull permits from the DNR to take those actions. This is partly due to changes in DNR practices and partly due to the invasives we have in the lake that are not present downstream of us.

When lake levels are above 1,050.58, a 300 ft. No wake zone is established. Also between Memorial Day and Labor Day a 150 ft. No Wake zone is in effect. These ordinances are intended to reduce the damaging effects of wave action on our shorelines. This year we had two cycles of the 300 ft. No Wake during the year. The No Wake zones are a Wright County ordinance and enforced by the Wright County Sheriff, but we as lake residents have a huge role to play in being aware and respectful of the NoWake zones and informing our friends, family and neighbors about the restrictions.



Lake Sylvia water levels were about four inches higher than the Ordinary High Water mark on Sept. 15. The chart above compares the high water levels of 2011 and last year's water levels.

# Sylvia

*Continued from page 1*

This has produced more than usual runoff from lawns, also brings leaves, and other debris washed into the lake as well as fertile dirt from shorelines being washed into the lake by waves and wakes to fuel native and non-native weed growth. Additionally, high horsepower boats and jet skis operating in less than very deep water are churning up years of phosphorous and nitrogen from lake bottoms providing additional fertilizer in the water column. For the first time surface algae has also become more noticeable in the lake due in part to increased nutrient levels on the surface of the water.



**Filamentous Algae, also aptly named lake moss or pond scum, is a result of high levels of nutrients in the water.**

the water. High levels of nutrients result in increased amounts of algae." (info@kill-lakeweeds.com)

If you find Filamentous Algae in front of your home, make sure you are not doing anything to contribute to providing a source of nutrients for it.

5. The concern about private access on this lake cannot be under-estimated. Using private accesses for boats that do not spend the entire year on Lake Sylvia pose the greatest danger to the lake. Welcome visitors but do not welcome their boats onto your private landing. New invasive species confined to the landing area will likely be found early and many can be managed. New invasive species introduced to other accesses on the lake pose a catastrophic danger by not being discovered early

3. These factors also seem to be contributing to numerous instances of floating Filamentous Algae. Slimy long strings of algae usually only seen on rocks near the shoreline but now freely floating in the lake.

"The most common lake weed problem (in many lakes) is Filamentous Algae. Filamentous Algae, also called "lake moss" or "pond scum," form dense mats of strands. Filamentous Algae is often a persistent problem because it reproduces rapidly by fragments, spores and cell division. Abundance is dependent on nutrient levels, particularly phosphorous, in

and spreading before they are found. I live on the peninsula and see boats heading onto the Peninsula every year to launch somewhere on the Peninsula. By simply launching at the boat landing there is a chance of stopping some of the many invasives not yet in Sylvia of being found and treated.

6. For those of you using the DNR landing, you will notice the iLid system which greets boaters launching their boats into the lake, gives them the rules concerning transportation of invasive species, films their boat and tow vehicle for inspections of the film for violators of state law, and reports the findings to the county sheriff's office with film evidence. At the present time, we are working with the manufacturer to have a larger battery system and capacity sun charger installed by next spring to give us longer filming operations even when we have numerous cloudy days in a row. Mike McNellis is taking over coordination and maintenance with the manufacturer of this system.

7. We have treated the DNR landing three times this summer for starry stonewort. A fourth treatment has been approved. Our goal continues to be to keep the growth so low that it does not create "seeds" for next year's growth. In addition, we have treated the lake for Eurasian Water-

milfoil but given the limited areas we are allowed to treat by the DNR, the problem with it continues to increase.

Curly Leaf was not found to be of sufficient density for the DNR to approve a permit to treat it this year. I expected next year will be a year of significant treatment. If you have areas in front of your property, take pictures and send them to the GLSA so we can bring these areas to the DNR's attention next year.

8. Starting next year, GLSA intends to have our public access greeters hand out maps of the lake indicating no wake restrictions, county ordinances about wakes. DNR rules on age requirement of watercraft operators, safe boating rules, and your personal liability for damage done to lakeshore, docks, people, or other items damaged by wakes from large boats with the belief that many of the problems are coming from transient boats from Twin City lakes where boating laws are strictly enforced causing those boaters to go to areas of less enforcement of county and state boating rules.

Everyone on the lake needs to have a part in protecting Lake Sylvia. The invasive species committee cannot do all of what needs to be done. Changes need to be made by everyone before our lake declines to a less desirable place to live and play.



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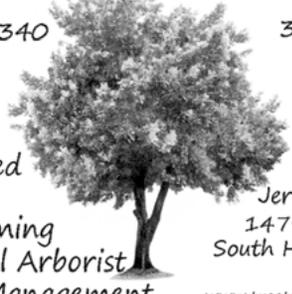
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# Fall Loon Report

By Mike McNellis, the Old Loon Ranger

I think everybody is aware by now that our Lake Sylvania Loons have had a very rough year. The weather was against them during their nesting time, with rain after rain raising the water levels non stop. Several of the Loons abandon their nest when the high water and wave action cooled the eggs. They can tell when this has happened and they will leave the eggs on the nest. Another reason the Loons may have had a bad season is human intrusion. This can be avoided if everyone helps.

They were many reports from our group of Loon watchers, of boaters, kayakers and paddle boarders going right up to the nest and taking a little peek. You may say you only did it once, but remember there are over 500 homes on the lake, and 500 plus visitors to the lake, and they all only want to take a peek. Well, here's a condescending **thank you**, your "Little Peek" may have killed the chicks before they had a chance to hatch. Stay away! Think about

buying some binoculars. Educate your own friends and visitors to your property they should stay away from the Loons and the Loon nest. I'm not even going to touch the subject of the man-made wave action; you'll have to make up your own mind on what this does to a loon nest that only sits a couple inches above the water level. When the water kept getting higher with each rain this spring, I watch the loons on "Shoot N' Holler" work continuously to add materials to the nest, and then with the next wave they would have to start over and do it again.

OK, let's change the subject we're in need of some 4" PVC pipe and related



materials to make some more floating Loon nesting platforms. If you would like to donate materials to this project send me an email and I'll let you know what's needed. And as I always say "Respect the Loons, this was their home long before any of us came to the lake."

The Old Loon Ranger, Mike

## Are You a GLSA Member?



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE FIGHTING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.

The future health and our ability to enjoy the lake literally depends on it.

**-Thank you!**

## GLSA Welcome Wagon Welcomes!

If you know of a friend or neighbor that is new to the lake, please let us know so we can welcome them and reach out with a variety of information on the lake and the local area. Or if you have neighbors who moved to the lake in the last 3-4 years, check with them to see if they have joined and are receiving the newsletter.

In the last 12 months, we added 17 new owners! Welcome to all the new lake owners to Lake Sylvania.

Thank you!

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splind@comcast.net  
612-710-1316



# GLSA 2019 Summer Picnic

## Rain doesn't dampen the fun

By Mike McNellis

I want to thank all the people that endured the continuing rains and came out to the soggy 2019 GLSA Summer Picnic. We all got wet, but I think we all had fun. Some will be surprised with the numbers that attended. We had a total of 223 men, women and children splashing around in the water. Some came for a short time many came for the day.

Last year, in 2018, we had 291 attendees so yes, the numbers were down but it wasn't a total washout. For the numbers, there were 47 kids under the age of 13 at the picnic, 22 between the age of 14 and 21. These kids are the future of the GLSA. We need to keep them coming back and making memories on the lake, so they return as adults and keep our mission moving forward to protect this valuable resource.

The raffle table was very busy with all the wonderful items that were donated by GLSA supporters. Many people went away with some mighty great treasures. Despite the rain, kids were swimming in the lake, jumping on the bungee jump and splashing in the puddles. The fishing contest had a record number of entries this year, which has been growing each year. Keep the kids fishing, enter the photo of their catches for all to see on the GLSA website.

I'm hoping next year for a dryer day, but any day enjoyed with neighbors and friends of the GLSA is a great day.

Thank you for attending.

Head picnicker,  
Mike McNellis



Despite a soggy day, the GLSA Summer Picnic was well attended, and all ages had a good time. More than 200 residents attended the event, which included numerous activities for children and adults. The committee hopes for dryer weather next year but any day spent with friends and neighbors of the GLSA is a good day.



- We will be making some changes to the GLSA website. Check the site at [www.lakesylvia.org](http://www.lakesylvia.org).

- GLSA membership numbers show that there are people who have not paid dues yet this year. Please consider all that the GLSA does for the lake/s and pay your dues.

- AmazonSmile donates .5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the



charitable organization of your choice. Consider using Smile to donate to the GLSA by going to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

- If you would like to receive your Loon Calls electronically, please contact Lisa Peery, Membership Chair – [uragoodboy@gmail.com](mailto:uragoodboy@gmail.com).



## TWO WAYS TO PAY YOUR GLSA DUES

1- FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW & MAIL WITH YOUR \$100 CHECK TO:

**GLSA**  
**P.O. BOX 41**  
**ANNANDALE, MN 55302**

2 - PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE AT:  
[WWW.LAKESYLVIA.ORG](http://WWW.LAKESYLVIA.ORG)

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