



# Loon Calls

Greater Lake Sylvia  
Association

Spring 2009

## MILFOIL TASK FORCE PREPARED FOR SUMMER

by Joe Lepley

The GLSA Milfoil Task Force began developing their "gameplan" for attacking Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) early in 2009. The plan was completed in March and actions are already being taken to prepare for this lake season. Here are the highlights of the plan:

1. **Get professional help:** The team has enlisted the expertise of Steve McComas of Blue Water Science to advise GLSA on effective approaches to assess and combat EWM, Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and other potential invasive species. Steve is preparing a comprehensive plan for addressing EWM, CLP and other potential invasive species in Lake Sylvia for use by the task force. Steve is also developing training materials and identification tools for use by GLSA volunteer spotters.

2. **Expand GLSA scouting resources:** Last fall, the task force hired Lake Restoration to conduct a comprehensive inspection of both lakes and the channel. The inspection took several weeks and cost over \$10,000 to complete. The results of the professional inspection were reassuring in that no new infestations of EWM or CLP were found by Lake Restoration. Of equal importance was the realization that GLSA volunteers can do an equal or better job of scouting for EWM or CLP by taking advantage of our presence on the lake and scouting when conditions are ideal. For 2009, the task force has elected to implement a scouting plan based on utilizing the many GLSA members who volunteered to help with scouting efforts. The task force has broken the lakes into 15 inspection areas and two person scouting teams have been recruited for each area. An additional 25 to 30 volunteers will also be trained and they can join one of the 15 teams or perform additional scouting on their own. A half day training session will be held for all volunteer scouts in late May. (*continued on page 4, task force*)

## INTRODUCING STEVE MCCOMAS, AQUATIC SCIENTIST

By Joe Lepley

After learning that Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) had been found in West Lake Sylvia last summer, the GLSA Milfoil Task Force contacted Steve McComas, Aquatic Scientist and President of Blue Water Science. He has studied and addressed lake quality issues for over thirty years. Steve has extensive experience advising other lake associations on developing comprehensive plans for addressing EWM, Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and other aquatic invasive species. After several meetings with Steve, the task force agreed to hire him to guide our efforts to control EWM and assist us with developing a comprehensive plan to address all potential invasive species including Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and the next potential threat to our lake – Zebra Mussels.

Steve will be assisting GLSA in several key areas over the summer: (*Continued on page 4, Steve*)



## Events Calendar

### Board Meetings:

The GLSA board meetings are always held the second Saturday of the month at **9:00AM** at the Southside Township Hall off of County Road 3. For a map to the Southside Township Hall, visit their website at [www.southsidedtownship.com](http://www.southsidedtownship.com)  
Saturday, June 13, 2009  
Saturday, July 11, 2009  
Saturday, August 8, 2009  
Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009

### GLSA Annual Meeting NEW MEETING LOCATION ANNANDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, June 6, 2009  
8:30am Meet & Greet  
9:00am Meeting

### JUNK AMNESTY DAY

Southside & French Lake Township  
Saturday, June 13, 2009  
9 a.m. to Noon  
French Lake Town Hall  
Corner of Cty Rd 3 & Cty Rd 37

### JULY 4th BOAT PARADE

Boat parade begins at 2pm.

### GLSA FUNDRAISING GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, July 17, 2009  
1 P.M. Shotgun Start  
Southbrook Golf Course

### GLSA PICNIC

August 16, 2009  
Koinonia Retreat Center.  
1:00pm  
Potluck/Picnic  
Bring a dish to share GLSA will be grilling brats and hotdogs

### Directory Corrections

Do you have any changes to your name, address or phone numbers as listed in the Fall 2007 edition of the GLSA Directory? Please contact your area representative or send your changes to Joe Lepley, GLSA President at [joelepleyglsa@hotmail.com](mailto:joelepleyglsa@hotmail.com).

**2008 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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Carl Swanson  
Harry Wahlquist

**GREATER LAKE SYLVIA BOARD MEETINGS**

2nd Saturday of each month  
9:00 AM

April through September  
Southside Township Hall  
**All GLSA members are welcome to attend.**

**Websites**

[www.lakesylvia.com](http://www.lakesylvia.com)  
[www.southsidetownship.com](http://www.southsidetownship.com)

**A WORD FROM YOUR GLSA PRESIDENT**

Joe Lepley



THANKS for making GLSA the  
**GENEROUS LAKE SYLVIA ASSOCIATION**

Last summer, Rose Mary Nelson and Jim Schwebel volunteered to spearhead a fund drive to build a war chest to combat EWM. By the end of last year, the "Save Lake Sylvania" fund grew to nearly \$80,000 due to the efforts of our fund raising team AND the tremendous generosity of GLSA members.

At their September meeting, the GLSA board wrestled with increasing annual dues. As I have explained in previous newsletters, with annual dues set at \$30, GLSA generates about \$10,000 per year. Basic operating expenses are about \$5000 per year, leaving only \$5000 per year for discretionary initiatives like fighting invasive species. Based on everything we have learned from other lake associations, \$5000 per year is not enough to effectively fight EWM and CLP long term. After a long discussion, the board voted to increase dues to \$100 per year in 2009. The dues increase was communicated to the membership in an October newsletter.

Over the winter, the depth of the recession became very clear. The GLSA Executive Committee became concerned that membership numbers would drop dramatically if we were to proceed with the \$100 dues for 2009. The board was surveyed via email and there was consensus that the dues increase should be tabled. Instead, members were asked to pay dues of \$30 and make a generous donation to the EWM/CLP fund **if they could afford to do so.**

At the May board meeting, our treasurer shared these impressive figures for year to date memberships:

- 278 members have responded as of early May.
- 99 members paid the \$30 annual dues
- 179 members paid their dues AND made an additional contribution
- **THE 278 RESPONSES HAVE GENERATED \$29,000 THIS AVERAGES OUT TO \$104 PER MEMBER!!!!**

This is clearly a "win-win" for GLSA and all its members. We are maintaining a strong membership base AND building the war chest needed to battle EWM and CLP long term. The generosity of GLSA's members has given the board time to better understand what our long term financial needs will be and in turn set dues at the level needed to maintain a solid financial base for the future.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTINUED YOUR GLSA MEMBERSHIP AND TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE MADE A GENEROUS DONATION IN ADDITION TO YOUR DUES!!!!**

**Lake Sylvania Loses a Good Friend**

We regret to inform our GLSA members that our fellow lake lover, enthusiastic amateur lake historian, and editor of "Remembering Lake Sylvania", Jim Stark passed away on April 7 at the age of 81. Those of you who had the pleasure of knowing Jim or talking to him about the lake and its history will miss his infectious smile and pleasant demeanor.

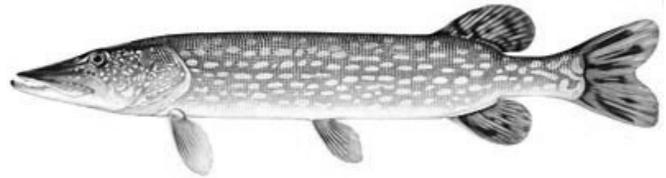
We also wish to recognize Jim for his many contributions to GLSA. Last year Jim provided the first printing of "Remembering Lake Sylvania" to GLSA at no cost, so that all proceeds of the book sales would benefit the association. At the beginning of this year Jim, a CPA, donated his time and expertise to prepare GLSA's 2008 federal tax return. We wish to extend our sincere sympathies to Jim's family and friends for the loss of a great man.

## EXPERIMENTAL FISHING REGULATION UPDATE

by Joe Lepley

Last summer, Paul Diedrich of DNR Fisheries solicited public input on experimental fishing regulations that would place restricted limits on various game fish species in Lake Sylvia. The DNR believed that implementation of the experimental regulations would improve the fish population in our lakes over time. Paul culminated his efforts to gather public input with a hearing in September at the Southside Town Hall. Public sentiment against the experimental fishing regulations was quite strong, particularly the idea of placing restrictions on all species of game fish including crappies, sunfish, bass, walleyes and northern.

After reviewing the public input, the DNR decided to place experimental limits only on northern for Lake Sylvia. The new regulation will apply starting this season and remain in force for a total of ten seasons. Northern between 24" and 36" cannot be kept; with a limit of three fish total and only one fish over 36". In talking to Paul, he is hopeful that applying these limits to the northern population will improve the size and quality of the northern caught and as the northern population improves, the other fish populations may also improve in size and quality.



## PROTECT LAKE SYLVIA! BECOME A LAKE ACCESS MONITOR!

On Saturday May 16, a group of concerned GLSA Volunteers gathered at Anchor Dock & Lift in Annandale for a DNR access monitoring workshop. These access monitors were trained and certified by the DNR to inspect boats and trailers and educate lake users on transporting any aquatic invasive species. The best way to control invasive species is not to have them in the first place. The boat access is the door for invasive species – flowering rush, reed canary grass, hydrilla, rusty crayfish and zebra mussels. As stated in another article, there are Zebra Mussels in Wright County. I also might add, we do not need any more Eurasian Water Milfoil or Curly Leaf Pondweed.

None of the volunteers are marine biologists; but it's a no brainer, because state law forbids the transport of any aquatic invasive species. We have no illusions about keeping the door locked 100%. However, we would like to have our trained volunteers at the boat launch on a regular basis. We are not plant cops! The strategy is to create an educational moment with visitors. As citizens, Sylvia is their lake too, but sometimes people have to be reminded. We stress ownership and the importance of taking care of their lake. Along with some others, I have been monitoring the access since the 1990's. I have never encountered a hard case. I've found people to be cooperative.

We want to step up our monitoring program, but we are very short on people. We ask our trained volunteers to contribute just 3 hours per year. Do your part to help protect our beautiful, clean lake.

**CONTACT CARL SWANSON TODAY!!!**

[swansylvia@charter.net](mailto:swansylvia@charter.net)

or

763-300-3902

## BITS & PIECES: by Dick Anderson

Just a new idea as to what's happening on Lake Sylvia, more in a social vein, and encompassing the long winter months when the more fortunate migrate to warmer climes.



Don't forget to view our new addition....Totem Pole on Totem Pole Point. A fun project and equally important was a formation of the "Totem Pole Gang, Plus One" (four members from Lake Sylvia, one from Lake Francis, one from Lake Marie, one from Pleasant Lake). The "foreigners" were enlisted to help for their expertise in installation and the Plus One just happened along the way. I say important because in planning and the installation, we had just a great time, we formed a friendship that now extends to monthly forays into the City, wherever, to explore museums, etc. along with lunch. We bring this up just as an illustration that volunteering for projects (specifically GLSA), the benefits are two fold: accomplish your mission and create additional friendships....just a philosophical observation.

We lost a friend and historian a few months ago, Jim Stark. He was a tremendous source on the history of Lake Sylvia and he, along with Barb Ostlund, was instrumental in the latest edition of our GLSA history book, "Remembering Lake Sylvia". Our support and sympathies are with the Stark Family – we will miss Jim.

The Invasive Species Committee (Milfoil/Curly Leaf Pondweed, et al) was busy over the winter months putting together spotting teams, enlisting professional firms to help in the fight and fund raising. It will be a very interesting Annual Meeting this June 6<sup>th</sup> and I urge everyone to make an extra effort to attend this year.

## BEAR SIGHTING!

Jerry Johnson reported that on the evening of May 15, he heard a racket on the deck of his home on the north end of Madsen's Bay on West Lake Sylvia. He had been feeding grape jelly to the Orioles on that same deck. Expecting to see raccoons when he turned on his outdoor light, Jerry was quite surprised to see a young black bear enjoying the jelly. It is reported that the bear appeared to be about 5 feet tall and in good health. Keep an eye out around your place at the lake. Mr. Bear just might be coming to a bird feeder near you!



## AI's Almanac

### OFFICIAL PRECIPITATION

2006	21.48"
2007	31.46"
2008	23.68
Snow fall	45.00"

	ICE OUT DATE	ICE IN DATE
2000	3/23	12/12
2001	4/21	1/1/02
2002	4/16	12/4
2003	4/13	12/12
2004	4/6	12/19
2005	4/9	12/07
2006	4/10	12/5
2007	4/8	12/2
2008	4/24	12/7
2009	4/16	

## YES, THE LOONS ARE BACK by Mike McNellis

By now you have all seen or heard the Loons. Yes, they're back for another summer, surviving and propagating and singing those wonderful, heartwarming calls they make when they fly over and say "look at us, we're home". If that doesn't make you stop in your tracks, you're dead between the ears or have a heart as cold as a boat seat on opening day of fishing. I saw the first Loon flying over the lake March 23; it was another two weeks before I saw one on the water. Shortly thereafter they started nesting, not on the platform, but as long as they nest I'm fine with that.



As you may know, their numbers go up and down from year to year but each year we see more Loons per water acre than 99% of the lakes in Minnesota. (I guess I just made that number up, I don't actually have numbers on this so don't ask.) It's an observation I've made from my travels, reading DNR reports from Minnesota and Wisconsin, plus reading newsletters from other lake associations on the "web". There are a lot of lakes the size of Lake Sylvia, and larger, that boast they have 2 or 3 pair coming back each year. They should be proud that they've been protecting their waters and the state bird.

As of this report (5/15/09) we have 4 confirmed nesting pair, with maybe a 5<sup>th</sup>. What I call confirmed are birds that are seen on a nest, either a muskrat house or artificial platform. Just by seeing a pair on the water doesn't mean they're nesting in the area where they're sighted, and it doesn't mean one's a boy and one's a girl.

### **And now..... back on my yearly soap box.**

Please, please give the loons a wide berth when you see them on the water. Yes, sometimes it's unavoidable; they can travel a long ways under water and all of a sudden pop up where

they're not expected. We have to learn to expect this from them; after all, it's their lake not ours. They've been here longer than any of us and by rights we are the intruder. My family goes back to 1868 in the French Lake Township. The Loon family goes back to the last Ice Age; yes they win. Let's stay out of their nursery. If they come to visit us just say, "Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Loon for letting us use your lake", and move on.

*(Continued from front page, Steve)*

**Spotter training** – Steve is developing the materials needed to train our volunteer spotters on finding and identifying EWM and CLP. Steve will lead the upcoming training session.

**EWM education** – Steve will be our guest speaker at the GLSA Annual Meeting on June 6. He will provide insight on the history of CLP and EWM in Minnesota and the experience other lakes have had in their efforts to combat CLP and EWM.

**Invasive Species Management Plan** – Steve has already developed a draft plan for assessing and managing current and potential invasive species for consideration by GLSA. We are working with Steve to customize a plan for our lakes and organization.

**Lake sediment research** – Steve has studied nutrient types and levels in lake sediments and correlated that data to the abundance of invasive species, like EWM and CLP. GLSA hired Steve to do a preliminary study in 2000. We have requested that Steve expand his sampling to give us a better assessment of where EWM and CLP may grow in our lakes.

We are fortunate to have access to the unique skills and experience that Steve brings to understanding and managing invasive species. Please plan on attending the annual meeting to hear Steve and learn more about the challenges of controlling CLP and EWM.

*(Task Force Continued....)*

Each area will be evaluated twice over the summer – once early in the season and again in late June to mid July. Any findings will be verified by the task force leaders, locations will be defined by GPS coordinates and all data will be retained for future tracking and trend analysis.

**3. Remove or treat all EWM and CLP:** Over the winter, the task force consulted with Lake Restoration and Steve McComas on the best treatment options for EWM and CLP. Based on their input, the task force will rely on physical removal of small infestations of both EWM and CLP. Since EWM can spread from even small fragments, efforts will be made to remove all plant debris from the lake. Only large areas of infestation will be considered for chemical treatment. Treatments for off shore infestations (more than 150 feet from shore) will be addressed directly by the task force. Treatments within 150 feet of shore will be addressed in collaboration with property owners. Property owners near the infested areas will be asked to sign an authorization form prior to GLSA requesting permits from the DNR, or property owners will be advised to request their permits as individuals.

The task force members have put in a tremendous amount of thought, time and effort to prepare for the upcoming season. We all owe John Swanson, Dick Anderson and Carl Swanson our thanks and full support for their efforts to date. We can also be thankful that over 50 people have volunteered to be trained as spotters and spend many hours on the lake over the summer looking for any signs of EWM and CLP.

## ZEBRA MUSSELS –NEW THREAT TO LAKE SYLVIA by Carl Swanson

Zebra Mussels continue to spread in Minnesota and they are now in our area. In the second week of May, Zebra Mussels (ZM) were discovered in Wright County in Fish Lake near the town of Clearwater. It is important to know that they have now infested the entire Mississippi, Lake Mille Lacs, Prior Lake and numerous other lakes across Minnesota. Zebra Mussels make EWM or CLP seem like a walk in the park.

Their shells are razor sharp. They make the lake bottom treacherous. They attach to dock legs, boat hulls and motors. They clog water lines. They are difficult if not impossible to remove. There is no way to get rid of them once they are in a lake.

Zebra Mussels spread when the adult mussel in shell form or the larvae, called Veligers, are transported from lake to lake. Veligers are microscopic and float in the water until they find a place to attach and grow. Veligers can be transported in bait buckets, live wells, and bilge water.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Avoid using your boat on infested waters. If you do use your boat in waters infested with Zebra Mussels, you must take extreme precautions to clean your boat, trailer and any equipment which came in contact with infested lake waters before returning to Lake Sylvia. Wash the boat, trailer and equipment thoroughly. Empty bait buckets and live wells and wash them out with **hot water**. Let your boat and fishing equipment dry for 5-7 days to ensure any veligers die off.

### WHAT GLSA IS DOING:

**Determine our vulnerability:** As we need calcium to grow bones, ZM need calcium to grow shells. Our consultant, Steve McComas will test our water for calcium. It seems likely that our lake would support ZM, but we will have Steve conduct the testing to know for sure.

**Use monitoring tubes as an early warning system:** This is simply a piece of plastic pipe that can be lowered in the water. ZM's like shade. The pipe can be pulled out periodically and inspected. GLSA will place monitoring pipes near the public access and off the docks of several GLSA task force members.

Currently, there is no treatment for Zebra Mussels. We will stay in contact with Steve McComas, the DNR and other lake associations to see if a successful means of control emerges.

**Keep ZM's out of the lake:** This means monitoring the public access by inspecting boats and trailers. See the article by Carl Swanson on public access monitoring in this issue. (Carl– [swansylvia@charter.net](mailto:swansylvia@charter.net) 763-300-3902)



*Zebra mussel held between fingers show size.*



*Many zebra mussels attached to a native mussel.*

## “SAVE LAKE SYLVIA” FUND MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Friends and neighbors of Barbara Carson donated to the Save Lake Sylvia fund in her honor. Barbara was born in 1938 and died in the summer of 2008. Although she lived with severe medical problems, she enjoyed her beautiful home on Midget Bay and treasured the times when loved ones could be there with her.

Donations were also made in memory of Jim Stark who was instrumental in publishing the latest edition of “Remembering Lake Sylvia”, our GLSA history book. Jim gave much of his free time to researching, writing, editing and publishing our latest history book in order to help raise funds for the GLSA.

Alan Petersen who passed away in December 2008 at age 77, was also recognized by donations to the Save Lake Sylvia fund by family and friends.





**Greater Lake Sylvania  
Association**

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Non-Profit  
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Annandale, MN  
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Editor: Kathy Lepley  
Advertising: Carole Gertgen  
Layout & Design: Deb Norine

*Deliver to addressee or current resident.*

**Mission Statement:**

***To Maintain and Improve Lake Sylvania***

**Membership Renewal**

Please Pay your Dues Today! Help support the lake association in their efforts to take care of this beautiful resource we all enjoy. Send your \$30.00 check to: GLSA, Box 41 Annandale, MN 55302!

**GOLFERS NEEDED!!!!  
GLSA FUNDRAISING TOURNAMENT**

ALL PROFITS WILL BE DONATED TO THE  
GLSA INVASIVE SPECIES FUND

FRIDAY, JULY 17 - 1PM - SHOTGUN START

SOUTHBROOK GOLF CLUB  
BEST BALL TOURNAMENT

GREENS FEES: \$60 PER PERSON

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
Wednesday, July 15, 2009

SIGN UP AT: ANCHOR DOCK & LIFT  
HIGHWAY 55 IN ANNANDALE

**OR**

SOUTHBROOK GOLF CLUB  
511 MORRISON AVE S., ANNANDALE

OUR THANKS TO SCOTT WINKELMAN OF  
WINKELMAN LANDSCAPING  
FOR ORGANIZING THIS EVENT!

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Available at: Lanto's Store—Located at County Rd 3 & County Rd 37  
Contact Barb Ostlund East Lake Sylvania 320-274-5571

**GLSA E Mail Updates to Begin in 2009**

Would you like to receive monthly email updates on GLSA's efforts to eradicate EWM and other timely news on issues that affect our lakes? Starting in the spring of 2009, GLSA will be sending out email based newsletters to any members who sign up for this service. GLSA will continue to publish three newsletters per season with updates of key issues like EWM and general interest information for all lake property owners.

If you are interested in receiving GLSA email updates beginning in 2009, please send an email to the following email address:

[lake.sylvia.update@hotmail.com](mailto:lake.sylvia.update@hotmail.com)

Once your email is received, your email address will be placed in a secure address book to receive all Lake Sylvania Updates. Also, please be sure to place the email address [lake.sylvia.update@hotmail.com](mailto:lake.sylvia.update@hotmail.com) in your "safe list" so your updates aren't placed in your spam or junk mail box.