



Loon Calls

Greater Lake Sylvia
Association

Summer 2009

Sylvia

By Tsana Allen

I sit on the dock of my awakening.
Bright colors peer through the trees as I am shadowed by the light.
The refreshing chill of water tickles my feet,
and the call of the loon dances in the air.
Beautiful, beautiful Sylvia.

The peace is soon broken as people arise from their sleep.
Anxious and excited, sun screen is slabbed on sunburnt skin.
From the lake comes the first motor roar of the day.
Tubes are given a final puff of air before they hit the waves
and water toys are thrown carelessly into the water.
Beautiful, beautiful Sylvia.

The water is now a sea of boats as far as the eye can see.
Sizzling burgers and sweet corn on the cob are smells
that circulate around us.
Splashed water droplets seem to reach as high as the sky.
Beautiful, beautiful Sylvia.

Sitting on logs around a cozy fire, we hear ghost stories.
Sticky marshmallow cover our hands as we lean forward
Anticipating what will happen next. . .

The water is calm again as I wander to the dock
where I had sat that morning.
The bright colors of day are now just fading
and my shadow slowly disappears.
Across the bay a single light flickers
and the lighthouse is turned on for the night.
The last evidence of day escapes.
The last whiff of smoke disappears.
The last light is shut off.
And I am left with beautiful, beautiful Sylvia.

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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.southsidetownship.com

Saturday, August 8, 2009
Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009

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 Lisa Peery at lpeery@lakesylvia.com

2009 EXECUTIVE BOARD

JOE LEPLEY
President
 352-346-5657

JOHN SWANSON
Vice President
 320-274-2266

GARY ODEGARD
Treasurer
 952-686-7924

TOM PLIHAL
Secretary
 320-236-4765

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Curt Conrad
 Jerry Doffing
 Jan Evenson
 PeggyJo Fortner
 Carole Gertgen
 Warren Hartman
 Cheryl Kreofsky
 Mike McNellis
 Lisa Peery
 Carl Swanson
 Harry Wahlquist

GREATER LAKE SYLVIA BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Saturday of each month
 9:00 AM
 April through October
 Southside Township Hall
All GLSA members are welcome to attend.

Websites
www.lakesylvia.com
www.southsidetownship.com

A WORD FROM YOUR GLSA PRESIDENT

Joe Lepley



We all appreciate the fact that East Lake Sylvia and West Lake Sylvia are exceptional gems. There are no other lakes as clean and clear in the area. You would have to drive to Brainerd or farther north to find similar water clarity or quality. Yet as beautiful as our two lakes are, there is no guarantee that they will stay as they are – we must understand that our presence on the lake and the changes we make to its surroundings can have a negative impact on the watershed and the lakes themselves. It has happened before and it could happen again.

At the risk of playing an old tune one too many times, it is important to note that back in the 70's our lakes were in decline. Water clarity was down and the long time residents of the lake could see it. Fortunately, they got organized, formed this association, studied the problem and learned that lack of proper waste treatment systems around the lakes was the biggest concern. They rallied resources and worked with property owners to upgrade existing systems or install new ones where none had been before. As pollutants from poor or non-existent septic systems declined, the lake recovered – water quality improved and water clarity was restored.

Fortunately, the water quality and water clarity of our lakes appear to be holding stable in recent years. However, each of us needs to think about our impact on the lake and do everything we can to minimize it. Why? Because there are now about 500 families on the lake and any small impact on the lake times 500 can become a big problem for the lake. Here are three things for each of us to think about and make changes to protect the lake:

1. **The septic system or holding tank:** Is it up to code? Is it working properly? When was it pumped last? Are you using phosphate free detergents and cleaners in your home? You wouldn't want your family and friends swimming in polluted water from your inadequate septic system or leaking holding tank, but this could happen without proper care.
2. **The yard:** The DNR discourages having large manicured lawns and extending our lawns to the water's edge. Their studies show that large lawns that extend to the water's edge, increase runoff and its associated pollutants to the lake. These pollutants include eroded soil, eroded sand, leaves, plant debris, lawn chemicals and chemical residues from roofs and paved driveways. The DNR advocates keeping a ten foot natural border along the water's edge and creating rain gardens that catch heavy runoff and allow it to filter slowly into the lake. We can have natural borders and rain gardens and still have nice looking yards. I for one have some work to do in our yard to better protect the lake. There is an excellent book on "Lakescaping" – lake friendly landscaping. GLSA has several copies available for members to borrow. Please contact me if you're interested.
3. **The driveway:** Does your driveway drain toward the lake? A lot of them do. Some properties have extended pavement almost to the water's edge. Great for getting the boat down to the water, but also an express lane for introducing pollutants to the lake from the pavement surface, from roadways which connect to this extended pavement, from our roof, or from our lawn. Routing downspouts directly to the lake poses a similar hazard – a direct route for pollutants from your roof to the water. As mentioned above, the best thing for the lake is preventing or minimizing direct runoff from lawns, roofs and driveways.

All I ask is that we all give these issues some serious thought and identify ways that we may be hurting the lake even in small ways. Just remember there is great power in numbers and there are 500 of us here that can make a difference. If we all make small changes to protect the lake, it is more likely that the quality and clarity of our beautiful lakes will stay the same for years to come.



EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL SPOTTING UPDATE

John Swanson & Dick Anderson

All spotting teams have reported their results after searching their various assigned areas. Thus far, the best news is that we have not found any EWM in East Lake Sylvania, in the channel between the lakes, nor have we found EWM North of Bull's point in West Lake Sylvania.

We have found EWM in some of the same areas in Midget Bay but to a lesser degree this year than last year. For instance, the .4 acre patch appears to be about .3 acres this year, but we have also found some scattered individual plants growing on the west side of Midget Bay. We have also found some more single plant growth and small clusters of EWM in Coates Bay and Shoot'n Holler Bay.

Dick Anderson and I have treated several of the areas and will monitor these throughout the summer. We were told by the DNR that we shouldn't use chemical to treat the EWM within 25 feet of lily pads so we will need to find another plan of attack for these areas.

We appreciate all the calls we have received from spotters who have found suspicious looking and possible EWM plants. This shows our spotters are doing a good job of looking at the aquatic plants and we encourage everyone to continue looking. Thank you and keep up the efforts.

Curlyleaf Pondweed Report by Carl Swanson

In May, a total of three quarters of an acre of CLP was treated at four different sites. Treatment included 9,000 sq. ft. in Shoot'n Holler Bay near the public water access and an additional 20,000 sq. ft. in three sites in Madsen's Bay in the NW corner of the West Lake. The treatments appear to have been 80% effective in killing the plants which is considered normal. This means 80% less seed heads, called turions to create new plants in future years.

CLP is an annual plant and dies off about the first week of July as the water temperature increases. Turions do not necessarily produce a new plant the next year. Some stay dormant only to appear two to three, sometimes five years later. We will keep treating these sites along with some new ones in the channel and Chapel Bay near Koinonia. We have these sites in our GPS data base, but as CLP infestations tend to move with the turions, we will verify their location next spring with an underwater video camera.

I wish to acknowledge and thank four people who have assisted in sighting and treating -Russ Fortner, Mark Navarra, Mark Picken, and Warren Nelson. GLSA's greatest asset is its many dedicated volunteers.

We can all work to reduce the incidence of CLP in the lake because the main method of control is you. If it weren't for owners removing CLP from their own frontage in recent years, we would have a much more extensive problem. All it takes on your part is a rake. The rake will dig in more effectively if you slip a piece of galvanized pipe down the handle for weight. If you should pull up some CLP be sure to remove the entire plant from the lake to prevent the turions from floating elsewhere only to create new plants in future years. To learn what CLP looks like go to www.lakesylvia.com where you will find printable pictures.



Al's Almanac

OFFICIAL PRECIPITATION

2006	21.48"
2007	31.46"
2008	23.68
Snow fall	45.00"
2009	
May	.78"
June	4.55"

	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	

Guarding the Public Water Access – We need more volunteers!

When you monitor the boat access it's not hard to see how invasive plants like Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed have entered Sylvania. Although the vast majority of access users arrive with clean boats and trailers, once in a while a rig comes in with plant debris attached, and that's what can do it. This is time for an educational moment. In all cases, the boat owners have been cooperative and apologetic. They make a good effort to clean up.

At present we have 16 volunteers that are willing to do their part, but the access is open 24/7. Since we can't do everything, we prioritize. Our first concern is local fishermen who go from lake to lake on a regular basis. Our second concern is fishing clubs and their tournaments. Fishing clubs are reported to be self policing, but we don't want to take chances. There have been no official "tournaments" this year according to the DNR, but small groups from the fishing clubs meet at the access regularly, some on a weekly basis. On weekends we get a lot of recreational boaters. We have the least concern with them, because most have not been in the water for a week which gives vegetative matter time to dry out.

We are also concerned about Zebra Mussels (ZM). ZM have recently been confirmed in the Alexandria area, and the Mississippi which borders a part of Wright County was designated ZM infested waters earlier this year. So in addition to looking for plant debris, we are educating access users on the presence of zebra mussels in the state and the actions boaters need to take to guard against transferring them in their live well, bait bucket or on their boat or trailer.

So consider how you too can help keep Sylvania the way we want it. We're not asking you to write a check, just give a few hours of your time.

GLSA Membership Committee Report Peggy Jo Fortner

We're delighted to report that most members have paid their 2009 dues and also contributed to the Invasive Species Fund.

All Area Coordinators will be personally contacting those in their respective Areas who have not paid their 2009 dues, as well as those who were not members in 2008.

We encourage all lake residents to become members. The \$30 membership fee is tax deductible; you will receive a directory of lake residents; and, you will be supporting our mission to keep Lake Sylvania the quality lake that it is. A large portion of the dues goes to fight the invasive species that are so dangerous to our lake. We encourage all members to become involved (spotters for Eurasian Water Milfoil, public landing monitors, join the Board, etc.), and to attend the Annual Meeting in June and August Picnic each year. Please contact a Board member if you have any questions or suggestions to improve Lake Sylvania or you would like to take an active role in protecting your lake.

We also ask each resident to let us know when their contact information changes (mailing address and email) so that we can keep you informed of lake issues. If you have any changes to report, please contact the GLSA at lpeery@lakesylvia.com

BITS & PIECES: by Dick Anderson

July 4th Fireworks! Wow! What a Fourth of July fireworks display here on the lake! Each year, they seem to surpass the previous “show” and this year was no exception. There must have been well over 100 boats on the west lake in front of the Bullock’s Cabin (home of the fireworks display)...and we would be remiss in not acknowledging their effort and expense in providing us with a tremendous display of Fourth of July fireworks – THANK YOU!



There were other locations that were involved, but as the Bullocks are neighbors, we could identify the source, but not the other areas. We include them in our “thanks” but for now they will have to remain nameless until they come forth for identification. As an aside, perhaps one of the more touching moments, at least for us, was the spontaneous singing of the National Anthem. With a background of a full moon, fireworks display, calm night, time for your ole Dad to shed some tears – thank you to the “Lakeside Chorus”...and the effect of green, red and white running lights, created Christmas in July.

Swimmer’s Itch Reported in Some Areas Have heard a couple reports of lake residents developing a “rash” after spending time in the lake. Without any scientific background can only go on previous years’ experiences and offer the opinion that it’s the same old nemesis called Swimmer’s Itch which is caused by a parasite in the droppings of ducks, geese, etc in the lake. Symptoms are annoying, but not serious and readily treatable.

Water Quality So far the algae bloom has been minimal and seems to dissipate rather quickly if it does appear. Again, the nitrate counts are very low, as is the phosphorous and chlorophyll, so our lakes remain in an oligotrophic state (pristine). Secchi disc readings have been in the high teens and low 20’s this year so water clarity remains excellent! - Our lake levels seem to be holding up in spite of the dry year, at least dry up to this point in time. The lake, downstream from us – Francis, is very low and welcomes all the water we can give them. For the curious, we are (East and West Sylvania) part of a five chain watershed, beginning at Goose Lake on down to Lake Francis and ultimately the Crow River. If you are interested in a “tour” I would be happy to oblige. Just give me a call (274-5163). When we were involved in updating our flowage problems, a few of us became very, very familiar with the pathways.

Who Remembers the Dance Hall? Quiz for the “old timers” – does anyone out there remember where the “pavilion on the water” was located? It was used as a dance hall and located at a resort on the West Lake? Oh yeah, please don’t forget to check out the Totem Pole – it draws a lot of attention and it sure was one of the more fun projects that I have been involved in.

Enjoy the summer – be thankful for our good fortune in being part of such a treasure as Lake Sylvania – and to the best of your ability consider yourselves as stewards in keeping it as pristine as possible.

– swansylvia@charter.net 763-300-3902)



**Greater Lake Sylvia
Association**

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Editor: Kathy Lepley
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Layout & Design: Deb Norine

Mission Statement:
To Maintain and Improve Lake Sylvia

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!

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Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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55302

Deliver to addressee or current resident.

GLSA ANNUAL PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2009
1:00 to 4:00 PM
KOINONIA RETREAT CENTER
7768 PILGER AVE NW

GLSA WILL BE GRILLING BRATS
AND HOT DOGS

BRING YOUR DISH TO SHARE
SEE YOU THERE!!

HISTORY BOOKS AVAILABLE

GREAT GIFT IDEA!

PURCHASE YOUR COPY NOW!

“REMEMBERING LAKE SYLVIA”
Copies are \$25.00 each
Available at Lantto's Store
Located at County Rd 3 & County Rd 37

~OR~

Contact Barb Ostlund
East Lake Sylvia
320-274-5571

