



Loon Calls

www.lakesylvia.org

Spring 2015

G R E A T E R L A K E S Y L V I A A S S O C I A T I O N

AIS Report

by Steve Holmstoen

Number of infected lakes is growing

It has been a very active year in the fight against Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Lake Sylvania is primarily concerned with Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP), and Zebra Mussels (ZM). As of March 17, there were 693 lakes and other bodies of water in Minnesota that have been infected by some type of invasive species. The number of infected lakes is growing steadily.

The Minnesota Legislature has responded to growing public concerns and pressure, and has authorized \$10 million to be used by the counties in this fight. The Wright County share will be \$240,000 in 2015. The AIS committee participated in a task force led by Joe Jacobs of the Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District to recommend a plan for using these funds. The recommendation includes spending \$100,000 for inspections, \$60,000 for enforcement, \$60,000 in matching funds for lake association AIS costs and \$20,000 for AIS education. The inspections project is based in part on Lake Sylvania's ramp monitoring program and will be utilizing the software that we developed for our own use. Wright County is also considering our decontamination program as a model for a similar effort at the county level. These county efforts are extremely important because zebra mussel infections in nearby lakes would only increase our odds of being infected.

Thanks to the generous support of GLSA members, the GLSA public access inspection program will continue for the third year. We plan to have inspectors at the public landing on the West Lake from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. from Fishing Opener, May 9, through October 4. Since Lake Sylvania has an established monitor-



The DNR will provide 375 hours of inspection by DNR staff to GLSA.

ing program, GLSA will be reimbursed for those hours that would have been covered through the new countywide monitoring program. GLSA also applied for, and received, a grant from the DNR. The DNR will provide 375 hours of inspection by DNR staff to GLSA and will coordinate the schedule with Anchor Dock and Lift, our provider, to avoid any overlap.

The AIS Committee of the Board has been developing a Rapid Response Plan if Zebra Mussels are ever discovered in Lake Sylvania. Mike Mischuk will also assist Wright County as they develop a county-wide ZM Plan. ZM eradication is difficult, costly, and has been only partially successful where tried in Minnesota. The Committee will intensify efforts to educate owners of private access ramps to Lake Sylvania about the implications of AIS infestations and the need to be vigilant.

If you are interested in learning more about the GLSA efforts or serving on the AIS Committee, please contact Steve Holmstoen at sholmstoen@yahoo.com. Thanks again for your help; and hopefully, GLSA will be successful at keeping the unwanted AIS out of Lake Sylvania.

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Al's Almanac
by Al Ostlund

Ice In Date

201411/27
201312/7
201212/12
20111/14
201012/3

Ice Out Date

20154/11
20144/26
20135/2
20123/20
20114/12

Total snowfall for this past winter (Nov.-March) was 25.25" resulting in precipitation of only 5.87". Can you see why the lake level went down this Spring? The lake level on April 14 was 1049.54 – about a foot lower than last year at this time.

Executive Board

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 - Harry Wahlquist
hgwahl@aol.com
- Visit lakesylvia.org/board
for additional contact information

A Few Words From Your President

Chris Hector

Spring in Minnesota

There is nothing like spring in Minnesota. Around Lake Sylvia you see the trees leafing out, lawns greening up and friends and neighbors coming back to open cabins and pull out all of the water toys. For me, there is nothing like that first loon song of the year.

The winter months have been busy for the GLSA. Planning began late last fall for both the 2015 GLSA Picnic and the 2nd Annual Lake Sylvia Golf Tournament. The AIS Committee has been meeting throughout the winter to prepare for ramp monitoring, Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed treatment and a new countywide initiative to fight Invasive Species. Please read your Loon Calls for details on the Picnic, Golf Tournament and AIS.

If you have not already done so, please renew your membership. You can pay your dues online at lakesylvia.org or by sending a check with your annual dues form.



The annual meeting will be held on June 6th in South Haven this year at the

City Hall building. We will have rolls and coffee served by Papa Tom's starting at 8:30 with the meeting starting at 9. The annual meeting is a great time to catch up with your neighbors, find out about this year's events and learn about the issues affecting our lake.

We found that we could not obtain liability insurance to perform our own treatments for Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed. Fortunately, we were able to hire PLM Lake Management who has over 30 years of experience and comes with high recommendations from other lakes in our county. Patrick Selter from PLM will be one of our speakers at the annual meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who are members of the GLSA for your ongoing support of this organization.

GLSA Event Calendar for 2015

- April 11** - Board Meeting 9 a.m.
Southside Township Hall
8209 Co. Rd. 3 NW, Annandale
- May 9** - Board Meeting 9 a.m.
Southside Township Hall
8209 Co. Rd. 3 NW, Annandale
- June 6** - Annual Meeting 9-11 a.m.
Board Meeting 11-11:30 a.m.
South Haven City Hall
521 Oak Ave., South Haven
- July 4** - Boat Parade

- July 11** - Board Meeting 9 a.m.
Southside Township Hall
8209 Co. Rd. 3 NW, Annandale
- July 18** - Golf Tournament
10:30 Team Registration Starts
12 noon Shotgun Start
Southbrook Golf Club
511 Morrison Ave., Annandale
- July 25** - Picnic Registration Deadline
- August 8** - Annual Picnic 4-8 p.m.
Camp Chi Rho
5750 Porter Ave. NW, Annandale

- August 15** - Board Meeting 9 a.m.
Southside Township Hall
8209 Co. Rd. 3 NW, Annandale
- September 12** - Board Meeting 9 a.m.
Southside Township Hall
8209 Co. Rd. 3 NW, Annandale
- October 10** - Board Meeting 9 a.m.
Southside Township Hall
8209 Co. Rd. 3 NW, Annandale

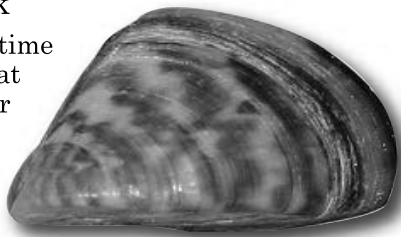
All members are welcome to attend Board Meetings. To request a presentation to the Board, contact President Chris Hector.

Zebra Mussel Update

by Mike Mischuk

Ice is out and it's time to put the docks, boat lifts, boats and other water toys in the water. This is just a reminder that if you are bringing in equipment from another lake, make sure it has been thoroughly cleaned before putting it in our lake.

The AIS Committee of the GLSA developed a zebra mussel monitoring plan late last year and will be implementing the plan starting in June. Monitoring will include plankton tows and zebra mussel detectors that will be inspected periodically during the boating season. The objective of the monitoring is to assist the GLSA in the detection of a potential zebra mussel infestation. Early detection could allow treatment as was done on Christmas Lake last year.



We will hand out detectors at the annual meeting.

The AIS Committee is currently working on an emergency response plan in case zebra mussels are located. We would like to have a list of certified scuba divers available just in case we may need to do a survey of the infected areas. If you are interested and have the necessary certification and equipment, please contact Chris Hector (chris@logictan.com), Steve Holmstoen (sholmstoen@yahoo.com) or Mike Mischuk (mike.mischuk@aol.com).



The state defines a bonfire or campfire as a controlled recreational fire less than three feet in diameter and less than three feet high.

Fire 101

by Joe Lepley

This is turning out to be a very dry spring – one of the driest we have seen in years. Our lawns, surrounding open areas and nearby woods are all dry and very vulnerable to the spread of fire. We all need to exercise caution with any kind of outside burning. We all love a nice campfire, but we have to be especially careful this spring. The state defines a bonfire or campfire as a controlled recreational fire less than three feet in diameter and less than three feet high. A permit is not needed for a recreational fire meeting these size restrictions.

For a fire of any kind larger than three feet in diameter and three feet high, there are permit requirements and numerous restrictions. Before setting a large fire, a Minnesota open

burning permit must be obtained. A permit can be obtained at Lannto's Store in French Lake for a nominal fee and the state restrictions that must be adhered to are clearly explained on the permit. The permit can be obtained for one day or for a three day period. More information can be obtained at www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise.

It is to be noted that it is unlawful to burn painted wood or paper, plastic or other prohibited materials, and garbage under any circumstances. Burning of household garbage was outlawed in Minnesota in 1969. The DNR information sheet states that; "New reports show that backyard garbage burning is now the LARGEST source of deadly toxins in the United States."

Membership Update

by Nancy Hector

Last year we increased our membership to 433. That is our best year ever! Thank you for your ongoing support.

Just a friendly reminder from membership that you may pay dues online at lake-sylvia.org. Annual membership dues are \$50 annually, and are due June 1.


We will not be printing a new directory this year; but, we still have copies of the 2014 directory which may be picked up at the GLSA Annual Meeting on June 6 or at

the picnic on August 8. You can also access the directory online at lake-sylvia.org.


After six years as Membership Chair, I am moving on to the History Committee. I am grateful to the many volunteers who have supported me and helped grow our organization. Allison Barkley will be taking on the Membership Chair position (as soon as her work on the Picnic slows down). During this transition, you can send requests and questions to glsa.directory@gmail.com.

- Russ Fortner is the new Editor for Loon Calls. Many thanks to our former Editors, Joe and Kathy Lepley.
- The GLSA Annual Meeting will be Saturday, June 6 at 9-11 a.m., at the South Haven City Hall – please plan to attend.
- Watch the GLSA website for details on the 4th of July Parade.
- Remember your 2015 GLSA Membership dues can be paid online or mailed to: GLSA – P. O. Box 41, Annandale, MN 55302
- Please submit your ideas for future articles in Loon Calls to Russ Fortner (russfortner@hotmail.com)





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Spring Loon Report

by Mike McNellis, the Old Loon Ranger

I'm happy to report we're looking forward to a good year for our Lake Sylvia Loons. As of April 20, we had six nesting pairs of Loons, with a possible seventh pair. I say a possible seventh pair because they have yet to be confirmed. That should rank this year as one of the better years in the last ten or more. The Loons' wintering areas didn't have any disastrous storms to contend with. The Deep Horizon oil spill has been mostly cleaned up. If we're lucky enough to have a warm spring with nightly warm rains, the survival rate will be high. Human interference is another thing they have to contend with. There's accidental interference, where boaters aren't paying attention to the surrounding area, and then there's just plain stupid people. I've threatened to find out where some of these people live so I can drive up to their bedroom windows and look in.

When I receive Loon reports, I've found I have to be a little cautious of their location accuracy. People use different names for some of the bays, points and shorelines that I'm not aware of. As a test, if I asked any of you if you can point to a map of the lake, and tell me where "Silly



As of April 20, there was six nesting pairs of loons on Lake Sylvia.

Putty Bay" is, or where the "Teeny Weenie Polka Dot Bikini Beach" is, and the location of the "Banana Bar," I would get a very blank and confused look. The same holds true when I need to get a count of the chicks after they start hatching. I get reports of 20 or more chicks on the lake. I may hear "There are two by the white cabin, on the east side with the new dock. Straight across from that new house;" and being a polite Minnesotan, I have to nod my

head and say "Oh Yea Sure, Thank You." I'm waiting for someone to use their "Smart Phone," and "GPS" to mark the location where they saw the Loons nest. There must be an App for that, but I don't have a "Smart Phone."

Be careful this summer, watch where you're going, and give the Loons plenty of room. Stay away from their bedroom. Remember this is their lake, they were here first.

NOTICE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION TO BE VOTED ON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 6, 2015

The State of Minnesota requires a street address (not P. O. Box) for the Registered Office of all entities that are incorporated. In the past, we have used the GLSA Secretary's home/lake address. Due to a change in the Secretary's position of GLSA, it is necessary to update the Registered Office of GLSA to that of the current Secretary. This will involve voting on an Amendment to our Articles of Incorporation, and filing a "Change of Registered Office" with the State of Minnesota.

Please review this information and be prepared to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Presently Article II reads:

ARTICLE II REGISTERED OFFICE

The location and post office address of the registered office is 6180 Sierra Circle, Shorewood, Minnesota 55431. The Association's mailing address is Post Office Box 41, Annandale, MN 55302.

Proposed Article II Amendment to read:

ARTICLE II REGISTERED OFFICE

The location and post office address of the registered office is 7095 County Road 3 NW, Annandale MN 55302. The Association's mailing address is Post Office Box 41, Annandale, MN 55302.

2nd Annual Golf Tournament

The 2nd Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 18, at Southbrook Golf Club. Sign up now to ensure your spot. See the flyer in this issue of Loon Calls to register. The deadline for early registration is July 1. Early registration cost is \$65 per golfer; late registration after July 1 is \$75. Your registration cost includes 18 holes of golf, cart, and BBQ dinner.

Last year we had 124 golfers and the event was considered a rousing success by all! Your Golf Committee's goals this year are: to have 144 golfers, which would max out our attendance on the 18-hole course; and, to have 18 "hole" sponsors

compared to last year's 12.

If you would like to sponsor a hole for your family, friends, business, or as an anonymous "Friend of Lake Sylvia," please contact Russ Fortner (russfortner@hotmail.com). A sponsorship is \$500.

GLSA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All proceeds go to GLSA to help enhance and protect the water quality of Lake Sylvia.

The GLSA Golf Committee

- Russ Fortner
- Dave Wefring
- Matt Johnson
- Jeff Hoff



Thanks to Sandy and Brett Bullock for 20 years of incredible fireworks on Lake Sylvia

Many Lake Sylvia residents have provided fun fireworks over the years, but Sandy and Brett Bullock have put on an amazing display of fireworks on the West Lake for 20 years. **July of 2014 was both their 20th anniversary and the last year of these fireworks.** Over 300 boats filled with residents and guests have parked on the lake during

the 4th of July holiday weekends to enjoy the lengthy show that has surpassed any put on by surrounding cities and counties.

On behalf of all Lake Sylvia residents, a huge thank you to Sandy and Brett for 20 years of spectacular fireworks, and for their generosity in making our 4th of July a real celebration!

Lake Sylvia NextDoor Update

by Russ Fortner

The Lake Sylvia NextDoor website shows 159 people have joined since last winter. Wonderful!!

This site was picked to be a social networking site for all Lake Sylvia residents. It is very easy to use, and has provided an excellent means of communication between lake resi-

dents on many subjects (announcements, event notices, lost and found, items for sale, requests for references on many subjects, etc.). It is separate from the GLSA website, but is a very good compliment.

I encourage you to look at the site at: <http://lakesylvia.nextdoor.com>

Loon Calls – U.S. Mail or View on Website

We want every GLSA resident to receive and read the three Loon Calls newsletters issued every year – published Spring, Summer, and Fall. We make every effort to give you pertinent information on our great lake in this newsletter, and we will continue to do so.

We spend over \$2700 a year printing and mailing Loon Calls. "If" you would prefer receiving the newsletter in the future via the website, we would be happy to send an email

"blast" letting you know when the newsletter is available on the website so you will never miss an issue.

If you wish to continue to receive a hard copy of communications by U.S. Mail, you do not need to notify us. If you want to view future Loon Calls via the website, please email peggyjofortner@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Russ Fortner
Loon Calls Editor

Stranded Boat Assistance

Again this year, GLSA volunteers are available and willing to assist stranded boaters. Enter these names/numbers into your cell phone contacts in case you need their services. This information is also available on the GLSA website at lakesylvia.org.

Our thanks to these volunteers. If you'd like to add your name, contact Russ Fortner.

Lake	Name	Phone
East	Russ Fortner	612-867-5470 (cell) 320-274-8228 (home)
East	Matt Johnson	612-210-3131 (cell) 320-274-5146 (home)
Channel	Don Nelson	612-961-1000 (cell) 320-274-7177 (home)
West	Blaine Barkley	763-516-7931 (cell) 320-274-5804 (home)
West	Chris Hector	952-239-8103 (cell)

2015 GLSA Picnic

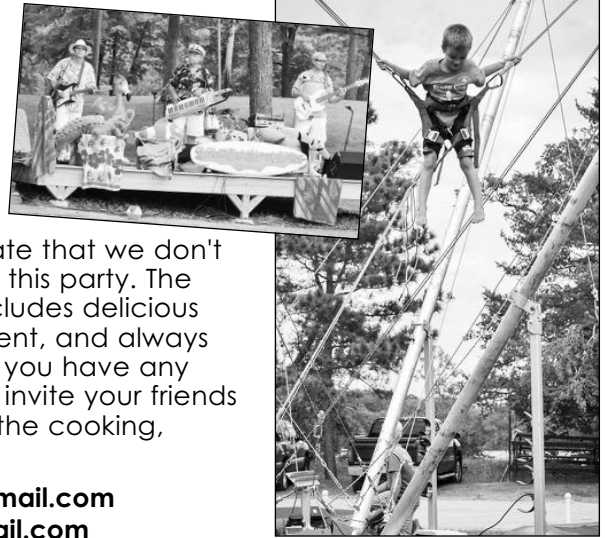
Our Annual Picnic will once again take place at Camp Chi Rho on Saturday, August 8th, from 4-8 p.m. We want to alert you to a significant change to the 2015 picnic. In past years, we have raised the majority of the money needed to pay for the picnic from local business sponsorships and private donors. Some of those donations have decreased or disappeared altogether as other lake associations and organizations are also asking these same businesses for financial support. Therefore, the big change in 2015 for the annual picnic will be charging admission for everyone who attends.

Early Bird RSVP price (BY JULY 11, 2015)

Adult: \$10
Minor (under 21): \$5

Late RSVP price (AFTER JULY 11, 2015)

Adult: \$15
Minor (under 21): \$10



We hope that you'll understand this change and appreciate that we don't use money from the Association's General Fund to pay for this party. The value you'll receive for the ticket price is excellent and includes delicious catered food, unlimited beverages, live music entertainment, and always fun things for the kids! Please RSVP early and contact us if you have any questions about the picnic. All are welcome to attend, so invite your friends and relatives to the lake that day and let us take care of the cooking, beverages, and entertainment!

**Allison Barkley 320-815-9916 or allie_barkley@hotmail.com
Rhonda Brau 763-229-8856 or rhonda.brau@gmail.com**

**Mission Statement:
To Protect and Improve
Lake Sylvia**

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