



# Loon Calls

www.lakesylvia.org

Spring 2021

GREATER LAKE SYLVIA ASSOCIATION

## Reminder: It Takes Just One.....

By Blaine Barkley

GLSA water quality teams have worked for many years to maintain the quality of the lake that draws people from all over central Minnesota to the Annandale area. Each year Lake Sylvania residents contribute tens of thousands of dollars to maintain the beauty and clarity of the lake. Many water related issues such as zebra mussels have no cure or any way to manage the issue. They simply degrade the

lake over time. The main point of entry of an invasive species that will degrade the lake everyone loves to use is a boat landing. Lake Sylvania pays to have inspectors at the DNR public landing seven days a week, 12 hours a day to inspect the boats that come to enjoy Lake Sylvania. The inspectors are not there to "catch" a boater doing something wrong, they are there to educate the public while protecting the lake. People that look for ways to launch their boats without inspection using a private landing are the greatest threat to

the lake. It just takes one boat to undo years of work, tens of thousands of dollars in control costs, and hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours to introduce a new unmanageable issue such as spiny water fleas or any of several other issues to the lake. Don't be the one that undoes years of effort that keep Lake Sylvania clean, clear, and desirable. Please, please, please have your boat inspected free of charge by a trained inspector at the public landing. **Don't be that one.**

## The Waters Edge

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) web site Search | Minnesota DNR (state.mn.us) can be useful to those that care about keeping Lake Sylvania the clean, clear lake they expect it to be. To keep it clean, desirable and useful is not a one, two or three person job or even something that can be done by the GLSA Board of Directors. It involves cooperation and effort from all users of the lake. The DNR site goes into detail about things that impact the lake that you can do. How is Lake Sylvania doing in terms of our expectations? If you read some of the DNR articles using the links below and travel around the lake, I think you might come to the conclusion we are starting to set the lake up to slip backwards and yet by following DNR guidelines, that can be stopped before we see obvious changes in the water.

Where aquatic plants grow | Minnesota DNR (state.mn.us)

The Water's Edge Helping fish and wildlife on your lakeshore property (state.mn.us)

Included in other things everyone can do to keep Lake Sylvania one of the jewels of Minnesota lakes is to assist in doing your part in lim-



**Starry Stonewort**

iting the introduction of new and harmful invasive species into the lake. Yes, that is one of the rather constant messages in the GLSA newsletters and it should be. At the present time GLSA spends approximately \$45,000 per year out of GLSA membership dues that total about \$55,000 per year to have professionals survey the lake looking for new areas of invasive species to control, hire professional chemical applicators to manage the invasive weeds where allowed,

and to pay for the inspectors at the public launch site. Supplementing dues are activities such as the golf tournament, annual picnic, cash donations, and individual volunteer fund raising efforts. At this point if money to do what we are presently doing is adequate, where is the problem?

The problem is three fold. First, Lake Sylvania is at increased risk of new invasive species with every boat launch into the lake from a

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## Welcome Wagon

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 2020, 11 homes were sold on the lake/s and 2 lots.

Thank you!

**Lisa Peery**  
uragoodboy@gmail.com  
320-274-6655

**Stephani Lind**  
splind@comcast.net  
612-710-1316

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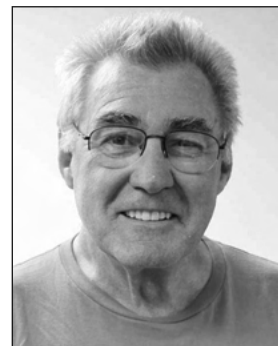
Please contact any chair to join their committee.

### GLSA Loon Calls Editor

- Stephanie Schaunaman  
2stephm@gmail.com

## A Few Words From Your President

Russ Fortner



**A**re we, or will we ever get back to normal? Well, the GLSA is going to give it a try: the Annual Meeting will be back at the South Haven Town Hall on the first Saturday in June; the fireworks will be held on July 2nd; the boat parade will be on the 4th; the golf outing is scheduled for July 10th; and the annual picnic August 21st. These events have all been sponsored by the GLSA in the past. So, we are back to doing our part to get back to normal.

The GLSA Board has put its approval on the golf fundraiser, which along with dues, helps to provide chemical treatments in our lake to combat invasive species. We also pay for the inspectors at the public landing to inspect boats.

I encourage you to look for opportunities to

volunteer at the above- scheduled events. We all treasure and share Lake Sylvania, feel privileged to be on our beautiful lake, and need volunteers to continue keeping it in pristine condition.

## Remnants of history worth preserving

By Nancy Pattee Hector

Hello neighbors, the past year has been a bit difficult to say the least. We probably have never spent so much time at home. Fortunately, we have the lake to retreat to. With spending so much time staying put here I imagine a few of us taking a greater interest in our immediate surroundings. I certainly have. Several years ago, while having a new set of steps made we found a set of railings buried in our lakeside hill. They were obviously the original railings from the original cabin to the lakeshore. As luck would have it they were the exact length we needed for the new steps. Fast forward to last fall, we decided

to finally have some landscaping done on the same hill and in the planning told our landscaper that the stairs and in particular the railings were not to be touched. They are a piece of history right here in our own yard. There are a few pieces of history remaining around the lake and I hope that if they are in your yard you will consider keeping them as a reminder of what our beautiful lake once was, the Wullienda store comes to mind. It is fast deteriorating and soon I'm afraid it will be beyond salvaging. It would be great if a group got together to save it wouldn't it? Think about it.

Stay well and enjoy the summer safely.

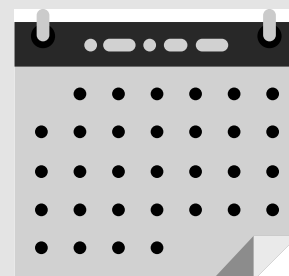
## GLSA Event Calendar for 2021

<b>May 30</b>	<b>Sundays on Sylvania</b>
<b>June 5th</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
<b>June 5th</b>	<b>Bd. Meeting</b>
<b>July 2nd</b>	<b>Fireworks</b>
<b>July 4th</b>	<b>Boat Parade</b>
<b>July 4</b>	<b>Sundays on Sylvania</b>
<b>Aug. 8</b>	<b>Sundays on Sylvania</b>
<b>Aug 14th</b>	<b>Bd. Mtg. 9 a.m.</b>
<b>Aug 21st</b>	<b>Annual Picnic</b>
<b>Sept. 5</b>	<b>Sundays on Sylvania</b>
<b>Sept 11th</b>	<b>Bd. Mtg. 9 a.m.</b>
<b>Oct 9th</b>	<b>Bd. Mtg. 9 a.m.</b>

### 2021 GLSA Events

Please watch or check the following for updates:

- The website ([www.lakesylvia.org](http://www.lakesylvia.org))
- Email blasts from the website
  - Loon Calls newsletters
  - Annual Dues Letter



We are currently using a virtual meeting platform for the board meetings. If you would like additional information on the board meetings please reach out to Lisa Peery or Steph Schaunaman.

# Summer 2021 Fireworks

By Randy Wilson

I'm thinking about fireworks today. I'm not thinking about fireworks because the day is hot and sunny, rather, I'm thinking about fundraising. This year we have scheduled the Lake Sylvia fireworks display for Friday, July 2, 2021.

The last few years residents on the lake have been very generous in supporting the fundraising for this effort and each year we have met or exceeded our goal. This year we need to raise \$8,000.00. Like past years we already have a good start, but we still need your help. I'm not sure, but there must be 400 – 500 cabins and homes on the lake. If we each

donate something its rather simple to raise the money we need. Whatever you can do makes a difference. As I've said other years, no one else will do this for us.

I think it's exciting and fun to see all the boats, okay mostly pontoons, heading south, past Bull's Island, toward Totem Pole Bay, and jostling for a spot with a boatful of friends and family. It's a fun way to start the 4th of July weekend.

If you can support the effort, that would be great. I look forward to seeing everybody on the lake

## Annual meeting scheduled for June

The GLSA Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday June 5th, at the South Haven Town Hall. Join us starting at 8:30 a.m. for coffee and rolls, followed by our meeting from 9:00-11:00 a.m. We will provide updates on all our

GLSA events: the 4th of July Fireworks, the Boat Parade, our Golf fundraiser and the Summer Picnic. Plus, it's a great time to see friends and support our lake association.

## Edge

*Continued from page 1*

private access where boat inspections do not take place. Some new aquatic invasive species can be treated adding to the financial burden and time burden on volunteers, and some cannot be treated such as zebra mussels resulting in degradation of the lake. Lake Sylvia pays either way with a new invasive species.

If you trace the history of invasive species in Lake Sylvia, the first invasive was likely Eurasian water milfoil introduced into the lake at the public access prior to boat inspections. Next we saw a very large area of Eurasian water milfoil introduced into the bay east of Camp Chi Rho, far away and somewhat against the water currents in the lake making it unlikely it came from the public landing area. Next, we saw Eurasian watermilfoil and curly leaf pondweed in the bay north of lighthouse point near a private access. From that one small area it has spread into much of the bay. Between that area and the public landing, the lake shore was effectively free of Eurasian watermilfoil seemingly making it unlikely it spread that far away from the public access. As it continues to spread it is now in the channel between the east and west lake and most troublesome is it is now in the east lake and spreading, initially being found on the east shore of the east lake by a private landing.

The first adult, egg laying Zebra mussel as found in the east lake in front of a private landing. Later immature zebra mussels were found coming downstream from Lake John, a zebra mussel infested lake. Zebra mussels were not found in the vicinity of the west lake public

landing until they had spread through out the east and west lake pointing to the effectiveness of watercraft inspection noting boats had been denied access to the lake when zebra mussels were observed. While inspection cannot catch everything, it does reduce the chance of an invasive getting into the lake.

Starry Stonewort entered Lake Sylvia through a boat at the public landing and we have been able to confine it to that area. Our public access inspectors had noted Lake Sylvia had boats coming from Lake Koronis and looked those boats over carefully but with many trailers being of the style with carpeted bunks, it was impossible to see if there was starry trapped between the boat hull and the carpeted bunk.

So much for the history and status of the first of three problems (private landings). If you own a private landing, keep it locked so it is not available to anyone's boat except your own. If your boat has been on another lake, take it to the public access to be inspected prior to launch.

The second problem is treating the invasive species we have or may have in the future. Our treatments of invasives is very effective to the extent the DNR gives us permits to treat. Their general philosophy is to protect native water plants and only treat invasives where the invasive species limit access to the lake or significantly impacts the use of the water. As a result, we frequently identify areas we want to treat and are not able to meet the DNR qualifications for a treatment permit.

The third problem that could be faced in the future is the DNR imposed limit to only treating 15% of the littoral zone of a lake. Where

## GLSA Golf Tournament

**When:** July 10 at 10am start

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aquatic plants grow | Minnesota DNR (state.mn.us). In short, that means just because you have an invasive species issue, doesn't mean you can treat it. Lake Koronis at Paynesville is a case in point of this situation. The lake is about twice the size of Lake Sylvia and has out of control starry stonewort infecting nearly the entirety of the lake while the permit to treat it limits treatment to 15% of the littoral zone meaning residents and transient boaters are dealing with an invasive that grows so thick that a boat cannot be driven through it, a dog cannot swim through it, children falling into it are at risk and fish cannot get through it. Given the 15% area that is allowed to be treated, many are dealing with nearly useless beaches. Aquatic Invasive Species - Above and Below the Waterline - YouTube Their present cost to treat this small area is about \$180,000 per year.

Lake Sylvia is using the gold standard of trying to prevent new invasive species, watercraft inspection by DNR trained inspectors. Launching a boat at a private landing negates all of this effort and opens the door to another location of an invasive species like starry stonewort that is very hard and expensive to control. Please, lock and chain your private access and do not allow it to be used by others. If Lake Sylvia is to get another invasive species, it is best to be at the public landing where it will be found early and treated early, not at one of the estimated 90 private accesses on the lake.

Yes-Lake Sylvia is in great condition today. Please do your part to keep it that way.



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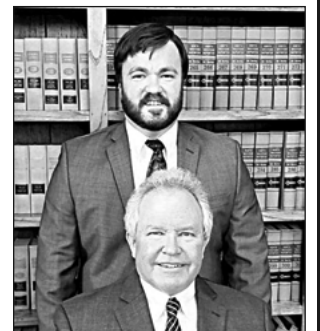
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# Greater Lake Sylvania Association Notice of Treatment

The Greater Lake Sylvania Association (GLSA) has contracted to treat Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed, and Starry Stonewort, all invasive aquatic species during 2021. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted to Greater Lake Sylvania Association a waiver of the requirement that the Association obtain the signatures of approval of owners of lakeshore property. Instead, Greater Lake Sylvania Association will notify property owners through alternative forms. This notice is one form that the Greater Lake Sylvania is using to notify property owners. Other forms of notification may include but are not limited to notification through the association's website, annual newsletter or annual meeting.

With regard to the treatments for this year, 2021 the target treatments are:

- Curly Leaf Pondweed. The proposed dates for treatment is between May 15 and June 30 2021.
- Eurasian Water Milfoil. The proposed dates for treatment is between June 1 and July 15, 2021.
- Starry Stonewort. The proposed dates for treatments are between June 1 through October 31, 2021.



The method of control or product being used: EPA and MDA registered aquatic herbicides and algicides such as but not limited to Cutrine Plus Algicide, Liquid 2,4-D, Granular 2,4-D, Diquat.

How landowners may request that control not occur adjacent to the landowner's property:

If you desire that the treatment of any of the above listed invasive species not occur adjacent to your property, please notify the Greater Lake Sylvania Association ASAP by calling Russ Fortner 612-867-5470.

Russ Fortner, President,  
Greater Lake Sylvania Association  
russfortner@hotmail.com



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# Spring Loon Report

By Mike McNellis, the Old Loon Ranger

With the early spring, I'm calling it early not sure how others are calling it, the Loons returned quickly and are nesting, according to several reports in 5 areas. It was quite a cold day when I first heard them calling and announcing their arrival, and a day later when I saw them in the air. That same day one was in the bay scouting for a summer home. They've had some competition for the nest site from a pair of eagles, a pair of geese, and a pair of beaver. All had been using the nesting platform and a nearby muskrat house. So far, the Loons have prevailed and are sitting on the nest building as I write this. The eagles used it as a lunching spot for several days. They would catch a meal and go on the nest to eat their catch. The beaver seems to only be using it for a place to groom their fur? And the geese left for a more neutral, goose friendly area.

The lack of fishing activity in the bay has been a blessing for the Loons. No busy human interference to chase them away. But with the coming of the fishing opener, I know that will

change. There are always several noseypersons, and pleasure boaters, that have to see if there's any eggs in the nest. I've always thought there must be a lot of people with bad eyesight? They get so close, and take so long looking? And with the Loons sometimes raising a fuss, the same people must be half deaf also? Please, no offense is meant to those that truly have an impairment. Let me know and I'll send you several references on the internet to see some great photos.

I'm looking forward for a good nesting season. Hope to have a pair of chicks on each nest. I'll give you an update in the next newsletter. Remember to tell visitors to your homes to watch out for the Loons when they're boating, and have them stay clear of the nests. It's also a good idea to talk with your kids about the same subject, teach them to be a good outdoors person and steward of the lake. This will help them in more ways than you can think.

Stay safe this summer and give the Loons a wide berth when meeting on the lake.

## Sundays on Sylvania 4 Gathering opportunities

Continuing this year, Sundays on Sylvania. A casual outdoor worship gathering on the lake. The group is planning for five gathering opportunities over the summer months. Plan to attend any of the following dates: May 30, July 4, August 8, and/or Sept. 5. We will be gathering near the Koinonia Cove on East Lake Sylvania and will begin worship promptly at 10:33 a.m. Plan to come early to anchor and enjoy some music. Like our "Sundays on Sylvania" facebook page for updates and weather alerts.

# Removing lake plants could require a permit

By Jim Gray

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds lakeshore property owners that a permit may be required to remove aquatic plants. Aquatic plants provide food and shelter for fish, ducks and other wildlife. They also stabilize the lake bottom, which helps maintain water clarity, and protect shorelines from erosion by absorbing energy from waves and ice.

Additionally, the DNR frequently receives questions about devices that generate water cur-

rent to wash muck and plants away. They have various trade names, but the DNR refers to these devices generically as hydraulic jets. Even though you can buy one in Minnesota, they cannot be used in any way that disturbs the bottom of the lake or uproots plants.

Specific regulations govern what situations require permits for aquatic plant removal. Regulations and a guide to aquatic plants can be found on the DNR website. To apply for a permit visit the DNR's permitting and reporting system online at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us).



## TWO WAYS TO PAY YOUR GLSA DUES

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## Are You A GLSA Member?

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE  
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The future health of our lake  
literally depends on it.

- Thank You

# Stranded Boat Assistance

By Russ Fortner

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 lake-sylvia.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)
West	Chris Hector	952-239-8103 (cell)



- The Annual meeting will be held on June 5th at the South Haven Town Hall
- The 4th of July Fireworks has been set for July 2nd this year
- Save the date, July 10th for the Golf fundraiser event, contact Russ Fortner for more information
- The boat parade is scheduled for July 4th and the summer picnic August 21st.
- 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
- If you would like to receive your Loon Calls electronically, please contact Lisa Peery, Membership Chair – uragoodboy@gmail.com

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

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