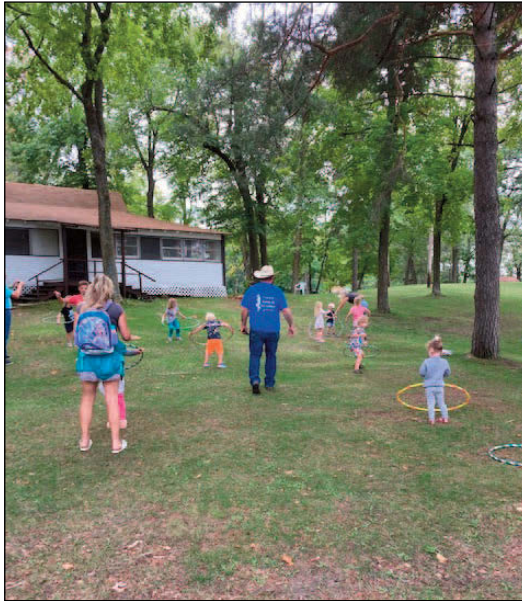
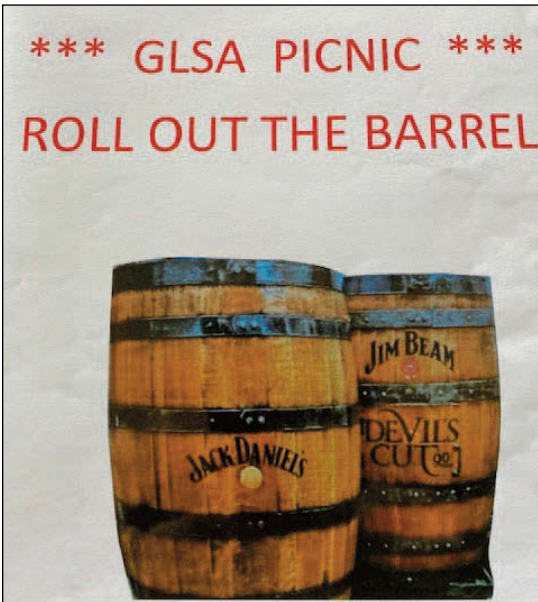


# GLSA Loon Calls

www.lakesylvia.org

Fall 2022

GREATER LAKE SYLVIA ASSOCIATION



### Inside this issue:

President's Letter . . . . .2  
 Protecting Our Lake . . . . .2  
 Have We Seen the Worst from Zebra Mussels? . . . . .3  
 GLSA Event Calendar . . . . .3  
 Remembering Lake Sylvia Fun Facts . . . . .3  
 Fall Loon Report . . . . .6  
 Welcome Wagon . . . . .7  
 Interesting Water Level numbers . . . . .7  
 Two Ways to Pay Your Dues . . . . .Cover  
 Boating Assistance Cover

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### Precipitation

Month	Precip	Snow
Sept.....	2.41 in.....	0 in.



**A big 'THANK YOU' to all the beautiful and ambitious volunteers!**



## Are You A GLSA Member?

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE FIGHTING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES. The future health of our lake literally depends on it.  
 - Thank you

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- **Wildlife Conservation Committee**  
Mike McNellis  
Please contact any chair to join their committee.

### GLSA Loon Calls Editor

- Stephanie Schaunaman  
2stephm@gmail.com

## Letter from the President

By Russ Fortner

Another year is over and big changes on the lake. The biggest, in my estimation, was Koinonia Retreat Center being sold. I believe most of the lots are sold.

Most of the lake has had market values reassessed, and it was not uncommon to see an 22% average increase in property values.

The GLSA had great news: a big thank you to Jan Evanson for chairing the picnic again this year; a big thank you to Rhonda Brau for her making the Golf Tournament the biggest fundraiser ever; and Blaine Barkley reported lake treatments were at an all-time low.

SEE YOU ALL NEXT SEASON.



## Protecting our lake

Article from Minnesota DNR

### What can I do to create a more natural shoreline?

A natural shoreline is a complex ecosystem that sustains fish and wildlife and protects the entire lake. Native vegetation along the shore acts as a buffer zone, intercepting nutrients and reducing runoff, erosion, and sedimentation. Aquatic plants provide food and shelter for ducks, songbirds, and other animals while reducing problems caused by Canada geese and burrowing muskrats.

Plants growing in and near the water are critical for wildlife and fish habitat and a healthy lakeshore. Tall plants like bulrush, lake sedge, and cattail can reduce the energy of wave action to minimize erosion and help maintain water quality.

Creation of a buffer zone is the essence of the lakescaping concept. A buffer zone is an unmowed strip of native vegetation that extends both lakeward and landward from the water's edge. A buffer zone that extends 25-50 feet from shore is preferable, but even 10-15 feet provides benefits. Installing a buffer zone can restore many functions critical to the health of the lake that may have been eliminated previously by sod, hard structures, or mowing. Planting grasses and flowering plants that are native to your area will diversify and enhance your shoreline and provide a seasonal show of color.

Creating and maintaining natural buffer zones along the shore does not mean your property has to look unkempt. Buffers and upland islands of trees, shrubs, and flowers can bring natural beauty to your yard. Additionally, tall native plants typically have deep root systems. They will slow erosion, decrease ice damage, increase rain infiltration, and act as a barrier to discourage geese from walking on your shoreline property.

Your shoreline is part of a larger community and ecosystem. Individual choices by many have cumulative impacts on a lake and



photos courtesy of MN DNR

its ecosystem. Your actions can restore or degrade the quality of the ecosystem. Restoring your lakeshore to a more natural condition is important, even if your neighbors are not restoring theirs, because it can help wildlife habitat, water quality, and fish.

### Lakescaping and Erosion Control

Vegetation is extremely important for controlling erosion. Native trees, shrubs, and grasses dissipate the energy of raindrops, slow the water, and allow it to infiltrate the soil. The DNR and your county soil and water conservation district can help you select the right plants for your project. Listed below are some other erosion-control recommendations.

- Prevent erosion. Preventing erosion by maintaining native vegetation is less costly than fixing an eroded area. Think "root systems." Native plants typically have greater rooting depth and root density. For example, the roots of the little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) are about 2-3 feet long and have a great capacity to hold soil. In contrast, the roots of lawn grass are only 2-3 inches long.
- Identify and address the cause of erosion.

**LAKESHORE** - See pg. 7

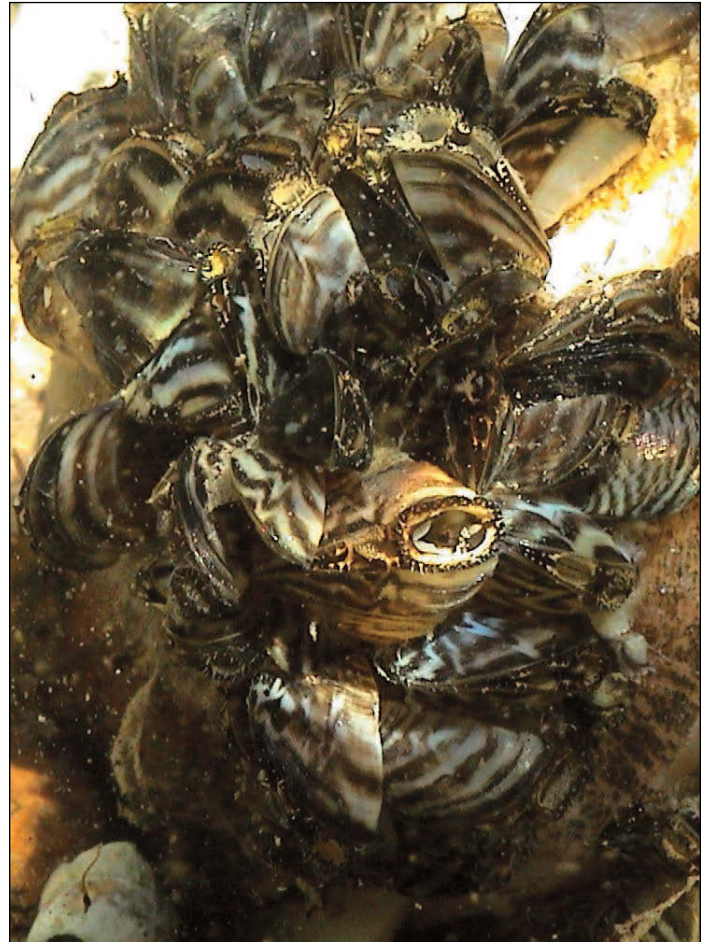
# Have we seen the worst from Zebra Mussels? By Blaine Barkley

Zebra mussels have mostly been a nuisance for many people although they actually help clean the water, cleaner than it was before zebra mussels arrived in Lake Sylvia. Yes, the use of water shoes is now encouraged and cuts from the shells of dead mussels need to be promptly cared for. Pontoon boats or other watercraft, docks, rocks and even weeds now have zebra mussels attached to them. So, we gained a little cleaner water and we lost the convenience of "no shoes" on our beaches

That is unless you are a fish. Then you lost a lot. Zebra mussel's filtration of the lake, 24 hours a day, has greatly reduced the food in the water available for newly hatched fish. Previously, those waves of hatched fish eggs had no competition for the food they needed to grow. Now, newly hatched fish eggs compete with zebra mussels that eat 24 hours per day, summer and winter. The result will be much lower survival rates for the new hatches of most fish due to food shortage. With a shortage of surviving newly hatched fish, existing fish populations have less food available to them and so it will go with each species of fish.

Less and less food for them. One of the best examples of this has reduced Lake Mille Lacs from being a premiere walleye lake, to a lake of relatively few, very large walleyes that are cannibalizing the fewer, smaller walleyes in the lake. Possession limits of one per day, temporary closing of the season and other measures have been taken to save what walleyes are in the lake as well as the DNR announcing in 2015 the opening of a hatchery, primarily for walleyes to help walleye fishing in the lake. So far it looks like fishing on Mille Lacs is not improving despite the DNR's best efforts. Unfortunately, we have two of the worst conditions in Lake Sylvia that are negatively impacting Lake Mille Lacs. Zebra mussels and increasing water temperatures impacting deep water ciscos.

An interesting analysis of what is happening to Lake Mille Lacs can be found at [Mille Lacs Lake Management Plan 2022-2027 \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.millelacs.com/management-plan) as well as other articles on walleye fishing such as [Cannibalism and water clarity to blame for decline in Mille Lacs Walleye | Outdoors | messagemedia.com](https://www.outdoors.com)



## GLSA Event Calendar for 2022

Oct 8th – Board Meeting 9 am

All members are welcome to attend board meetings. We meet at the Southside Town Hall. To request a presentation to the board, contact President Russ Fortner.

## REMEMBERING LAKE SYLVIA HISTORY BOOK

Available for purchase for **\$44.95 (members) | \$49.95 (non-members)**

All proceeds go to the GLSA - Over 200 pages of Lake Sylvia history. Including stories, maps and many pictures.

## Remembering Lake Sylvia fun Facts

Fun facts from the Lake Sylvia history book

(see page 7 for answers)

1. Icehouses were popular back in the day, what material was used to help insulate?
  - a. sawdust
  - b. straw
  - c. dirt
  
- 2.) What were the chunks of ice cut for the icehouse called?
  - 2.1 )And what was a good size?
    - A. frozen dice
    - B. ice cube
    - C. ice cake
      - a.1. 12 inches
      - b.1. 18 inches
      - c.1. 22 inches

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# Fall Loon Report

By Mike McNellis, the Old Loon Ranger

If you have had the opportunity to see the young Loons lately you've seen how they have changed. By now, they are roughly the size of the adults. Colors have more of a scaled pattern, bland in pattern; none of the defined color pattern like the adult have emerged yet. Even the adults have lost the striking color of a spring bird. The young may still beg for food from a parent, but they are catching close to 95% of their own meals, some are capturing all of their own food. Many, if not most, are attempting to fly, if only for a short distance. They have enjoyed the wonders of flight getting ready for the long fight of migration.

One of the parents have already left for the south. For the early hatchling both parents may be gone. The adults know when it's time to leave. There's no looking back now, they have gone through this parting themselves. It is also a fact of life that they will leave a young bird that has not yet learned to fly. The young start leaving 2 or 3 weeks after the adults leave, some will stay longer, some fly a few hundred miles and stop on other lakes to rest. They may be looking for others like themselves, they may be looking for an adult for leadership, or companionship? What we are seeing on Lake Sylvia now may have summered far north, and are just here resting, feeding, and building their strength. By the end of October and November



most all have migrated, unless they are ill, weak from age, or maybe a late hatch?

Will they return next year? The adults depending on age have a chance of returning. The young birds have a far less chance of returning. Studies show that a young Loon born this year has only a 1 in 5, to a 1 in 10, chance of making it to adulthood to return. Storms on the coast kill a few. Eagles take a few, according to some research it's more than we thought from past studies. Oil spills are known to take many when they happen. The young will spend a couple summers on the oceans, before

returning. It could be 2 or more years before they return. They've been doing this for thousands of years. Humans, and the things humans create, have been the most growing deterrent to their lives, and mostly in just the last

hundred years.

Let's hope they keep returning. No! I'm changing that statement. Let's do all we can to keep them returning.

-Loon Ranger Mike

## Remembering Lake Sylvia Fun Fact Answers

1.) a 2.) C, 3.) c

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## LAKESHORE – From pg. 2

Causes may include excessive foot traffic on fragile soils, vegetation clearing (both upland and in the lake), yard waste on the bank that kills vegetation, wave action from boat traffic and prevailing winds (especially when water is high), ice heaves, overland runoff down slopes, stairways that channel water, and runoff from impervious surfaces.

- Choose erosion-control methods that are “light” on the landscape.

For example, use biodegradable erosion control materials that contain biodegradable netting, not photodegradable plastic netting which can trap wildlife. If wave action is eroding the bottom (toe) of the bank, consider reinforcing only the toe of the bank and planting native vegetation on the remainder.

- Plant aquatic vegetation. In-lake vegetation can help prevent erosion. Native aquatic vegetation disperses wave energy, anchors soil, limits ice heaves, and provides excellent fish and wildlife habitat.

Contrast the eroded shoreline lacking vegetation (foreground) with the well-vegetated, uneroded shoreline in the distance.

### Lakescaping Design Factors to Consider

Look around your lake and note how nature works to minimize erosion on healthy, more natural shorelines. What types of wildflowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs do you see in your area? Then determine how much of your lakeshore to naturalize, keeping in mind how much you need for lake access, swimming areas, docks, and dock storage areas. Talk to your neighbors, share ideas, and coordinate efforts to increase habitat and natural shorelines.

Natural shorelines are gaining acceptance as people understand the important role shorelines play in protecting their lake and a diverse ecosystem. Many lake associations are developing demonstration projects on area lakes.

### Steps for Creating a Buffer Zone

Describe your shoreline area, including the following elements:

- Natural features, including existing vegetation and woody debris, fish and wildlife use, and opportunities for links to neighboring habitat;

- Removal of structures or construction debris, such as retaining walls or concrete, respectively;

- Location of the house, views, trees, pathways or stairways, docks, and swimming areas;

- Sun, including amount and number of hours of

direct sunlight;

- Topography, including ice ridges and slopes (facing directions and steepness);

- Soil characteristics, including type, drainage, texture, and fertility;

- Water, such as natural seeps, wet areas during high water, drainage, wave action, and runoff; and Fetch (miles of open water/waves), prevailing winds and ice push.

These elements will help determine what types of erosion control measures (biologs, brush bundles, erosion control fabric) might be needed in order to get vegetation established on the site.

Think about your preferences. How will the site be used (viewing, swimming, boating, fishing)? What kinds of native trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses do you like? Consider their color, height, and appearances at different times of the year. The type of vegetation you select may affect the shoreline’s ability to withstand erosion.

Develop a design and management plan based on your lakeshore and preferences. Consult references such as the *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality* book or the on-line program *Restore Your Shore* (see front page) for assistance on designing your restoration project. You can also look at the DNR Fisheries lake surveys for information. Visit nearby natural areas or other shorelines to get ideas. Obtain any necessary permits from your local unit of government or the DNR. Be realistic about the size of your shoreline project. Start small, if necessary, and add to it in phases.

Identify the areas for planting native vegetation and prepare the site for planting. It may be necessary to control non-native, invasive species and turf grass first. Upland plants should be spaced from 1 foot to 3 feet apart; trees and shrubs should be 6 feet to 14 feet apart. If you decide to use an erosion-control blanket, the supplier can help you determine which type to use. After installing the blanket, simply cut a hole in it for each plant. As an alternative to the blanket, mulch could be used to control erosion, retain moisture, and suppress weeds.

If you add aquatic plants, a temporary barrier in the water may be needed to protect new plants until they are established. For guidance on aquatic plantings, please refer to the *Restore Your Shore* on-line program or your local Soil and Water Conservation District.

Read the full article online at:  
[https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/shoreline\\_alterations\\_lakescaping.pdf](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/shoreline_alterations_lakescaping.pdf)

## 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.

So far in 2022, four lots/homes were sold on the lake/s.

**Renee Wyffels**

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**Lisa Peery**

[uragoodboy@gmail.com](mailto:uragoodboy@gmail.com)

320-274-6655

## Interesting Water Level Numbers

In Oct 1989 the water level was 1047.14. The most recent Low year.

In Aug 2011 the water level was 1051.35. The most recent High year.

4 foot 2 ½ inches fluctuation in 22 years.

Now! Think about it this way.

Today the water level is 1049.41 that is 2 foot, 3 ¼ inches Higher than the Low of 1989.

Or looking at it the other way

Today the water level is at 1049.41 which is 1foot, 11 ¼ inches Lower than the High 2011.

**“Like” our Facebook page “Greater Lake Sylvia Association” for updates and information on the GLSA.**

# Stranded Boat Assistance

By Russ Fortner

Again this year, GLSA volunteers have been willing to assist stranded boaters. Enter these names/numbers into your cell phone con-

tacts in case you need their services in the future. This information is also available on the GLSA website at [lakesylvia.org](http://lakesylvia.org).

**Our thanks to these volunteers.**  
If you'd like to add your name, contact Steph Schaunaman.



NAME	PHONE
Chris Hector	320-309-3048
Keith Schaunaman	612-916-0546
Mark Struble	952-220-9209
Chase Bullock	763-486-5558
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## TWO WAYS TO PAY YOUR GLSA DUES

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

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

If you have forgotten your login information, email Lisa at [uragoodboy@gmail.com](mailto:uragoodboy@gmail.com) and she will email you a link to login and change your password.

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*To Protect and Improve Lake Sylvia*

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