



Loon Calls

www.lakesylvia.org

Spring 2022

GREATER LAKE SYLVIA ASSOCIATION

Helping hobbyists and sellers prevent invasive species introductions

By Blaine Barkley

Article and picture taken from the MN DNR

Focus on aquariums, gardens, bait and other live organism trades

Invasive species are non-native species that may cause harm to Minnesota's wildlife, plants, environment, recreation or human health. Some aquatic invasive species are legal to possess, sell, buy, and transport (called regulated invasive species), while others are illegal to possess, import, purchase, sell, propagate, or transport (called prohibited invasive species).

The DNR's Invasive Species Program conducted surveys of sellers and consumers and hired a contractor to assess the availability of invasive species at Minnesota pet stores and seafood markets. This work was funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The DNR hired a contractor in 2021 to visit Minnesota aquarium stores and seafood markets, examine their stocks for invasive species and educate store staff. Multiple aquarium stores were selling the prohibited invasive Louisiana crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*). Some aquarium stores and seafood markets had advertisements indicating sale of other prohibited invasive species. Regulated invasive species were also detected, including goldfish, koi, Brazilian waterweed, nonnative water lilies, red-eared slider turtles, Carolina fanwort,



parrots feather, water hyacinth, water lettuce and rusty crayfish. Like the zebra mussel-contaminated aquarium moss balls detected in 2021, many sellers also reported receiving "hitchhiker" organisms that arrived unexpectedly in shipments.

The DNR also surveyed sellers and hobbyists in the live organism trades. Most participants were concerned about invasive species and want to help prevent their introduction and spread. While awareness about invasive species and the desire to prevent their introduction is high, only about one-third of hobbyists felt confident in knowing which species are illegal to possess and sell. Hobbyists

are willing to buy similar, low-risk alternatives to invasive animals and plants. Many hobbyists would be more likely to purchase from sellers who've participated in an invasive species prevention training program.

These recent projects will help inform proactive approaches to invasive species management in Minnesota. At least 72 species of aquatic animals and plants potentially invasive to Minnesota environments are available in the live organism trades. When it comes to managing invasive species, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Help protect Minnesota waters by:

- Never releasing ani-

mals or plants into the environment.

- Choosing low-risk or native species when making purchases.

- Disposing of unwanted aquatic plants in the trash or compost.

- Contacting a local pet store, vet or hobbyist club for re-homing options if you have a pet or plant you no longer want or can no longer care for.

If you enjoy aquarium keeping, gardening, fishing with live bait or cooking with live seafood, sign up for our responsible buyers email list. More information is available on the DNR webpage on trade pathways for invasive species.

Inside this issue:

President's Letter 2
Be Prepared for Low Water this Yea 2
GLSA Calendar 2
Annual Meeting 3
Welcome Wagon 3
Life of the Chick 6
Remembering Lake Sylvania Fun Facts 6
Remembering Founding Member Dick Anderson . 7
Community Corner 7
The ice is Out 7
Two Ways to Pay Your Dues Cover
Boating Assistance Cover



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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Please contact any chair to join their committee.

GLSA Loon Calls Editor

- Stephanie Schaunaman
2stephm@gmail.com

A Few Words From Your President

By Russ Fortner



Welcome to summer on Lake Sylvania. I know it's been a long time coming, but we all enjoy it when it finally comes. Time on our beautiful lake is a joy to all of us. Please see the calendar of events for Lake Sylvania so you don't miss any of them. Board members and committee heads are working hard to provide fun and engaging events where we can all enjoy time together on the lake.

We hope you will attend the Annual Meeting to socialize and receive updates on lake issues. We have four board positions open and we need you to attend and vote for new Board members. We also plan to have a new directory available, and you can pick yours up at the Annual Meeting.

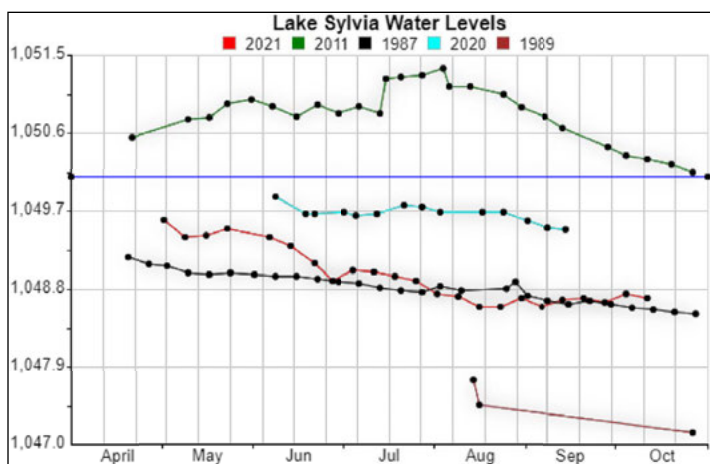
Please contact me or any Board member

when you have questions about GLSA issues. Always remember that our mission is to protect and improve the quality of Lake Sylvania.

Be Prepared for Low Water Levels This Year

By Blaine Barkley

We have had recent heavy rains, however, the year-end lake level measurement from 2021 indicated that Lake Sylvania was 17 inches below the Ordinary High Water Level (OHW). Below is a graph showing water levels for several prior years. At this time of year, Lake Sylvania is generally at the highest level and then drops most of the summer and into the late fall. Since last fall when the measurement was taken, Lake Sylvania has had relatively little snow melt or other precipitation until lately. No-where near enough to get us to the ordinary lake levels. Look at the graphs below. You will see this time of year is typically the high-water level for the year, declining each month. Last fall's reduced lake level may cause boaters to hit submerged rocks and sand bars where in prior years with higher water levels it did not create many low water issues.. For those not familiar with the shallow



areas of Lake Sylvania, please go to the Lake Sylvania depth contour map at Greater Lake Sylvania Association -

Map Please only use the map as an estimate of the lake depth in a prior year when the lake level was

higher. Current water depths are likely even more shallow than indicated on the map.

Annual Meeting

The GLSA Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday June 4th, at the Annandale Elementary School, 655 Park Street East. Join us starting at

8:30 a.m. for coffee and rolls, followed by our meeting at 9 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, pay dues and support our lake association. You may also

check our website <https://lakesylvia.org> for updates and events.



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, 3 properties were sold on the lake/s.

Thank you!

Steph Schaunaman

2stephm@gmail.com

Lisa Peery

uragoodboy@gmail.com

320-274-6655

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 Sylvania history. Including stories, maps and many pictures.

GLSA Event Calendar for 2022

June 4th – Annual Meeting 9 am

June 11th – Board Meeting 9 am

July 2nd – 4th of July Fireworks

TBD – 4th of July Boat Parade

(Looking for volunteers to help)

July 9th – Board Meeting 9 am

July 16th – Annual Golf Tournament

Aug 13th – Board Meeting 9 am

Aug 20th – Annual Summer Picnic

Sept 10th – Board Meeting 9 am

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

Boating Safety

For Everyone's Sake Own Your Wake To help reduce erosion, and also as a great safety practice, for everyone's sake, own your wake. We ask for a voluntary practice of a "no-wake" when you are close to shore – at least 150 feet from shore. A "no-wake" for most water crafts is the slowest speed possible to navigate.

Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

Have you been to a lake in the last 5 days? Please consider doing a free decontamination before launching in Lake Sylvania. The decontamination station is in Annandale, just a few blocks off of HWY 55.

WHERE: 1300 Business Blvd, Annandale (HWY 55, north on Annandale Blvd – follow road to the end past Dingman Marine.)

HOURS: 9am-5pm seven days a week

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE? Smaller boats about 10 minutes, larger vessels 20-30 minutes.

MN DNR INFORMATION

Special Fishing Regulations: This lake has special fishing regulations that differ from statewide or border water regulations for those species identified below and take precedence. Regulations listed below are currently in place.

Visit the links below for upcoming regulations for specific lakes.

Including connected East Sylvania and West Sylvania.

- Crappie: Daily limit 5

- Sunfish: Daily limit 10

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/index.html>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/fishing/index.html>

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Life of the Loon Chick, Part two

By Mike McNellis, the Old Loon Ranger

The eggs fortunate enough to make it to hatching, are now still in a life and death struggle. Eggs do not hatch all at the same time. The first egg to be laid are not always the first to hatch, but the first chick to hatch are normally the strongest. If a second egg hatches close to the same time as the first it has a good chance to survive. If the second egg hatches even 6 to 12 hours after the first, that is enough time for the first to become the stronger of the two. It happens quite often that the strongest of the two will peck the younger one to death. The adults do nothing to stop this from happen. If the second chick makes it though the first week it will have a chance to survive its early youth.

The chicks do not remain in the nest after hatching. As soon as their feathers have dried, and then hold their heads up they will be in the water. At first briefly and then back in the nest. The adults and chicks leave the nest completely after only 2 or 3 days, never to return.

Now danger lurks from below for the little chicks. Any large



fish, muskrats or turtles have no qualms about dining on the little feathered balls floating on the water. They can't stay in the water long. When young they have a hard time regulating their body temps, and grow tired easy so then they will crawl onto a back of an adult. They're shielded from weather, heavy rains, hail, the sun under the wings of the parent, where then they can sleep and get warm, life looks easy at first glance. They will already have learned to hold their head under the surface of the

water as soon as they get in the water. By the age of 1 week will be bobbing under the surface of the water. By two to three weeks, they can submerge and swim for a second or two.

They start learning these life skills early, but they are placing themselves at the danger of be-

coming a meal just learning these new skills to survive. In their first summer they have a 50/50 chance to survive to the point they can fly south. But there is a long Summer ahead.

This article is the second in a series, see part one in the Fall 2021 Loon Calls Newsletter.

Remembering Lake Sylvia fun Facts

Fun facts from the Lake Sylvia history book

(see page 7 for answers)

1.) What year was the first graduating class of Annandale High School?


- a. 1899
- b. 1907
- c. 1912

2.) There were dry years back in the 30's when the lake was so low that millions of fish died.

- a. true
- b. false

3.- What was the biggest motor on the lake in 1933?


- a. there were no motors on the lake in 1933
- b. 10hp
- c. 25hp



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Remembering GLSA founding member Dick Anderson

“Dick” Richard Morgan Anderson, passed away peacefully on January 28th, 2022, at 100 years of age.

Born in St. Paul, MN, on April 10, 1921 to Morgan Anderson and Josephine (Gabriel) Anderson, Dick grew up in the Como Park area of St. Paul. As a child, Dick traveled with his family to several Lake Sylvia resorts, and was fortunate enough to spend his summers exploring, canoeing, fishing, and building things in and around Lake Sylvia. Sometime after the great depression, the family bought a lot on West Lake Sylvia. At age 16, Dick helped his father and Gus Walberg build the family's one-bedroom cabin there, (which stood until the 1970s). Another summer, he built his own wooden sailboat. These early years started his lifelong love of boating and the water and especially, Lake Sylvia, where he enjoyed summers for 92 years!

In the 1975, Dick became one of the founding members of the Greater Lake Sylvia Association, which has grown steadily through the decades. In the early years of the GLSA, Dick was active and outspoken in the interests of the area lakeshore owners to support the enjoyment of lake life, maintain the outstanding clarity of the lake, create a community of cabin owners, work to maintain lake levels and shoreline habitat, preserve the loon population and curb the spread of invasive species.

Among other projects, Dick helped in redesigning and installing a new totem pole on Lake Sylvia's Totem Pole Point; in-



stalling the bronze statue at Annandale's clock tower; combating invasive species in area lakes, and generally protecting the local watersheds. During that time Dick met and made many dear friends and spent many hours of fun and laughter in neighborhood Farkle tournaments and card games. Dick and his wife Betty truly enjoyed becoming a part of the Annandale community and the Lake Sylvia neighborhood. Because of those friendships, Dick was able to thrive and live happily and independently and to celebrate his 100th birthday at his beloved Lake Sylvia.

Dick possessed an amazing ability to remember the names and

faces of nearly everyone he met. He could tell you stories about each and every one of them. This ability did not fade with age, either. In his 100+ years he collected and cherished a huge number of friends and countless stories.

Please bring a favorite story about Dick, or just come to listen to others' as we hold a Celebration of Dick's Life, at Camp Chi Rho at the southern end of West Lake Sylvia on June 11th, beginning around 4:00PM, until evening. Ample parking for cars, and probably some room for arrival by boat as well.

Community Corner

GLSA founding member Dick Anderson

Please bring a favorite story about Dick, or just come to listen to others' as we hold a Celebration of Dick's Life, at Camp Chi Rho at the southern end of West Lake Sylvia on June 11th, beginning around 4:00PM, until evening. Ample parking for cars, and probably some room for arrival by boat as well.

Former board member Don Holm

A Celebration of Life was held for former board member Don Holm on April 30th at Pioneer Park in Annandale. We appreciate all of Don's community involvement on the Lake Sylvia Board and with Pioneer Park.

Sundays on Sylvia

Continuing this year, Sundays on Sylvia. A casual outdoor worship gathering on the lake. The group is planning for 4 gathering opportunities over the summer months. Plan to attend any of the following dates: May 29th, July 3rd, Aug 7th, Sept 4th. We will be gathering near the Koinonia Cove on East Lake Sylvia and will begin promptly at 10:33 am. Plan to come early to anchor and enjoy some music. Like our "Sundays on Sylvia" Facebook page for updates and weather alerts.

The ice is out!

By Joe Lepley

**EAST LAKE ICE OUT –
FRIDAY APRIL 22
WEST LAKE ICE OUT –
SATURDAY APRIL 23**

Determining the date of "ice out" on our beautiful lakes is a team effort. Due to the many bays on both lakes, it's hard to determine if the lakes are totally ice free without folks around the lake sharing information on the amount of ice remaining in their area. For many years, Al and

Bard Ostlund had a list of phone numbers for friends and neighbors they relied on as spotters. Today, with several Facebook pages sharing lake related information it's somewhat easier to track progress of ice out. Thanks to all of those lake neighbors who shared pictures and posts during ice out this year!

We are fortunate to have many years of ice out history, thanks to Bard Ostlund's father Louis West

who began tracking it in 1950. Ice out occurs in April about 80% of the time, pretty evenly split between the first half and the last half of the month. Earliest ice out ever observed was March 20, 2012. Latest ice out ever observed was May 6, 1950. If you would like to see the historical date, it is available on the GLSA website: Lake-Sylvia.org

Remembering Lake Sylvia Fun Fact Answers

- 1.) b
- 2.) a
- 3.) c

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 con-

tacts 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 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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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

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

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