



Loon Calls

www.lakesylvia.org

Fall 2023

GREATER LAKE SYLVIA ASSOCIATION



There was great weather for the annual GLSA picnic held at Chi Rho Center. About 200 people attended the picnic this year. Above, a couple can be seen playing corn toss while others mingled in the tents.

GLSA 'Backyard BBQ' Summer Picnic

It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon on August 12th for the Annual Greater Lake Sylvia Association Summer Picnic at Chi Rho Center, located on the south end of the West Lake.

Nearly 200 people enjoyed delicious Petty Brother's burgers and brats grilled on site by B&P Catering. Additions to the dinner included homemade macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, baked beans and fresh fruit.

Pearl Ridge Cake Shop provided an assortment of ice cream treats from mini cakes to ice cream sandwiches for dessert. Complimentary water, Harmon Killebrew root beer, wine and tap beer were provided for beverages.


Picnic - See page 7



A couple of girls enjoyed playing with the gunny sacks at the picnic.

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2023 Precipitation

Month	Precip	Snow
Jan.....	1.79"20.2"
Feb	2.14"15.7"
Mar	1.64"12.6"
Apr.....	4.83"8.5"
May	1.60"0
Jun.....	1.78"0
Jul.....	3.62"0
Aug.....	6.34"0
Sept	2.05"0

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

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GLSA Committees

- AIS Committee – Blaine Barkley, Claire Dempsey, Russ Fortner, Jim Gray, Mark Struble, Renee Wyffels
- Communications – Russ Fortner, Randy Wilson
- Fundraising – Russ Fortner
- Golf Tournament – Rhonda Brau, Jerry Euteneuer, Jeff Simon
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- Lake Access – Blaine Barkley, Mike McNellis, Mark Struble
- Membership – Lisa Peery
- Picnic Committee – All Board Members
- Social Media – Sarah Stephens
- Water Quality & Clarity – Blaine Barkley, Mike Mischuk
- Wildlife – Mike McNellis

GLSA Loon Calls Editor

- Stephanie Schaunaman
2stephm@gmail.com

Letter from the President

By Randy Wilson

Fall is a season of beautiful colors, children returning to school, docks and boats coming out of the water, and our time at the lake changes. The Greater Lake Sylvia Association has had some changes as well.

Long time board member and board President, Russ Fortner, stepped down from his duties in August. As the new board president, I want to express my gratitude for the many years of service Russ provided for this magnificent place. At our September board meeting we presented Russ a token of our appreciation. Please thank Russ if you see him around. He did a great job.

Another big change is our boat landing being rebuilt. The DNR secured funding and started the project in mid-September. While there is no good time for a project like this, it seems everyone has worked together to make a frustrating issue not such a big deal. Several months before construction started, the board discussed what course of action could be taken during construction to allow boats to be removed for the season. The other very important consideration was how to minimize AIS. As it turns out, we worked with St John's Pastor, Mark Tiede, the board members at Camp Chi Rho, and Dave Helm to build a temporary landing at the camp. The temporary landing at Camp Chi Rho is in a quiet bay and well suited for the brief time we need for the rebuilding of our regular



landing. It was a pleasure working together with the people at the camp.

A big thank you to the businesses that take boats and lifts out of our lake for their cooperation and willingness to work together. Also, thank you to Mike McNellis, he has done a great job keeping everyone current on what is happening each day.

Now I'm thinking about all the leaves that are going to fall and need to be raked. When we finish the raking, the snow starts falling. For those of us that live here full time it's much quieter for five or six months. I do miss the neighbor's that go for a time to their homes only to return again in the spring.

Have a great winter and we will see everybody again next year.

Resident Bald Eagle



Above, a bald Eagle perches on a tree limb overhanging Lake Sylvia.

Photo by Jim Maciej

Lake Sylvia Public Access Reconstruction Update

On Monday, September 18, the DNR began the work to upgrade the public access. The reconstruction is expected to take 6 - 8 weeks, weather permitting. We will have a much-improved public access when it is completed.

GLSA has made arrangements for a temporary access at the Chi Rho Center on the West Lake. It will be available until October 31. This temporary access is open for boat removal only. We are very grateful to Chi Rho Center for making this option available.

Hours of operation: Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm



Above and at left construction is currently underway to make much needed improvements to the Lake Sylvia public access.

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.

According to the MLS in 2023, 8 lots/homes were sold on the lake/s and 2 are currently pending.

Thank you!

Renee Wyffels

renee.wyffels@gmail.com
320-236-7442

Lisa Peery

uragoodboy@gmail.com
320-274-6655

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

Remembering Lake Sylvia Fun Facts

Fun facts from the Lake Sylvia history book (see page 6 for answers)

South Haven used to consist of the following: 2 general stores, a cream station, small hospital, showmaker, harness shop, drug store, butcher shop, elevator, hardware store, restaurant and 2 confectioneries.

- a. True
- b. False

Lake Sylvia, previously named Twin Lakes was renamed to West Lake Sylvia and East Lake Sylvia in what year?

- a. 1999
- b. 2010
- c. 2006

What year was the Greater Lake Sylvia Association incorporated?

- a. 1975
- b. 1969
- c. 1995

REMEMBERING LAKE SYLVIA HISTORY BOOK

Available for purchase for

\$60 (members)

\$65 (non-members)

With the proceeds going to the GLSA

- Over 200 pages of Lake Sylvia history. Including stories, maps and many pictures.

Call Mike at 320-266-0198 for more information or to order.

Did you know?

MN state law requires all boats under 40' to have red and green bow lights and a white stern light visible from 360 degrees. In addition, all accessory lighting such as docking lights, spotlights or accent lights must not impact navigation light visibility as required by law.

Docking lights are for DOCKING not general navigation. Your fellow boaters need to be able to see the red and green lights so everyone can safely navigate.

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Loon Chick Report

By Mike McNellis, the Old Loon Ranger



I have been on the water only twice this summer, so I have had to rely on the Loon Watchers for their thoughtful reports. Hopefully this will change next year, and I will be able to enjoy the water more and try a weekly tour. It will probably be on a Monday, the best day of a weekend.

As I reported this summer, we had 6 chicks survive to July. After the mid part of July there have been only 5 chicks reported living on the lake. There also were several reports of boats and other watercraft running near, or over Loons. On my second trip on the water this summer I witnessed this happen on Midget Bay one Sunday afternoon. There was a boat pulling water skiers with 5 people in the boat only watching the skier, no one watching the water ahead. I watched as

they drove over an adult loon and its chick. After they had all but passed over the Loons, I heard a person on the boat shout out "Loons". This was way too late. The boat went between the adult and the chick. Both Loons survived this time, but what about the next? This was very stressful to watch, but all the shouting at the driver of the boat was not heard over the noise of the motors and the distance between the boats. Watching the water ahead should not be an afterthought, it should be the conversation before the boat leaves the dock. It should be in the conversation as the boats ride the water. It should be the last thing said to the driver of the boat when the boat leaves the dock. "Watch Out for the Loons!"

Enjoy the lake.
The Old Loon Ranger, Mike.

Community Happenings

GLSA Facebook group

Join the "Greater Lake Sylvania Association" Facebook Group to stay up on events and information and connect with others.



2023 GLSA Event Calendar

Oct 14th – 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 Randy Wilson.



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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Remembering Lake Sylvania Fun Fact Answers

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

Picnic

- from page 1



Each paid GLSA member received two free meal tickets and ice cream coupons for the evening. Several family members and guests joined in on the food and fun for a nominal fee.

A variety of activities including a bouncy house provided by Pearl Ridge, face painting by Funtime Funktions, bocci ball, frisbee toss (Fricket) and corn hole games entertained the children and adults alike. Soulfulsounder LLC provided music and engaged the crowd with hula hoop, limbo and frisbee challenges.

GLSA picnic attendees were able to meet with their lake neighbors, share stories and discuss issues on the lake under the shade of tents set up by Hoefft Party Rental. Multi-generational families shared the history of their property with new members on the lake.

Several GLSA members including Renee Wyffels, Claire and Jack Dempsey, Robin and Kent Davidson, Steve Hoiem, Bill and Elaine Johnson, Mike McNellis, Blaine Barkley and Tami & Warren Nelson helped with set up, clean up and/or at the picnic. Kristi Abrahamson and Sam Peery rounded off the great crew of volunteers. The picnic was coordinated by GLSA member Vicki Hoiem.

A big thank you to all who attended and to our generous sponsors and anonymous donors who helped cover the cost of the picnic, joining us in the mission of GLSA to protect and improve the quality of East and West Lake Sylvia.

Picnic sponsors:

Anchor Dock & Lift, Country Chevrolet, Oak Realty, Star Bank, Annandale Dental Clinic, Hoffman Construction, Sylvia Area Storage Units, Backyard Reflections, David Burd State Farm Insurance.



Above and below, picnic goers are engaged in the various activities available at this year's picnic. In addition to the on-site playground, kids and adults alike enjoyed a bouncy house, games such as fricket, bocci ball, limbo, frisbee challenges, gunny sack racing, corn hole, face painting, music and much more.



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.

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



NAME	PHONE
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Keith Schaunaman	612-916-0546
Mark Struble	952-220-9209
Chase Bullock	763-486-5558

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*Mission Statement:
To Protect and Improve
Lake Sylvia*

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