



Loon Calls

www.lakesylvia.org

Spring 2023

GREATER LAKE SYLVIA ASSOCIATION



What do you mean, Invasive Species?

By Blaine Barkley

Many lakes in Minnesota contain both native weeds and invasive weeds not native to the lake. Left to themselves, non-native plants quickly spread throughout the lake, worsening the recreational and esthetic enjoyment of the lake. Native weeds have generally spread over their growing range within the lake. Many lakes are now dealing with plants not previously in the lake. Greater Lake Sylvania is no exception. Lake Sylvania currently has Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, starry stonewort, and zebra mussels. All harmful species crowding out other beneficial weeds and organisms. Without doing research to identify the exact date, Lake Sylvania was likely free of any invasive species about 20 years ago. What happened? Invasive species have traveled on boat trailers, in and on boats, in and on boat motors, and by water flowing in streams and rivers flowing into lakes. Most invasive species have traveled to Minnesota from foreign countries hidden in ballast tanks or allowed to be imported without adequately considering potential outcomes, or sold in pet store aquariums that were emptied into lakes and rivers when the novelty and never-ending work of maintaining them wears off

the novelty. It is believed ocean going ships hauling cargo into and out Duluth or other great lakes dump ballast water as they take on freight to return to the country it came from. Non-native to the U.S. weeds, fish, or things like zebra mussels were sucked into their ballast tanks in their home country and dumped in the United States shortly after the ships arrived. From Duluth and the other great lakes invasive species have hitch hiked with fishermen and pleasure boats into Minnesota Lakes and Rivers after visiting the great lakes.

Fixing the Problem of Invasive Species

The facts are that there is no fix. There is control of some invasive species if found early and treated correctly. As an example, zebra mussels and spiny water fleas have no current means of control. GLSA has an invasive species team that monitors and controls, to the degree possible, the impact of invasive species in the lake. Our team is comprised of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, owners of the water we enjoy, a highly skilled professional that surveys all of Lake Sylvania from three to five times every summer,

Invasives - See page 3

Inside this issue:

- President's Letter2
- Save the Date2
- 2023 Annual Meeting . . .2
- Fourth of July Fireworks .3
- GLSA Event Calendar .3
- Spring Loon Report6
- Community Corner . . .6
- Four-Billion-Year-Old Water7
- Welcome Wagon7
- GLSA Event Calendar .7
- Two Ways to Pay Your DuesCover
- 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

Executive Board

- **President**
Russ Fortner 320-274-8228
russfortner@hotmail.com
- **Vice President**
Randy Wilson, 320-510-0353
rwilson63@hotmail.com
- **Treasurer**
Steve Hoiem 320-236-2490
steve71460@gmail.com
- **Secretary**
Renee Wyffels
renee.wyffels@gmail.com

Board of Directors

- Blaine Barkley
lksylvia@lakedalelink.net
- Rhonda Brau
rhonda.brau@gmail.com
- Claire Dempsey
dempseymn@aol.com
- Jan Evenson
evensonjan39@hotmail.com
- Jerry Euteneuer
euteneuer@aol.com
- Jim Gray
jgray@aafedt.com
- Mike McNellis
mmcnelis@lakedalelink.net
- Lisa Peery
uragoodboy@gmail.com
- Jeff Simon
jeffsimon1@comcast.net
- Sara Stephens
sarahstephens@me.com
- Mark Struble
mark.struble@electricalproduction.com

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
- Governance – Jim Gray
- 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

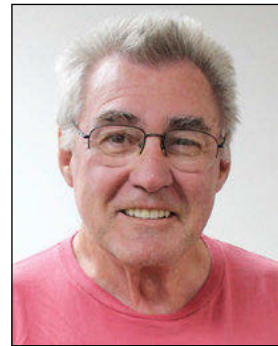
By Russ Fortner

Another year on Lake Sylvia is beginning - the winter is finally over! Your GLSA Board has been working on the picnic, fireworks, golf tournament, AIS, the landing construction, plus, plus, plus.

A huge thank you to Jan Evenson for Chairing the picnic the last two years. And, a huge thank you to Vicki Hoiem for stepping forward to Chair the picnic this year. I encourage each GLSA member to volunteer to help Vicki with this important and fun event.

I also encourage our lake residents to contribute to the fireworks again this year. The fireworks are a tradition enjoyed by many and can't happen without your support.

Rhonda Brau is again Chairing the golf tournament fundraiser, and has had her team work-



ing for several months, and I'm sure it will be another great success this year.

I, along with the Board, wish you a wonderful summer on our beautiful lake.

Walleye stocking situation

By Mike McNellis

It has been voted on, and passed by the GLSA board to do a stock of Walleye on the years the DNR is not stocking. After a call to the fisheries manager they said we can stock on the year that the DNR does not. The DNR does currently, and in the past, have stocked Walleye every other year on the even years. The DNR agreed we could stock on the odd number years. In a surprising email, we have been informed the DNR reversed the decision that if we stock they will no longer stock fish in the lake. Their decision is based on a report that the lake is at maximum capacity for Walleye, any additional stocking will have a negative effect on the Wal-

ley population.

Here are some facts, since 2012 the DNR has stocked over 4,000 lbs. of Walleye of different age classes. In 2018, they stocked 668 adult Walleye. Adult Walleye are mature fish four to six years old, keeper size at time of release. Also in 2018, the DNR stocked 3,486 fingerlings, fish of 3 to 8 inches long. These fingerlings would be the keepers you caught this last year. Lastly in 2018 they stocked 126 Yearlings, 6 to 12-inch-long fish. I guess all I can say is, the lake is big and deep, the Walleyes are there waiting for you, all you have to do is catch them?



2023 GLSA Save The Date!

June 3rd - Annual Meeting
July 2nd – 4th of July Fireworks
TBD – 4th of July Boat Parade
July 15th – Golf Tournament
Aug 12th – Annual Picnic

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.

GLSA 2023 Annual Meeting

**The GLSA Annual Meeting will be held on
SATURDAY, JUNE 3**

**8:30 AM, Social Gathering
9:00 AM Meeting**

The meeting will be held at the South Haven City Hall,
521 Oak Avenue, South Haven.

Please join us and take the opportunity to connect with fellow GLSA members, pay your annual dues, receive lake updates, and enjoy complimentary water, coffee and light breakfast.

Looking forward to Fourth of July Fireworks

By Randy Wilson

The snow is still on the ground, but I am thinking about fireworks. The Lake Sylvia Board gave the approval to schedule the fireworks display on Sunday, July 2, 2023. Just like the past six years, it comes with a catch, it's not an Association sponsored event. We need to raise \$8,000.00.

Since 2016, we have hired RES Pyrotechnics to plan and launch the show on West Lake Sylvia near Camp Chi Rho. The camp has

graciously allowed us to use their property to stage the event. It offers great views from many places on the lake. I think it would be difficult to find a better location.

RES Pyrotechnics does a good job using our limited space and budget. The proximity of camp dwellings and residences only allows us to legally launch shells no larger than three inches. They also do a good job minimizing waste and clean everything up after they've finished.

How can you help? Each year, many people generously donate funds to make this fun, family friendly event happen. We have about 500 places on East and West Lake Sylvia. If each place donated \$25.00, we would easily raise more than we need. I recognize not everybody can donate something, some can give more and some less.

The July 4th weekend is always a big deal for gathering with family and friends. The day of the fireworks is noticeably busier in

and around the lake. I am always amazed by the number of boats that start heading south on the lake about 9:15-9:45. It is really fun to see the boats full of family and friends, crowded in, to watch the show. If we all work together and each donate what we can, this event can continue to be a memory to share each year.

I look forward to the start of the summer boating season and seeing people on the lake.

Invasives

- from page 1



mapping the shoreline of the lake identifying invasive species, designating their growth at that time as none present, light growth, moderate growth, or heavy growth. The five board members, include myself, Russ Fortner, Jim Gray, Claire Dempsey, Renee Wyffels, Mark Struble and a company licensed to do chemical treatments of sites approved by the DNR. The DNR being the deciding entity on what can be treated

Do You Have Invasive Species by Your Beach Area?

There are invasive species in many parts of the lake and certainly we will have more/others in the future. I have them in front of my dock. The DNR will not let us treat any invasive species unless it meets a density and quantity that interferes with your ability to use the lake. Lake Sylvia is professionally surveyed three to five times per year looking for and mapping locations of invasive species. From the mapping, an invasive such as curly leaf pondweed might be classified as none, lite growth, medium growth, or heavy growth. Mapping is done for all three invasive lake weeds at different times because they sprout and grow at different rates in the spring and summer. Yes, it is possible you can identify a plant like curly leaf pondweed at the end of your dock but not in sufficient quantity to allow us to treat it as determined by the DNR. Patches or plants too

few in number and density to permit treatment, are followed up each year by our lake inspector and scheduled for treatment as soon as there is enough for the DNR to allow it. Below is a map showing shoreline inspection results which are in turn given to our DNR partner for consideration of treatment. Many areas on the maps showing invasives are not allowed to be treated until it meets DNR criteria. The map below is one of several maps generated

each year. Generally, we have inspections or treatments going on fairly often. We try to treat mid-week when the fewest people are on the lake, unless wind and weather conditions prevent it.

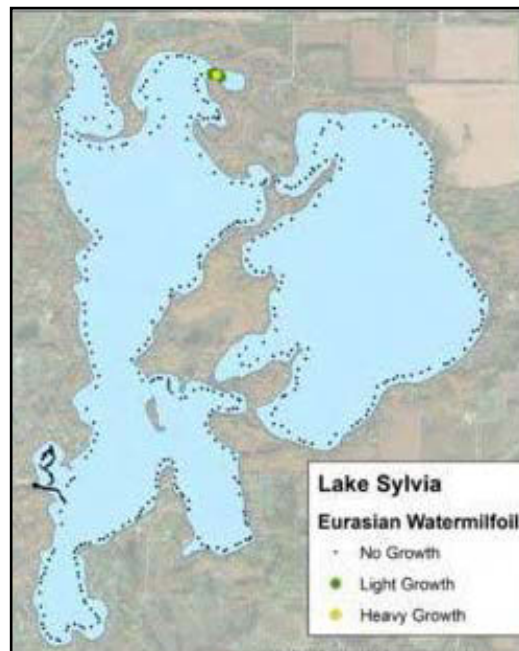
2021 EWM Delineation and Assessment

A whole lake meander survey was conducted on June 30, 2021 in conjunction with the CLP survey. EWM was found in one area of the lake but the EWM plantgrowth was mostly light (below left). No

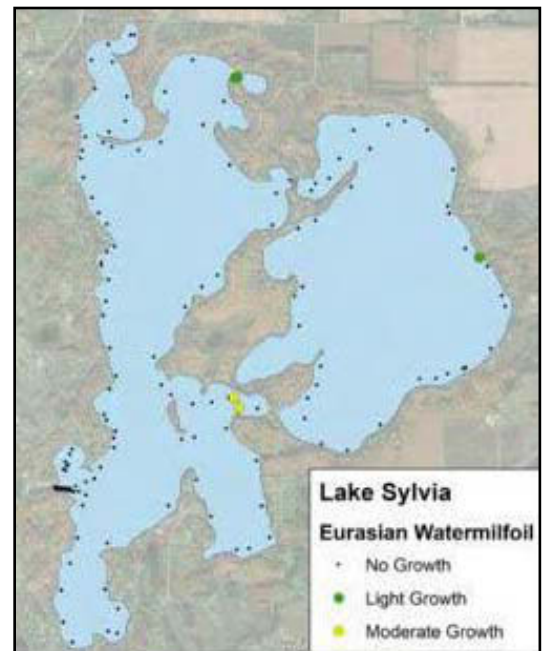
treatment for EWM was proposed for 2021.

A whole lake meander survey was conducted on August 25, 2021 to assess the status of EWM in Lake Sylvia. A total of 180 points were surveyed. EWM was observed in Lake Sylvia on August 25, 2021 growing at 31 sites at light and heavy densities (below right). These will be areas to check next spring to see if EWM is growing at densities that could be considered for treatment.

Lake Sylvia Eurasian Watermilfoil Growth June 30, 2021



Lake Sylvia Eurasian Watermilfoil Growth August 25, 2021



Lake Sylvia sample points and Eurasian Watermilfoil density and distribution on June 30, 2021. (left) Lake Sylvia Eurasian Watermilfoil assessment on August 25, 2021. (Right)

SOUTHBROOK GOLF COURSE GOLFER SPECIAL!

WILD Wednesday
18 HOLES W/CART
Only \$26



Southbrook
Golf Course

AFTER 5 P.M. EVERYDAY!
9 HOLES W/CART
Only \$14

Thurs. Senior Day
(Over 55)
18 HOLES W/CART
Only \$27

IN ANNANDALE
320-274-2341
511 Morrison Ave. S., Annandale, MN
Conveniently located between Annandale and Lake John on Cty Rd 183

Twilight Golf
18 HOLES W/CART
Only \$26

WWW.SOUTHBROOKGOLF.COM 



STARBANK

The Bank That Cares™

Annandale
460 Elm St. E.
(320) 274-BANK (2265)

Maple Lake
100 State Hwy. 55
(320) 963-3161

www.starbank.net Member **FDIC**

Equal Housing Lender



A TRADITION OF TRUST & SERVICE

joy + marci REALTY GROUP

Joy Carlson Broker Assoc.
320.266.1086 joycarlson@remax.net


Marci Segner Broker Assoc.
320.266.1084 msegner@remax.net

www.Joy2Sell.com

We know the Lake Sylvia
Real Estate Market



Hwy 55 East
Annandale



BACKYARD REFLECTIONS

We Create Outdoor Dreams

ANNANDALE OFFICE
940 ELM ST E
ANNANDALE, MN 55302
320-274-6336

BACKYARDMN.COM

NISSWA OFFICE
24142 SMILEY RD
NISSWA, MN 56468
218-454-1065

HEDLUND PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.



- Septic & holding tank pumping
- Portable toilets & sewer cleaning
- All your plumbing needs





320-286-2368

Norgren Tree Service Inc

Free Estimates

320-980-5340
Cell



320-236-7715
Home

Fully Insured
Removal
Tree Trimming
Professional Arborist
Property Management

Jeremy Kaskinen
14799 90th St NW
South Haven, MN 55382
www.norgrentree.com





EST. 2012

EZ DOCK & LIFT LLC

Sales & Barge Service

SERVICES PROVIDED:
Porta - Dock Dealer; Docks, Lifts & Accessories
Installation - Removal
Shrink Wrap & Winterization
Outdoor Storage
Storm Damage Cleanup
Pontoon Trailer Rentals

CONTACT US:
ADDRESS: 73982 US HWY 12 DASSEL, MN 55125
PH: (226) 296-2623
EMAIL: EZDOCKANDLIFT@GMAIL.COM
WEBSITE: WWW.EZDOCKANDLIFTLLC.COM

CALL OR TEXT US AT (320) 296-2622

PORTA DOCK

“BEFORE YOU SIGN”
call
320-274-8221

Young & Brown, LLC

Lawyers for Lakers

- Wills
- Trusts
- Estates
- Real Estate
- Boundary Issues
- For Sale by Owner

www.annandalelaw.com

63 Oak Avenue South • Annandale



Matt Brown
Sheldon Brown

kw INTEGRITY NW
KELLERWILLIAMS

JOHN PEERY
Broker, Realtor, GRI

Cell (612) 490-6161 JohnPeery61@gmail.com

" Your Annandale Area
Lake Home Expert "



J&J MARINE
14882 State Hwy. 55 - P.O. Box 128
South Haven, MN 55382
Phone: (320) 236-3625
Fax: (320) 236-5438
E-mail: jjmarine@lakedalelink.net
www.jjmarineinc.com

"WE ROCK THE BOAT!"

ALUMACRAFT



YAMAHA GENERATORS



HUSTLER



SPORTMASTER



SeaDweller



Premier Watercraft Products



Lake Pendants!
Bridal, Timepieces,
Custom, Repair & More



Miller's

JEWELRY

Downtown Annandale www.millers-jewelry.com Open Tue-Sat

FROM CABIN TO COUNTRY, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

JAN EVENSON

REALTOR

BUYING OR SELLING?

GIVE JAN A CALL!

THE
LAKE GIRL!



612-720-0428

evensonjan39@hotmail.com

Highway 55 E., Annandale, MN 55302



RE/MAX
ADVANTAGE PLUS



HEART OF THE LAKES



PEST CONTROL
LLC

Steve Kuefler

Owner/Operator
Commercial & Residential

Specializing in Home & Cabin
Insect Pest Control

Call or Text

320-282-4361



**OAK
REALTY**

Since 1974

www.oakrealtymn.com

Annandale 274-5737 | Maple Lake 963-2088



**ANCHOR
DOCK & LIFT**

www.anchor-dock.com

Office 320.274.6500
JeffersonBishop@anchor-dock.com
Hwy 55, Annandale, MN



9075 155th St. Kimball, MN • 320.398.2705 • millerssewaqe.com

MSTS

Miller's Sewage Treatment Solutions

a division of WRM Services, Inc.

Septic Design | Inspection | Trouble Shooting | Maintenance

Bernie Miller
Advanced Designer

320.980.1737
bernie@millerssewaqe.com

Spring Loon Report

By Mike McNellis, the Old Loon Ranger

Today, the day I am writing this, is April 19th, 2023. After hearing Loons for 5 days, we finally have one that landed on the water, near the loon nesting platform here in Shoot N' Holler. Earlier this morning, when I was out in the yard with Jack, we heard Loons in 3 different directions, but could not lay our eyes on any of them. It is common in the spring for loons to call out to each other, as they stake out a claim to an area on the lake for nesting. As a fact, loons will return to the same area year after year for nesting. Loons will battle for control of the nesting area. Male loons return first, with females following a couple weeks later. As with everything in nature there are fatalities over the winter. Reasons for loons not returning are numerous, age being the most common. Wintering in the coastal areas is hazardous. Oil spills took many a few years back. Fights over a nesting area can also be fatal. Nature is fatal.

As I am writing this, I look out over the bay, and see three eagles roosting in a tree, two adults and a juvenile. They are about 100 feet from the loon nest. They have roosted in this same tree over the last couple of years. From this roost they have raided the loon nest and ate several eggs. While I love seeing both great symbols of life on the lake, I am sad when I witness this happen. But this is nature. What makes me mad is when I see people intruding/raiding the nest. Humans do not do this to survive, they do it because



they are curious. Curiosity kills! Kills the same as the eagle eating the eggs. When a human approaches the nest the loons will be scared off. If this is done often enough the eagles have a greater chance of eating the eggs.

Now you will say, "we only looked once." Well do the math, there are 500 homes on the lake with 2, or 3, or more per family. I better stop writing where I am at. My blood pressure is starting to rise. Besides killing the loons, you are killing me. Remember to ask your family to stay away from the nesting loons. Better yet, tell them to stay away from the nest! The loons will thank you. I will thank you.

Community Happenings

Sundays on Sylvania

Sundays on Sylvania, 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 28th, July 2nd, Aug 6th, Sept 3rd

We will be gathering near the Koinonia Cove on East Lake Sylvania and will begin promptly at 10:33 am. Plan to come early to anchor and enjoy some music. Like our "Sundays on Sylvania" Facebook page for upcoming dates and weather alerts.

Former board member Rick Phipps

A celebration of life was held for former board member Rick Phipps on February 25th. Rick had been an active member of the Greater Lake Sylvania Board working on AIS and helping with the picnic. He was a wonderful advocate for the lake/s and will be greatly missed.

Remembering Lake Sylvania Fun Facts

Fun facts from the Lake Sylvania history book

(see page 7 for answers)

- 1.) Did you know, the natural flow of the lake water goes from Goose Lake to Lake John to East then West Lake Sylvania to Lake Moses to Lake Francis and then to the Crow River
- 2.) True or False: In the 1930's and 1940's there was no water in the channel and there were 2 separate lakes
- 3.) In the 1930's, the 1922 Model-T Ford was modified as a snowmobile and used for:
 - a. Pizza Delivery
 - b. Ice Fishing
 - c. Mail Delivery



**HammerTime
Construction LLC**

JOHN KLOSOWSKI

1207 County Road 3 NW

Cokato, Minnesota 55321-4541

Cell: 320-223-1225
Home: 320-286-6467

Email: jklosowski7@gmail.com

Specializing in bathrooms, basement finishing, decks, finish services, framing, kitchens, roofing, siding and windows

Four-Billion-Year-Old Water

By Blaine Barkley

For 4 to 6 billion years water has sustained life on earth. The water that gave life to microbes, plants, fish, and dinosaurs is still the water we use on a daily basis. Yes, water is that old. New water does not drop from the clouds. New water has not been created and existing water did not evaporate into outer space. Water exists in three forms - liquid form, solid form, and water vapor. A simplified explanation of the process of water is as follows: surface water evaporates into the atmosphere on hot, windy, or sunny days and condenses, forming clouds and returning to earth as rain, dew, snow/ice, falling onto land or water and the process starts over. And so, the cycle has continued for billions of years. Since humans existed, they have had access to water to sustain life.

As water turns to vapor and then condenses to rainwater, under ideal conditions the process results in clean rainwater. That was the process before the advances by humankind. Now rainwater may wash coal soot and dust and other chemical and manmade pollutants from the air as it travels to earth bringing airborne pollutants with it and washing manmade chemical pollutants, sewage and other unsafe items into ground

water, lakes and rivers. As close as the south end of Lake Sylvia, is a now closed landfill leaking chemicals into the ground water making it unfit to drink or use without treatment. Those homes have been identified by state and federal agencies and are supplied with filtration systems and bottled drinking water.

Minnesota, the Land of 10,000+ lakes and thought of as having endless water, has more shore land than California has ocean beachfront. 6% of Minnesota's surface is water. Out of Minnesota water, 315 billion gallons per year are used for ground water drinking (pumping well water for drinking) and agriculture. That breaks down to 75% for drinking water and 15% is used for agriculture, primarily crop irrigation. Minnesota has test wells scattered around the state to determine the impact of the use of water from water bearing aquifers. What they have found is that water is not evenly distributed across the State of Minnesota with relatively dry areas in Southwest Minnesota and Northeast Minnesota. Endless safe water is something we have become used to, but our limits are now being pushed. By 2040, it is estimated that some Twin City suburbs will not be able to supply the needed water from

their aquifers. Yes, Minnesota will not have the necessary amounts of water in all areas.

Under the definition that clean water is safe water, we live at a time when safe water is more of an issue every year for drinking, bathing and cleaning. As society has been able to use water for recreation, the definition of clean and safe water has been stretched by many to include water that is visually pleasing, free of unpleasant odors, clear, weed free, and refreshing. With the mobility now available to humans, both internationally and within the United States, we are seeing a surgency of existing weeds and new types of weeds from other continents and other parts of the U.S., and macrophytes and invertebrates that are able to substantially impact the enjoyment of surface water. And finally, there is industrial and agricultural based pollution to deal with coupled with a myriad of chemicals available to homeowners to spread on to their land.

With the freedoms that come with life in the 21st century we need to recognize that those freedoms come with responsibilities to protect that water that we all treasure and need.

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, 0 lots/homes were sold on the lake/s.

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.

GLSA Event Calendar for 2023

- May 13th – Board Meeting 9 am
- June 3rd – Annual Meeting 8:30 am
- July 2nd – 4th of July Fireworks
- July 8th – Board Meeting 9 am
- July 15th – Golf Tournament
- Aug 12th – Board Meeting 9 am
- Aug 12th – Annual Picnic at Chi Rho
- Sept 9th – Board Meeting 9 am
- 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 Russ Fortner.

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.

Remembering Lake Sylvia Fun Fact Answers
2.) True, 3.) C

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
Chris Hector	320-309-3048
Keith Schaunaman	612-916-0546
Mark Struble	952-220-9209
Chase Bullock	763-486-5558

TWO WAYS TO PAY YOUR GLSA DUES

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

GLSA
P.O. BOX 41
ANNANDALE, MN 55302



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.

GREATER LAKE SYLVIA ASSOCIATION (GLSA)

NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

LAKE ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

*Mission Statement:
To Protect and Improve
Lake Sylvia*

Editor:
Stephanie Schaunaman
Advertising:
Stephani Lind
Layout & Design:
Annandale Advocate

Deliver to addressee or current resident.

GREATER LAKE SYLVIA
ASSOCIATION
PO Box 41
Annandale, MN 55302



Marketing Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 5
Annandale, MN
55302



Septic System Best Management Practices

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

EXTENSION

<http://septic.umn.edu>

Septic systems protect human health and the environment by safely recycling wastewater and returning it to the natural environment. It is your job as the homeowner to be sure this happens effectively and safely. As with your car, regular maintenance and attention is needed to keep it operating efficiently in a cost effective manner.

Septic Tank

Functions:

- Separates into three layers: scum (stuff that floats), sludge (stuff that sinks), and the liquid.
- The solids and scum are held until removed by the maintainer. Anaerobic bacteria work to break down wastes, prepare the liquid for the drainfield.
- The liquid is delivered to the soil treatment area to complete the treatment process.
- If solids are not removed, they can end up in the soil treatment area, causing (often irreparable) damage.
- Factors that increase frequency of pumping: use of garbage disposal, water treatment unit that discharges into the septic system, in-home daycare or other reason a large number of people are present most of the time, laundry on the 2nd floor, excessive use of water and strong cleaning products.

Best management practices:

- Tanks need to be evaluated every two to three years and pumped if necessary. Some counties require pumping on a specified basis. New homes—pump within 3—12 months of occupancy the first time.
- Never allow a tank to be cleaned through the inspection pipe. This is not allowed by code, and it does not allow a good cleaning to occur. Scum can plug the baffle, baffles can be knocked off. Tanks should only be cleaned through the manhole or maintenance hole.
- Be sure baffles, effluent screen, pumps and other components are inspected when the tank is pumped.
- Install risers on the manhole covers to allow easier access. Insulate the cover and secure tightly.
- An effluent screen will prevent most solids from reaching the soil treatment area. Install and clean according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Never use additives. The cleaners are harmful to your system. They do not replace good management practices. Starters and feeders are not effective.
- **Warning:** NEVER go into a septic tank—there are dangerous gases and no oxygen!
- Do not ignore alarms—troubleshoot the problem.

Soil Treatment Area: Trench or Mound

Functions:

- Soil organisms destroy pathogens (bacteria, viruses).
- Remove phosphorus, reduce nitrogen content.
- Recycle clean water into the soil and ground water. Water and nutrients enter the ground water, evaporate through plants, and are used by plants.

Best management practices:

- Maintain vegetative cover (turf grass, native grasses, flowers). Mow, but do not fertilize, burn or over-water.
- Keep all vehicles, bikes, snowmobiles, etc. off.
- Do not plant trees or shrubs near drainfield.
- Inspect for cracked, missing inspection pipe covers.
- Follow practices to prevent freezing, including mulching the entire system if needed.

Household Best Management Practices

Manage water use:

- Repair all leaking faucets, toilets, fixtures.
- Change to low flow toilets, shower heads.
- Replace appliances with low water use models.
- Spread water uses evenly throughout the day and week.
- Re-route clean water sources: water softener, treatment unit recharge water, high efficiency furnace drip, sump pumps to separate drainage area.

Watch what goes down the drain:

- The toilet is not a garbage can—nothing should be flushed except human waste and toilet paper.
- Excess medications—return to pharmacy or land-fill.
- Limit or eliminate drain cleaner use.
- Do not use automatic toilet cleaners, disposable brushes.
- Do not use every-use or automatic shower cleaners.
- No hazardous waste, paints, solvents, chemicals. Use disposable paint brushes.
- Eliminate or limit use of garbage disposal.
- No chlorine treated water such as from hot tubs.

Manage product use:

- Minimize use of anti-bacterial soaps, cleansers.
- Detergents: measure accurately, use as little as possible.
- Limit use of bleach-based cleansers.

Septage—the solids from the tank are usually land-applied. Lime is added in the truck to destroy pathogens and help control odors. Septic pumpers must follow strict guidelines to protect public safety and water quality. Septage disposal is managed by the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

For more information: Order the Septic System Owner's Guide. Call 800-876-8636 or go to <http://shop.extension.umn.edu>.

Onsite Sewage Treatment Program web site: <http://septic.umn.edu>. University of Minnesota Extension <http://www.extension.umn.edu>.

Written by Valerie Prax, Regional Extension Educator, 6/07

11th Annual Greater Lake Sylvania Golf Tournament

Southbrook Golf Course
Saturday, July 15th
Check-In Opens at 9:00am

**REGISTRATIONS ARE COMING IN.....GET YOUR TEAM SIGNED UP TODAY!
SOLD OUT Last Year!**

**Registration Deadline For Your Foursome is Saturday, July 1st
Register Online ONLY (\$500/Team).....www.lakesylvia.org**

Rain * or * Shine Let's * Have * Fun!

YOUR \$125/Golfer Gets You:

'Bloody Mary Bar'	The Driving Range...Blood Mary Bar, Screwdrivers and Spilled Grain Beer...Stop On By!
FREE	One Beer <u>AND</u> One Hamburger or Hot Dog w/Chips Located at Hamburger/Hot Dog Stand
Hole In One	Chance to WIN \$11,000 Pebble Beach Trip for 2
Bull's Eye Game	It's Back by Popular Demand! (Putting Green) 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd Place Prizes
Par 3 Holes	Closest to the Hole (Men and Women)
Long Drive	Men and Women
Long Putts	Men and Women
Gold Cup Trophy	<i>1st Place - Get Your TEAM NAME on the Trophy!</i>
Raffle Prizes	We're Back!! <u>Raffle Tickets Available Day of Tournament</u> <i>Great Prizes:</i> Pelican Kayak, Solo Stove w/Tools, Blackstone Grill, Beach Wagon w/2 Person Hammock & Bose Waterproof Speaker, Beach Wagon w/2 Floating Chairs & TB speaker, 48" Propane Fire Pit Table and More! <u>You MUST Be Present to WIN.....</u> Drawing Will Occur After The Tournament

****Still Want to Sponsor?.....You Sure Can! * Deadline is June 15th ***

All Information is on Our Website www.lakesylvia.org

****You Have a Cash or Item Donation OR Have Questions.....**

****You Aren't Golfing But Want To Help.....**

FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO ME rhonda.brau@gmail.com

Thank You Sponsors!

GOLD



thrivent[®]

Joel C Hillmann
Financial Consultant
320-286-5955

Brian and Janice Ruggles

Silver



Bronze



Golf Prize Give Away And Donations – Thank You!

**Annandale Embroidery
Country Chevrolet**

**Bait N Hook
Petty Brothers
Southbrook Golf Course**

**Brian Mueller
Sweet Escapes**