



Loon Calls

www.lakesylvia.org

Summer 2023

G R E A T E R L A K E S Y L V I A A S S O C I A T I O N

GLSA Fireworks

By Sarah Stephens

On Sunday evening, July 2nd, the spectacular annual fireworks took place. It was a perfect summer evening and a great show that could be seen from both lakes!

The turn out of boats watching from the water was more than in previous years. Everyone maintained boating safety rules (lights, distance from other boats), stayed safe on the water and had fun!

The take-off point was Camp Chi Rho on the West Lake. RES Pyro, who has been doing this for us since 2016, created the great fireworks show. We thank both for hosting and producing this highlight of the summer and annual GLSA event.

Thanks to Randy Wilson for organizing this wonderful event and thank you to all the donors who made this possible. Let's do it again next year!



Lake Sylvia Boat Parade

By Sarah Stephens

The boat parade was brought back this year and was a tremendous success. The parades went around each lake with some boats covering both lakes. Hundreds of people were out on their docks, boats and lawns watching and rooting them on. Shout out to Jefferson Bishop and family for leading the East Lake pack!

Special thanks to Jenny Pixley for initiating and organizing it all - the goodie bags, awards, and her bundle of enthusiasm - and to Vicki Hoeni for helping out. You & your teams made this happen!

For the decorating contest, nineteen boats checked in on the West Lake to get a goodie bag and participate. The winners were:

- **The Wilkes - 1st place, lily pad donated by Anchor Dock**
- **The Lansen's - 2nd place, a gift certificate to Little Jim's**
- **The Gerulis's - 3rd place, a tube donated by A-1 Marine**
- **Katie Mika & her crew - 4th place, a gift certificate to Petty Bros**

Thank you to our sponsors: Anchor Dock & Lift, A-1 Marine and all the GLSA members who donated in support of the parade. And of course to all the amazing participants! Join us again for the fun next year for the Lake Sylvia Boat Parade!



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Welcome Wagon

According to the MLS in 2023, five lots/homes were sold on the lake, there are two homes that are actively for sale and one home that is pending.

Thank you!

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

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Letter from the President

By Russ Fortner

A The 4th of July has come and gone. I have always used that as a pinpoint for mid-summer. The fireworks went off as planned (thank you to Randy Wilson); the boat parade came back strong this year (thanks to all participants); and the July 15 golf tournament was a great success (a huge thank you to Rhonda Brau and her committee). We all look forward to the annual picnic, and I encourage all lake residents to go on the website and purchase your tickets to attend the August 12 picnic (deadline July 30). It's a great opportunity to see your neighbors and meet new residents. We appreciate Vicki Hoien for chairing this important committee (we also encourage people to contact Vicki and volunteer to help).

Blaine Barkley continues to monitor invasive species and all the nuances it involves. We have treated all the areas the DNR allowed us to treat this year.

The drought has obviously affected the lake level, and we are all waiting for rain to bring it back - hopefully this year.



If you haven't paid your \$100, 2023 membership dues, please do so. We need your support to continue our efforts, especially with invasive species.

Your board continues to work to preserve our great lake, and the Board wishes you and yours a wonderful second half of the summer.

Russ Fortner, President, GLSA

GLSA Annual Meeting Questions

By Blaine Barkley

This is a follow-up to the GLSA annual meeting for issues raised by lake residents to the GLSA Board. This is Tina Diedrick's response, our new Wright County Commissioner.

1. Regarding boat patrol on Lake Sylvia, there is regular patrol on the lake because of the volume of boats and activity. Please share with your members that they can call 911 to report unsafe and illegal activity. This will then reflect the need for more patrol if necessary.

2. Also, particularly for the channel, those concerned with speed or unsafe boating can also video the activity and call 911. If you do not want a deputy to come to your home, you can request a call back from a deputy and they will take the report over the phone with the deputy giving you their individual deputy email address. The boating numbers would have to be known when calling in, and visible in the video for a ticket to be issued.

3. Also, she reached out to the DNR about an additional buoy in the channel and will follow up when they get back to her.

4. The speed limit sign concerns on 80th Street and Quinn Ave should be directed to Southside Township, as these are roads under the township's jurisdiction. They may request a speed study from the county to determine if there should be an adjustment to the speed limit.

5. She followed up with the Parks Department regarding a dedicated pedestrian lane along Quinn and the possibility of creating a trail from the public landing to Stanley Eddy Park. There may be grants available for those projects. She will discuss this at the next Parks & Rec meeting.

Remembering Lake Sylvia Fun Facts

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

What year was cisco/tullibee/herring netting banned on Lake Sylvia

- a. 1965
- b. 1979
- c. 1983

Cisco, tullibee and herring are all in the whitefish family

- a. True
- b. False

Tullibee spawn in early winter

- a. True
- b. False

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Invasive Species Update

By Blaine Barkley

Lake Sylvia was surveyed on June 21st for Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Water Milfoil, having previously been surveyed and treated for Curly Leaf Pondweed. We found Starry Stonewort (SSW) at three locations at the public landing all within the prior designated 1.7 acre treatment area. It was very light growth and had not spread beyond the area where it has consistently been found. Our protocol for control has been to treat the 1.7 acre area when SSW is found to ensure the entire area where it has been found in the past is treated since the three locations were found by taking lake bottom sam-

ples. Samples do not ensure all SSW was found since it is just a relatively small sample from the area tested. Treating the entire area where it has been found ensures much better control if any other biomass exists in that area, not identified by the sampling (map not provided).

We also found a few areas of EWM (see map). We have a few acres to treat and the areas to be treated will be forwarded to Lake Restoration. Generally, the areas in red and green are the areas we will treat. The dots on the map indicate the areas that were sampled for EWM. Areas of sparse growth

are not treated until they become denser.

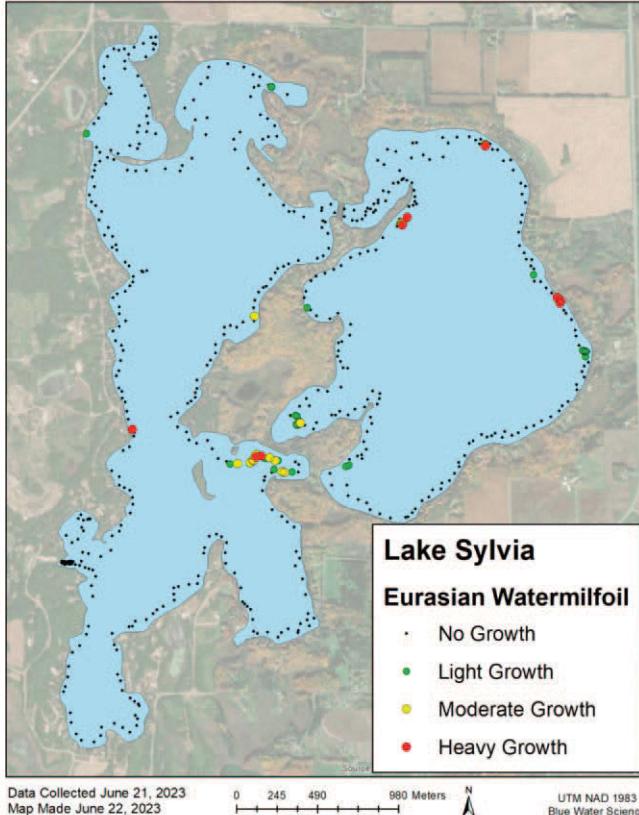
Curly Leaf Pondweed was treated and in May and while looking for EWM, the areas previously treated for Curly Leaf Pondweed were inspected and it was noted there was excellent control in the previous Curly Leaf Pond weed treated areas. We found a few CLP plants in other parts of the lake, but they were light growth and not a recreational problem.

All things considered, we have been fortunate that our treatments have been effective with smaller and smaller areas being treated over the last ten years.

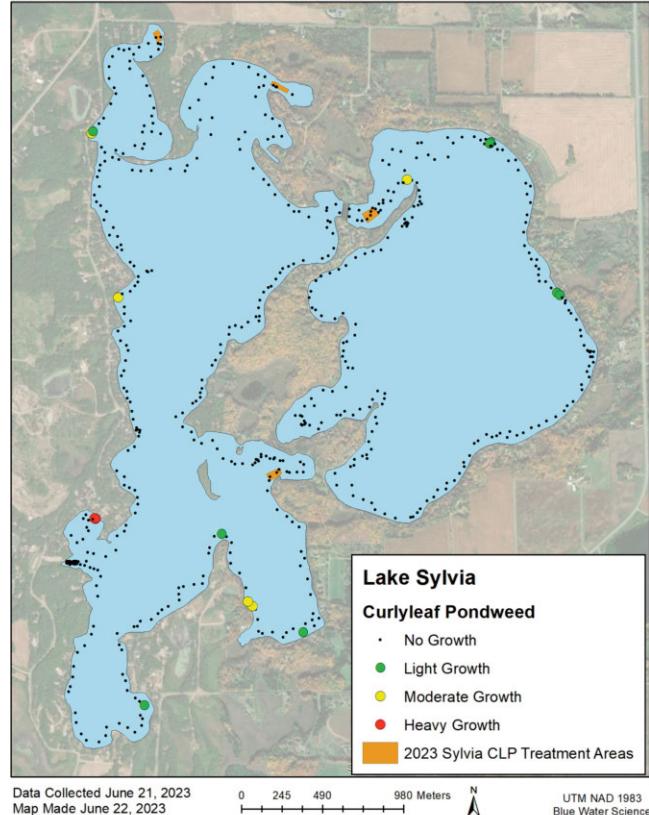
A reminder, using private land-

ings to launch a boat that has been in a different lake endangers the entire lake. Without DNR training and some experience it is very unlikely an individual can identify and remove invasive species, especially when trapped between a trailer bunk and the boat. Should invasive species enter the lake on a windswept shore, control will be either expensive or uncontrollable if it is starry stonewort. We are extremely fortunate our public landing is in a quiet, non-windswept area making the spread of invasive species less likely and easily treated.

Lake Sylvia Eurasian Watermilfoil Growth
June 21, 2023



Lake Sylvia Curlyleaf Pondweed Post-Treatment Assessment
June 21, 2023



Mind your wake while traversing our lakes

Under Minnesota law, the damage your wake causes are treated the same as damage caused by an actual collision. Personal watercraft (PWC/Jet Skis) must stay at least 150 feet from the shore. While there is no required distance for boats, staying at least 200 feet from shore or other structures,

boaters reduce the likelihood their wakes cause damage. Boats that create an artificial wake, such as wakeboarding boats, require more distance from the shoreline to lower the impact.

- Stay well away from shorelines, docks, or other structures.
- The channel is a no-wake zone.

- High speeds near shorelines lead to large wakes that cause shoreline erosion.
- Respect the wildlife and rights of others on the water.
- Keep the noise down and be courteous to other boaters.
- Keep clear of the loons and their young ones.
- Large wakes produced by

watercraft can result in negative environmental consequences, including shoreline erosion, impaired water quality resulting from increased sediment in the water and loss of shoreline vegetation, which helps stabilize the shore and provides important habitat for fish and wildlife.

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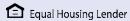



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Summer Loon Report

By Mike McNellis, the Old Loon Ranger

If everything stayed the same, life would be very boring. Old Mother Nature has made it sure we don't get bored. For those of you that search for the Loons when out boating know how this statement effects our Loon population, year to year. The Loons start appearing as ice out opens the lakes in the spring.

Most of the Loons we first see are not our residential birds but are Birds headed farther north. They're just stopping to rest and feed on Lake Sylvia as they travel to their final destination. Many of the Loons that are stopping here are new travelers that have spent their first 2 or 3 years of life on the Atlantic ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico. They sometimes return to the area they were born. Sometimes they get driven away and travel on to find a mate. Some start flying south slowly look for a mate. Most of the birds that do nest, have nested here last year. Many with the same mate.

This year our Loons started nesting as soon as they arrived. Some were driven off their nests by the weather. Heavy rains, and strong winds, destroyed some nest and they had to renest. Some succeeded with renesting, others failed and have already started their journey home.

Here is this year's count for Lake Sylvia. We had six nesting pairs of Loons on the lake



in the beginning of the year. Of the six pairs, 5 succeeded in nesting. Reports given to me by the nest platform watchers confirm we had "Eight chicks hatch". Of the eight chicks, two didn't make the first couple weeks. There are many dangers the chicks must endure; I've spoken about those dangers in previous years. The six survivors all seem to be doing well. The Loon Watchers keep me updated with any changes. There is still a lot of year left before the Loons migrate south and the lake freezes over. From this time on, the biggest danger to the Loons is human in nature. As always, watch for the Loons when you're out boating, avoid the adults and the growing chicks, keep your eyes on the water ahead. Have a safe summer.

What to do with an Injured or Dead Loon

By Sarah Stephens

Did you know that the common loon is a federally protected species?

We were saddened to learn of reports of a dead and an injured loon on the lake after the 4th of July weekend. There was also a report of loons being harassed. Several concerned residents have asked what to do. Here's where to call to get help:

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER OF MINNESOTA (ROSEVILLE): 651-486-9453

MINNESOTA DNR: Trent Anderson, the new Conservation Officer for our area: 320-266-8683

NATIONAL LOON CENTER: 218-692-LOON (5666) - Monday through Friday 8am-4pm

Rescues and transport can be very stressful to wild animals, including loons. We should

only intervene, when necessary, e.g., injury because of human activity. Aggressive territorial battles between loons are natural occurrences in their lives and not typically a cause for intervention. To determine if the behavior of the loon you are observing is of concern, call a wildlife professional. NLC staff are available during regular office hours.

The summer is a busy season for wildlife professionals and rehabilitators. If the incident happens outside of working hours or staff are unavailable to immediately respond, you should continue to monitor the loon. It may be best to wait for professional assistance if it is not a life-threatening injury.

Totem Pole Refreshed

By Mike McNellis

The Totem Pole is back in place. Joe Lepley and crew, set it back in place on May 23. Joe worked on the pole over the winter to repaint the sun faded colors and add a protect epoxy finish to the entire pole. As most people know, this icon of the lake sets on Totem Pole point, in Totem Pole Bay. The summer weather does a number on the protective finish and it needs to be taken down and refinished every couple of years. It was last re-finished in 2019. It will most likely need another treatment in 4 years or so. Float by and take a look.

Remembering Lake Sylvia Fun Fact Answers

1. b, 2.) a, 3.) a



2023 GLSA Event Calendar

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.

Community Happenings

Sundays on Sylvia

Sundays on Sylvia, a casual outdoor worship gathering on the lake. There are 2 gathering opportunities left for the season. Plan to attend the remaining dates: Aug 6th and Sept 3rd. 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 upcoming dates and weather alerts..



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Shoreline Management

By Sarah Stephens

A shoreline landscaped – or lakescaped – with natural habitat plants is an excellent way to provide for better water quality and protect important habitats for fish and wildlife. As more lake-side properties are developed, it is common to clear the natural shoreline vegetation, add beaches with sand, boulders and plant grass close to the waterfront. This type of shoreline management may look attractive, but it results in many harmful consequences for the lake environment.

Why is grass along the shoreline bad for the lake? There are several reasons. Phosphorus fertilizers used on lake-side lawns can have a serious negative impact on water quality. Runoff from fertilizer is carried directly into the lake and stimulates plant growth that can lead to uncontrolled algae blooms making the water murky and unhealthy. It reduces oxygen levels in the water damaging fish populations and creating irritating smells.

Lawn grasses like Kentucky bluegrass and fescue do not have the deep root systems that are needed to protect the shoreline along the water's edge. Shallow rooted plants increase the risk of erosion from waves and ice. Lawn grasses also do not grow well in wet soils along the shore. This can lead to thin lawns where soil particles are washed into the lake causing sedimentation of the lake bottom and fish spawning habitat.

So what can be done on your shoreline to prevent a negative impact to the lake? First, know that

the decisions you make on your property will directly impact the health of the lake. 1) Deep-rooted and woody vegetation along the shoreline should be preserved as much as possible. 2) Eliminate all use of phosphorus-based fertilizers near the water. 3) Add a buffer strip of native vegetation between turf and the water to benefit the health of wildlife and the lake.

Shoreline plantings create a natural buffer that stabilizes the shore from waves and provides habitat for wetland birds, small animals such as chipmunks, squirrels and reptiles such as turtles and frogs. Many native plants are important pollinators for butterflies and hummingbirds. It also shades and cools the water, helping fish to thrive. Natural shoreline plantings capture sediment by storing moisture in the soil and reducing runoff into the lake. Another benefit is the natural beauty of these landscapes.

Keeping our shorelines healthy is an important way to maintain water quality and protect our property values.

Recommended video: Our Lakeshore Connection: Lakeshore restoration and stewardship (Anoka County): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwjA0RwLrmM>

Recommended publication: Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality: <https://bookstores.umn.edu/product/book/lakescaping-wildlife-water-quality> by Carroll Henderson & Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.



Photos by Jane Herbert

2023 GLSA Picnic

Join us at Chi Rho Center!

Saturday, August 12, 4-7 PM

Spend the day on the lake then stop by for grilled burgers, brats, or hot dogs with all the fixings. Enjoy homemade baked beans, macaroni & cheese and fresh fruit. Treat yourself to ice cream for dessert. No cooking tonight! The beach area will be open for swimming and water games. Activities include Face Painting, Bouncy House, Yard Games, Music & DJ, Free Pop, Beer & Wine (21 & over), and Food prepared by B & P Catering and Pearl Ridge Ice Cream.



Register before July 30

Each preregistered GLSA member will receive two free meals and an ice cream ticket per membership. Members signing up after July 30 will cost \$10 per person. Additional guests are welcome. Ages 13-Adult: \$10, Children Ages 5-12: \$5, Ages 4 & Under: Free. Not a member yet? It's not too late! Sign up and pay your dues at the picnic to receive your two free meals.



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

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.

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