

AUGUST 2003 Silver Lake

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION *Caring for the future of the Lake*

SLIA ANNUAL MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER - GARFIELD PARK PROJECT
AARON MEAD - Garfield Township Deputy Supervisor

- *Have you had concerns about this project ?*
- *How will it affect Silver Lake ?*
- *How will lakeside abuse/misuse be addressed ?*
- *How will it be policed ?*
- *What activities/uses would you like to see ?*

We tried to give you as much information as we could in the last newsletter, but the park is still in the planning stages and it is important that lake residents understand the impact on Silver Lake and have issues addressed in person. (Some residents have expressed concern in light of recent happenings at the boat launch site, so hopefully our speaker can give us some insight on what to expect in the way of safety and management of the park to avoid the problems we are currently experiencing.) *Sooooo...*

Don't Miss this Opportunity.

ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING • VOICE YOUR OPINION • ASK YOUR QUESTIONS.

Why Should YOU Join the SLIA ?

Because YOUR...

- Environment
- Recreation
- Property Values

...are all at stake if the lake isn't preserved and protected.

Because NO ONE else is going to care if it depreciates EXCEPT those of us who live here.

What does the SLIA DO for you ?

- It monitors events, development and laws that could impact the lake quality.
- It educates on practices for preservation and improvement, as well as safety issues.
- It acts as a group when Issues need to be addressed.

What can YOU do to help?

- You can send in the enclosed membership form with your dues and comments, or you can bring it to the annual meeting on August 9th and get acquainted with your neighbors.
- You can volunteer to help by getting on a committee. (*Your board are all unpaid volunteers.*) Let's all work together now to make our lake a better place to live - for ourselves and our future generations.

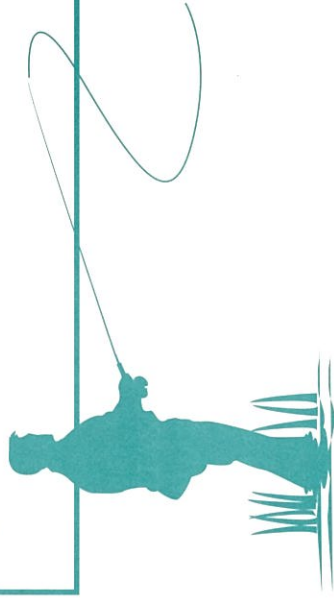
FISHERIES UPDATE FROM KEVIN

As scheduled, 20,000 Walleye fingerlings were planted by the DNR on June 12th. These fish are about 2 inches long and those that survive should reach 7 inches by next year!

A DNR net survey is scheduled for 2004 to get a better idea of how Silver Lake fish populations are faring. Reports that I have received indicate a healthy walleye fishery by those that seek these great tasting fish.

I have also heard that a lake trout was caught through the ice last winter. If you have any special fish catches to report, I would like to hear about them. My e-mail address is kgnon53@aol.com or call me at **943-5226**. we will publish these reports in the next newsletter.

By Kevin Gagnon



2 N D A N N U A L

4th of July fishing contest on Silver Lake a great success!

The "catch & release" program on July 5th drew 32 anglers in 12 boats! Cloudy skies helped nearly everyone to catch fish. Bass, Walleye, and panfish were verified by Kevin Gagnon and Dick Bogard and then released. A legal fish earned one entry in the prize drawing. Prizes included a rod & reel combos, a tackle box, an MC Sports gift card, & a case of Pepsi Cola. Thanks to Pepsi Cola for donating beverages and to all the enthusiastic participants! Thanks also to Kevin and Dick for making this all possible.

Start scouting out your favorite fishing holes for next year's outing!

Who do You Call ?

If you see a life threatening or dangerous violation call 911. For other violations call the Sheriff's Dept./Marine Div. @ 922-4514. You need to have a boat number, and a description of the driver would be helpful. Call only for marine violations. For violations at the launch site - this is not under the marine division - call local dispatch 941-1911.

"lake watch" @ the public launch site

We are experiencing a problem at the DNR boat launch site. Many of our members have observed people swimming in the no swim area. They are not only swimming, but parking illegally so that people launching boats are unable to safely use the north side. We have had to pick up trash and the SLIA sign has been vandalized. PLEASE, if you observe any violations at the site, report it to the Sheriff's Department @ 941-1911. We need everyone to keep a watchful eye to make our lake a better, safer place for all. (We remember too vividly a small child drowning at this site a few years ago, let's work to prevent this reoccurring on Silver Lake.)

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

If operating a power-driven boat - you must give way to sailboats and boats propelled by oars or paddles, or any boat restricted in it's ability to maneuver such as one towing skiers, wake-boards or tubes. Michigan law requires that PWC's/Jet-Skiis may not cross the wake of another boat within 150 feet! If a person being towed falls, you could easily run over them. *How far is 150 feet (?) - it is fifteen 10 foot dock sections*

AND WE ALL REGATTAED!

The 3rd annual July Regatta brought out the best of Silver Lake this year - and a good time was had by all!

A lot of creativity on display brought cheers from the shoreline watchers, as well as score cards - each entry looking for that magic "10" - and many rated it!

Some "watchers" became "joiners" from last year - they couldn't resist the fun. Whether you were a watcher or a joiner - it was the Silver Lake Community in action - and that's what it's all about

(A big thanks to the VanderZouwen's for organizing this event!)

SLIA WEBSITE INVESTIGATION

We're investigating a SLIA website - would you use it for into and updates?

This would take much work to set up & then keep current, so we would appreciate your input before we take on as a project.

“CONFESSIONS OF A FERTILIZER FREAK”

Wanting to have a beautiful lush green lawn (who doesn't?), I fertilized vigorously - but responding to warnings about the phosphorus threat to Silver Lake - I decided to have my soil tested this year to determine it's real needs. As a result, I have a better lawn, am using less fertilizer and am being a better steward of the Lake than in past years. I was surprised at the results and wanted to share them in the hope that others might be moved to test their soil and perhaps reduce the amount of undesirable nutrients introduced into our waters.

When I received the soil test results I found:

- Shade, Fescue turf and clipping returned to the lawn reduced the nitrogen requirement for a healthy lawn.
- The soil contained three to four times the phosphorous the grass needs, so no additional phosphorous was required. (I discovered that soils in our area tend to be high in natural phosphorous and it is a component of most commercial fertilizers.)
- The turf needed more potash than nitrogen (our soils typically are lacking in potash and commercial fertilizers usually don't have enough to meet the need.)
- The soil was alkaline (I thought it was acidic because of moss in shady areas and I've been told alkaline soils are typical of our area).

As a consequence I applied a slow release nitrogen (which helps plants get more of it before it leeches past the plant roots and into ground and lake waters), zero phosphorous, fertilizer this spring supplemented by a separate application of potash. Sulfur was added to reduce alkalinity. I bought the products at McGoughs but they are probably available elsewhere as well. *Note - if you use a commercial lawn service, ask them to not use phosphorous unless needed.

Soil sample kits can be purchased from the MSU Extension Office at 520 W Front Street for \$10. The price of the kit includes testing and report. Procedures are spelled out in "Sampling Soils" MSU Extension Home Horticulture Bulletin 01800534. The bulletin can be viewed on line at www.msue.msu.edu/msue/imp/mod03/01800534.html

Other MSU Extension documents that may be helpful are - Fertilizing Home Lawns; Understanding the MSU Soil Test Report; Maintaining Water-Front Turf To Preserve Water Quality; Irrigation Practices To Preserve Water Quality. All of these documents are viewable on-line at www.turf.msu.edu and can be printed off using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

I would be happy to discuss any of this with you if you have questions, 947-5502.

...Submitted by a "Reformed Fertilizer Freak",
Russ Adams

Phosphorous a Threat to Silver Lake Water Quality

“These inconsistent results present a clear warning sign. They cause concern that a further deterioration of the water quality of Silver Lake will likely result if watershed phosphorous or sediment loading are increased.”

This is an excerpt taken from a trend analysis of the water testing commissioned by the G.T.Co. Drain Commissioner's office for Silver Lake. This analysis covered a 10 year period and showed increasing levels of phosphorous in the lake.

Fall 2002 testing again revealed high levels of phosphorous in the Lake in near bottom samples.

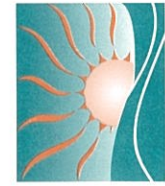
The testing is done primarily to make sure that lake drainage through the dam does not contaminate Beitner Creek and ultimately the Boardman River - however as land owners who have much time, work, and money invested in our property - we should be concerned about the long term effect these phosphorous levels will have on our investment.

Beautiful groomed lawns resulting in fertilizer runoff and seepage, and lack of "green belts" are the main culprits of the phosphorous build up in our lake - see article "Confessions Of A Fertilizer Freak" for what you can do to preserve your lake and your property values.

Soil Sampling Instructions • Basic Instructions:

- Using a soil probe, spade, or trowel, and a clean plastic pail, sample in a zigzag fashion throughout a uniform area.
- Take a representative sampling of the soil in the area you are testing, 15-20 subsamples.
- Sampling depths are as follows:
 - Field soils** 8 Inches
 - Garden Soils** 6 to 8 Inches
 - Lawn** 3 inches below turf
- Combine all samples into the plastic pail and mix thoroughly. Fill a soil sample box with the sample, or package about a pint of soil.
- Fill out an information form and send it in with the soil sample to the soil testing lab.

For more information on soil sampling please visit your county MSU Extension office.



Silver Lake
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 2133 • TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49685-2133

It's Annual Meeting Time Again !

9:00 a.m., Saturday, August 9, 2003
Garfield Township Hall • 3848 Veterans Drive

GUEST SPEAKER - CURRENT ISSUE

GARFIELD PARK PROJECT

AARON MEAD - Deputy Supervisor

GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

See Inside Article For Details

Early Birds at 8:30 a.m.

Sign in • Refreshments • Get Acquainted Time