



Silver Lake

SUMMER 2025

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Caring for the future of the lake

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE AND MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

SLIA has a new website and membership system! As reported at the August 2024 Annual Meeting the SLIA Board has formed a committee to replace our defunct website and develop a new website with integrated membership information. The goal of the new system is to improve communications with SLIA members, allow for online payments of annual membership dues, increase our membership, and improve maintenance, support, and security of the website.

Have you wanted to pay your annual membership dues online? Are you interested in property owner only website pages? Well, this is all in the plan with our new system!

You can access our new website at <https://www.silverlaketc.org>. Please take a look! We are in the early stages and will continue to improve and increase the content over time.

The new system is an integrated membership management tool which includes the ability for the online annual payment of your membership dues! Further information on the plans for this will be communicated in a separate email in June.

Please be on the lookout for this more detailed and informative email!

With the implementation of the new system, we have adjusted our membership levels and dues structure to simplify donations. The SLIA Board has also approved a modest \$5 increase of the annual dues to \$30. This is the first increase in dues in over 25 years! If you wish to contribute more than the \$30, additional donation tiers will be available in the new website.

****We have uploaded all current members to the new system and will communicate procedures for updating and renewing your membership in late June/early July. In the meantime, if you are on our new website please DO NOT try to login or create an account until we provide next steps information. SLIA's annual membership year starts September 1 and goes through August 31. Members will continue to have the option to pay via check through mail in or at the annual meeting.**

Marcia Bowman, Melanie Rippentrop, Michelle Moeggenberg, II/Website Special Projects



Great Big Silver Lake Beach Ball!

We know that the Silver Lake beachball is one of the most popular and looked forward to attraction on the lake. The good news is...the Great Big Beach Ball is on its way! Be on the lookout for its placement a week prior to July 4th. The beachball will be routinely anchored at various locations around the lake for



all to enjoy. Please take the opportunity to sign it, leave comments, take selfies and enjoy! Remember, this ball belongs to the whole lake community so treat it with respect (no advertising or political messaging please). If you see that the ball needs attention, please contact us.

IT'S THE INDEPENDENCE DAY REGATTA ON SILVER LAKE!

With the Red, White, and Blue proudly displayed!!!

Decorate your boat and come join in! Not decorating? Display the flag to salute and celebrate the day - it's meaningful and so much fun! Judges will be stationed around the lake. Prizes will be awarded to winners at Annual Meeting!

REGISTRATION - HERE'S HOW:

Entry Forms will be emailed to each member and are available for download from our New Website SilverlakeTC.Org Please bring the completed with you to the **DNR boat launch promptly at 1:30**. Display a large number prior to registration on the "Shoreside Facing" side of your boat. Large enough to be easily identified by the judges and cameras, you might be a winner!

Parade begins sharply at 2:00. There will be a "Lead Boat" setting the pace, allow space between boats to "perform" in front of judges while not lagging too far apart. You DO NOT have to be an SLIA member to participate! If you have a neighbor that would like to enter a boat, please feel free to share the registration form or contact us and we will send them a form.

To water fight or not??? Mind the X's! If you prefer not to get into water battles, place a large 'X' on the shoreside of your boat, to be given safe passage from land or lake water blasters. If you enjoy participating in these "shenanigans" - be mindful of the "X's" and **Hold your fire** while they pass! Please do not fire on the shoreside docks or spectators unless they are looking for a skirmish!

Water Balloons are no longer allowed. They are harmful to the lake environment and water creatures; we are permitted by the DNR for this parade and do not want to jeopardize this.

Shoreline Spectators - Cheer the boats on - Remember they love the scorecards! Please share your pictures! If you would like to become more involved, please reach out! TC.Silver.Lake.Association@gmail.com

Safety Committee Update

As we start off the 2025 season, the safety committee would like to share key points about safety and etiquette from our tri-fold brochure.

Enjoy cruising Silver Lake and please travel counter-clockwise. Follow no wake rules in required areas and within 100 ft of shore to help prevent erosion. Wake boaters are asked to follow DNR guidelines which are: operate 500 ft from shore and in water > 15 ft deep in loaded mode. Personal watercraft (PWC) users must not cross within 150 feet behind another non-PWC vessel. All users please be mindful and courteous of others (fishing, swimming, kayaking, etc.).

Please keep boats / trailers clean and free of aquatic materials and make sure all water drains are empty (wells, bilges) before launching and leaving the lake to help protect from invasive species. Also, use caution at the boat launch until the DNR can repair partially washed-out areas.

The "who to call" numbers for the DNR and Sheriff are listed in the newsletter and the above brochure information is available in hard copy and from our new SLIA website.

Ken Kaufman, Safety Committee Chair

SAVE THE DATES

The Nancy Knight Silver Lake Kids Fishing Tournament, 2025

Saturday, June 21, Silver Lake Boat Launch 9am-noon
Awards and Lunch

SLIA Adopt-A-Road, 2025
"Many hands make light work"

There are three road cleanups per year, Spring, Summer and Fall. The Summer cleanup will be held within the window of July 15-23 and the Fall cleanup Sept. 23-Oct.1st. Watch your emails for specific dates!

SLIA Annual Meeting, 2025

Saturday, August 2, Garfield Twp Hall
Meet & Greet, Refreshments, 8:30am
MEETING - 9 am

A notification letter with agenda and 2025-2026 membership form will be sent via email, USPS, and posted on our website.

CHAIRMAN'S COVE

The 2024-25 Grand Traverse snowfall was 151% of normal and we had more ice than last year on Silver Lake. These factors seem to have had some impact on the water level but we can use more rain to bring levels up.

The upcoming season is off to a great start and your SLIA board has been busy working on our mission to protect and preserve Silver Lake. In addition to our on-going programs and committee activities such as the milfoil containment effort, kids fishing tournament, 4th of July regatta, and communications, we will be rolling out our new website in the next few weeks. Our IT sub-committee has been hard at work and I think you will all be impressed with the upgraded capabilities. Other goals for 2025 include increasing SLIA membership, working with the DNR to repair the boat launch, and monitoring legislation on issues impacting Silver Lake such as on-site septic inspections, and limitations for operating wake boats in loaded mode.

As gear up for another year of family fun activities on Silver Lake, please be safe and courteous of others, and be mindful at the boat launch until the DNR can repair partially washed-out areas.

Ken Kaufman, SLIA President

Fisheries Report

Finally, Spring weather is upon us and it's time to enjoy our beautiful Silver Lake! This winter was a "good" winter for us, producing good safe ice with plenty of opportunity to get out and enjoy the hard water. Ice fishing reports this year were mixed, with some good and slow days, but that's fishing - hopefully you had an opportunity to get out!

Report from the DNR: Last year the DNR performed a fish survey in which they surveyed fish species, size, and quantities in various areas of the lake. The DNR Biologist takes that information and develops a report on how well the fishery is doing. The report should be out sometime this summer and I will forward it on as soon as I get my hands on it. The DNR did stock 450,000 Walleye Fry this spring, hopefully some of them make it to maturity.

The Annual Nancy Knight Kids Fishing Tournament is scheduled, and we are excited as the event gets closer. We have pushed the date back a couple of weeks in hopes of better weather than the past 2 years. The tournament will be held on June 21st, 9:00 am at the Silver Lake Boat Launch. The event is Free for all participants with lunch and prizes provided by your SLIA. Please look for the flyer and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me 231-944-2953.

I hope to see you out on the water enjoying our great resource were lucky to have!

Be Safe and Tight Lines,

Tom Thompson, Wildlife and Fisheries

Township Round Up

We are in regular contact with Garfield and Blair Townships to keep apprised on things that may affect the lake.

Currently, Blair Township is re-doing its master plan and there may be some zoning changes happening, but the area around Silver Lake will remain residential. Blair committed last fall to supplying us with some used firehose that we can place over the steel dock posts at the launch. We didn't want to put it out late in the fall, so hopefully we will be getting this soon. The firehoses will reduce scratching of our boats, especially when it is windy. The Crescent Shores launch on Long Lake has firehoses on its dock poles. Blair had a township also had a cleanup day on 5/10 and it was well-used. They do this twice a year. We will try to give you advance notice of the one this fall.

Garfield Township is working to enforce its ban on short term rentals, but it is ongoing. Garfield now has a full-time township manager (Chris Barsheff - formerly with the sheriff's department) and a part time township supervisor, Joe McManus.

Tim Brock, Township Liaison

DRAIN UPDATE

The Silver Lake Drain continues to work as designed; however, the water levels have been below the drain threshold resulting in no outflow since the summer of 2023. On 5/14/24 (a year ago) the Roman Drive Gage was at 861.58 which is 5.04 inches *below* the threshold. On 5/13/25 the Gage measured 860.98 which is 12.24 inches *below* the threshold.



We typically start the spring and early summer above the drain, but the last two years were abnormally low due to the weak snowfall and melt over the winter of 2024 and not enough snowfall to help much during the winter of 2025 (although it did rise more than 2 inches from last fall which was 860.80 or about 14.4 inches below the threshold on 8/26/24). Two years ago, on 5/11/23, the Gage was at 862.40 which is 4.80 inches *above* the threshold and was at 862.28 on 5/9/22 which is 3.36 inches *above* the threshold of 862.00.

Generally, water levels decline throughout the summer because of evaporation and of course, rain helps refill the lake.

Gary Borucki, Drain Liaison

CALLING ALL NEIGHBORS!

Do you have a new neighbor or know of someone new to our lake? Are you a new member? If so, please contact Ellen Rapson our Welcoming Committee Chair. The SLIA has put together a comprehensive "Welcome Packet" containing important and historical information about our lake. Ellen Rapson: ellenrapson@gmail.com

2025-26 SLIA BOARD

The purpose of the association is to improve and preserve Silver Lake, by co-operating with established state and local law enforcement agencies to enforce rules of law and ethics whereby the interest of boat operators, fishermen, and bathers may be protected; to work and cooperate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other related agencies to establish a normal high water lake level; to maintain, improve and protect the water quality and environment, the fishing, and wildlife. To strive to achieve these ends by educating the residents and general population through the efforts of the organization.

Ken Kaufman
President/Safety

Scot Ogden
Vice President/
Environmental

Dennis Bogard
Treasurer/Membership

Kelly Smith
Secretary/Environmental

Marcia Bowman
Communications

Tim Brock
Twp Liaison/Shoreline
Stewardship

Tom Thompson
Fisberies

Ellen Rapson
Welcoming

Gary Borucki
Drain Liaison

Melanie Rippentrop
Shoreline Stewardship/
Safety

Michelle Moegenberg
Safety

Jim Runstrom
Social

Contact: TC.Silver.Lake.Association@gmail.com

WHO DO YOU CALL?

Life threatening or dangerous violations.....911

Boating Violations, Wildlife Harassment
(MC number required), Launch Site Violations
Central Dispatch.....231-922-4550

General Marine questions
Sheriff's Marine Division.....231-922-2112
DNR Traverse City Office.....231-922-5280

Drain Commissioner....Andy Smits 231-922-4807

Holiday Campground.....231-943-4410
Dennis Tierney, General Manager

Lost and Found
TC.Silver.Lake.Association@gmail.com

More information at
www.silverlaketc.org

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

This is the year that we need to renew our special assessment district for the invasive species control. There will be information coming to you from your respective Townships during the summer with dates for the meetings. We have come a long way in getting our EWM area reduced to about 5 Acres or less over the years. I believe that we need to continue with our efforts to keep the EWM in check. I hate to think what Silver Lake would look like if we allowed the EWM to go unchecked. Please keep a lookout for the information from your Townships.

The 2025 spring survey was completed on May 22nd by RLS. The total number of acres is 1.6 acres. The lake was rough so the actual area could be a little larger. The treatment is scheduled to June 4th, so it will be done by the time you receive this Newsletter.

The lake level is still about one foot below the high-water mark. We did have a very good winter with a lot of snow. I was expecting to see the water level

closer to the high-water level but it didn't happen. I have had residents ask me if lawn irrigation is causing the low water level. I have read articles on this that say that it will have a small effect on the water level as the water that goes to the lawn goes into the lake water table. I am certain that some water will be lost through evaporation.

On another note, it is time to stay up to date on keeping your septic systems working properly. Keeping your septic tanks clean on a regular schedule will help to keep our lake clean.

*Please note the Ticker has reported that a new county wide septic regulation has been adopted, this WILL impact all waterfront lake residents. The new regulation will REQUIRE septic system evaluations on properties that are to be sold or transferred that are within 300 feet of surface water, effective January 1, 2026. For more information see: The Ticker

Scot Ogden, Environmental Committee

LOON REPORT

Even though their nest failed in 2024, our resident loons returned to Silver Lake shortly after the ice melted and attempted to nest on the shoreline of Raspberry Island again. Sadly, after just eight days their nest was swamped by rising lake levels and boat wakes, a common cause of nest failures. Research indicates that if a loon nest fails early enough in the season, the loon couple may attempt to re-nest, and our loons did just that. They were seen mating again in mid-May and quickly established a new nest a little bit further from the shoreline. Buoys have been placed around the island, marking the nesting site and cautioning boaters to keep a distance. Much to our surprise and excitement, a second pair of loons has been spotted nesting on the South end of the lake as well. This is a sign that our lake is in good health and can support an abundance of fish. With any luck we will have as many as four loon chicks on the lake in June.



A few friendly safety reminders about loons and their chicks: the first few weeks after hatching are critical to the survival of a loon chick. They can easily drown because of their downy feathers. When boating, it is very important to slow down to minimize the size of the wake when near a loon chick. Lead poisoning is also a deadly threat to loons. Lead free tackle and proper disposal of fish line is encouraged. And remember, loons are protected by State and Federal laws.

Harassing loons is against the law, if you observe loon harassment, please contact the DNR at 231-922-5280 or the Marine Division of the Sheriff's Office at 231-922-2112. We are so fortunate to have our loons continue to raise their families on Silver Lake.

Kara Zarafonitis, Loon Ranger

SHORELINE STEWARDSHIP

Although our lake level is low and your shoreline may now be beach, it's still important to protect and manage your shoreline. If you are tempted to update your shoreline or work in the beach area, remember to follow EGLE guidelines and apply for permits as appropriate. If you are placing fill, dredging, or putting a permanent structure at or lake-ward of the ordinary high-water mark, it would require an EGLE permit. Since our lake has a drain, we do not have an arbitrary high-water mark. Our ordinary high-water mark is 862 feet above sea level. If you are not aware, a gage is placed at Roman Drive where you can see the markings.

To learn more about Shoreline erosion, protection, native plants or contractors, the MI Shoreline Partnership has a wealth of information! Our updated website also has multiple links to many information sources. <https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/>

Our committee continues to build alliances with other lakes and non-profits to learn from others. We could use your help! If you have an interest in shoreline improvements, know of other organizations to connect with and/or have an interest in planting native plants, we would love your help on our committee!

If you are interested in learning more about what you can do to protect and improve your shoreline, please be in contact with the SLIA Shoreline Committee.

Melanie Rippentrop, Tim Brock Shoreline Stewardship Committee

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

We appreciate the assistance of our Benefactors, Patrons, Champions, Advocates, and Supporters. Please visit www.silverlaketc.org to view the list.



Silver Lake
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 117 • GRAWN, MI 49637
www.silverlaketc.org