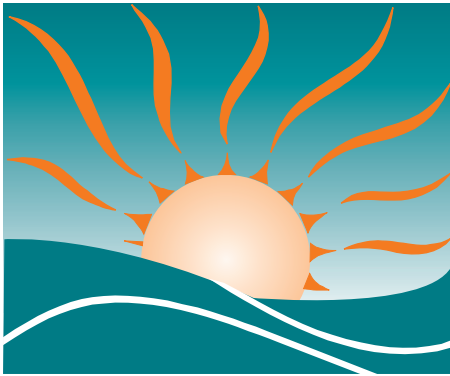




Silver Lake

SUMMER 2026

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Caring for the future of the lake

Great Big Silver Lake Beach Ball!

We know that the Silver Lake beach ball 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, LOOK FOR ITS APPEARANCE ON MONDAY JUNE 29TH! The beach ball will be routinely anchored at various locations around the lake for all to enjoy, it will be removed



on July 4. **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. Please feel free to send photos back to us at: tc.silver.lake.association@gmail.com



AMERICA 250

IT'S THE INDEPENDENCE DAY REGATTA ON SILVER LAKE!

This year is a celebration of America's 250 years of independence so it's time to celebrate and decorate your boat with a message to remember our 250-year anniversary.

Decorate your boat with the 250-year celebration theme and come join in! If you have another reason to celebrate it's ok to have a different theme for your boat.

If you're not able to join the boat regatta, please consider a decoration for your shoreline that can be viewed by the boat parade.

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 form with you to the **DNR boat launch promptly at 1:30**. Display a large number to identify your boat 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!

Jim Runstrom, Social Committee

Protect Our Loon Families

With the coming summer, we'd like to remind you to be mindful and respectful of our wildlife. We are fortunate to have two nesting pairs of loons. The loons on Raspberry Island recently welcomed a chick. There are buoys surrounding the island so please observe their beauty from a safe distance. We also have a newly nesting pair in the south end. Again, we ask that you do not go too close to their nesting area.

This is a sign that our lake is in good health and can support an abundance of fish. The SLIA has posted signage to remind boaters, especially visiting boaters, to respect our loons. Please help us educate our neighbors and lake guests.

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*. Loons can abandon their nest if approached too closely by people. 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



SLIA ADOPT-A-ROAD

"Many hands make light work"

Thank you to the many volunteers that participated in our Spring Adopt-A-Road Cleanup! Pictured are several of our volunteers. Our adopted road is 3 miles on East Silver Lake Rd from US-31 to West Silver Lake Rd. Portions of our Adopt-A-Road is dedicated to *Gordy Sigren, Don Pabl, and Nancy Knight*. There are three road cleanups per year, Spring, Summer and Fall. The cleanup windows are:
Spring: May 9-17 (pictured)
Summer: July 11-19
Fall: September 19-27
Watch your emails for specific dates!



SLIA Membership Flags

Many of you have already received our new SLIA Membership flag to proudly display on your boat or hoist. This is a great way to build community amongst our property owners. If you are a new or current member that has not received a flag, we will have a flag distribution event at the Silver Lake Park this summer (watch your emails for specific dates and times). We will also make the flags available at our Annual Meeting this August. If you are unable to make these distribution days, please reach out to us! *Flag quantities are limited, please only 1 flag per membership.*



CHAIRMAN'S COVE

We entered the Fall of 2025 with Silver Lake about 18 inches below the level where it begins to drain. A near record snowfall followed by our wet Spring has the level within an inch of the drain as of early May, 2026.

The drain system and maintenance gained attention at the county level during the off-season. Many of you may recall we recognized Alan Strange in 2020 for his diligent efforts to keep the drain free of debris to allow outflow. The county drain commissioner delegated authority to Alan to perform this "maintenance" which is being reviewed for liability. We expected to have the 2026 season to define a path forward but the urgency has increased due to the water level. Our drain liaison, Gary Borucki is working with Alan and Drain Commissioner Smits to address this and longer-term issues concerning the drain system and we will keep membership informed.

The drain is just one of the activities your SLIA board are working on to protect and preserve Silver Lake. A few of our other priorities for 2026 include working with the DNR to repair the boat launch, starting a project to potentially install a boat cleaning station at the launch, and coordinating on-going activities such as the Milfoil treatment, annual fishing tournament, and annual 4th of July regatta.

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

Safety Committee Update

The safety committee exists to promote boating safety and etiquette for all users of Silver Lake. As we start off the 2026 season, we would like to pass along a few updates and reminders.

The DNR boat launch continues to be in need of repair for washouts so **please use caution when backing in and do not power load your watercraft**. The DNR has it on their repairs list for 2026 and until then, the higher lake level should help.

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 water craft (PWC) users must not cross within 150 ft behind another non-PWC vessel.

Please see the SLIA Safety Brochure for safety tips, phone numbers, and a map of safe areas to operate wake boats in loaded mode. In addition, the DNR Boater Safety Handbook has all the rules and regulations for boating safety including alcohol restrictions and life jacket rules. Hard copies of the **SLIA Brochure** and the **DNR Boater Safety Handbook** can be found at SLIA sign at the boat launch or by contacting the SLIA at TC.SilverLake.Association@gmail.com.

Finally, please be mindful of wildlife, especially the nesting loons.

*Ken Kaufman & Michelle Moeggenberg
SLIA Safety Committee*

Township Round Up

Things are quiet with regard to the townships. As of January 1, 2026 a new County Ordinance is in effect that *requires inspection of septic systems that are within 300' of any water body upon the sale of a property*. Hopefully, this will help to keep our lake sparkling clean and to clean up any outdated systems that may present problems to the health of our lake water.

Tim Brock, Township Liaison

SLIA Annual Meeting 2026
Saturday, August 1, Garfield Twp Hall
9 am

UNDERSTANDING RIPARIAN RIGHTS



Riparian rights are defined in Michigan as “those rights which are associated with the ownership of the bank or shore of an inland lake or stream.” Essentially it gives the landowner, the riparian, the ‘correlative’ right to put in a dock or lift, anchor a boat or raft, swim etc. on the bottomlands as it extends out to an intersecting point with other riparian’s bottomlands. However, in doing so, you may not restrict the reasonable and navigational use of the waterways for others. This information was gleaned from the MLSA (Michigan Lakes and Streams Association) and is a general interpretation and not in any way intended to be a legal guide. For more information visit: MLSA Riparian Rights or scan the QR code.



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” that Ellen can drop off or make arrangements to go over the packet with new residents, this will only take about 15 minutes and is a great way to ask questions and stay informed. Ellen Rapson: ellenrapson@gmail.com or cell: 231-409-6510.

2026-27 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

Tim Brock
Vice President/
Government Liaison

Dennis Bogard
Treasurer/Nominating

Kelly Smith
Secretary/Environmental

Marcia Bowman
Communications/
Membership/IT Website

Scot Ogden
Environmental

Melanie Rippentrop
Shoreline/IT Website

Michelle Moegenberg
Safety/IT Website

Ellen Rapson
Welcoming

Jim Runstrom
Social

Gary Borucki
Drain Liaison

Tom Thompson
Fisheries

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

DRAIN REPORT

The Silver Lake Drain system will be reviewed this year for proper operation and is currently being monitored for any issues. Although water levels have been below the drain threshold resulting in no outflow since the summer of 2023, the reading as of 5/5/26 was at the threshold of 862'. **Snowfall this past winter and the recent heavy rains have improved the lake level dramatically from the fall of 2025.** Typically, the spring lake levels are above the drain level threshold, resulting in drainage occurring until the summer months. Past spring readings have been as follows:

- 4/20/26 – 861.94 or .72 inches below the drain level (see below for the previous early fall reading of 18 inches below the drain level)

- 4/3/26 – 861.22 or 9.36 inches below the drain level
- 5/13/25 – 860.98 or 12.24 inches below the drain level
- 5/14/24 – 861.58 or 5.04 inches below the drain level
- 5/11/23 – 862.40 or 4.80 inches above the drain level
- 5/9/22 – 862.28 or 3.36 inches above the drain level

The fall readings have been as follows:

- 8/25/25 – 860.50 or 18 inches below the drain level
- 8/26/24 – 860.80 or 14.4 inches below the drain level
- 8/21/23 – 861.42 or 6.96 inches below the drain level
- 8/25/22 – 861.44 or 6.72 inches below the drain level

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

Gary Borucki, Drain Liaison

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The good news is that we did reach the high-water mark this spring. That is a first for the last three years. The not so good news is that this spring has been very cold which has put our spring lake survey back to allow the water temp to rise which is necessary to allow the plants in the lake to start growing. The spring survey is scheduled to occur on June 9th or 10th of June. The treatment will be occurring around the 18th of June. This is later than we would like but still ahead of the 4th of July.

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 last spring; hopefully some of them make it to maturity.

For more detailed information and a complete DNR report, please visit our website.

The **Annual Nancy Knight Kids Fishing Tournament** is scheduled, and we are excited as the event gets closer. **The tournament will be held on Sunday, June 14 (Free Fishing Weekend) 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

SHORELINE STEWARDSHIP

What a wonderful site to see the lake levels back to almost normal! With this will come the challenge of maintaining erosion at our shoreline from high winds, waves and other lake activities. Our shorelines and upland of the shore are important parts of the health and ecology of our lake. It is recommended to maintain a healthy shoreline of plants, flowers and natural grasses back 35 feet from your shoreline (upland space) to help with erosion and run-off into the lake. Most of us have Kentucky bluegrass or similar up to the shoreline which makes for a landscaped lawn.

However, the low root systems in this grass is not stable enough for your shoreline. It is possible to have a landscaped lawn, while also adding beautiful plants, flowers and grasses to your shoreline and upland space.

There is a wealth of information available online and linked in our website to help you find native plants (<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/find-nativeplants.html>). The MI Shoreline Partnership website itself is a wealth of information about protecting Michigan lakes through conservation and restoration (<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org>).

We also have an excellent publication available called **Protecting inland lakes through natural shorelines: An introductory guide to bioengineering** from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership available for those interested. We will have copies at the annual meeting in August, however, if you would like one sooner please email tc.silver.lake.association@gmail.com to request a copy.

If you are placing fill, dredging, putting a permanent structure, Rip Rap or Coir Logs at or lake-ward of the ordinary high-water mark, remember this **requires an EGLE permit** (<https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/home>).

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!

Melanie Rippentrop, Tim Brock
Shoreline Stewardship Committee



Silver Lake
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



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