

SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

www.sylvanotter.org

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2013

Mission statement: The Sylvan Otter Lake Association (SOLA) is a non-profit organization, comprised of volunteers to improve our lake community and protect the quality of our lakes for its safe recreational use. SOLA's main focus is to provide the best quality lake environment for all who use both Sylvan Lake and Otter Lake by managing weeds and wildlife.

Restoring natural flow in the Clinton River. As I mentioned in last year's newsletter SOLA was notified of a study to restore year-round flow to the Clinton River. This July I spoke with Steve Korth, Manager of the Water Resource Commission in Waterford and he informed me that the final report was submitted and no specific action will be taken at this time, but several recommendations were made. He stated that any organization could challenge our legal lake level so as to generate a more regular flow, although he mentioned that this would be a very expensive endeavor. I also mentioned to Steve that we would be glad to release more water into the Clinton River at this time as our lake level is still very high from all of the rain we have had in May and June. Steve responded that the Clinton River can't handle any more water flow at this time. Learn more and stay informed at www.ltu.edu/water/iaclintonrivershed.asp.

Even though we had a cold and rainy start to this summer, SOLA has already applied two weed treatments to the lakes totaling almost \$ 23,000.00. We are constantly monitoring weed growth and following up on your calls regarding weed problems. Without your donations, weed management is more difficult. Please send in your tax deductible donations ASAP to help control the weeds in our lakes.

New laws in effect for operating personal watercraft in 2013.

- **Those less than 12 years of age may not operate a PWC**
- Those **12 and 13 years of age** may operate a PWC legally only if the operator is accompanied by his or her parent or legal guardian and both have obtained a boating safety certificate.
- Those **at least 14 years of age** and born after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate.
- **Those born on or before December 31, 1978, (35 years of age) may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.**
- Go to http://www.boat-ed.com/mi/course/p4-3_whomayoperate.htm for all the PWC laws

SOLA does not issue beach tags or boat ramp keys anywhere around the lakes. Contact your homeowners or beach association as to how you can get beach tags and ramp keys.

E 15 gasoline may cause serious damage to your boat engines. A recent article in the Oakland Lakefront magazine stated that “using E 15 gasoline may cause permanent damage to your boat engine and fuel tank. The Michigan Boating Industry Association (MBIA) is warning boat owners against using E 15 gasoline to fuel their boats, which can cause damage to valves, pushrods and bearings. The gasoline is also known to cause fuel tank corrosion, to increase pollutants and decrease overall performance and drivability. Mis-fueling a boat with E 15 gasoline may also void the owner's warranty...The MBIA cautions against using any gasoline blended with ethanol by more than 10% for boat engines.” Even when using E 10 gasoline, it is recommended that you use ethanol Marine fuel treatment additive, especially during storage.

Boats within 100 feet or less from shore and all canals are “NO WAKE” zones

Thank you to the following lake residents who have volunteered their time to improve our lakes:

- Lou Schimmel - VP of SOLA.
- Al Payson - wildlife management, who along with the DNR, removed 118 eggs from 29 nests.
- Bill Stevens - who got a major outflow valve fixed at the damn to help maintain our lake level.
- Todd Eddy –Treasurer of SOLA.
- Jeff Ignatowski –web site design and maintenance for SOLA.3
- Frank Chaffee – weed control on and around Beverly Island.
- Phil Thomas – ski course permits and maintenance.

Privately pay to have additional weed treatments. SOLA does the best we can to eliminate weeds based on available funding. We will continue to treat the areas used by a majority of boaters, skiers, and swimmers first and then concentrate on the areas that will minimize the spreading of the weeds as our next priority. If you wish to pay to have additional treatments, contact Phil at 248-508-8765.

Donation Schedule for Sylvan and Otter Lake Association If you are:

LAKEFRONT, CANAL FRONT, OR BOAT OWNER Due: Minimum of \$75.00
BEACH PRIVILEGES ONLY Due: Minimum of \$25.00

Treasurer's 2012 Report:

Beginning balance	\$ 12,395.00	
Donations	\$ 29,040.00	
Weed control and permits		\$ 30,402.00
Postage costs and printing fees		\$ 1,280.00
Wildlife management programs		\$ 550.00
Permits, web site host, misc. fees		\$ 1,846.00
Total expenses		\$ 34,078.00
Ending balance	\$ 7,357.00	

Please mail your TAX DEDUCTIBLE \$75.00 minimum donation today. Make checks payable to:
Sylvan / Otter Lake Association
P.O. Box 136
Keego Harbor, MI 48320

www.sylvanotter.org Sylvan Otter Lakes Association web site. Keep up on all of the latest lake information. Get access to links on key topics regarding our lakes community.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.

Thank you and have a safe summer on the water,

Phil Thomas

Sylvan Otter Lakes Association President

248-508-8765