

SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

www.sylvanotter.org

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2014

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.

New laws in effect for operating personal watercraft since 2013. Go to http://www.boat-ed.com/mi/course/p4-3_whomayoperate.htm for all the PWC laws.

Safety Check Decals: Have you been pulled over more than once for a "safety check"? Michigan's public act 62 became law and clarifies conditions under which a peace officer may stop and inspect the vessel. The new law states that boat owners who have a "safety check decal" displayed on the boat are free from random stops by Marine patrol boats. Decals are available to those who voluntarily participate in the U. S. Coast Guard safety check. Go to website <http://www.saftyseal.nrt/GetVSC/>.

Geese population on our lakes: Using DNR approved methods the number of geese on our lakes has been greatly reduced. Over the past five years, 647 goose eggs have been gathered thus eliminating the need for the Goose Roundup the past two years. Reducing the number of geese on our lakes also saves SOLA money on our weed control program because nitrogen contained in goose droppings contributes to the excess algae growth in our lakes.

Goose repellent: A lot of people are looking for ways to keep geese off their property. The EPA has approved a product called **FlightControl Plus**. This spray-on solution is odorless, waterproof, and does not harm humans, vegetation, or wildlife. It utilizes a natural occurring environmentally safe compound called anthranquinone, which is formulated by Arkion Life Sciences. One of the ways this product works is by giving the geese a stomachache. When the geese consume vegetation from treated areas it gives them a harmless but effective digestive irritation. 1 gallon of FlightControl Plus treats 1 acre and costs about \$25.

Be aware that boats within 100 feet of the shore and all canals are in "NO WAKE" zones. Please adjust your speed accordingly.

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.
- Shelly Eddy - Treasurer of SOLA.
- Jeff Ignatowski - web site design and maintenance for SOLA.
- Jim Irwin - weed control on and around Beverly Island.
- Phil Thomas - ski course permits and maintenance.

Boating safety: One of last year's tragic events in Michigan happened on our lakes. It is up to all of us to keep our lakes safe. The presence of a sheriff on our lakes has encouraged more vigilance in our boating community, particularly on weekends when boat traffic on our lakes is at a peak. However, boating safety needs to be taken very seriously every time you go boating. That means be alert at all times. Kindly inform fellow boaters of unsafe practices while on the water. One of the biggest problems observed on the lakes is boaters going the wrong direction. **Boat traffic is always counter clockwise.** It has also been brought to our attention that paddle boarders, for their own safety, should wear brightly colored clothing or life vest to make them more visible to other boaters.

E 15 gasoline: The Michigan Boating Industry Association (MBIA) is warning boat owners against using E 15 gas in their boats which can cause damage to your motor, cause fuel tank corrosion, increase pollutants and decrease overall performance. E 15 may also void your manufactures warranty. The MBIA cautions to not use any gas blended with more than 10% ethanol for boat motors. Even when using E 10 gas, it is recommended that you use an ethanol marine fuel treatment additive, especially during winter storage.

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

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

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.

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 248-682-2894.

Treasurer's 2014 Report:

Beginning balance	\$ 7,357.00	
Donations	\$ 29,370.00	
Weed control and permits		\$ 27,185.00
Postage costs and printing fees		\$ 1,271.00
Wildlife management programs		\$ 340.00
Web site host, misc. fees		\$ 525.00
Total expenses		\$ 29,321.00
Ending balance	\$ 7,406.00	

**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, contact me at: phillip.russell.thomas@gmail.com or 248-682-2894.
Thank you and have a safe summer on the water,
Phil Thomas
Sylvan Otter Lakes Association President