

SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

www.sylvanotter.org

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2012

Mission statement: The Sylvan Otter Lake Association (SOLA) is a non-profit organization, comprised of volunteers to improve and protect the quality of our lakes and our community. The main focus of this group's efforts is to provide the best quality lake environment for all who use both Sylvan Lake and Otter Lake. We are also actively involved with the Department of Natural Resources for assistance with wild life management programs, as well as the Oakland County Health Department to continually monitor the quality of our water for the safe recreational use of our lakes.

Our mild winter may have been enjoyed by many of us, however it had a negative impact on our lakes. Due to the fact that some of the lake never froze this past winter and there was no snow on the ice, it allowed sunlight to reach the weeds in the shallow areas, promoting growth, which has forced us to spend approximately 30% more, one month earlier than usual this year. Without your donations, weed management will be more difficult than in years past. Please send in your tax deductible donations ASAP to allow us to help control the weeds in our lakes.

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. Go to www.sylvanotter.org and sign up to have updates sent to your email.

Restoring natural flow in the Clinton River. Late last year SOLA was notified of a new study to restore year round flow to the Clinton River. The study is being done by the "Great Lakes Stormwater Management Institute" (GLSMI) along with Lawrence Tech, with funding from state and local grants. Why does this concern SOLA? Sylvan and Otter Lakes are the last two lakes (with damn controlled legal lake level) in the Clinton River chain. What we have to be very concerned about is our lake being forced to open our dam to support flow to the Clinton River mainly through the City of Rochester during dry summer months. This study started in the spring of 2011 and they had hoped to have a final recommendation on how to solve this issue by late last year. SOLA was notified on May 22 that the results will be disclosed at a meeting that is to be held on June 6 in Rochester. Stay informed on this project. Find out the results and how it may impact SOLA, go to www.ltu.edu/water/iaclintonrivershed.asp.

Oakland County Sheriff's Department eliminated Marine Division patrol boats. This is the third year without our lake being patrolled. While observing boating activity over the Memorial Day holiday weekend, I noticed some dangerous situations that need to be corrected to avoid what could be a catastrophic accident. Personal watercraft - jet skis being driven too fast for the conditions & without regard to other watercraft around them. Passengers sitting on the sides or hanging over the front of fast-moving ski boats & pontoons. Drivers pulling tubers, watching the tuber and not what is around them, forcing other boaters to change direction to avoid an accident. As lake residents, we all need to do a better job of self-policing and helping fellow boaters. Remember, all boat traffic is in a counter-clockwise direction and all canals are no wake – no wake means no white water behind your boat. Continue to be respectful of your lake residents.

Waterski course on Otter Lake. The state approved course is in very shallow water and has a cable running the length of the course. The water depth is not deep enough for outboard motors, inboard/outboard boats or wake boats. The water depth and cable may ruin your prop or worse. If you have any questions on the proper use of the course, contact Phil Thomas @ 248-682-2894. The course is very costly to maintain, so please be careful not to run over the ski balls or worse yet, cut the cable. **Additionally, it is illegal to swim, fish, anchor or jet ski in a ski course.**

New laws are in effect for operating personal watercraft.

- **Those less than 14 years of age may not legally operate a PWC**
- Those **14 and 15 years of age** may operate a PWC legally only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate and he or she is accompanied on board by his or her parent or legal guardian or by a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian
- Those **at least 16 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, may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.**
- Go to SOLA web site and click on the links tab for more details.

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 2011 Report:

Beginning balance	\$ 9,246.00	
Donations	\$ 33,555.00	
Weed control and permits		\$ 28,505.00
Postage costs and printing fees		\$ 1,321.00
Goose management program		\$ 465.00
Misc. fee – Web site host		\$ 115.00
Total expenses		\$ 30,406.00
Ending balance	\$ 12,395.00	

SOLA has nothing to do with issuing any beach tags or boat ramp keys anywhere around the lakes.

SOLA's main focus is managing the weed problem in our lakes. SOLA does the best we can 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. We do have areas around the lakes where the local residents want better water quality than our funds can provide. **You can contract through SOLA and privately pay to have additional weed treatments.**

**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**

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me.
Thank you and safe boating,
Phil Thomas
Sylvan Otter Lakes Association President
248-682-2894