

SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

www.sylvanotter.org

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2019

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.

More changes in 2019 at the state level regarding weed treatment. The state of Michigan has added more regulations to the process of filing and permitting weed treatment in our lakes since 2018. The permit process now requires every lake bottom owner to give permission to treat in front of their property. This is stricter than last year, so a big thank you goes out to a lot of volunteers around the lake who have help get this huge task completed to the best of our abilities. If you have not been contacted for a signature, please help us by going to our website and clicking on the tab "Weed Control Policy" and sign the permission request and PDF me a copy at phillip.russell.thomas@gmail.com.

Additionally, the state has now denied the use of Copper or Hydrothol based products from being dispensed in our lakes. Copper is used to improve water clarity and to remove several invasive weed species such as Starry Stonewort which is very prevalent in our lakes. The state is saying that after a "*review that occurs for Threatened and Endangered Species revealed occurrences of State and Federal Threatened and Endangered mussel species for multiple locations in this waterbody. The State Listed species are the Slippershell (Alasmidonta viridis) and the Purple Lilliput (Toxoplasma lividus) and the Federal Listed Species is the Snuffbox (Epioblasma triquetra). Because of these T/E Species being recorded as present in multiple sections of the lake and the possibility that the mussels could also be present throughout the waterbody, an Individual Permit will be issued for this application that will not authorize the use of Copper or Hydrothol based products.*" I contacted the state and asked many questions and found out that this study was completed more than 20 years ago, but they are just now starting to implement restricted use of Copper or Hydrothol based products.

Needless to say, this was very disappointing news as Copper has been very effective in the past. There are other products that we are trying this year in place of Copper, but it is not working as well, takes longer for the weeds to die, not improving water clearly as much, and costs considerably more.

The other frustration we are dealing with has to do with how the State is issuing the spraying permit for our lakes. We have been turning in permission signatures as we complete the different areas around the lake. Areas where we had compliance and turned in paperwork last year, are still not permitted to spray this year. Again, contacting the state, their response was they are getting through the requests as soon as possible, but not in the order they were submitted. If your area has not been sprayed yet this year, there are only three reasons. 1) Not enough signatures from your area, or 2) the State has not yet granted permission, or 3) we have not received enough donations from your area to cover the costs of weed treatment. Several area residents experienced the last issue in prior years and have taken the initiative to work with their neighbors to get signatures and collect donations. We really appreciate the involvement of so many volunteers. Please contact me to see what the reason is for your area.

Vice President needed on our board: Last year we were looking to fill this position and several of you were kind enough to inquire. However, due to a computer issue a few of those contacts were accidentally deleted and could not be retrieved. Over the years we have worked very hard to improve our processes, reduce costs, yet maintain our lakes for all to enjoy. If you have the same passion and a few hours to share each year, we would like to hear from you (again).

Donation Schedule for Sylvan and Otter Lake Association - if you are a:

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

Treasurer's 2018 Report:

Beginning balance	\$ 10,632	
Donations	\$ 31,241	
Weed control and permits		\$ 32,435
Postage costs and printing fees		\$ 1,298
Wildlife management programs		\$ 400
Web site host, misc. fees		\$ 110
Bank fees		\$ 60
Total expenses		\$ 34,303
Ending balance	\$ 7,570	

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**

Remember:

“NO WAKE” zones. Boats within 100 feet of shore & in all canals must travel at no wake speed.

Be mindful of your wake: SOLA has received several complaints about boats that produce large wakes are coming too close to other boats, kayakers, and paddle boarders. Please be responsible and courteous of others on the water.

Loud music on the water: SOLA has received several complaints about boaters playing loud and in some cases inappropriate or offensive music. Please be respectful of lake residents when playing music on the water.

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.

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

- Open – Vice President of SOLA.
- Luke Cassar - Wildlife Management
- Todd Eddy – Secretary of SOLA
- Shelly Eddy –Treasurer of SOLA.
- Jeff Ignatowski –Web-site Design and Maintenance for SOLA.

Sylvan Otter Lakes Association web site - www.sylvanotter.org. Keep up on all of the latest lake information. Get access to links on key topics regarding our lakes community. List of chemicals used and the risk/benefit information.

With the bad weather at the beginning of the season and the changes at the state level regarding weed treatment, there has been a delay in publishing this newsletter. I apologize for getting this letter out late this year.

SOLA is totally funded by your donations. Please don't forget to mail in your donations.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at:
phillip.russell.thomas@gmail.com or call me on my cell at 248-961-3903.

Thank you and have a safe summer.

Phil Thomas
Sylvan Otter Lakes Association President