

# SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

[www.sylvanotter.org](http://www.sylvanotter.org)

## ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### 2020

#### **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.

**Weed treatment in 2020.** As has been written in past newsletters the permit process still requires every lake bottom owner to give permission so that SOLA can treat on their property. If you are new to the lakes or 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](mailto:phillip.russell.thomas@gmail.com). As of the printing of this newsletter, we have already treated the weeds twice this season. The state still will not allowed our lakes to use Copper to control algae therefore SOLA is trying more expensive alternatives to control Algae. If you are having a problem with weeds in your area, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be glad to treat the weeds in your area.

**SOLA has a new Vice President:** I want to thank all of the people who volunteered for the position. I spoke with many of you and am pleased to introduce Greg Rademacher as the new VP. Greg has been a lake resident since 2013 and especially enjoys kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding. One of the things that Greg does, which shows his interest in improving the lakes, is that he spends time kayaking into the wetlands to remove trash from the area. Welcome Greg and thank you for volunteering. Our lake residents will enjoy working with you.

**Phragmites have invaded our lakes:** Have you noticed very tall plants with a wheat like top in our wetlands? It is a perennial grass that can grow to 15 feet in height and is threatening the ecological health of wetlands by crowding out native plants and animals. Besides the invasive weeds that SOLA has been working so hard to control, we now have

a growing concern about this not so new intruder. A group of people lead by Deb Emmer have been working hard to try and rid our lakes of these weeds that are choking off our wetland. Treating Phragmites could cost as much to get rid of as the weed treatments. Deb is looking into different ways of funding this project as well as volunteers to help. If you would like to assist, please contact her at [emmergerald@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emmergerald@sbcglobal.net)

**New Michigan boating laws are in effect:** In an effort stop the introduction and the spread of aquatic invasive species the state has introduce new laws. Please visit [Michigan.gov/invasivespecies](http://Michigan.gov/invasivespecies) for more information.

**Artificially enhanced wakes created by boats:** The biggest complaints received to date again this year to SOLA are the large artificial enhanced waves created by surf-type boats. People are concerned about environmental damage, not being able to kayak or paddle board, and moored boats being damaged from breaking away from docks or banging into each other when tied up. Sylvan and Otter Lakes are all sports lakes and are to be enjoyed for all recreational use, but there is a growing concern from a lot of residents that something needs to be done. I am suggesting that large wake activities be enjoyed in the center of the lakes as much as possible and away from other boaters and shore lines. Additional complaints also include the loud music being blasted out. Please be respectful to home owners and other boaters with your music level.

**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 2019 Report:**

<b>Beginning balance</b>	<b>\$ 7,570</b>	
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 35,312</b>	
<b>Weed control and permits</b>		<b>\$ 34,713</b>
<b>Postage costs and printing fees</b>		<b>\$ 1,337</b>
<b>Wildlife management programs</b>		<b>\$ 470</b>
<b>Web site host, misc. fees</b>		<b>\$ 128</b>
<b>Bank fees</b>		<b>\$ 94</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>\$ 36,742</b>
<b>Ending balance</b>	<b>\$ 6,140</b>	

**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**

**Boat operator age restrictions:** If you have any questions as to what age a person needs to be to operate a boat in Michigan go to [https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119\\_79144\\_80298-37311--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119_79144_80298-37311--,00.html).

**Remember:**

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

**You must wear a life preserver if you use a stand up paddle board more than 100’ from shore**

**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:**

- Greg Rademacher – Vice President of SOLA.
- Luke Cassar - Wildlife Management
- Todd Eddy –Treasurer of SOLA.
- Jeff Ignatowski –Web-site Design and Maintenance for SOLA.
- Deb Emmer – Phragmites Management

**Sylvan Otter Lakes Association web site - [www.sylvanotter.org](http://www.sylvanotter.org).** Keep up on all of the latest lake information or read past newsletters. Get access to links on key topics regarding our lakes community. List of chemicals used and the risk/benefit information.

**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](mailto:phillip.russell.thomas@gmail.com) or call me at 248-961-3903.

Thank you and have a safe summer.

Phil Thomas  
Sylvan Otter Lakes Association President