

# SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

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

## ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### 2024

#### **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.

I am sorry that this year's newsletter is so late in coming. The reason is that the Board has been working very hard on several items to improve access to the information you need. First, after a lot of dealings with our bank by Todd Eddy, we now have electronic banking through Zelle with our bank in Sylvan Lake, Comerica Bank. Click the QR code to make your tax free donation today. Thank you, Todd.



Second, Jeff Ignatowski has totally revamped the website to make it more user friendly for residents to find all the needed information regarding our lakes. This was no small feat. Yes, the website will be constantly evolving, and in doing so, will accomplish our association's goal, which is to use your donations where they will make the most impact and printing newsletters isn't one of them. The board has reviewed past newsletters and all the needed information is now on the website. Starting next year, the newsletter will contain only necessary updates, the financials, and donation information, which will reduce our printing costs. Thank you, Jeff.

**A piece of history.** Late this winter I received a call from a gentleman named Ken Wade. His father and mother in law, Stan and Elaine Crater lived on Otter Lake for quite some time. They raised their 3 daughters on Otter Lake and were very instrumental in establishing the legal lake level for Sylvan & Otter Lakes. Stan and Elaine were very organized and have newspaper clippings, minutes from meetings with Waterford Township, The City of Pontiac, Oakland County Civil Counsel, and The City of Sylvan Lake dating back as far as January 21, 1954. If you are interested in learning more about our lake history and how our lake level was established please visit [sylvanotter.org](http://sylvanotter.org).

**Join the SOLA Facebook page!** Follow us at **Sylvan/Otter Lake Association**. Please feel free to add pictures, fun comments, lake events or happenings. Let's use this page respectfully to promote SOLA and not use it as casual social media. If you have questions or concerns, please use my email address, and myself or one of the officers will get back to you as soon as we can. If your question or concern warrants posting, we will do that.

**Weed treatment in 2024.** As of the printing of this newsletter, we have already treated for weeds 4 times this season. The state will not allow our lakes to use Copper Sulfate to control algae any longer, therefore, SOLA is trying a more expensive alternative to control algae. If you are having a problem with weeds in your area, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

**Thank you.** I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the weed prevention program over the years, and I am glad to report that we are finally getting ahead for the treatment of weeds in our lakes. The State of Michigan has done a great job of providing flushing stations for your boats at lake ramps to reduce the number of weeds and aquatic nuisances from being spread to area lakes. With your help, we have been able to reduce large patches of weeds from the middle of the lakes. Thank you to those who contact me and let me know of an area that needs to be treated or re-treated. This does not mean you can stop donating. We still need to continue to focus on the many canals we have on our lakes.

**On a sad note,** we are sorry to inform you that Al Payson recently passed away. Al was a big supporter of the Sylvan Otter Association. Back in the day, he passed out newsletters, helped establish a lake level, and Al was the one who started the goose round up program many years ago to help keep our beaches, docks, and lawns cleaner. Al always had a smile on his face and a great story to tell. He will be missed. Our thoughts are with his wife, Pat and their family during these difficult times.

**DONATION SCHEDULE:**

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

**Treasurer's 2023 Report:**

<b>Beginning balance</b>	<b>\$ 20,878</b>	
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 30,245</b>	
<b>Weed control and permits</b>		<b>\$ 21,595</b>
<b>Postage costs and printing fees</b>		<b>\$ 1,491</b>
<b>Wildlife management programs</b>		<b>\$ 165</b>
<b>Web site host, misc. fees</b>		<b>\$ 148</b>
<b>USPS &amp; Bank fees</b>		<b>\$ 150</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>\$ 23,549</b>
<b>Ending balance</b>	<b>\$ 27,574</b>	

**Please mail your \$75.00 minimum tax free donation or use the QR code today.**

**Make checks payable to:**  
**Sylvan / Otter Lake Association**  
**P.O. Box 136**  
**Keego Harbor, MI 48320**

**Board members:**

- Greg Rademacher – Vice President of SOLA -- [gregrademacher@gmail.com](mailto:gregrademacher@gmail.com)
- Todd Eddy – Secretary of SOLA-- [toddeddy@comcast.net](mailto:toddeddy@comcast.net)
- Luke Cassar - Wildlife Management of SOLA -- [cassar@reagan.com](mailto:cassar@reagan.com)
- Kim Yeip –Treasurer of SOLA -- [kimyeip@gmail.com](mailto:kimyeip@gmail.com)
- Jeff Ignatowski –Web-site for SOLA -- [jgignatowski@gmail.com](mailto:jgignatowski@gmail.com)

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, or comments, please contact me by email or call me on my cell - 248-961-3903.

Thank you.  
Phil Thomas  
Sylvan Otter Lakes Association President  
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