



SYLVAN & OTTER LAKES

www.sylvanotter.org

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2021

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 2021. As written in previous 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. As of the printing of this newsletter, we have already treated the weeds twice this season. The state still will not allow 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.

Use the right fertilizer on your lawn to protect our lakes. Help minimize the weeds and algae in our lakes. If you apply your own fertilizer, only use fertilizer that has no or very low phosphorous. The amount of phosphorus is the second number on a bag of fertilizer i.e. 19-0-19. All fertilizer labels have three bold numbers. The first number is the amount of nitrogen (N), the second number is the amount of phosphorus (P2O5) and the third number is the amount of potash (K2O). If you have your lawn treated by a company, ask if they have a phosphorus free application for water-front users. Please see a list of Earth-Friendly Fertilizers on our website.

Our lakes are busier and more congested. When mooring at the volley ball net, please don't anchor out so far that you restrict the opening and free passage between "Big and Little Sylvan". Anchor your boats more to the west.

What is causing the large break-a-way floating islands depends on who you ask. There are several reasons that contribute to these islands breaking away and floating across the lakes: boat wakes, the very high water levels this summer, high winds, fast moving water released from the Cass Lake Dam, and normal erosion all contribute. SOLA has been looking at pictures from years past and there really doesn't seem to be much difference to our lakes wetlands, due in part to the fact that there continues to be growth of the plants in the wet lands.

Artificially enhanced wakes created by boats. Sylvan and Otter Lakes have historically and continue to be in the category of an "all sports lake". Therefore, they are to be enjoyed for all recreational use, with consideration of safety issues and courtesy to your fellow boaters. I have learned that the activity behind some of these boats is best done in deeper waters. That being said, the deeper parts of the lakes are in Little Sylvan and Otter Lakes. We ask that boats that create large wakes, please contain their activity to these areas. See a map of lake depths on our web site at <http://www.sylvanotter.org>.

Everyone needs to follow the basic rules for safe boating:

- *All boat traffic must go in a counter clockwise direction.
- *All boaters are responsible for their wake.
- *All boating within 100 feet of docks and shore is "no wake".
- * You must be 100 feet away from other boats, even if they are anchored.
- * PWC must stay 200 feet from shore and no closer than 150 feet behind another boat.

Please be respectful of all lake residents and follow the city's noise ordinance. Music and voices carry across water and should not be louder than 90 dB 3 feet away or 75 dB measured from shore. If you think the music is too loud, download a Decibel Meter app to your smart phone to determine how loud the music really is. A courteous one-to-one conversation between lake neighbors should solve the problem.

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 t.ly/wAu

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Remember:

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.

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

We have a **LinkedIn Group** at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3884351/> if you are interested in joining.

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 2020 Report:

Beginning balance	\$ 6,139
Donations	\$ 35,940
Weed control and permits	\$ 29,550
Postage costs and printing fees	\$ 1,253
Wildlife management programs	\$ 410
Web site host, misc. fees	\$ 205
Bank fees	\$ 77
Total expenses	<u>\$ 31,495</u>
Ending balance	\$ 10,584

Please mail your \$75.00 minimum donation today. Make checks payable to:

Sylvan / Otter Lake Association
P.O. Box 136
Keego Harbor, MI 48320

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. 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.

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

Thank you.
Phil Thomas
Sylvan Otter Lakes Association President

