



December, 2017

Sylvan Lake Shoreline

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Publishing Dates: April • June • August • October • December

Santa's Visit

Hey Kids

Don't Miss Santa's Visit



Santa will be coming to
Bjorklund Park
for his
annual
visit.

**Saturday,
December 9th,**

Please bring treats to share.

*He will arrive at
5:00 p.m. SHARP!*

Santa's Visit and Luminary Walk

After Santa's Visit, walk around the lake with family or friends and enjoy the lights from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. If you would be interested in hosting a treat station, please email lauriemackay@gmail.com.

**Saturday,
December 9th**



See inside for details:

- State of the Lake
- Your 2018 SLIA Board
- Clean Up Day Results
- Parks & Easements
- Snow Plowing
- ECO-CORNER #2
- Leaves and Dog Stuff

Ladies Holiday Party ~

The Sylvan Lake 'Ladies Holiday Party is Friday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. at Marianne Michnowski's house (21304 W. Sylvan Dr. South).



Bring a wrapped white elephant gift to exchange if you'd like. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share and canned donations for the Fremont Township food pantry.

State of the Lake

By Gary Goldblatt, SLIA President

Greetings fellow Sylvan Lakers! What a fast, cold and rainy fall season. Now it is time to look forward to the Holidays and a very beautiful holiday season around Sylvan Lake.

As the year closes out, I look back on 2017 and reflect on some of the improvements that were made throughout the year.

- Amended and restated declarations and By-laws
- Geese abatement
- New floating pier for the Lake
- 97.8% 2017 assessment collection rate
- Boat storage racks, abandoned boat clean up and storage/sticker revenue of \$1095.00. Goes toward boat storage unit expense.
- New step bridges in Lower Ravinia and Maple easements
- Re-paving of our Highland drive entrance
- Tree removal as needed
- Rules and Procedures for Oktoberfest (will be included in final draft of Rules and Regulations)
- Big improvement in our Profit and loss over LY. TY through 11/15 \$ -5.6 vs LY at same time of \$-25.5. (There is still \$6.7 in expected revenue to flow through for this year so we should finish in the Black)
- Juneau Terrace repair plans/budget are in place
- Increased focus and communication on “see something, say something” ie, neighborhood watch

Thank you to my fellow Board members, and the many volunteers who were key players in helping to drive improvement this year and always.

A View to 2018:

- 2018 annual assessment statements in the mail 1/4/18 and due by 2/28/18
 - Review, edit, updating and restating of the SLIA Rules and Regulations
 - Continuing discussions with guest appearances at board meetings around shoreline buffer zone and native plants
 - Continued erosion control
 - Juneau Terrace repair (in conjunction with Fremont Township)
 - Increase volunteer base. Would like to see some new faces to mingle with the core group of volunteers. How about some young folks to help with volunteer projects throughout the year..
- Great way to earn school credits.



Your 2018 SLIA Board:

President: Gary Goldblatt

Vice President: Jeanne Peterson

Treasurer: OPEN

(need a volunteer)

Secretary: Lynda Throm

Parks & Easements: Jeri Swanson

Lake: Lee Dickinson

Beach: Cliff Gartner

Special Projects:

Brian Wawrzyniak

Recreation: Dave Kruse

I encourage everyone to attend the monthly Board meetings. This is where great ideas, suggestions can be shared and acted upon. Don't make the annual meeting the only meeting for participation. The SLIA board meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 7:30-9pm at the Countryside fire station. Our next board meeting will be on January 17th. In the interim and always, please feel free to reach out to any of the Board members if you have questions, comments, suggestions and the like.

OTHER UPDATES:

- Nothing new to report on the spillway and Dam project. Probably on hold indefinitely.
- Gilmer Road project ETA 2019. Land acquisition along Gilmer road and Midlothian road is actively underway.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
EVERYONE AND A
SUPER FANTASTIC
NEW YEAR !**

Gary Goldblatt

A Great Fall Clean Up Day

Just wanted to thank and acknowledge all the workers who helped on Fall Clean Up Day. The cut-off date for the Shoreline Newsletter was a tad earlier than I could meet.

So many came out on a beautiful morning and accomplished many needed tasks:

Along North Sylvan, Nancy & Scott Hanson, Renee DelMissier, Gen Connor, Linda Mihel, Paul Stempian, Kathy Ford, Laurie MacKay, Debbie Pomazal, Al Grandt, John Michnowski, (new resident in Adler's house), Terry & Rich Borst, Elizabeth Nagel, Bill Pohl, Bill Dolbee, Sandy Washburn and Anibal DelaCruz removed LOTS of buckthorn and honeysuckle.. They then herbicided the stumps and performed general cleanup of leaves and trash. Who is depositing dog poop in the tree stump on North Sylvan? PLEASE take it home and throw it away!

Dan & Sandy Washburn donated 2 pier sections to our association. Al Grandt, Bill Pohl, Sam Ford, Evan & Andy Kitzmiller helped to move these from the Washburn's driveway and take them down into Ravinia Park where they will be used to extend a walking path that already has one pier section. This elevates traffic off the soggy bottom.

Earlier in the week Al Grandt and Dan & Andi Dickinson moved fire wood out of Maple Park and transported it to Schwerman Park for the Oktoberfest. Mark Anderson & Uwe Moeller spread new gravel on the path so this could happen and also so people could use this path once again

after it was washed out from the historic rains we had.

Andi Dickinson, Karen Doane and Patsy Sweeney tended to watering some plants in Bjorklund Park and also spreading wood chips. They spread a little more magic at the Water Triangle and pointed out some badly needed dead wood trimming on the hickory trees there.

Andy & Evan Kitzmiller moved gravel and rip-rap to where it belongs on Hiawatha Path that runs between Crescent & South Sylvan as it was washed out 3 times this summer. Ann Trauscht helped on this path along with myself and Bill Dolbee. Warren Young and Mary Harroun replaced the gravel & rock that had washed in on the land bridge in Hiawatha Terrace the week before Clean Up day.

28 people worked for 3 hours, that's 84 hours just on Saturday! The others who worked prior probably would add another 20 hours too our efforts. Why is this a big deal? We didn't have to pay anyone to accomplish much needed chores. If we had to pay \$20.00 per hour for about 100 hours of volunteer work, that is \$2,000.00!!! It all adds up, we had fun and donuts. Hard to beat.

Thanks to all, especially to the folks that went from site to site to pitch in again!

Jeri Swanson
SLIA Parks & Easements



Parks & Easements

I thanked so many in an elbastro, but did forget Dave Kruse & Sam Ford, so thanks guys for taking down the VB nets !

Once again, I can't stress how important these volunteer hours are to our budget, much \$\$\$ is saved in the way of hiring outside labor to do things we can. Thanks one and all for a super turnout.

On Sat. January 13th 2018, a group of us Parks/Easements/Environmental gals will be removing more buckthorn along the fenceline. If its 30 degrees or warmer, come join us. We'll start @10:00am. If you have buckthorn and honeysuckle on your property, this is a good time for removal. After cutting it down to the ground, apply Round-Up to the fresh cut- scoring the cut also helps it to absorb, like a criss cross, then apply Round-Up either spraying directly on the scored stump or using a paint brush. Sometimes that is easier, pour some in a jar, dip the brush in, less waste from over spraying. These species are dormant in winter and they are pulling moisture down to the roots, rather than shooting moisture up the trunk as happens in the spring to feed new growth.

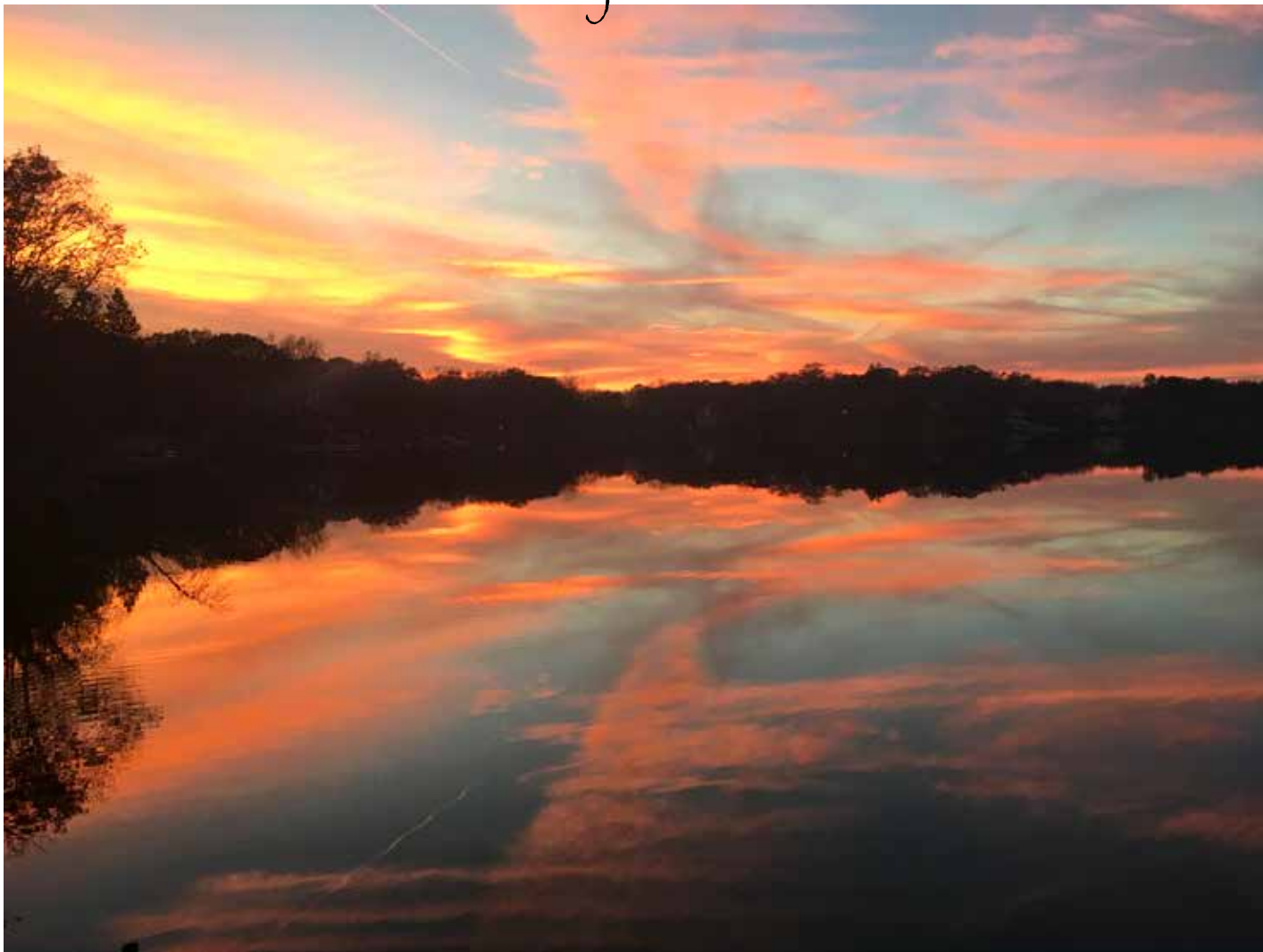
Spreading native flowering seed in winter is good too, either sweep some snow over the seed, or rake some leaves over them and walk over the leaves to help keep them in place. As the ground thaws it draws the seed to the dirt in a very natural way, and BOOM , seeds sprout !

Our group also discussed forming a Kids Environmental Group, anyone interested in helping this along ?

Just email me: swan458@sbcglobal.net

Jeri Swanson
SLIA Parks & Easements

An Unbelievable Sunset at Sylvan Lake



On Monday, November 27, we were treated to a spectacular sunset over Sylvan Lake. This picture was taken from the dam at about 4:30 pm. I hope that you were able to also see and enjoy the moment.
Donn Hamm

Newsletter NEWS Needs Your Help

Please email any information, pictures, past happenings or up coming events.

April 1st Issue News Needed by:

March 20th, 2018

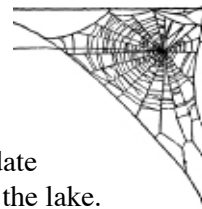
Pictures welcome!

Send to Donn Hamm at:
dehamm@comcast.net

Please put Shoreline in the subject line.

Shoreline is a Newsletter for the Sylvan Lake Community,
Sylvan Lake, Illinois

Sylvan Lake Website www.slia.net



The Sylvan Lake website provides up-to-date information on events and activity around the lake. You can also download the latest Shoreline, participate on a message board, and learn about its history. To access secure sections of the site, fill out the online form from the home page and the login information will be emailed to you.

ECO-CORNER #2

Freeze-Salt-Thaw-Repeat:

We are never sure what freezing weather and precipitation we'll ultimately get throughout the winter season, but keeping our walks, driveways, and roadways safe and easy to navigate with good traction is a priority in order to continue our regular work and social activities. We also can be mindful about how surface run-off and a future spring thaw can wash liberally applied de-icing salts through our neighborhood easements, into Sylvan Lake, and beyond. We may not be able to influence exactly how public roads are cleared during the winter for safe and steady travel, but we do have some control over what we use to keep hard surfaces on our personal properties de-iced during freezing temperatures.

Rock salt (sodium chloride) has been a common and low cost option to melt ice since the 1940s, and although it is a natural product mined from the earth, that product is often overused which can result in damage to surrounding land and water environments. Once sodium chloride enters an ecosystem, it can be diluted - but it never leaves. Excess salt can easily wash away to deposit into neighborhood easement lands and can ultimately raise the chloride levels in our Sylvan Lake. This has the negative potential to limit or extinguish aquatic life and vegetation vital to the health of our lake water quality and shorelines.

Data from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago suggests that it takes only 1 teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water! Salt dust and residue on land can also chemically burn or kill nearby plants - not to mention irritate the feet of pets - and contaminate the ground surrounding trees and bushes. Some soils can become toxic enough over time such that very little will grow come the warmer months. As a side note, the Chicago Botanic Garden does not use sodium chloride (salt) on the property, and has not for at least 27 years.

There are other de-icing products on the market that are generally considered more eco-friendly than road salt, so at the start of this season perhaps we could learn more about the chemicals we plan to use in de-icing our yard areas and, in addition, be mindful of the amounts we throw on the ground. As scientists voice growing concerns about the environmental impact of the (over-) use of rock salt, we have a unique opportunity to directly manage and positively influence the overall health of our Sylvan Lake neighborhood land and water ecosystems. The outcomes of doing so can show a benefit across all seasons!

By Jennifer Cameron

Resource Links

- <http://savethewater.org/2015/12/14/road-salt-effects-ecosystem-and-population-health/>
- <http://cels.uri.edu/docslink/ww/water-quality-factsheets/Chlorides.pdf>
- <https://idot.illinois.gov/Assets/uploads/files/Transportation-System/Manuals-Guides-&-Handbooks/T2/E011%20Highway%20Salt%20and%20Our%20Environment.pdf>
- <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-road-salt-environment-met-20170126-story.html>
- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/what-happens-to-all-the-salt-we-dump-on-the-roads-180948079/>
- <https://freshwater.org/wp-content/uploads/joomla/PDFs/road-salt/stevecorsi.pdf>



Please! NO Leaves In the Lake

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, disposing of leaves in lakes causes more unwanted algae blooms.

Please tell your landscape service to not blow them in the lake.

Visit this website for additional info regarding this topic: www.pca.state.mn.us/ then go to the living green header and read all about it.



Dog Poop Problem

During Clean up Day several "filled" dog poop bags were picked up off the streets.

Thanks for picking up after your dog, but PLEASE take it home and throw it away.



NATURAL AREA REPORT

Site Sylvan Lake Parks - Ravinia and Maple **Date** 11-14-17
Service Task Description 2017 Natural Area Maintenance
Personnel Jane and Brian
Wind 11mph **Direction** S **%Humidity** 62% **Sky** Cloudy
Drought NA **Air Temp** 47F **%Chance of Rain** 0%
Target Plants Lonicera spp., Rhamnus cathartica, Frangula alnus **Signs Posted** Yes
Herbicide Name Brand AquaPro, Garlon 4 Ultra **Delivery Method** Backpack Sprayer
Active Ingredient Glyphosate, Triclopyr **Herbicide Rate/Amount** 5% (12.8oz.), 5% (12.8oz.)
Surfactant Name/Amount Cygnat Plus (4oz.) **Type of Carrier/Amount** Water
Restrictions 24hr. Restricted Entry Interval **Total Amount of Dye Used** 0.01gal.
Total Amount of Mixed Herbicide Used 2gal. AquaPro and Garlon 4 Mixture

JOB PROGRESS AND COMMENTS

We began working at Ravinia Park and focused on invasive woody species. Larger individuals were brushcut and followed up with a stump herbicide treatment. Small woody species that were still green were foliar sprayed. The area closest to the road was focused on. Our previous foliar application to small woody species proved very successful and today was a good follow-up. It appears some shrubs were recently cut by somebody else, potentially homeowners, as the leaves on these downed individuals were still green. These sites are in overall good shape with native species dominating the ecosystems. Ravinia Park has undesirable woody species throughout. Maple Park has seen non-native woody species removed from the interior of the site though more individuals persist on the fringes. The most problematic non-native species at both sites are woodies which are recommended for removal this winter before they get larger and drop more seed. We saw very few exotic thistles at each park and sprayed the few (<10) that we encountered.

Snow Plowing and Parking

When Fremont Township plows your roads this winter it allows for better and safer snow removal if the plows do not have to go around vehicles that are parked on the road. **Please do not park on the street to allow the plows to get through safely.**



Fremont Township maintains over 40 miles of road including the roads in Countryside Lake, Fremont Manor, Sylvan Lake, West Shore Park, Oak Terrace, Barnswallow, Pond Shore, Summerhill Estates, Ivanhoe Road, Erhart Road, Chardon Road, Milton Road, The Woods of Ivanhoe and more!