

Friends of Silver Lake

Annual Meeting

June 13, 2015 9:00 AM

Grace Adventures, Beacon Gymnasium

President Tom Rickhoff called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the board members. He reviewed the purpose of the organization is to form an association of property owners and other parties interested in the betterment of the Silver Lake community to receive, encourage, discuss, promote and act upon ideas, suggestions, complaints, and reports which are of general interest to all interested parties, to keep the greater Silver Lake community and watershed more beautiful, enjoyable, secure, and valuable.

Current Board Members

2012-2015 Bob Henry, Ed DeJong, and Sue Sharp (Secretary)

2013-2015 Bob Busscher, Bill DeJong (Treasurer), and Tom Rickhoff (President)

2014-2016 Chris Olson, Michael Jonassen (Vice-President), and Ed DeJong

USGS/GVSU Diagnostic Evaluation

Larry Byl led off the discussion of the USGS/GVSU project. Larry Byl is the Oceana County Commissioner for Golden Township and chairs the Silver Lake Improvement Board. Also presenting were Bill Bryker and Ed DeJong who along with Larry Byl are on the USGS/GVSU Silver Lake steering committee. Listed below are the highlights of the presentation. A Power Point of the presentation can be found by clicking [Here!](#)

- Project Status
 - USGS and Grand Valley Annis Water Resource Institute have completed their data collection.
 - The final report is currently out for technical review. The final report should be ready for publication by September 30, 2015
- Findings
 - The cause of algal blooms and the eutrophic (poor) status of the lake are caused by both phosphorus and nitrogen.
 - The average phosphorus load was 1,342 lbs. per year
 - Largest sources of phosphorus were groundwater (47%), Hunter Creek (29%), and lawn run off (13%)
 - The average nitrogen load was almost 52,000 pounds per year

- Largest sources of nitrogen were Hunter Creek (56%), groundwater (25%), and atmospheric deposition (9%)
 - Large portion of phosphorus loading that comes from ground water and Hunter Creek is likely originating from septic systems.
 - “Likely” septic loading scenario estimates septic contribute 48% of phosphorus to groundwater and 22% to Hunter Creek.
 - The septic model suggest that septic systems are an unlikely source of nitrogen (only 1%)
 - Silver Lake trophic status. There are three classifications
 - Oligotrophic – Low nutrient concentrations, low algal production, low primary productivity
 - Mesotrophic – Intermediate level of productivity, commonly clear water lakes with submerged aquatic plants and medium levels of nutrients
 - Eutrophic - High biological productivity due to excessive nutrients, dominated by aquatic plants or algae, can result in fish kills and algal blooms
 - The current condition of Silver Lake is eutrophic (TSI > 50) based on secchi depth, chlorophyll *a*, and phosphorus concentrations (using Carlson’s TSI
- Bathtub Model (scenarios of altering lake inputs and outputs)
 - Reducing nutrients from only Hunter Creek or groundwater, by themselves is not enough to address the problems of the lake. It will require that both groundwater and Hunter Creek are addressed.
 - The septic-removal simulation indicates that a complete removal of septic systems using the “likely” (medium) septic-load scenario would improve the lake to an average mesotrophic condition
- Discussion
 - It is not clear what the origins are of the large nitrogen concentration coming in from Hunter Creek
 - The smaller tributaries coming into Silver Lake (i.e. by State Park, Red Cottages) were also studied. We have the results but in comparison to groundwater and Hunter Creek they have a smaller contribution to the lake.
 - Based on the amount of phosphorus and the type of soils around Silver Lake, it is believed that the soil has saturated its ability to bind the phosphorous.
 - Additional discussion regarding storm runoff, impact of paved roads, and farm uses of nitrogen.

DNR Update

Jacklin Blodgett, PRD Chief Program Officer from the DNR provided an overview of the happenings at the Silver Lake State Park.

- Leadership Change. Charlotte Kiefer has taken a position at the Traverse City State Park and Jody Johnston is now the interim Silver Lake State Park Manager. The DNR is hoping to have a new permanent manager in July.

- ORV Changes. Jacklyn explained the new procedure for eliminating the vouchers for “dune ready” ORVs. So far the system appears to be working. There is also a web site and online surveys. The DNR is also working with the DEQ on the possibility of creating a second entrance to the dunes and expanding the parking lot.
http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365_15070-34760--,00.html

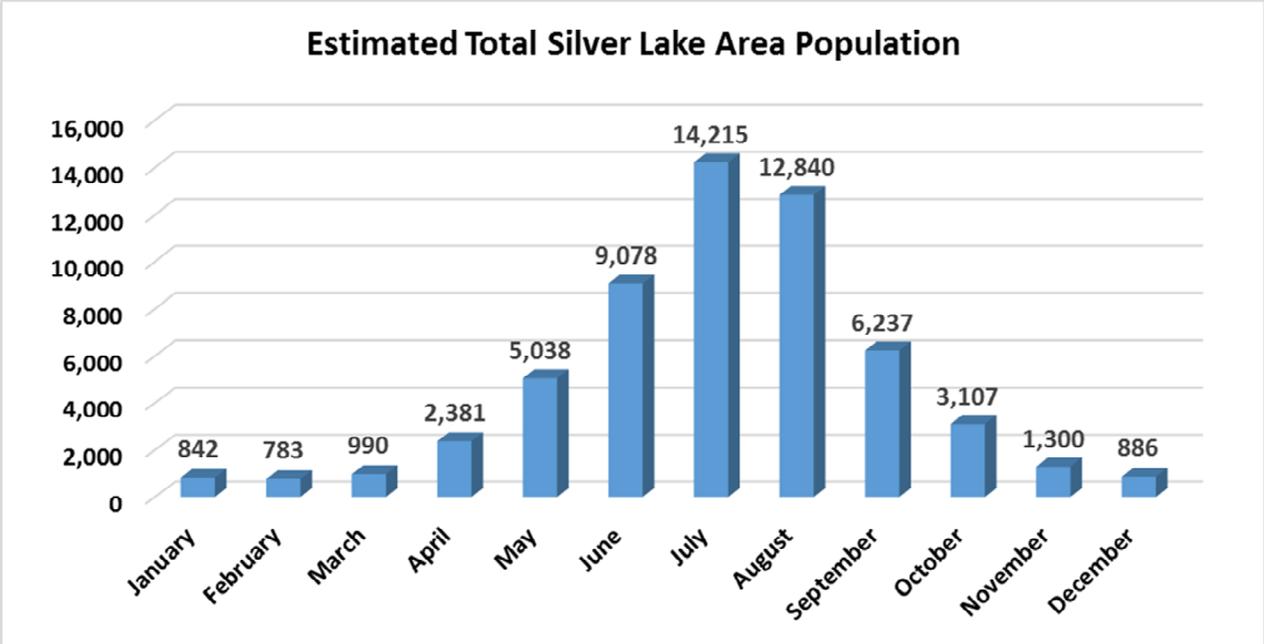
- State Park Renovations. The boat launch/parking/picnic area/beach are undergoing renovations. The budget for the project was \$1.2m. The bids for the project came in at \$1.6m. There has been some reduction in the scope of the project, such as new bathrooms. The work on the project is scheduled to begin in July and should be completed by the spring of 2016.

- Other comments:
 - Q: Number of additional parking spaces.
A: Not user of the numbers
 - Q: Will Dirt road will be changed
A: Yes, working with county
 - Q: Is there a plan to tie into Craigs’ Cruisers sewer project?
A: Can’t say, but the DNR has worked with other places with sewer systems
 - Comment: need for toilets on the dunes, both ORV and by the beach

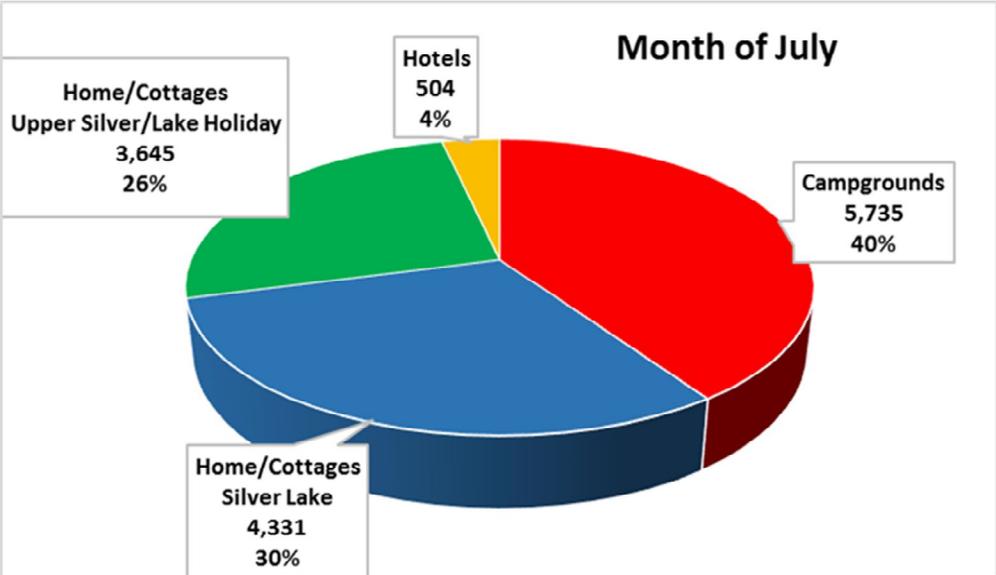
Silver Lake Population Study

Bill DeJong conducted a comprehensive population study of the greater Silver Lake area. This study was conducted to determine the number of persons in the area at different times of the year. This information should be helpful in determining the need for public services, market share for businesses, and future planning activities in the area. A full copy of the population study can be found by clicking [Here](#). A copy of the Power Point can be found [Here](#).

The following graph summarizes the number of persons in the greater Silver Lake/Upper Silver Lake area based on different times of the year.



The pie chart below summarize where these people are located during the month of July.



In addition to persons staying overnight there are approximately 4,284 day visitors at homes/cottages on a summer Saturday and 9,807 on the 4th of July.

There are also day visitors (that are not visiting a home/cottage) that use the state park, visit the lighthouse, take a Mac Woods dune ride, or visit one of the restaurants or businesses which may be in addition to the number above.

Based on this study, there are over 25,000 people in the greater Silver Lake/Upper Silver Lake area on the 4th of July.

Silver Lake Park (Golden Township Park)

Bob Henry provided an update of the Silver Lake Township Park. A copy of his Power Point can be found by clicking [Here](#).

- A revised “master plan” for the park has been developed.
- In 2014 the picnic pavilion was completed through donations
 - Picnics in the park start on June 23 (Tuesdays)
 - Reservations for use of the pavilion can be made at Silver Point, General Store 231-873-0873
- Well has been installed
- Friends of Silver Lake donated funds toward the sprinkler system.
 - Ed DeJong helped secure donations for the Heads & Controller from Hunter Irrigation.
- A new playground has been installed that was donated by the Apple & BBQ Festival & Silver Lake Sand Dunes-Hart Visitors Bureau
- Fund raising for park benches. \$550/bench.
- Friends of Silver Lake is donating a new sign to list events in the Silver Lake area
- Working on grants for Bike Racks, Driveway, and restrooms.

Lighthouse Hiking/Bike Path

Tom Rickhoff presented information regarding a possible hiking and possibly future bike path from the end of Silver Lake Road through the State owned land to the Lighthouse. A copy of his presentation can be found [Here](#).

The purpose of the path would be to provide an alternative pedestrian access between Silver Lake and the Little Point Sable Lighthouse. The current lighthouse road is very narrow and difficult for cars, bicycles, joggers, and walkers. After hiking the area multiple times there are ribbons on trees that provide a general idea of how this path might evolve. There are several major challenges of dunes in developing an actual path. In October 2015 representatives from the DNR and even the National Park service visited the area and hiked the trail. We are looking at future meetings with the DNR and others to hopefully plan this further.

The area is beautifully wooded with many trees and small streams. Tom encouraged persons to take the 1.2 mile hike but suggested wearing good shoes and taking a compass in case some of the orange ribbons were missing. This hike might be labeled as a moderate hike with one or

two areas as being more difficult. If you follow the ribbons it will take about 30-45 minutes to hike.

Defib Information

FYI, there are AEDs located at Sandy Woods subdivision (on a telephone poll at the end of N. June Dr) and at Silver Point (General Store). Even though these are there, call 911 if someone is having heart problems.

Committee/Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for Communications, FoSL booth, Web Site, Bike Path committee, Fundraising, and future Board Members

Treasurer's Report

FoSL Treasurer, Bill DeJong, gave the financial report. The current balance was \$9,882.94. There is \$500 to be paid out to support the 4th of July fireworks and approximately \$1,000 toward the township park sign. \$328 was raised at the 50/50 raffle during the meeting.

Election of Board Members

Election was held to select the new board members for 2015-2017. The following persons were elected: Pat Peterman, Judi Rippee, and Rita VanderVliet

Other Items

- Channel Improvement. Tom Rickhoff suggested the need to begin to look at how the channel can be restored.
- Speed limit on North Shore Dr.
- Allowing dogs on the dunes
- Toilets on the dunes
- Trash Receptacles
- Fishing Quality Discussion

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45am