

# SLA Water Quality Report

(for April 15, 2023)

**Silver Lake Watershed Commission (SLWC).** At the 01/19/2023 SLWC meeting Steve Perkins from Wyoming County updated the group on actives relevant to Silver Lake.

- a. **Waterfront Revitalization Project.** On January 04, 2023 notification was received that a Water Resource Agency grant was awarded. The award is for \$175k (15% is local \$\$s). This is a study grant to develop a comprehensive plan for Silver Lake. The study area includes the lake, Lake District, and the Outlet. The study scope will include everything from water quality and watershed issues to economic development, tourism, and access to the lake along with anything you can think of that benefits/impacts Silver Lake. The study is expected to take 1.5-2 years to complete and will result in a comprehensive plan. Once this plan is completed implementation grants will be sought. A broad-based committee will be established and populated over the next several months. A consultant is also being identified. There will be SLA representation on this committee. This fits in with the Dredging Project.
- b. **Dredging Project.** A two-pronged effort is underway. A property lease agreement is being finalized along with a comprehensive dredging plan that will be submitted to DEC for approval. The goal is to have both efforts in place by mid-year 2023 so that grant applications for the dredging project can be submitted with an eye toward implementation in fall/winter 2024. There will be a maintenance piece within any dredging plan. There appears to be economic development buy in and there will be opportunities for SLA members to help with area boat tours.

**Monarch Butterfly/Milkweed Planting.** Monarch butterflies are one of the most beautiful and recognizable butterfly species in North America. In addition to being effective pollinators, monarchs are widely known for their multi-generational migration from the northern United States and Canada to their overwintering spots in Mexico and Southern California.

Sadly, over the past two decades the monarch numbers east of the Rockies have fallen by 80-90%. The monarch's decline is in large measure due to shrinking milkweed habitat.

SLA and CLEAN have partnered with Ellen Folts at Amanda's Garden to provide milkweed and other pollinator-friendly species for Silver Lake residents.

SLAWQ hopes to have these pollinator plants available free of charge for pick-up on a first-come-first-served basis at the May 13, 2023 SLA Meeting. More details will follow.

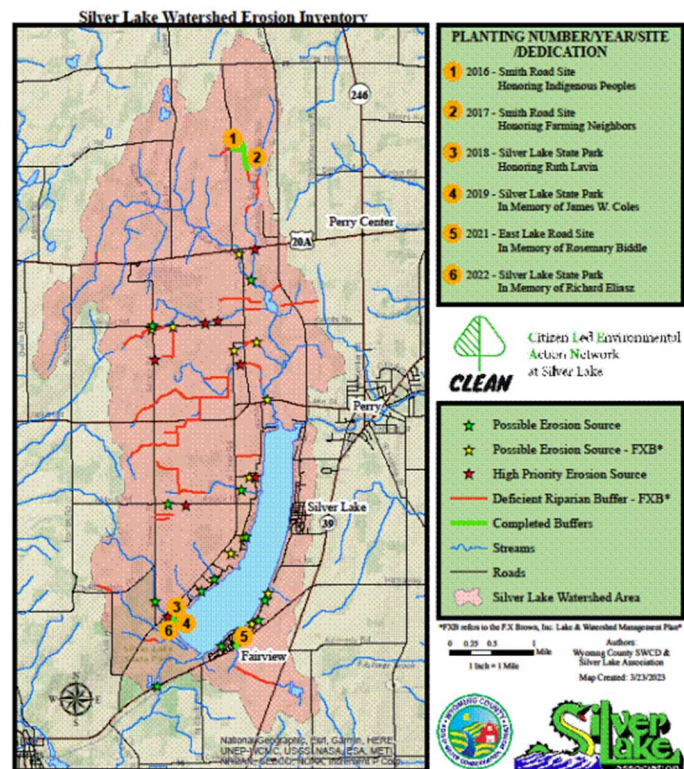


**Follow-up to 2022 Japanese Knotweed (JK) Spraying.** SLAWQ team members will inspect each 2022 site in early May and follow up with A-Tip as needed to arrange any additional spraying in 2023.

**Potential 2023 JK Spraying Activities.** The Club at Silver Lake owner recently communicated with Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District (WCSWCD) staff and voiced renewed interest in JK spraying. SLAWQ has passed on A-Tip’s contact information and the 2022 information flyer to the club’s owner.

**Improved Communications.** SLA and CLEAN are involved in numerous activities that aim to improve the health of Silver Lake. To better communicate these efforts and their importance to residents, visitors, and other stakeholders we have been working on an appropriate narrative and visual to:

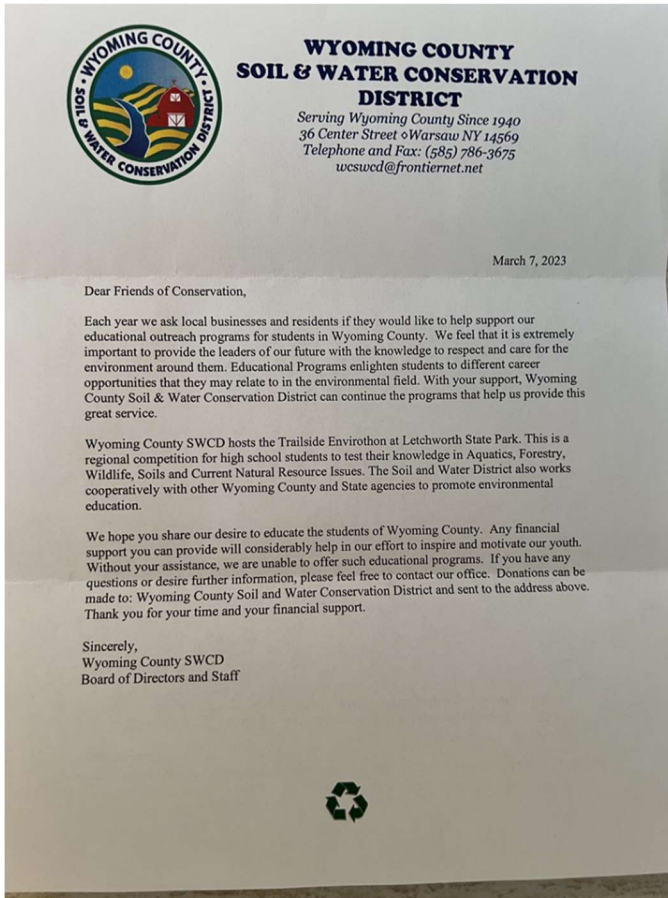
- (i) Illustrate the Silver Lake watershed’s size in comparison to Silver Lake and show the major tributaries.
- (ii) Explain why we focus on erosion control, removal of non-native plants, and installation of native plant species along tributaries leading into Silver Lake.
- (iii) Show where we have remediated watershed tributaries and paid homage to those that inspire or lead our mission.



We hope to communicate this information via the web and Facebook along with physical installations at the Silver Lake State Boat Launch and the Perry Public Beach areas. We are also planning to have a short piece appear in the Perry Herald to coincide with the 2023 SLA/CLEAN Golf Tournament advertising and sponsorship campaigns.

**Potential Planting Sites for 2023, 2024, and 2025.** Becca Campbell (WCSWCD Technician) surveyed several sites within the Silver Lake watershed over the winter. Three (3) sites were identified that are adjacent to Silver Lake and Suckerbrook Rds. Pending a successful on-site walk over in May, SLAWQ recommends that we systematically target these sites over the next several years. Becca has already reached out to the landowner to secure appropriate permissions. More information will follow as things progress.

**WCSWCD Solicitation Letter.** Several team members received the attached solicitation letter from WCSWCD.



CLEAN has sent WCSWCD a \$500 donation and SLAWQ recommends that SLA consider a similar donation.

SLAWQ has reached out to WCSWCD to ensure that Todd Shuskey and this colleagues at Perry Central High School (PCHS) are made away of relevant activities.

**SLA/CLEAN Golf Tournament, Banquet, and Basket Raffle.** Proceeds from this event go toward a projects within the Silver Lake watershed that help to improve Silver Lake's health. The 2023 Tournament, Banquet, and Raffle will be held at The Club at Silver Lake on Saturday, July 22, 2023 (8 AM registration; 9 AM Tee time). The main points of contact are (Joe Caputo ([jvcaputo54@gmail.com](mailto:jvcaputo54@gmail.com))) and Frank Bright ([chefvb@buffalo.edu](mailto:chefvb@buffalo.edu))).

We hope all the volunteers from 2022 are ready to help again in 2023!! If you wish to help volunteer, please let us know ASAP.

We request that each Tract create a suitable basket for the Tournament's basket raffle. Please reach out to Karen Norton ([karennort@yahoo.com](mailto:karennort@yahoo.com)) or Bonnie Bright ([bbright4046@gmail.com](mailto:bbright4046@gmail.com)), if you have any questions about the raffle. Baskets can be brought along to the July SLA meeting (July 8<sup>th</sup>) or delivered to the Bright's cottage (4046 Lakeside Ave) the week of July 9<sup>th</sup>. Please, no surprise/early deliveries. If your basket contains perishable/temperature sensitive items (e.g., chocolate), plan to have it arrive at Club on the morning of July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**CSLAP.** The DRAFT 2022 Silver Lake Report has been posted. It arrived much earlier in comparison to previous seasons, this is more helpful and timely as we launch 2023 activities.

Key takeaways (intentionally underlined) from the DRAFT 2022 Silver Lake Report follows:

Q. Are there any (statistically significant) trends?

A. Over the past 37 years, clarity, surface NH<sub>3</sub> and surface water temperature have increased significantly.

Over the past 37 years, chlorophyll a, deep NH<sub>3</sub>, deep total phosphorus, surface calcium, surface total phosphorus, total dissolved nitrogen and true color have decreased significantly.

Over the past ten years, clarity, pH and surface NH<sub>3</sub> have increased significantly.

Over the past ten years, deep total phosphorus, deep water temperature, total dissolved nitrogen and true color have decreased significantly.

The 2023 CSLAP campaign has been paid for and will begin in May/June and run through Sept/Oct.

**PCHS Activities.** Todd Shuskey and his students are planning to be back to their pre-COVID levels. In 2023 they plan to continue their sediment sampling work and implement new fish sampling activities now that Todd has secured his education license to collect fish. On-lake fish sampling efforts using Fyke nets (right) will occur in mid-April. The near shore sampling sites will be marked by buoys for only a few days. Residents should not be alarmed and they should avoid these areas.



**Watercraft Inspection Steward.** SLAWQ has once again partnered with Mallory Broda at SUNY-ESF to secure a steward for the Silver Lake State Boat Launch. This year's steward is local, his name is Will Parker. Will is scheduled to follow the typical Friday-Monday, 8:00AM-6:30PM schedule starting May 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day Weekend). His assignment should run through Labor Day Weekend (Sept 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>).

If you visit the launch during Will's work times, please stop by and offer a kind word to acknowledge his efforts.

To give a sense of this program's importance, the 2022 Silver Lake steward (Jenelle Grigelevich) performed over 1500 inspections, interacted with over 4100 people, and intercepted nearly 200 aquatic invasive species!

**Silver Lake Sewer System.** SLAWQ team members delivered a presentation to the Town of Castile Board on 11/10/2022. The presentation summarized our efforts and we asked a series of specific sewer system-specific questions:

1. *What are the Silver Lake Water & Sewer District's system upgrade plans?*

*Emergency / Back-Up Generators at every Lift Station?*

*2. What are the System long-range maintenance plans?*

*How often is the System inspected?*

*3. How are Sewer System checks and status reports communicated to residents?*

*Does/will the Silver Lake Water & Sewer District have a website or Facebook page through which to communicate with residents?*

*4. What are System access requirements and resident expectations?*

*Are the initial (1983) easements, applied to the lakefront properties on which the Sewer System is placed, still in effect?*

*Why are certain residents allowed (with fencing) to permanently restrict access to the Sewer pathway?*

*For On-Going Discussion:*

*How can the Silver Lake Association, its Water Quality Committee, and Town of Castile work together to address these questions and establish an on-going process for improved communications?*

SLAWQ is working to secure a tour of the sewer treatment plant and get answers to our questions.

**Improper Leaf and Yard Waste Disposal.** The new waste disposal contract between the Town of Castile and Waste Management created a leaf disposal problem around portions of Silver Lake. SLA leaders negotiated a sensible work around with the Town of Castile that used satellite dumpsters, but this was not ideal.

SLAWQ and several residents explored this matter with DEC Region 9 and were told there are no NY statutes on this matter for navigable waterways. SLAWQ raised the matter directly with the Town of Castile Board and their lawyer during the “Sewer” meeting and we were informed there are no applicable NY statutes for navigable waterways.

SLAWQ has reached out to the full CSLAP volunteer network across NY State and our NYSFOLA contacts to determine how other NY lakes manage this issue.

In the meantime SLAWQ is working to create language for the SLA and CLEAN web and Facebook pages describing the negative impacts of leaf and yard waste disposal in our lake.

The next SLAWQ meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2023 at 4:00 pm.