

SLA Water Quality Report

(for May 13, 2023)

Silver Lake Watershed Commission (SLWC). There are no updates to the 04/15/2023 SLAWQ Report.

Monarch Butterfly, Milkweed & Pollinator Planting. SLAWQ will have these plants available free of charge for pick-up on a first-come-first-served basis at the May 13, 2023 SLA Meeting.

Follow-up to 2022 Japanese Knotweed (JK) Spraying. SLAWQ has inspected each 2022 site and has followed up with A-Tip for targeted respraying in 2023.

Potential 2023 JK Spraying Activities. SLAWQ has clarified matters with The Club at Silver Lake owner, we have passed on A-Tip's contact information to the owner, and we have re-sent the 2022 information flyer that was produced by the PCHS students.

Improved Communications. SLA and CLEAN are working to install new Silver Lake Watershed maps at the Silver Lake State Park and at the Perry Public Beach. These maps explain our efforts and highlight our planting activities.

We are also working with the Perry Herald on an annual series of articles to call out our annual plans, efforts, and accomplishments with one article coinciding with the 2023 SLA/CLEAN Golf Tournament advertising and sponsorship campaigns.

Potential Planting Sites for 2023, 2024, and 2025. SLAWQ and the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District (WCSWCD) have identified several sites within the Silver Lake Watershed. WCSWCD staff have reached out to the land owner to secure permissions.

More information will follow as things progress.

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) and Frank Bright (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) or Bonnie Bright (bbright4046@gmail.com), if you have any questions about the raffle. Baskets can be brought along to the July SLA meeting (July 8th) or delivered to the Bright's cottage (4046 Lakeside Ave) the week of July 9th. 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 22nd.

CSLAP. The DRAFT 2022 Silver Lake Report has been posted. The Report 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 NH₃ and surface water temperature have increased significantly.

Over the past 37 years, chlorophyll a, deep NH₃, 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 NH₃ have increased significantly.

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

While it is inappropriate to draw any causative correlations, it is interesting to note similar trending in: (a) the percentage of farms located within the Silver Lake Watershed that have high capacity concrete manure retention bunkers (all) along with (b) the SLAWQ team's efforts to stabilize erosion prone tributaries that lead into Silver Lake.

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 back to their pre-COVID levels.

In 2023 they plan to continue their sediment sampling work.

They recently completed a new fish sampling activities.

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 26th-29th (Memorial Day Weekend). His assignment should run through Labor Day Weekend (Sept 1st-4th).

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

Silver Lake Sewer System. SLAWQ team members are working with the Town of Castile to improve 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. 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.

The Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) states, “it’s illegal to dispose of yard waste into lakes and waterways.

<http://mansfieldny.org/pdfs/2019/LEWPA%20Yard%20Waste%20Brochure.compressed.pdf>

A similar policy exists at Lake Hopatcong (in NJ)

<https://www.lakehopatcongfoundation.org/news/dont-rake-leaves-into-the-lake#:~:text=An%20abundance%20of%20decomposing%20leaves,fish%20and%20other%20aquatic%20life.>

SLAWQ will work with the SLWC to try and establish a local policy or ordinance.

SLAWQ is also 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 June 9, 2023 at 4:00 pm.