

Silver Lake Association Water Quality Committee Report (08/14/2021)

This Report is largely based on the 07/23/2021 SLAWQ meeting. Updates will be presented at the August meeting.

Dredging. The Wyoming County Board of Supervisors' supported a Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning grant from the Department of State (DOS) to study and develop a strategic plan to improve and protect the water quality of Silver Lake and promote sustainable economic and community revitalization in the Towns of Castile and Perry and the Village of Perry.

Wyoming County will serve as the lead applicant with the others serving as co-applicants. The grant application will seek \$120k [\$90k (75%) from NYS and \$30k (25%) from participating municipalities].

The SLAWQ team acknowledges our two local Supervisors (Jim Brick & Stan Kline) whom helped to move this effort forward.

Golf Tournament. The tournament went off on July 31st *thanks to the hard work and dedication of leads Joe Caputo and Karen Norton and their all-volunteer team!!!*

A Report from Joe Caputo is attached.

Lake Water Level. SLAWQ regularly reminds SLA meeting attendees and those reading our Reports about the Village of Perry's camera located at the Federal St. dam. This camera is aimed at the water-level gauge and it provides a near-real time update on Silver Lake's water levels. A link to this camera is available on the SLA and CLEAN web sites. The URL for a direct link to the camera is:

<https://villageofperry.com/departments/water-sewer/source-of-water/lake-water-level/>

This camera was installed several years ago by the Village of Perry following the SLA's urging after a heavy rain storm caused lake levels to rise rapidly, leaving some property owners unaware.

Many members have weather alerts activated on our smartphones for Castile/Perry/Silver Lake property locations and have the Federal St. camera URL bookmarked. Thus, when a weather alert for these areas is received, one can easily check on the lake level from anywhere with internet access and take action as warranted.

On 7/17/2021 the Silver Lake area once again received several inches of rain in a short period of time. The lake level rose rapidly (from ~95" to ~ 100"), all Tract Directors were alerted by e-mail, the Village of Perry promptly opened the dam gates at Federal St., and the lake level was lowered to ~96" within 24 hours. The lake level then rose again by another ~ 5" as the watershed drained into the lake. The dam gates were again reopened to lower the lake level. A no wake alert was issued too.

2021 Watershed Planting Effort. Plantings will be carried out at a new site located at the corner of East Lake Road and East Spring Brook along an active tributary leading into Silver Lake. Approval from the property owner is in hand, our partners from the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District have toured the site and advised us on non-native species removal, and our native plant expert/nurser will be assisting with plant installation.

A two (2) stage effort is planned (starting at 9 AM each day):

(1) **Friday, August 27:** Non-native plant removal and disposal

(2) **Friday, October 15:** Soil amendment as needed; plant and weed barrier installation

Trailers will be available onsite during the week of August 23rd for collecting all non-native plant matter from the site. Although none is expected, any highly invasive plants (e.g., Japanese knotweed) will be carefully bagged and disposed of by Soil & Water. Cathy & Tom Volk have graciously allowed us to dispose of any plant debris at their farm.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the meeting. Individuals may also sign-up by reaching out to Frank Bright or Kelly Paganelli.

Lunch will be provided each work day.

2021 Native Plant Inventory

Trees (6-7', 1 each)

Sugar maple	White oak	Red oak	Tulip tree
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Flowers & Shrubs

NY Ironweed	Wild bergamot	Clustered mountain mint	Silky dogwood
Spice bush	Nannyberry	Eastern bluestar	Black elderberry
Wild ageratum	Culvers root	Joepeye weed	Cutleaf coneflower
Blue flag Iris	Pink milkweed		

Flares. SLAWQ joined with a consortium of local area lakes to evaluate battery-powered LED flares for use during our July 3rd 'Ring of Fire' celebration.

Kelly Paganelli negotiated with Wegmans and, as of early July 2021, LED flare sales from the Geneseo store generated \$478 for SLA/CLEAN.

Lee Loomis and Kelly Paganelli led a head-to-head comparison of chemical and battery-powered LED flares during the Silver Lake July 3rd Ring of Fire. Their findings will be presented during the August meeting.

As discussed during the July SLA meeting, SLA should develop a plan to manage flares going forward.

Perry Public Beach. The July 21, 2021 *Perry Herald* (p. 1) reported that, "The stone walking path at Village of Perry Public Beach was washed out," during the 07/17/2021 rain storm.

Executive Excursion on Silver Lake. In support of N-end dredging, we hope to conduct a second excursion with a wider group of political leaders. TBD.

Perry High School. Todd Shuskey and his students plan to continue their comprehensive efforts determining the health of Silver Lake.

Todd's "Fish of Silver Lake" poster, available at Family Furniture, remains a popular seller. All poster proceeds go toward supply purchase for Silver Lake sediment and water testing. Please see our web and Facebook pages for more details.

Boat Steward. A boat steward was at the Silver Lake State boat launch from May 28, 2021 (F-M, 8-6 pm) through July 5, 2021. A replacement is being sought.

If you know of a young person interested in this position, please reach out to Kelly Paganelli.

Temperature Array. The array has been off line for over a month following problems with the homeowner's WiFi. New WiFi credentials were received on 08/06/2021 and we are working on reconnecting the array to the internet. If anyone knows of a new site near the current location (Harris & Lakeview Aves in the Institute) that has year round shoreline electrical power and stable shoreline internet connectivity, please reach out to Frank Bright.

The second array installation is being put off until hardware stability issues can be addressed.

Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs). The SLAWQ team has discussed this program numerous times during previous SLA meetings. Please consult earlier SLAWQ Reports.

The relevant URL is: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>

Please remember that the NYHABS website represents the official notification vehicle for HABs in New York State. Individuals should familiarize themselves with the definitions used by NYS DEC regarding HABs. Also, as discussed repeatedly during previous SLA meetings, SLAWQ will no longer send information or updates to individuals regarding HABs. We encourage individuals to bookmark the aforementioned URL and consult this web site as often as they feel is necessary.

2021 CSLAP Campaign. The campaign began in early June and five (5) of eight (8) sampling sessions have been completed as of this writing.

The 2020 CSLAP annual report may be found on the CLEAN and SLA web sites.

During the July SLA meeting we discussed the DEC's plans for the 2022-2026 CSLAP campaigns and we provided SLA with a copy of our response to CSLAP.

Silver Lake Water Quality Must Read for 2021. The SLAWQ team recommends *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer as excellent read for anyone interested in environmental issues.

Land Conservancy. Ben Gajewski (Executive Director, Genesee Valley Conservancy) is scheduled to present at the August SLA meeting.

Village of Perry Water Treatment Plant. SLAWQ responded to the Village of Perry's State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) for water treatment plant upgrades. We raised several concerns and submitted an edited document to Dave Herman of the MRB Group.

Diver Day. The event did not go off as planned because of retirements.

Triathlon. The events, spearheaded by Bert Gellman, went off as planned on June 5 and 6, 2021 from the Camp Asbury Retreat Center.

Invasive Species. Kelly Paganelli has been working with Andrea Locke from the Western NY PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) to develop an information session.

Next SLAWQ Meeting. The next SLAWQ meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 13, 2021 at 4 pm.