

SLA Water Quality Report

(for September 14, 2024 SLA Meeting)

Meetings.

A. Town of Perry (ToP) Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

Nothing new to report. Please see previous Reports.

B. Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)

Nothing new to report. Please see previous Reports.

C. Silver Lake Watershed Local Water Revitalization Program (LWRP) Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC).

Please see previous Reports for scope and SLA representative list.

WAC members and residents have toured the Silver Lake shoreline by boat (8/13), toured the Silver Lake State Park (8/20), and toured the former A&A Metal/Caustine site and Silver Lake Outlet Trail (9/12).

D. Wyoming County Water Resources Coordinating Committee (WCWRCC)

Nothing new to report. Please see previous Reports.

E. Wyoming County Water Resource Agency (WCWRA) Board of Directors

Nothing new to report. Please see previous Reports.

F. Silver Lake Watershed Commission (SLWC)

Nothing new to report. Please see previous Reports.

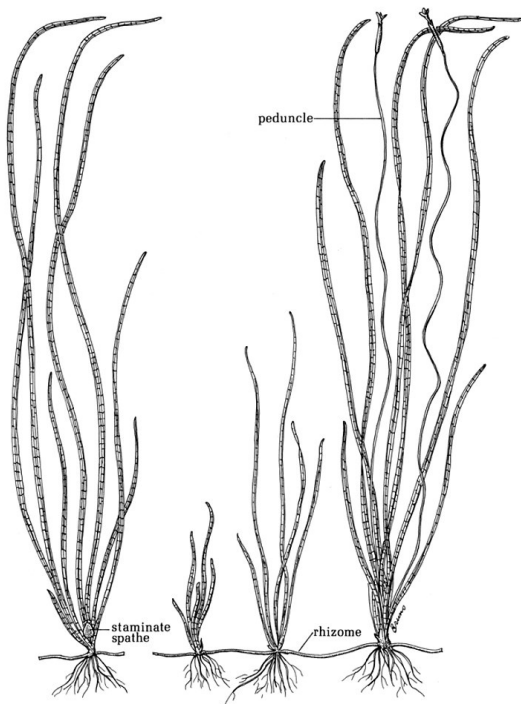
Aquatic Lake Weed & Algae Taskforce. This group is considering all options. They have secured a quote for chemically treating aquatic algae and non-native weeds within a small area. The group is assessing the aquatic vegetation and developing a robust assessment strategy to determine the effectiveness of any option. And, they are working with the Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District (WCSWCD) and other stakeholders to fund an activities. Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) funds might be helpful.

Floating Weeds. This subject has been “discussed” on-line. A few basic facts:

- The phenomenon is not extraordinary. (Longtime residents have seen it in previous years.)

- There is no evidence of any rogue weed harvesting.
- The origin appears to be natural.
- We had minimal lake ice in fall/winter '23 and '24.
- The top layer of the lake water column is 0.9C warmer in '24 in comparison to previous few years.
- The lake water, as measured by Secchi disk, is clearer in '24 in comparison to the previous several years.
- The lake water level is higher in '24 in comparison to the previous five (5) years.
- The average daytime solar radiation (W/m^2) impinging upon the lake surface in '24 is within 6% of the average over the previous decade.
- Dissolved nutrient levels in the top 1.5 m of the water column are within 3% over the past decade.
- Taken together these results suggest that weed growth should be greater in '24 and the weeds should be taller/longer in comparison to the recent past.

In Silver Lake a major aquatic weed species is commonly called wild celery, water-



celery, tape grass, or eelgrass (EG). The plants are characterized by relatively shallow roots, horizontal rhizomes, and vertical stems. In large measure this is the plant we have seen pile up on shores over the past month or so.

When we have deeper, clear water, warmer waters, good sunlight, and nutrients we get, on average, taller EG plants.

With a relatively shallow root system these taller EG plant can be more easily uprooted by wave action (wind or watercraft driven) in comparison to a shorter, stouter specimen. (Think about a tree getting taller and taller with an unchanged root ball in a wind storm.) And, taller EG plants can be expected to more readily brake/fragment in comparison to a shorter, stouter specimen.

This is a logical explanation for the prevalence of floating weeds in '24. Where the floating weeds pile up is determined by the shore geometry, water level, and wind direction.

If these weeds come to your shoreline area the best action is to pull them up on to shore, let them dry, and then dispose of them (maybe using a few yard waste bags). **It is never (NEVER) acceptable to transport these weeds back into the lake and release them only to have them pile up anew on a neighbor's property.**

Yard Waste. Dumpsters will be located at the same sites as in '23 and will be available from mid-Oct '24 through 11/22/2024. One thousand (1000) disposable yard waste bags will be distributed to membership at the 9/14 SLA Meeting.

The dumpsters will be labeled with “Yard Waste Only” signs.

Please follow SLA and CLEAN on Facebook for updates and schedules.

Walker Rd Bridge Replacement. Work has begun and is scheduled for completion in Nov '24.

Lake Water Level. Every year in the fall the lake level is lowered. This is ordinarily carried out by using the Federal St dam. The cofferdam installed for the Walker Bridge replacement project adds a complication.

The Silver Lake Gate Keeper will lower the lake to 91” (currently just below 93”); normally the lake is at 84” this time of year.

Plan accordingly.

Silver Lake State Boat Launch Docks. These docks are normally removed in mid-Oct.

Japanese Knotweed (JK) Spraying. Nothing new to report. Please see previous Reports.

Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). The '24 campaign is complete (8 of 8 samples).

DEC is suggesting four (4) samples / year going forward. An eight (8) sample / year option is available at an added cost (\$800/year).

SLAWQ unanimously recommends the SLA move forward with the eight (8) sample / year option. SLA vote needed.

Silver Lake Wood Chip Bioreactor Pilot Project. Nothing new to report. Please see previous Reports. Project seems on schedule for fall '24.

Temperature Array. The Silver Lake temperature array recently celebrated its birthday.

The microprocessor will be relocated this weekend.

A Proposal for the SLA to Stop Selling Chemical Flares.

SLA Mission Statement: *Our purpose is to protect and improve the environmental quality of Silver Lake and its watershed, while enhancing the quality of life around the lake—be it recreational, commercial, industrial, or social.*

Does the SLA still support this Mission Statement?

The proposal focuses only (ONLY) on improving the environmental quality of Silver Lake by moving the SLA out of the chemical flare sale and distribution business. If any homeowner wanted to stay with chemical flares, they may certainly do so. (Tart tins could be provided to local flare-selling vendors to address the tart tin issue.) The economics of homeowners paying market price for chemical flares, might be a deterrent to their use going forward.

The economics of using LED flares is straight forward: Their initial cost/flare is greater in comparison to a chemical flare, but they can be used over and over again. Recurring costs are lower for LED flares save for eventually battery replacement every 5-8 years. So, LED flares will save one money in the long run.

The LED flare proposal does not consider the economics of chemical flare sales or finances. It does, of course, impact the workload on Tract Directors who currently have to pick-up, sell and distribute chemical flares and debris tins, collect flare sale monies, and log flare sales and returns. This proposal does not consider local tract customs or histories vis-à-vis what do members get for their dues. It is thought that the SLA and CLEAN do a lot (a hell of a lot!) more for Silver Lake than offer members chemical flares at below market prices plus delivery. Maybe we should strive to make all our efforts clearer to membership.

In short, this proposal focuses only on the environment and holding true to the SLA Mission Statement.

Finally, the LED proposal does not suggest or aim to get the SLA into LED flare sales. These LED flares can be purchased online and a portion of sales comes back to the designated organization.

A few additional facts:

Chemical Flares	LED Flares
Single use	Reusable, battery powered
Contain toxic agents	Environmentally friendly
Requires clean-up	No clean-up, remove batteries & stow
Produce toxic smoke	No smoke
Debris is toxic*	No debris, eventual battery disposal
Placement is limited	Place anywhere
Brighter	Visible, different look

*SLA has tried to hard address this issue, but participation is spotty and cannot be controlled.

By consensus SLAWQ recommends the SLA move forward with this proposal.
SLA vote needed.