

Lake Issues – Part #1 chapter #20

New business was brought up at the September 15th, 1990 meeting about cleaning up the outlet. Donations may have been needed. Lorraine mentioned a youth group at the Perry High School that may have worked on the outlet. Dick Bausch reported positive results on the Weed Buster he hired, he would have him return. The cut weeds are collected and put on shore.

Elaine was contacted by an Aquascreen salesman. A benthic cover was one of the weed management alternatives listed by FX Browne. Before the rep of Aquascreen would be invited to a SLCOA meeting, Tina Reichgott of FX Browne would be contacted regarding ecological considerations of a screen. Bob Sartini of Clear Lakes displayed a fiberglass weed barrier that could be purchased and installed by cottagers to prevent weeds around their docks. Aquascreen was called and stated that it was being made for 12 years and used for 2 years on Conesus Lake after going through permitting process from the DEC and ACE. Those permits were no longer needed. The company purchased advertising in the directory.

At the 1992 Annual meeting Mr. Tiede asked the SLCOA Board what action had occurred on a motion made at the 1990 Annual meeting to seek prices for a weed harvester and how other lakes get funding for them. It was said that weed harvesters cost \$60,000 - \$90,000 and funds for that purpose were unavailable as reported at the 1991 Annual meeting.

At the June 1995 meeting Grass Carp was the topic of discussion. At the state conference the carp weed-eating program at other bodies of water which had been successful, was explained. Since weed harvesting would come up at the Annual meeting, SLA would provide data on carp as a cheaper alternative. Ron Straitiff noted that carp introduced in the lake are churning up bass beds and could cause problems. There was a question on whether or not the DEC would okay this method for the lake as it had for ponds.

Jane Bellamy of Silver Lake Marine called Elaine regarding a chemical treatment for milfoil. Elaine informed her that Silver Lake had eelgrass/pondweed most and since it was a drinking water source, any chemical treatment was ill advised. This would fall under the Public Health Department purview.

Chris Giordano gave a presentation on the declining levels of nutrients flowing into Silver Lake according to the ongoing monitoring by Soil and Water Conservation Service. The 1997 early algae bloom was a result of strange weather; a cold and long spring followed by a short blast of extremely hot temperatures. Nearby lakes had similar algae bloom problems.

At the May 1998 meeting, the FOLA conference was discussed. The weeds were highlighted and FOLA was seeking funds to continue bio-control of weeds; it would be to the SLA advantage to be supportive of this as this was a big FOLA goal and EPA funding existed. Elaine also distributed for review an article linking pesticides to Parkinson's disease.

Another lake issue that was brought to the attention of the SLA was the Canadian Geese. Elaine received a call from a laker who had a geese problem for which she could not find help (state told her geese was a federal government problem and the feds told her to put balloons out) so she threw firecrackers at them! John Pachuta said that was a violation of the harassment of wildlife law. Honk. Honk.

The SLA would put Roy's data on weed harvesting in the newsletter after the final format was approved by the Board. Donations to lease a harvester would be optional. Issues to be worked out were; a time to harvest the weeds;

work out logistics if enough money came in; and try to find out who wanted the harvesting done and who did not. According to the DEC, which did not regulate harvesting, the weeds were probably due to the hot summers and a sign of existing watershed nutrients.

Francis introduced Charles King of Letchworth State park, which was seeking the SLA's written input on the public boat launch expansion that summer. The SLA discussed poor communications on the project so far. The project had not changed in scope but a feasibility study of a 25 acre site for a picnic area-comfort station will be done. Rich raised the need for a public telephone for use in an emergency situation. He also questioned the hours of launch and determining the capacity for boating on Silver Lake. Francis asked if nature trails would or could be built. Lorraine asked how zebra mussel prevention would be handled. Last, Dan Fix asked if port-a-johns could be installed. The SLA was also concerned about the potential the State Launch would have in attracting jet skis. When King asked what the general consensus of the SLA was on the launch, Elaine responded that it was thought that the SLA had no choice in the matter.

May 1998 the Town of Castile granted a two-year port-a-john permit to the State Park for its new raunchy launch; the SLA would ask state park's Charlie King for permission to use the launch's bulletin board for SLA brochures, information on zebra mussels, etc. Francis had plastic zebra mussel signs; Elaine would also see if the SLA could get a mailbox and sign post for SLA materials. Charlie King wanted to read the SLA's brochure before approving it for the new state kiosk. He also requested a list of the SLA meeting dates. Charlie King was not overtly receptive to the SLA placing an information box at the launch. Rich would hand deliver a zebra mussel sign to Charlie for permission to post it at the launch.

Charlie King okayed the SLA brochure to be displayed at the launch kiosk and invited the Cooks to the Grand Opening. The Daily News interviewed Elaine who got a great plug in for the SLA which may get fishermen and others who saw the article, join the SLA.

The Zebra Mussels which were infiltrating the Great Lakes may become a real problem for the Finger Lake Region including Silver Lake. They attach themselves to boats which may come to our lake and damage is extensive. Don passed out 4 posters which was put up at Koziel's, Mack's, and Silver Lake Marine. Jack suggested the Outlet Boat Launch be closed. Elaine would talk to Mayor Terry Murphy about this matter. Large power boats from Lake Erie often launch at Silver Lake Marina and Don would talk to the owners. Bob Murray wanted to go on record that the SLCOA investigate a pressurized steam cleaner for removing zebra mussels. He would draft a proposal to solicit out-of-town donations. Don discussed a hi-pressure steam system with Silver Lake Marina which brought to light the cost of electric to run the equipment. Marge McWethy discussed Tucker's which did not have much traffic. Doug Klein did not communicate with anyone at the outlet. Lake accesses besides the private ramps are numerous: 4 marinas, the sailboats at the Country Club, and the public boat launch. Elaine obtained some pressure system costs of approximately \$1200 (140 degrees) and asked a rep to attend a SLCOA meeting in September. Other questions that were brought up were the monitoring and usage.

Mike Serventi believed making the public more aware of the problem rather than purchasing equipment or closing the outlet to be more effective. Using permanent signs and a public awareness campaign would be possibilities. Lorraine suggested putting the information in the 1991 directory and Elaine added that a newsletter would also include an article about it. Doug Klein suggested that the issue be brought up before the next Watershed Commission meeting; costs may be covered as part of the commission grant. After discussing the matter further it resulted in the steam cleaner was not a good idea, education seemed to be the best direction to take.

Don Cook of the SLCOA and Greg McKurth, of Soil and Water toured the lake to recommend sites for dry hydrants. Some of the locations they recommended were: Fairview, Zintel-Norris, Private Drive #3 (Klein ROW to lake), Traber Road (town had ROW), Abbott Road (Bud Humphrey's place where gardens were [actually a town ROW]), Silver

Lake Country Club, Shearman Road (next to Mark Humphrey's), Koziel's. Rich suggested the outlet at Walker Road; the SLA needed to contact the landowner, the land was private. Don got commitments from SCS and Bob Bowles. Shearman looked favorable, the SLA did not hear back from Klein's or Traber Road. A push for the hydrants needed to be put in the newsletter. Input from Greg McKurth on specifications and/or firemen of why they were needed should be explained. Don would also contact Erie Insurance on why rates are lowered if you have property near one.