



SAVE OUR LAKES ALLIANCE 3

Founded in 2004 to Preserve, Maintain and Protect Lake Gerar, Silver Lake and Lake Comegys

www.sola3org Spring 2011 Volume VI

SOLA3 Leads Initiative to Improve Silver Lake

Sallie H. Forman, President

**In a mucked up lovely lake, I cast my little fly.
I look at that lake and smell it and it makes me
wanna cry.
Oh to clean our dirty planet, now there's a noble
wish,
and I'm puttin my shoulder to the wheel
'cause I wanna catch some fish.**

I've substituted "lake" for "river" in Greg Brown's Spring Wind song from his 1992 Dream Café album, because it expresses what many of us feel about our Rehoboth Lakes.

SOLA3 has been "puttin our shoulders to the wheel" since our creation in 2004. The City of Rehoboth has made visible and measurable improvements to Lake Gerar. Lake Comegys benefits from the conservation easement established by our working with the Department of Transportation to replace its former 50' right of way; and from the natural riparian buffer created by the Lake Comegys Homeowners Assn. around 25% of the lake. Both lakes test for better water quality, and native wildlife is abundant.

On the other hand, Silver Lake, the largest of the three, suffers from major problems that include shallow water at the west end, frequent algae blooms, erosion, invasive species, pollution (caused by 40+ storm drains and runoff), reduced levels of oxygen that destroy the ability of sunlight to reach vital aquatic plants and cause regular fish kills, an ineffective spillway and violations of local, state and federal environmental laws/ordinances.

On May 19, 2010, I presided over a meeting we had requested with Secretary Collin P. O'Mara, Secretary of Delaware's

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to ask for help in improving the quality and level of water in Silver Lake and its eco-system. As the result of that meeting, Secretary O'Mara appointed a DNREC Team to work with us. The team members are

Tony Pratt, Shoreline and Waterway Management Section Administrator, and Dr. Robin Tyler, Environmental Scientist, Environmental Laboratory Section, co-leaders; Craig Shirey, and



Mud flats at the west end of Silver Lake

Randy Greer, Engineer VI, Sediment and Storm Water Management. They are part of our Silver Lake Task Force that includes Senator George Bunting, Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf, Mayor Sam Cooper, Commissioner Stan Mills, Country Club Estates liaison Steve Simmons, and me as coordinator.

At our first Task Force meeting September 29, it was agreed that the priority project is to remove layers of sediment that have accumulated for a century in the west end of Silver Lake, to increase depth from the current 2 feet, 3 inches to 3 feet. Chuck Williams, DNREC's Environmental Program Manager, (who has expertise in this type project) will get proposals from contractors. Please read Chuck Williams' detailed article that follows on the sediment removal project. The project will also include shoreline stabilization and restoration of the City Park shoreline to a natural, riparian buffer. (Continued on page 2)

(President's Letter continued from page one)

Ideally, the State of Delaware will fund the majority of the costs, and SOLA3 will identify supplemental funding through grants. Once funding is available, the project would begin in late fall or early winter and should be completed in four months. Cooperation of owners of property adjoining this part of the lake will be sought by the City of Rehoboth Beach. The obvious benefits to homeowners are that deeper waterfront will replace existing mud flats, reducing the mosquito population; odor and health hazards should be eliminated; aquatic and bird life will enjoy a healthier habitat. Plus, the stormceptors to be installed on the Stockley and Laurel Sts. storm drains will keep out many pollutants that have created the mud flats.

It's been another busy year for SOLA3, because many have been "puttin their shoulders to the wheel." Topping the list are our valued board and volunteers. They are a loyal and dedicated group who work hard to accomplish our mission. Our partnerships continue and grow with state and local officials, the media, the community-at-large, and support from "Friends of SOLA3." All these entities have demonstrated their commitment to a better lake environment through their investment of time, resources, shared responsibility and financial support, for which I am most grateful. We all look forward to the day we can "catch some [healthy] fish."

The Silver Lake Dredging Process

Charles Williams, Environmental Program Manager, DNREC

The dredging of Silver Lake in Rehoboth will involve removing approximately 5,000 cubic yards of sediment from the west end (the finger) of the lake to a depth of 3.0 feet. Dredging will begin in a southeasterly direction, past the foot-bridge that spans the water body, until reaching the area where the existing depth of the lake is 3 feet. One of the methods being considered to undertake the project is to remove the sediment mechanically. Using this method, the contractor will work from the City of Rehoboth park area side of the lake. He will implement all necessary erosion and sediment control measures and prepare two staging areas in the City Park, one on each side of the bridge, for his equipment to operate and to off load dredged sediment.

The staging areas will most likely be prepared using a small bulldozer and/or skid steer (e.g. BobCat). The contractor will then use a 60-foot boom hydraulic excavator to dredge as much sediment from the lake as possible. If the sediment is predominately sandy, he will load it directly into dump trucks for direct transport to the off site disposal facility. If the sediment contains a significant amount of mud (silts), he will stockpile it on site for a day or two to allow it to dewater and settle enough for safe transportation to the disposal facility.

Once this process is completed and there is ample depth (3.0 feet) for his other equipment to operate, the contractor will bring in his barge mounted excavator and two hopper barges to complete the dredging. The barge-mounted excavator will be used to dredge sediment and place it in the two hopper barges. The hopper barges will then be off loaded using the 60-foot boom excavator and handled the same way as described earlier. Once the dredging has been completed, the contractor will remove his equipment from the site and restore the park area affected by the construction to prepare for reseedling.

Stormceptors to Improve Silver Lake

Stan Mills, Rehoboth Beach Commissioner

The City of Rehoboth Beach desires to continue to seek ways to improve water conditions in its lakes and is installing Stormceptors on two storm drain pipes which discharge into the northern tip of Silver Lake. Stormceptors assist in filtering water flowing from storm drains before discharging into the lakes.

Stormceptors are generally concrete boxes with inlet and outlet pipes. Incoming storm drain runoff can contain such solid contaminants as grass, dirt, leaves and sand and such liquid contaminants as



gasoline and oils leaked from vehicles. A system of storm drain piping collects storm-water runoff, which flows into the Stormceptor where the heavy contaminants fall to the bottom and the lighter-than-water contaminants such as oils float within the Stormceptor. With the contaminants separated and contained, water then discharged into the lake is much cleaner. Periodic maintenance of Stormceptors removes contaminants for proper disposal.

The placement of the Stormceptors, one near Stockley Street at the intersection of Country Club Drive and one in Laurel Street near the right of way, facilitates the filtering of runoff collected by 29 storm drains. The areas which feed into the targeted storm drains, including a section of Country Club Estates and a portion of Scarborough Avenue, total just over 41 acres comprised of 65% impervious surface. Work on installing the Stormceptors is expected to begin in spring of 2011. The project is made possible through funding assistance provided by Sen. George Bunting and Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf and the City of Rehoboth Beach.

425 Feet of Silver Lake Shoreline Restored

425 feet of highly eroded shoreline owned by the City of Rehoboth has been restored with a living shoreline planted with native species to stabilize the area and provide wildlife habitat. Erosion was so bad that it compromised the underpinning and safety of the adjoining road, which was also shored up and repaired. Funding was provided by DNREC through a cost share grant to the City and through funds obtained by Representative Pete Schwartzkopf. Envirotech Consulting was the contractor for the project and will maintain it. SOLA3 and the City of Rehoboth Beach have agreed to share the cost of maintenance. Photo Courtesy Envirotech Consulting.



Restored section of Silver Lake shoreline

Calendar

May 7- Lakes Clean Up - 9 - 11:00 a.m.

July 16 - Conservation Award Application Deadline

October 2 - Coast Day in Lewes

Seventh Annual SOLA3 Clean Up Scheduled for Saturday, MAY 7

This is good "clean" fun for the entire community with the best donuts in town! Meet at 9 a.m. at the South end of Silver Lake Bridge, at the Wildlife Refuge. Plan to finish by 11 a.m.

The May 2010 Lake Clean Up again turned up many volunteers and a horde of trash. Even a street sign was pulled from the depths of Silver Lake.

The Rehoboth Brownie Troop did their share to cruise the shores of the lake to bag all kinds of trash.



Coast Day Crowds Visit SOLA3 Booth on Water Quality

Coast Day 2010 was held on the first Sunday in October at the University of Delaware's Hugh R. Sharp Campus near Lewes. Despite the rain, thousands turned out to learn about their environment. SOLA3 has made Coast Day an annual event as a good time to educate the public about the water quality issues in Rehoboth's three lakes.



SOLA3 Vice President Mike Boyd educates visitors about the lakes.

SOLA3 was named one of Delaware's Top 50 "Eco Activists" by Delaware Today magazine.

New SOLA3 Officers/Advisor Elected

At its September meeting, SOLA3's Board of Directors unanimously voted to expand its board to seven (as allowed by its bylaws), elected three new directors, and appointed former director Barry Brandt as an advisor.

Tom Childers was elected a director for a three-year term. He, along with his partner, John Hall, received SOLA3's 2009 Conservation Award for restoring the shoreline of their property along Silver Lake. Tom is emeritus professor from Drexel University, where he was an associate dean and dean of the College of Information, Science and Technology. He has served on the Board of University City Arts League in Philadelphia and is a regular contributor of recipes for the Rehoboth Beach Farmers' Market newsletter.



Tom Childers



Nancy Cullen

Nancy Cullen was elected a director for a three-year term. She is a former Capitol Hill staffer and lobbyist. She retired three years ago as Director of Executive Communications and head speechwriter at the National Association of Broadcasters in Washington, DC. She and her husband, David, moved to Baywood, in Long Neck, DE, as full-time residents. She is an officer of the Baywood Homeowners Association and an avid golfer.

Peggy Waltersdorf was elected a director for a two-year term. Before moving to Delaware, she was an Intelligence Research Specialist for the U. S. Secret Service in Washington, DC. She was active in the Pine Bay Homeowners Association and worked part-time at Windsor's Flowers in Rehoboth. When she married Harvey Waltersdorf in 2007, she moved to School Vue, in Rehoboth. She is a member of Epworth UMC and the Chancel choir.



Peggy Waltersdorf

Sallie Forman, said, "We are pleased that these three very competent and capable individuals, who have been valuable volunteers, will now serve on our board. We thank Barry Brandt for his innovations and contributions for the last two years, and we're grateful that he will continue to serve as an advisor. We also want to thank Tom Zellers for his five years of service as a director and for spearheading many projects." Mabel Granke, Joan LeLacheur and Mary Campbell will continue as advisors.



Barry Brandt

SOLA3 Board of Directors and Terms

Sallie Forman, President (2009-12)
 Mike Boyd, Vice President (2008-11)
 Peggy Douglas, Secretary (2008-11)
 Peggy Paterson, Treasurer (2009-12)
 Tom Childers, Director (2010-13)
 Nancy Cullen, Director (2010-13)
 Peggy Waltersdorf, Director (2010-12)

Appointed Advisors:

Barry Brandt
 Mary Campbell
 Mable Granke and Joan LeLacheur

If you are interested in serving on the board, or volunteering, send an email to saveourlakes3@aol.com. or complete the attached form. Be sure to let us know if your contact information has changed.

Second Annual SOLA3 Conservation Award Goes to City of Rehoboth Beach

Sallie Forman, President, presented SOLA3's 2010 Conservation Award to the City of Rehoboth Beach on Friday, August 20. The city was recognized for its extensive enhancement program to Lake Gerar's shoreline by creating and maintaining a natural riparian buffer; and for its continuing improvements to the city's properties on the shoreline of Silver Lake.



Sallie Forman with Mayor Cooper

Forman also recognized the Rehoboth Beach Planning Commission for adopting SOLA3's recommendations for improving the lakes in its 2009 Comprehensive Development Plan. Subsequently, that plan was approved by the mayor and commissioners and certified by Governor Markell. (See Conservation Award page 5)

Conservation Award (continued from page 4)

Mayor Sam Cooper accepted the award on behalf of the city. He said, "It's always great to get an award for things you should be doing anyway. I'd like to thank you [Sallie Forman] for your leadership with SOLA3. It's always great when you have a citizens' group like this to work with to keep the fires going..."

Todd Fritchman, President of Envirotech Consulting, showed a video of the impressive improvements his firm has made to the lakes on behalf of the City. He said the Lake Gerar project was one of the most successful projects he's ever been a part of.

Call for Conservation Award Entries

SOLA3's annual Conservation Award was created in 2009 to recognize private property owners, municipal and county governments, or state agencies that have demonstrated exemplary achievement in voluntary conservation of their lakefront property. To be eligible, the property must adjoin Silver Lake, Lake Gerar or Lake Comegys. The deadline for applications for the 2011 award is July 16, 2011. Criteria, application form and other information can be found at www.sola3.org.

Rehoboth Elementary Students Study Freshwater Ecosystems

Jacque Kisiel, 5th Grade Science Teacher

Sometimes it's not easy to tell if a stream or freshwater lake is polluted. After all, we continue to observe the lush, landscaped lawns, numerous birds, turtles, and fish that inhabit our community's freshwater ecosystems. However, as emerging scientists, we know that we need to investigate a bit further. That's just what we did on a beautiful, sunny day in October. Thanks to Save Our Lakes Alliance 3 for its second year of sponsoring this event; and to Envirotech for leading the classes. As a result, our 5th grade students of Rehoboth Elementary were able put their investigative skills to work.



Jacque Kisiel

In our well-situated outdoor science laboratory behind Rehoboth Elementary, we sought to determine the water quality of Lake Gerar, Silver Lake and a controlled sample from an isolated area of a nearby state park. Our purpose was to identify the quality of our water samples by analyzing and comparing the presence of macroinvertebrates. Our other goals for the outdoor lesson were to identify reasons why the water quality may be different from our controlled sample and to discuss how people inadvertently and negatively impact our freshwater ecosystems.

Under the direction of Todd Fritchman of Envirotech, we investigated three water samples and tried to find our other effective partner in detecting declining trends in water quality.

Unfortunately, our discoveries were similar to those we recorded last year. The healthy lake,

our control sample, contained far more living organisms than Silver Lake and Lake Gerar. Therefore, we are continuing our study of the freshwater samples with the help of water quality kits purchased by SOLA3 from www.worldwatermonitoringday.org.

These user-friendly kits will allow us to continue to test our water samples for pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and salinity levels and record our findings online.

Thanks to SOLA3 and Envirotech, our 5th graders have been positively impacted by this experience. They wish to continue to assess the water quality of our surrounding freshwater ecosystems. Sounds like a great plan for our future scientists!



Rehoboth Elementary fifth graders sample lake water quality with Todd Fritchman.



Returning water samples and macroinvertebrates to Silver Lake.

SOLA3 is the only environmental organization to receive the 2008 Delaware Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award.

How You Can Enjoy a Beautiful Garden and Lawn and Help the Lakes

by Joan LeLacheur, Advisor

Now that Spring is just around the corner, you are anxious to get out to improve your lawn and landscaping. How you treat your property has a direct impact on the health of the lakes. By following the practices listed below, you will improve the quality of the lakes' water and maintain a healthy lawn and plants. By becoming an "eco activist" you will expand our influence.

Optimize Fertilization:

Have your soil checked to see if you need fertilizers, and if so, what kind. Excess nutrients from your lawn could end up in the lakes causing algal blooms and odors. If you do need to fertilize, use a minimal amount, and keep it off of impervious services. Fertilize your lawn in one application per year in the fall. Leave grass clippings on your lawn, to provide nutrients, or use your composted yard wastes.

Reduce Chemical Use:

Use integrated pest management strategies to minimize or eliminate chemicals. Only use chemicals when there are no other options. Alternatives include: pulling weeds, spraying full strength vinegar on young leaves, burning weeds with a propane torch, pouring boiling water over weeds, feeding the lawn and keeping grass high to outcompete the weeds - or, learn to live with a few. Do not apply pesticides prior to a rain storm.

Increase Wildlife Habitat:

Plant native trees and shrubs to reduce pests, disease and weeds. Plant trees and shrubs that provide food, especially for winter.

Minimize Runoff & Soil Erosion:

Use crushed stone or shells for your walkways, to allow rainfall to drain into the ground. Direct your roof leaders to

grassy areas or gardens, or use good old-fashioned rain barrels to collect roof runoff and allow it to drain slowly into your gardens. Use splash blocks or drainage tiles.

Leave mulch cover on flower and vegetable gardens during winter months and around any open soil around shrubs and hedges. Design your landscaping to take full advantage of rainfall by diverting driveway or street runoff to your garden, cascade your garden over terraces or timbers to slow runoff and to maximize percolation. Limit grassy areas, and increase trees and shrubs, to soak up nutrients and prevent soil erosion to keep them out of the lakes.

Shoreline Landscaping:

Maintain a shoreline buffer of trees, shrubs and grasses on waterfront properties. Evaluate other natural buffers, such as the buffer at 125 Lake Drive, winner of our 2009 Conservation Award.

General:

Dispose of all hazardous wastes such as paints, solvents, used oil, gas with water, antifreeze, etc. properly. Do not pour on lawn. Do not throw waste into the lakes.



Award winning natural plantings at 125 Lake Drive

BECOME AN ECO ACTIVIST!

Optimize Land Use Regulations:

Get involved in land use planning in Rehoboth Beach, Sussex County and Dewey Beach.

Support policies that integrate storm water management best practices and encourage riparian buffers.

Renew or Become a New 'Friend of SOLA3'

Thank you for your generous financial support over the last six years. You have been an important and integral partner in funding our successful programs and communications.

We ask for your continued support. Please renew your commitment or become a new "Friend of SOLA3," by completing the attached form. You can check the option to receive our newsletter and timely announcements by email, which will save many volunteer hours, reduce our mailing costs and be eco-friendly. And please "opt-in" to volunteer.

Contributions are tax deductible according to IRS regulations.



SOLA3 Alliance Members

Our thanks to our partners and supporters:

Rehoboth Beach HOA
Country Club Estates HOA
Draper Subdivision
Lake Comegys HOA
The Village Improvement Association
The Citizens' Coalition

FRIEND OF SAVE OUR LAKES ALLIANCE3

www.SOLA3.org

SOLA3 is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization incorporated in Delaware. Your contribution is tax-deductible according to IRS regulations. Please help ensure that Rehoboth's three unique, cherished lakes will be preserved and protected for future generations by becoming a Friend of SOLA3 at one of the following levels:

Level	Contribution
Eagle	\$300 to 500
Heron	101 to 299
Osprey	50 to 100
Mallard	25 to 49
Plover	10 to 24

Please make your check payable to SOLA3, complete the form below, and send to **PO Box 1504, Rehoboth Beach, DE, 19971**. Thank you for your generous support.

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____

Beach address if different than mailing address _____

Email _____

Send Newsletter and other announcements to my email address _____

The value of volunteers is priceless. Please sign up to help with one of these projects:

Lakes Clean Up _____ Coast Day _____ Outreach _____

Fundraising _____ Membership _____ Newsletter _____

Water testing _____ Communications _____ Other interests _____