

Water Quality (CSLAP & Water Testing) Chapter #18

1990 marks the fifth year that the SLCOA had participated in the CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program). Elaine anticipated that if the same volunteers participate, two collections per team would do it. She felt that after 5 years, active collecting would level off and a monitoring program could be implemented. However, future funding was a problem. Elaine Cook would send a letter to Albany asking for funds to be reinstated to CSLAP. Elaine read a letter from the FLOA on CSLAP. She directed Lorraine to send letters to Assemblyman Reynolds, Senator Dale Volker, and members of the State Finance Committee and the Environmental Committee immediately as the issue comes to a vote on March 27th, 1990.

John Colgan, President of FOLA, may come up with FOLA money and would like to add 20 lakes to the program. Elaine read an article from the Batavia Daily News on the algae problem in Silver Lake. FX Brown was hired by the Watershed Commission to study Silver Lake for the next 20 months for the cost of \$49,000 and it did not include trained water samplers. The funds were handled by the Watershed Commission. There was a discussion on the use of volunteers, 8 people to go out 5 times during a rain storm to take samples which had to be in Warsaw 6 hours later. It seemed impractical and in the light of the cost of the study, Elaine will contact lead agent Terry Murphy to attend the April meeting of the SLCOA.

A map was passed out at a SLCOA meeting showing 3 or more streams that were identified as sampling stations to be incorporated into the FX Browne Study. April 21st, 1990 meeting was an important one. Representatives of the lake management firm and Mayor Terry Murphy of the Watershed Commission was there to discuss the study and address the concerns the SLCOA had with volunteers collecting water samples.

A student was hired to take readings from gauges. Perry DPW Superintendent Phil Cowie will monitor some. These samples will be taken during rainstorms from 8-9 tributary sites around the lake. Gauges were located at: Main inlet, Country Club, Koziel's inlet, Private Drives 1 & 3, 5 more to be installed at various locations; two at Silver Lake Marina, Old Orchard Beach, and the inlet by Rob Spraying Service where drums may be buried.

F.X. Browne will measure nutrients, solids, and bacteria flowing into the lake during storms. Dr. Holdren would look at sediment samples and make comparisons with inlet samples to determine where pollutants are coming from and how the lake is flushing out. This study could make the SLCOA eligible for EPA funding through the Clean Water Act.

The Silver Lake water sampling was an ongoing project that was done by Jack Hourihan, Dick Laley, Dan Mance, Bill Harrington, and Elaine Cook for the SLCOA records and the DEC. The seccidisk (clarity) and water temperatures from 6/3/91 to 9/13/91 were charted on the computer. Water samples were also taken where water enters the lake (Stream Monitoring). In light of the high fecal coli counts entering Private Drive #3, Elaine asked if the Health Department should take readings there in addition to the six areas it now tests (Public Beach, YMCA, Country Club, Swim School, Mack's, and Camp Asbury). John Pachuta stated it is cost prohibitive and not necessary since a problem in one area would appear in another. There was also a question about the delivery time of the FX Browne's sampling and when sampling reached the county Health Department. Time out of refrigeration may have increased bacterial counts. It was mentioned that Elaine Cook and the SLA won the DEC Award (Silver Secchi) for the lake testing program (CSLAP).

Melissa Weaver demonstrated equipment and techniques used to monitor the lake and presented her cumulative report on samplings. Compared to the 1991 and 1994 results, improvements in quality occurred with a couple of exceptions and SCS would work with property owners at those locations. The Country Club appeared reluctant to cut down on non-organic nutrient uses despite proven cost savings. Elaine asked Melissa to publicize the results in an effort to put pressure on those who could make a difference. Melissa was asked for an update on the

sewer pump station overflow in mid-July when the Silver Lake Country Club station was struck by lightning causing 3400 gallons of sewage to reach the lake; Melissa did not know of the spill. John Pachuta did know of the spill but said the beach and swim areas were closed because of turbidity not bacteria. Bill then suggested monitoring the east side of the lake where tiled culverts below a corn crop had not been tested. Melissa also mentioned that the SCS would continue to monitor Silver Lake as long as the state funding was not cut.

At the September 1995 meeting of the SLA, SLA's resident Biology teacher, Rich Eliaz, set up a microscope with a sample of lake water for the people present to view. It was very interesting to see the water was alive with healthy protozoans, the beginning of the lake's food chain.

Don Cook proposed an arrangement with Burt's Building Supply to carry forty, 50-pound bags of organic (non-phosphorous) fertilizer from Allied Biological of New Jersey. SLA members who showed wallet cards or a coupon from the SLA winter newsletter would get a discount. Burt's would get 50 cents a bag. Cost to the consumer would be \$18 a bag (\$4 less than the commercial-grade now sold) and \$16 a bag for SLA members/coupons holders. A motion was passed to fund one half of this effort at a cost of \$359.78 with hopes that the Watershed Commission would fund the balance of this project.

John Pachuta recommended that the SLA buy 3-4 Toxic Spill Kits for tract directors/marinas in case there was a spill on the lake. Each kit would cost approximately \$80 each. A motion to buy 1 kit for each of the 3 marinas was passed. Once received the SLA would put out a press release indicating the kits were donated by the SLA.