

SILVER CREEK LAKES ASSOCIATION FISH COMMITTEE MINUTES 2018

The Fish Committee met on February 7, 2018, @ 3:30 p.m. to discuss all matters associated with our fishery. Those present were members of the committee - Les Anderson, Rocky Mangini, Dennis Cuchiara, Joe Bower, Mark Kennedy, and guest, Nate Taylor (Mark's son in law).

First, as always, we discussed the quality of the fish that we stocked last year, the timing of the stocking(s) and the fishing experience by anglers this past year. We all agreed that the fish we did stock held up well. We continue to have excellent hold over and now even some significant, natural spawning on the property in both spring (rainbows) and fall (browns). We reviewed the lake/pond weed straying that was done last year. We sprayed all bodies of water once and relied on the hand tossed granular material for the balance of the summer. That worked well until late July through September. As we had a hot, dry summer, that kept the water warmer and weeds and algae difficult to control. We agreed that there should always be two (2) sprayings, with granular material used between and in front of those sprayings. The difficulty is the same - it requires getting blue sky, windless mornings, with the personnel on site to do the job. We continue to monitor the grass carp stocked in prior years to see whether they are surviving and helping with our weed problem. We do see these fish in the water. If you catch one, release and return to the water immediately.

As we never know in the winter when ice is on how well our fishery will hold up, we voted to commit \$5,500 to spot stocking the property this year, which is again the same as last year. As prices continue to move higher for fish, that does mean fewer fish. That stocking will take place in mid to late May this year, by two different hatcheries. It was noted that all hatcheries are as busy as they can be, are not tremendously helpful, timely or responsible. A sign of the times. It should be noted that approximately 70% of that budgeted amount has been historically paid from the generous donations of our members (and even guests). That means approximately \$1,650 of Association dues money (only) will go to fish stocking, or approximately only 7% of our dues receipts.

As always, the Fish Committee continues to review how well we as a group (and our guests) are honoring proper catch and release procedures, as well as kill rules. These two factors are very important to controlling our stocking plans - i.e., better compliance means a better fishery and will reduce our ongoing cost to provide it. As we discussed last year, guest monitoring is crucial to this issue. Based on our discussions over the past years, and brought up at the annual meeting last year, we have determined that as an Association, we do need a better way to know how many guests actually use the property (from a fishing stand point), and for how many days a year. With that in mind, we will officially begin a new guest check-in procedure. Our guest check-in, up to now has been only for unaccompanied guests. This check-in will be for all non-direct relation guests, as well as unaccompanied guests. This will be simple and easy, as to not create a cumbersome issue. We will need everyone's voluntary compliance on this to make it a useful tool. The check-in box will be located on the east side on Lake #1, by the parking area and bench. It is a green metal box on a post. Inside that box will be a guest check-in book. For our purposes, at this time, the members should only be using this procedure (not your guests) for your accompanied guests. Non-accompanied guests should be instructed to check-in as well. 1) If you are on the property with accompanied guests, simply count the number of guests you have that will be fishing. Next, add up how many days they will be fishing while on the property. (Example - I am on the property Friday through a Monday. I have two guests - each guest 'plans' to fish Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. They are not direct relation guests, so 2 guests x 4 days = 8 fishing days). What you

should enter in the check-in book is your name and date, the number of fishing guests (only), and the number of days they are planning to fish. There will be an example in the check-in box. 2) For unaccompanied guests, members should instruct those guests (each guest, each time) to check-in, using the date, their name, including the name of the member that has authorized them to fish on the property, and the number of days they plan to fish (if staying at a member's residence). There will be an example in the check-in box for unaccompanied guests as well. Please remember that all guests are ultimately the responsibility of the member. This data should assist us in our future planning and understanding what pressure we are putting on our fishery. It is actually data that our insurance carrier wants us to provide anyway, as they try to determine their liability risk on the property.

Lastly, please remember that it is everyone's responsibility to honor and enforce our catch and release rules. It was discussed to remind everyone, if you see someone acting improperly regarding our fishery (not following the rules, which are posted around the property, on the website, etc.), tell them about it. Silver Creek Lakes is an exceptional property, and we are only as good or as bad as our weakest member's compliance to our rules. After further discussion on all of these issues, the meeting was adjourned @ 6:00 p.m.

Mark Kennedy
President
Silver Creek Lakes Association