

## **OUR SPECIAL PLACE**

**Silver Lake** is a unique, peaceful, and beautiful lake community. We are all responsible for keeping it that way. Most of the property owners have restrictive covenants in their title, which insure the following:

No motorboats on the lake. Only exception is small, quiet, electric trolling motors.

No multiple residences on any single property.

No commercial use of the lake and any lake property.

No granting of public access to the lake. Property owners and their guests only.

In addition, all of us have a common interest to follow these guidelines:

***Tranquility:*** Sound carries across the water with surprising ease. Radios, TV, etc. should be kept to limits which do not interfere with neighbors or the general quiet of the lake. Dogs should not be allowed to bark for any stretch of time. Whenever possible, construction should be done off-season. After 10:00 p.m., efforts should be made to avoid unnecessary noise.

***Protecting the lake environment:*** Please keep out of the lake: chemicals, phosphates, soaps and detergents, debris, junk, bottles and cans, cigarette butts, etc. On your property, use your septic systems with discretion and within the capacities of your system. Have your system tested every three or four years to make sure it is working properly and there is no waste drainage into the lake. Tree or log burning: if done on lake while frozen, please make sure ashes are swept up well onto land so ashes do not contaminate the lake.

***Catch and Release Policy.*** The Silver Lake Association facilitates stocking Silver Lake with brown trout primarily as a way to control the alewife fish population. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that those who fish release any trout caught.

***Boat Owners.*** Please put your name on your boat, in case it “escapes,” and is found by others. Be aware of State regulations about licensing boats: [www.fish.state.pa.us/regs](http://www.fish.state.pa.us/regs).

## **SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION**

The Silver Lake Association (SLA) is an organization of all the property owners abutting Silver Lake. Its annual meeting is typically in July, and is open to all members. Annual dues (as of 2023) are \$150. Dues support septic system tests, security patrol during the winter, environmental projects, and special activities of lake-wide interest. Annually, the Association sponsors a summer cocktail party.

SLA has established a water quality working group, which addresses areas of concern around the lake. The group is headed (as of mid-2022) by Keith Oberg, and includes outside experts as well as lake residents. It issues periodic reports to all residents of the lake.

Each year SLA pays for a number of septic systems to be tested, with the confidential results being sent to the property owner only. This is a cost-free way for property owners to receive a current status report on their systems, so they can remedy problems (if any) before they become an environmental hazard to the lake.

The Secretary of the Association maintains a Directory of property owners, with names, lake and permanent addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, which is made available electronically to all members.

2023-2024 Board members are: Richard Fisher, President  
Nancy Neiley, VP  
Lois Heckman, Secretary  
Wendy Neuberger, Treasurer  
At large: Kenna Lou Mills; Chris Wilkerson, Carol Pothier, Anthony Palombaro, and Maria Corea.

The Association also facilitates trout stocking of the lake and maintenance of the tennis court (located on N. Lake Road). It supports the “Finally Friday” informal get-togethers on the last Friday of each month of the season, held at various cottages. Folks bring an hors d’oeuvres to pass and whatever they wish to drink, and have a chance to catch up with their lake neighbors. SLA also supports the “Adopt a Highway” program each spring. If you wish to participate, contact a SLA Board member or join the Silver Lake google email group.

## **OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION**

***Garbage/Recycling.*** Garbage and trash are collected by private services. The County has a recycling program. For details, check the telephone directory or ask your neighbors.

***Edward L. Rose Conservancy.*** Founded in 1987 with the financial support of many area families, including a significant number of Silver Lake residents, the Edward L. Rose Conservancy is an accredited Land Trust. It owns about 280 acres known as the “Highpoint Preserve” just west of Silver Lake, which contain numerous walking trails. Contained on this property are such popular features as a Butterfly Field, a Dedication Garden, and Vernal Pools. An annual trail cleanup is done each spring, and volunteers are always welcome. Join the Silver Lake google email group or let a Conservancy Board member know if you wish to volunteer. The “Highpoint Preserve” can be accessed off S.

Lake Road and also Crowley Road. The Conservancy also owns about 128 acres in Dimock Township, known as the “Greenwood Sanctuary.” This property is mostly a mix of hardwood forests, non-agricultural fields, and hemlock forest.

The Conservancy holds several “conservation easements” around the County, wherein it is the designated steward of the property in perpetuity –to preserve scenic beauty and ecological benefits for many generations to come. The Conservancy also partners with researchers to study and support the area’s ecosystems, with special emphasis on preserving organism diversity and water quality.

The Silver Lake Association urges all members to join the Conservancy. For more information, search Edward L. Rose Conservancy on your browser, or call 570-278-9500.

***Friends of Salt Springs.*** Salt Springs State Park is comprised of about 842 beautiful acres, located just a few miles south of Silver Lake. It has more than 15 miles of trails, historic farm buildings, camping, picnic grounds, and hosts a variety of programs and events throughout the year.

The Friends of Salt Springs was organized in 1994 to purchase land adjacent to an existing state park and then to contract with the State to manage the park in a unique public-private arrangement. Currently about 400 members contribute annual dues and provide volunteer assistance for the park’s many and varied programs. Through its efforts, the Friends have doubled the size of the land open to the public. The property itself is stunningly beautiful, with magnificent waterfalls surrounded by virgin hemlock forest. For more information, go to [info@friendsofsaltspringspark.org](mailto:info@friendsofsaltspringspark.org); or call 570-967-7275.

## **Information about Silver Lake and its Township**

According to 1940 data, Silver Lake itself covers 90 acres, with a length of 3460 feet and a maximum width of 1700 feet. The prevailing depth is 51 feet and the maximum depth is over 100 feet. The elevation of the Lake is 1718 feet. It has been estimated that the Lake holds over one billion gallons of water.

The Township of Silver Lake was settled in approximately 1809, and incorporated in 1813. The 2020 census indicates its permanent population is 1528 people.

According to U.S. Census data, the Township has a total area of 33.3 square miles, which includes both land and water.

The Township is governed by three supervisors. As of mid-2022, they were Francis Fruehan (Chair), Evan Everitt (Vice Chair), and Richard DeLouisia.

*[Note: We are indebted to the Township website for the following history of the area.]* All of what is now Silver Lake Township was purchased in 1809 by Dr. Robert Hutchinson Rose as part of a 99,200 acre tract and this area of the county was known at about that time as “Hibernia.” Dr. Rose eventually established a home on the south side of Silver Lake. Although originally settled by families with an English background, Dr. Rose encouraged many Irish families (many of whom worked to build the North Branch Canal along the Susquehanna River) to move here; and that accounts for the fact that many of the area roads have Irish names.

Sheep farms were prevalent in the beginning, then dairy. Dr. Rose established a sawmill and a gristmill, later constructing a woolen factory. Post offices were created along the road from Binghamton to Montrose. J.W. Brackney constructed a tannery. In 1817, a small distillery was built.

These days, many dairy farms survive, as well as small businesses. The lake communities have developed along seasonal-recreational and second-home use.

Useful telephone numbers: Township of Silver Lake - 570-663-2526

To report fire, accident, or call rescue squad - 911

PA State Police (Gibson substation) - 570-465-3154

Claverack Rural Electric Coop. - 570-265-2167 or  
800-326-9799

Brackney Post Office - 570-663-2612