

## **April 26 Membership Meeting**

Our most important LSIA meeting of the year is on Thursday, April 26 at 7:00 PM at Greenfield City Hall, north of Hwy 55 on Townhall Drive, at the intersection of Co Rd 50. Topics include:

- Elections for the 2001-2003 Board of Director candidates
- 2001 LSIA Budget approval
- Updates on LSIA projects: detention ponds to trap phosphorus, weed treatment, many other topics

Coffee and cookies will be provided after the meeting. This is your chance to meet other Lake Sarah area residents and find out more about the Lake Sarah Improvement Association! For more information, please contact Paulette Tollefson at 763-479-2240.

## **Calendar**

- 2001 General Meetings                      4/26/01 (Elections), 7/26/01, 10/25/01
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade            7/4/01
- 12<sup>th</sup> Annual LSIA Picnic                    7/29/01

## **Lake Sarah Project: Second Loretto Creek Detention Basin In Place!**

*By Paulette Tollefson, Project Coordinator*

If you drive along Townline Road south of Hwy 55, you have no doubt seen the fresh black dirt around the home of Gerald and Joanne Williams, 4225 Townline Road. This is Part Two of the Loretto Creek detention basin project, intended to trap phosphorus coming into Lake Sarah from the creek. The first pond was installed in February 2000 by Doug Doboszanski on his brother Randy's property on Bell Rose Drive, using the soil to create a large berm at Ron and Chris Lyrek's home along Co Rd 11. The second pond was proposed by Gerald Williams in early 2000, and it became a reality the last week of February 2001. The creek bed was deepened, and there was enough room to dump the soil on both sides of the home, along Townline Road. Later this summer, we should see natural grasses sprouting along the edges of the pond and water birds calling it home.

Activities since last fall:

Gerald Williams, Doug Doboszanski, Paulette Tollefson, and Gene Ullstrom worked with Carolyn Dindorf and the Hennepin Conservation District (HCD) engineer to finalize the pond plans and get permits and funding. Carolyn completed the HCD wetland determination and had the property staked in October, indicating where soil could be dumped without violating wetland regulations. Carolyn began permit work in September, obtaining approvals in January from the Army Corp of Engineers and the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Commission's Watershed Conservation Act. The DNR reviewed the project, but a DNR permit was not required. Gerald and Doug worked with the City of Independence and received project approval last fall.

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Commission agreed to fund 45% of the cost, not to exceed \$6075. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$13,500. LSIA voted last year to contribute \$4500 toward the Williams pond, with another \$4500 reserved for a pond on Doug Doboszanski's property, for which planning was not completed in time for installation this winter.

30% of total incoming phosphorus is estimated to enter Lake Sarah from Loretto Creek; together the two installed ponds should settle out a significant amount. Thanks to all the people who made this second detention basin possible!

## **LSIA Accomplishments in 2000**

*By the LSIA Board of Directors*

What has LSIA been up to? Here is a run-down of year 2000 activities.

- Conducted the Non-Phosphorus Fertilizer Drop last spring to encourage best practices around the lake.
- Completed the first Loretto Creek detention basin to trap phosphorus and coordinated plans for a second pond.
- Represented LSIA at meetings of Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Commission and Citizens Advisory Committee.
- Provided a Lake Sarah Area Directory for local residents.
- Helped Lake Sarah neighbors meet each other at the July 4 boat parade, summer picnic and winter skating party.
- Surveyed lake for milfoil and encouraged owners to treat their own shorelines.
- Promoted cleanup of debris left from ice houses.
- Printed a spring and fall Best Practices placemat to educate area residents, used by several local restaurants.
- Monitored water clarity and lake level, and provided data to Hennepin Conservation District.
- Conducted 3 LSIA meetings and published minutes/newsletters to keep you informed and educated.

## **Lake Sarah Directory Updates**

The 2001 Lake Sarah Area Directory was distributed in January to residents living around Lake Sarah. Please notify Sue Mizell at 763-479-6602 if you have corrections/additions to any names, addresses, or phone numbers in the directory.

## **April Elections**

**By Paulette Tollefson, VP and Secretary**

Elections for the LSIA Board of Directors will be held at the April 26 General Meeting. **Please be there to help elect our full slate of candidates!**

- For President - Paulette Tollefson, moving from Vice President; our outgoing President is Kelly Sandlass.
- For Vice President – Harold Burrows
- For Treasurer – Kevin Ward; our outgoing Treasurer is Brad Spencer
- For DNR Liaison – Ron Jorgenson, continuing in his present position
- For Government Liaison – Dolores Ullstrom, continuing in her present position

Responsibilities for All Positions

Attend Board Meetings (4/year), Membership Meetings (3/year), LSIA activities (such as picnic, skating party); contribute articles to Newsletters (2/year); assist in planning events; serve on committees as needed.

President

Duties are to lead board meetings and general meetings, appoint committees as needed, and supervise all work of the Association.

Vice President

This position is a four-year term: two years as Vice President and then two years as President. Duties of the Vice President are to attend board meetings and general meetings, and fill in for the President at meetings when the President is unavailable.

Treasurer

Duties are to receive and disburse Association funds, keep financial records, and report regularly to the Association.

Conservation and DNR Liaison

Duties are to monitor the status of lake weeds, coordinate weed treatment programs with the DNR, and communicate with the DNR regarding any concerns or policies affecting Lake Sarah.

Government Liaison

Duties are to communicate with local government and regulatory agencies regarding topics that impact Lake Sarah. The Government Liaison has also served as historian, contributing to the Newsletter.

**Water Safety Report to LSIA**

*By Steve Riley, Safety/Navigation Director*

On Tuesday March 6, the Greenfield City Council passed the Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Independence and ordinance governing the “No Wake” zone on Lake Sarah. The Joint Powers Agreement and “No Wake” zone ordinance, which were originally drafted by the City of Independence at our request, were then forwarded to the City of Independence for signature. As soon as both documents are executed, they will be forwarded to the DNR for review, and our “No Wake” zone will be enforceable by the Hennepin County Water Patrol.

The Water Patrol advises that while there are no major changes in watercraft regulations this year, they will be actively enforcing the 100’ maximum distance from shore and permit requirement for swimming rafts. We have several homeowners who have not been in compliance with this regulation the past several years. Additionally, the Water Patrol suggested reminding everyone that while water skiing is permitted until one hour *after* sunset, jet skis are prohibited from operating one hour *prior to* sunset. To report violations of these or any other watercraft restrictions, please call the Water Patrol directly at 952-471-8528, and not the Sheriff’s office.

**Summer Milfoil Treatment Planned**

*By Ron Jorgenson, DNR Liaison*

LSIA is working with Lake Restoration again this year to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil. Lake Restoration will treat one acre around the boat landing and approximately 2 acres out near the rock pile by the west buoys. They are also going to treat the channel where the lake narrows. We will be doing a survey with them to see where we can use the rest of the allotted acres; we are allotted approximately six acres total. Treatment will be done as early as possible, although it is hard to find the milfoil when the coontail is at its peak. We will do some estimating based on survey results.

## Skating Party and Chili Feed – a Spicy Winter Event!

*By Mary Lou Peterson*

Mary and Ron Jorgenson's ice rink on Shady Beach Circle was the place to be on Sunday February 18. The temperature rose into the high 20's and the fire pit warmed cold feet for the 83 Lake Sarah area residents and 6 dogs that attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual LSIA Skating Party and Chili Feed. Skating was enjoyable on the great rink, and those who chose not to skate spent the time visiting.

Everyone found their way to the heated garage where more than enough food was set out. Not even surgery kept Mary Jorgenson and Paulette Tollefson from coming to prop up their feet and enjoy the company (photo). Thank you to the Jorgensons for offering their time and place for the successful event.

### **Photos:**

**Host Ron Jorgenson at play**

**Mary and Paulette skip the skating and guard the food**

**Young and young-at-heart enjoy the great ice (3 photos)**

## Membership Update

*By Mary Lou Peterson, Membership Director*

**Memberships:** The membership forms for 2001 were mailed at the end of February to 310 potential LSIA members. So far, as of March 1, 98 have returned their letters.

**Superior Services:** 5 steps back and then 5 steps forward again. We are in the 50 - 75 Member level for 2001. You who are signed up with Superior Garbage Services will see a drop in your rates as we are over to the next lower level. Anyone who would like to join may do so at any time by paying their membership dues and letting Mary Lou Peterson know of your wishes. 763-479-6535.

**Non-Phosphorus Fertilizer Sale:** Thank you to those that ordered fertilizer though LSIA. Not only will your lawns look great, but you helped earn some money for the association. Both cities of Greenfield and Independence require the use of phosphorus-free fertilizer on all lawns in their cities unless soil tests show the need for the chemical. Remember to keep LSIA and Lake Sarah in mind as you use best practices to spread your lawn fertilizer in the spring and fall.

## Ice Cleanup – Sometimes Easy, Sometimes Not

*By Steve Hancock*

Coffee and cocoa, Dobo's great donuts, and a beautiful brisk winter day brought out about 15 volunteers for the March 3 LSIA Ice Cleanup. Though much of the debris was covered by snow that fell after removal of the houses, the crew found remnants of insulation, lumber, and the usual assortment of garbage. Part of the time was spent getting the two super SUVs and a four-wheeler un-stuck from the lake, which sported a slick layer of water under the snow. The snowmobiles had a better time of it.

Thanks to these participants who signed in: Steve Riley, Dale Hahn, Brad Spencer, Gary and Kelly Sandlass, Craig and Mary Lou Peterson, Kathleen Nelson, Kevin and Gina Ward, Dan Rode, and Steve Hancock.

Thanks also to those who cleaned up their own ice houses and who scoured the ice on their own. Summer boaters and swimmers appreciate your efforts to keep Lake Sarah clean and safe.

**Photos: Ice Cleanup crew warming up with coffee and donuts**

## 2000 LSIA Financial Results

*By Brad Spencer, Treasurer*

President Kelly Sandlass and VP Paulette Tollefson performed the annual audit of LSIA financial records, and all the accounting records were found to be accurate and complete. The Treasurer's Report for year-end 2000 shows that the beginning balance was \$2241.28, receipts were \$17,227.22 (including a CD redemption), disbursements were \$13,138.82, and the ending balance was \$6329.68. We also have a CD for Lake Sarah Improvement Project activities.

### Audit Statement dated January 22, 2001:

I have audited the financial statements for the calendar year 2000. In my opinion, the financial statements agree with the accounting records and, based upon my tests, appear to be correct.

Signed by the Audit Committee: Kelly Sandlass and Paulette Tollefson (signed copy on file)

## Lake Sarah History: The Chongs leave Lake Sarah with Happy Memories

By Dolores Ullstrom

I had the welcome opportunity a few days ago to sit down and have a long talk with Stanley Chong. Stanley is such a delightful person that I wish I had taken the time long ago to get to know him and his wife, Marvel. In February the Chongs sold their cabin located on the south side of Lake Sarah. For 25 years they enjoyed coming from their apartment in downtown Minneapolis to their vacation home.

Marvel is in the hospital now. She is ventilator dependent and requires skilled nursing care. Stanley, whose eye sight is failing fast, takes Metro Mobility every day to St. Paul to visit her. He says her memory is as good as ever.

Stanley, one of five sons, was born in 1912 in the State of Washington. His father was a fruit grower. At age 5 Stanley went to Portland to live with his aunt who had no sons. His grandfather, who grew hops on his farm, also lived in Portland. From him Stanley learned about his ancestry and Chinese culture. Stanley started college during the great depression. He ran out of money before completing his study in landscape design. He came to Minneapolis to work for an aunt who had an art shop.

Stanley and Marvel met at an open house at the Nankin Restaurant. Prior to their meeting Marvel had been a patient at the TB sanitarium in Glen Lake for several years. She may have contracted the disease while studying to be a nurse at the U of M. They celebrate their 60 wedding anniversary on March 14, 2001.

Marvel's folks had a home near the U of M. Their home was the gathering spot for Chinese students living in the area. Marvel went to high school in Hibbing where her older sister lived. At one time her father had a hotel in Willmar. He had to learn to speak Swedish in order to talk to his help.

### Life was a merry chaise

Stanley says he led Marvel a merry chaise all the years they were married. He bought a used Linen Supply delivery truck and moved from state fair to state fair in the upper midwest, selling Chinese articles. A popular item was a light weight small nut hull, called a white nut, that was carved to look like a pig. When a living fly was put into the hull it made the pig look like it was alive and moving. The Chongs hired Chinese students to work in their booth. They personalize Bamboo chop sticks for fair goers.

When WWII came along, Stanley went into the Signal Corp. After the war they lived in Kentucky and then went back to Washington State to take care of his ailing mother. Stanley says that during the war, he was sometimes mistaken for being Japanese. When he identified himself as Chinese, he never had any trouble. On the west coast his family, who were well known in the Chinese community, had no problems.

### Back in Minneapolis to stay

After his mother's death, Stanley and Marvel came back to Minneapolis, and they began International House and sold supplies to Chinese restaurants in the area. With his language skills he was able to act as interpreter for other Chinese who were working with the immigration office trying to bring relatives to America. Stanley says he gained their trust and this was helpful in his business.

Stanley says that Marvel had a real knack for cooking. That is a huge understatement. She was recognized as an authority on the art of Chinese cooking and taught cooking school at International House for over twenty years. Some of her students were food experts from General Mills and Byerlys.

The Chongs started Marvel Foods (named after Mrs. Chong, of course), at 75 West Island Ave on Nicollet Island. The plant was the former Ives Ice Cream Factory. They packaged and sold frozen Chinese food. In 1981 the building burned. They decided not to reopen the plant.

Stanley and Marvel bought their Lake Sarah cabin in late 1970s. Bud and Bernice Eppel lived next door (now the Sandlass place) and had a resort that sold minnows and rented out boats. The Chongs remodeled their Lake Sarah cabin by elevating it and building under it. They had a large wok built in. They could easily prepare food for up to 30 people. Stanley loved to get up early in the morning and go fishing. Fish is important in the Chinese diet, and Stanley supplied many friends with fish from Lake Sarah. Fourth of July, 2000 Stanley had his last big fish fry for 20 people. He coated the fish with a light batter and fried them in the wok. Everyone bought a salad, and they had a wonderful time.

### Time to leave Lake Sarah

Stanley did not want to sell, but there were problems with access and utilities, so he sold his land to his neighbor, Will Steger. He is disappointed that things did not work out differently. With Marvel in the hospital and his own failing health, he did not believe he could hold on to the property any longer. He leaves with good feelings for his neighbors who, he says, are very friendly. He will especially miss the beautiful sunrises and sunsets. "They are spectacular!" On his early morning fishing trips, he always wore a straw hat. The sea gulls use to follow his boat because he would throw them a perch occasionally.

Stanley says that Marvel always supported him in his many business ventures and wanderings. Now that Marvel is in poor health, it is his time to support her. We say a reluctant good-bye to Stanley and Marvel and wish them the very best. And Stanley, come back and fish Lake Sarah any time. You are always welcome.

**Photo: Stanley and Marvel Chong**