

October LSIA Meeting and Social

Mark your calendar!
Fall LSIA General Meeting
Thursday, 10/25 at 7:00 PM

Hear updates from the Water Level Committee and other projects.
Meeting is held at Independence City Hall on County Rd 90 just north of Highway 12.
Enjoy coffee and cookies after the meeting!

Lake Sarah Supporter in Independence City Council Race

Jim Smith of the Independence City Council has been a strong supporter of legislation benefiting Lake Sarah, and he is up for reelection this fall. Jim has backed efforts such as the detention ponds on Loretto Creek; no-wake zone legislation for the channel (and for the entire lake in extremely high water conditions); best shoreland management practices by home developers around the lake; and annual donations by Independence to LSIA. Jim has also participated in LSIA meetings to share information on city legislation affecting the lake and to gather feedback. Thanks to Jim Smith for his ongoing support of Lake Sarah!

Calendar

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • 2001 General Meeting | 10/25/01 |
| • Directory Updates Due | 11/30/01 |
| • LSIA Board Meeting | 1/21/02 |
| • Ice Cleanup | 3/2/02 |
| • Fertilizer Drop | 4/20/02 |
| • 2002 Elections | 4/25/02 |
| • 2002 General Meetings | 7/25, 10/24/02 |
| • 4 th Annual July 4 th Boat Parade | 7/4/02 |
| • 12 th Annual LSIA Picnic | 7/28/02 |

YOUR Lake Sarah Area Directory Updates Needed

Want to correct your name, address, or phone number in the Lake Sarah Area Directory? Want to add a neighbor's name or phone number? Help us keep our Directory current! Please contact Paulette Tollefson NOW at 763-479-2240. The updated Directory will be published in January. Last date for corrections is 11/30/01.

Your Voice Needs To Be Heard on 10/29

By Dolores Ullstrom, Government Liaison

In accordance with Minnesota Law, Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission is undertaking an update of the Watershed Management Plan called the 2nd Generation Plan. The Watershed Commission helps establish Lake Sarah water quality and lake level by making decisions regarding wetlands and development. The purpose of the 2nd Generation Plan is to assist the Commission by setting goals and policies which will guide future decision making. Public input is a mandated part of the process.

The 2nd Generation Plan, which is an extensive document, is extremely important for those of us interested in Lake Sarah's future. A Task Force has been formed, and WSB & Associates, Inc. has been hired to assist in putting the plan together.

A large public forum is being planned for Monday, October 29, 2001 (location to be announced). The first part of the public forum will be to identify issues. The group will then break up into small groups to discuss the role of the Watershed Commission in regard to the identified issues.

It is very important that Lake Sarah homeowners be in attendance at this public forum on October 29th. There are those who have other interests than protecting Lake Sarah. Their voices will be loud and clear at the meeting. If Lake Sarah and the investment you have in your home are important to you, now is the time to step forward.

SEE YOU MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2001.

2001 Fertilizer Program Summary

By Kevin Ward

Our 2001 "Phosphorous Free" Fertilizer Program is still a very popular service provided to our LSIA members. Participation was very good during our spring delivery period, but participation in our fall delivery was less than spectacular. However, since we did not have a fall fertilizer delivery last year, we believe many of you planned ahead this year and ordered a full year's supply in the spring. The good news is that this program will continue next year with both a spring and fall delivery option being planned. We will be mailing out order forms for our spring delivery early next year with "free delivery" being planned for mid-April. Don't forget – this program not only promotes a cleaner lake for everyone, but this program is also a fundraiser for LSIA. This year's Fertilizer Program raised a total of \$193 for LSIA. So, if you not ordering your lawn fertilizer from LSIA each year.....Get with the program!

Wanted: Future LSIA Board Members

Four LSIA Board of Director positions will be up for re-election in April 2002: Secretary, Membership, Water Level & Water Quality, and Safety & Navigation. Though most of the Board members are willing to serve another two-year term, we are always looking for new participants. If you are interested, please contact Paulette Tollefson at 763-479-2240 for information.

Financial Report

By Kevin Ward, Treasurer

Through September 8, 2001 LSIA expenditures were \$8,062.43 vs. our total 2001 budget for expenditures of \$17,150.00. The majority of these reduced expenditures are a result of the postponement of our next Pond Retention Project and the DNR's rejection of the LSIA Milfoil Treatment Plan for Lake Sarah this year. These two projects represent a \$7,500 reduction of planned LSIA 2001 expenditures. However, both of these projects will likely be carried forward in our proposed budget plan for 2002. LSIA receipts YTD totals \$6,041.44 vs. our total 2001 budgeted receipts of \$8,206. The majority of this shortfall is due to the elimination of a \$1,356 grant expected from the DNR for the LSIA Milfoil Treatment Plan for Lake Sarah. LSIA funds on hand through 9/8/01 are \$3,987.22 in cash plus 2 bank CDs.

4th of July Boat Parade 2001

By Brad Spencer, Parade Coordinator and Judge

Another beautiful day for the annual 4th of July boat parade, sunny, windy, and warm! As many as 21 decorated boats were participating with many Lake Sarah residents along the shoreline to watch. Highlights of this year's parade were Jorgenson's Red/White/Blue all over theme complete with multiple water sprayers, Horazuk's entry with the "American Gothic" theme (complete with a rather menacing looking pitchfork), the Englund / Cady entry which had more flags than I could count (including flag shorts / swim trunks), and Lyreks memorable Loretto Fire Dept entry complete with working fire hose and siren. Pat Lyrek added to his effort by boating close to the shoreline and docks in a feeble (but entertaining) attempt to spray onlookers. Most of the boats in the parade had some combination of flags, balloons and signs. All in all a well-attended and fun event.

This year's boat decorating contest actually had 2 winners as LSIA had purchased 2 gift certificates. The winners (a difficult decision) were:

Pat and Joan Lyrek – Loretto F.D. pontoon, and
Englund / Cady – Flags and more flags pontoon

A motion to pass the decorating contest judging duties to the previous year's winners is being considered.

Another Summer, Another Successful LSIA Picnic

By Dolores Ullstrom, Picnic Chair

In spite of high water this spring, the picnic area on Kim and Becky Jacobsen's property was in top form for the annual picnic. The outdoor privy, newly remodeled, is functional and a real beauty. Kids and grown-ups enjoyed the games, which included a very popular minnow race supplied by Ron Jorgenson. Food was plentiful and more delicious than ever.

A big thanks to the many people who helped make this event so successful. It is a wonderful, fun community builder.

(PHOTOS)

John and Dick Tubesing teamed up and, in spite of tough competition, were proud winners of the ever - popular balloon toss.

Teresa Jorgenson and Robbie Douglas, picnic game organizers, had fun showing the kids cooperative teamwork in the 3-legged race.

The Jacobson girls left everyone in the dust as they raced to an easy victory in the 3-legged race. Good going girls!

Racers race into the water, leading their relay team to victory in the wet shirt relay.

Many local businesses and LSIA members contributed door prizes. Thanks to:

- Olson's Mercantile for six 12-packs of pop, won by Patrick & Chris Maloney, Tom & Sue Mizell, Harold & Renee Burrows, and three of the kids game winners.
- Maple Plain Family Center for two figurines, won by Dick & Carole Tubesing and Jason & Kathleen Nelson.
- Loretto Post Office for stamps and a stamp book, won by Rob & Donna Sheeley.
- Ace Hardware of Rockford, for two \$10 gift certificates, won by Paul Klesmit and Bob & Sherry Englund.
- Choo Choo Restaurant & Bar for a \$30 gift certificate, won by Ken & Marcia Kociuba.
- McGarry's Cafe of Maple Plain for a mug, won by Mike & DeeDee Loegering.
- HerShelf of Loretto for two \$15 gift certificates, won by Kevin & Gina Ward and Gordy & Jan Kruger.
- Boating Magazine for a raincoat, won by Ginny Cook.
- Lake Restoration for an umbrella, won by Ron & Mary Jorgenson.
- Elite Tanning for Australian Gold moisture lotion, won by Steve & Teri Hoogenakker.
- North American Foods for a \$10 gift certificate, won by Dan and Jane Maland Cady.
- Holiday for a \$10 gift certificate, won by Warren & Julie Grist.
- Stop-N-Go for free video rental, won by Steve Hancock & Paulette Tollefson.
- Ron Jorgenson of Acoustical Floors, for a \$50 Home Depot gift certificate, won by Gene & Dolores Ullstrom, and a \$25 Home Depot gift certificate, won by Leigh & Jane Behnman.
- Ron Jorgenson of Maxxon, for a \$50 Home Depot gift certificate, won by Kim & Becky Jacobsen, and a \$25 Home Depot gift certificate, won by John & Julie Gleason.
- Hennepin Coop for a \$20 gift certificate, won by Jim & Gaye Shrack.
- Axel's for a \$25 gift certificate, won by Scott & Nancy Landgraf.
- Dobo's Café and Bakeshop for two \$10 gift certificates, won by Bill & Mary Ralph and Rick & Kim Niedzielski.
- Bill Hibbard of Budget Printing for 4 sets of personalized note paper, won by Greg & Diane Anderson, Steve & Julie Riley, Jim & Bonnie Roeder, and John & Teresa Jorgenson.
- Tom and Sue Mizell for the paper products for the picnic
- Ron and Mary Jorgenson's businesses for the meat and buns for the picnic

Lake Sarah Area History
Breezy Hill Resort Memories
By Dolores Ullstrom

A short time ago a gentleman named Art Mielke stood on our deck and looked wistfully at Lake Sarah. He got a bit nostalgic for the good old days, the days when he was young and his family owned Breezy Hill Resort. The resort was located on a 90 acre parcel of land situated on the north west corner of Lake Sarah. The property is currently owned by Kimberly and Perry Buffie. The house in which the Mielkes lived is still there, but it has gone through major remodeling. The Mielke family, first Cora and Herman Mielke, Art's mother and father, and later Art and his wife, Judy, owned the resort for 38 years.

History of the land

Records go back to 1860 when the US Government deeded 160 acres, a quarter section, to Charles Miller. The 160 acres included the 90 acre farm and resort that Mielkes later owned. In 1860 Lake Sarah was known as Union Lake. I do not know but would love to find out when the name officially changed to Lake Sarah. Cora and Herman Mielke bought the property from Fila and Agasfia Shalikow in 1938. Art was a few months old at the time. He has two older sisters, and a younger sister, Irene, was born a few years later.

Before they sold, Art and Judy subdivided including three lake lots on the east end of the property and one 10 acre parcel that does not have lake access. The lake lots are currently owned by the Hendricks, Jaspers, and Barnes. In 1974 Maurice and Roseann McKinley bought 20 acres, what remained of the original farm, from Art and Judy. In 1977 the McKinleys sold to Kenneth and LaVonne Mickelson. The Buffies purchased the property in 1997.

Perry Buffie grew up in Rockford. When he was young, he mowed the lawn for Clinton and Meda Stock, owners of the historic house in Rockford. Perry was familiar with Breezy Hill. The McKinleys and Mickelsons had children that were about his age, and he frequently came to visit them on the lake. When the Buffies learned that the property was for sale, Kimberly and Perry took less than a day to decide to buy. They have since added a kitchen and great room addition to the house, doing much of the work themselves. One resort cabin remains on the property and serves as a guest house. The cabin had been moved in years ago. It is well built with quality woodwork and 10 foot high ceilings.

Lake provides food

Not long ago Perry had an opportunity to talk with Dora Dixon, a woman who had lived in one of Breezy Hills cabins during the depression. Dora remembers the Shalikows. She used to watch Mrs. Shalikow (known by many as "the Russian lady") catch sunfish. After catching them she threw them into a pot filled with water. While the fish were still swimming, she put the pot on the stove to boil. The end result was a fish stew. There is no report on how the stew tasted.

Dora says that a lot of turtles used to lay their eggs on the property (as they still do). Dora's mother would say that their family was so poor that some day they may have to eat turtle. Dora, about 13 years old, told her mother she would never eat a turtle. For dinner one day there were two plates of meat, one white and one dark. Dora enjoyed several pieces of the dark meat. Her mother said to her, "I thought you said you would never eat turtle. You just ate several pieces." Dora, suddenly ill, went outside and proceeded to vomit. Dora got a spanking that night because she had wasted food at a time when food was in short supply.

In the ice business

In the winter the Mielkes cut tons and tons of ice on Lake Sarah. They sold ice to all the resorts on the lake. Each resort had an ice house where they stored the ice until summer. There is a video of the ice cutting operation that was made from film taken in early 1970s. It is reported that on summer evening when it was hot, neighbors gathered on the porch for a cool drink. A chunk of ice was placed in front of an electric fan to provide a stream of comfortable cool air.

Art remembers the train trestle

When I asked Art if he remembers if there was ever a train trestle over Lake Sarah Creek, he says he remembers it well. One reason he remembers it is because of an incident that took place when the family cows wandered onto the

railroad tracks. The cows would walk on tracks, but they refused to go onto the trestle. One day when the cows were being pastured at an uncle's farm that was located near the tracks, 10 cows wandered onto the tracks. The ground on either side was wet and swampy. An eastbound train, picking up speed after stopping at Rockford, was moving along the tracks. When the engineer spotted the cows, he applied the brakes with full force. All the wheels locked up and Herman Mielke, standing on a hill overlooking the scene, saw flames coming from every wheel. The train stopped just short of the cows.

Engineers usually did not bother stopping if one cow was on the tracks. The engineer later told Art's uncle that he was almost sure that hitting ten cows would cause the train to derail. He was unwilling to risk that.

Over the years the Mielkes lost about 4 cows to the train. The problem resulted because the railroad tracks separated the barn on the south side from the pasture on the north. Art remembers the day a cousin was sent out to check for an approaching train. After she reported that the tracks were clear, the cows were let out of their pen. By the time the train was spotted, it was too late. The lead cow was hit and killed. Men from the Rockford packing house came and butchered the animal as it lay in the ditch. The family was happy that the meat did not go to waste. Art says that the trestle was replaced by a culvert around 1953.

Later on the train played an indirect role in the deaths of two more Mielke cows. It was on July 15, Art and Judy's anniversary. About 10:30 p.m. upon returning home, Art saw the red lights of several squad cars. Art sensed that his cows were involved. The cows, spooked by a train, broke through the fence onto Highway 55. The train had been stopped on tracks that ran through Mielke property. When the train started to move, it made a lot of noise, frightening the cows. Two cows were hit and killed by two different cars. Cars were heavily damaged but no one in the cars was killed. A legal battle was avoided when the judge dismissed the case after the railroad was called in.

Rockford is selected to receive train service

At one time there was a town called Greenwood plotted out west of Lake Sarah. The railroad built a rail bed to Greenwood, but the bed was abandoned when it became apparent that the Ames' mills in Rockford were doing milling for most of the local farmers. The present railbed was put down to serve the mills in Rockford. The town of Greenwood never came to be. Art says that you can still see the old bed. Part of West Lake Sarah Drive lies along the deserted rail bed.

Stay tuned

Art has lots more stories to tell, but they will have to wait until April and the next edition of the newsletter.

(PHOTOS)

A very young Art and Irene Mielke pose in front of the Mielke home with the porch visible in the background. The porch was a favorite gathering spot on warm evenings.

Art Mielke stands in water that came up onto the property after a major cloud burst. One of the resort's cabins and the opposite shore are in the background.

**Lake Sarah Improvement Association Board
2001 to 2003**

PRESIDENT 763-479-2240; 612-671-8729 w	2003	Paulette Tollefson (Spouse: Steve Hancock) 6225 Lake Sarah Hts Drive Rockford, MN 55373
VICE PRESIDENT 763-479-1900	2003	Harold Burrows (Spouse: Renee) 5135 Fern Drive Loretto, MN 55357
SECRETARY 763-479-2240; 612-671-8729 w	2002	Paulette Tollefson (Spouse: Steve Hancock) 6225 Lake Sarah Hts Drive Rockford, MN 55373
TREASURER 763-479-3169	2003	Kevin Ward (Spouse: Gina) 4516 Shady Beach Circle Maple Plain, MN 55359
MEMBERSHIP 763-479-6535	2002	Mary Lou Peterson (Spouse: Craig) 6804 Rachel Ridge Court Maple Plain, MN 55359
GOVT LIAISON 763-479-3292	2003	Dolores Ullstrom (Spouse: Gene) 4740 Lake Sarah Hts Circle Rockford, MN 55373
DNR LIAISON 763-479-3994	2003	Ron Jorgenson (Spouse: Mary) 4594 Shady Beach Circle Maple Plain, MN 55359
WATER LEVEL/QUALITY 763-479-3040	2002	Al Moen (Spouse: Sally) 6205 Lake Sarah Hts Drive Rockford, MN 55373
SAFETY/NAVIGATION 763-479-3150	2002	Steve Riley (Spouse: Julie) 6235 Lake Sarah Hts Drive Rockford, MN 55373
GRANT/EDUCATION 763-479-1143		Jane Maland Cady (Spouse: Dan Cady) 5709 Lake Sarah Hts Drive Rockford, MN 55373
NEWSLETTER/ADDRESSES 763-479-6602		Sue Mizell (Spouse: Tom) 5665 Lake Sarah Hts Drive Rockford, MN 55373
CITY LIAISON 763-477-6832		Cindy Sykes (Spouse: Mike) 6275 North Shore Drive Rockford, MN 55373