



# Mouth of Lake Sarah

## Volunteer for Lake Sarah's Future

As I write my last article as President of Lake Sarah Improvement Association, I feel amazement, and at the same time, disillusionment. My amazement comes from what I witnessed when a group of people can work together to accomplish a good for a cause that results in the betterment of an organization. **All volunteered.**

Over the last four years I have had the distinct pleasure to work with Board members who have looked at what is best for the lake. Have there been disagreements? You bet there were and probably still are, but when mature people put *principles before personalities*, there are no quitters, and resolutions come. I personally thank the following Board members for all of their dedication, input and inspiration during my two terms: Cheryl Wise, Brad Spencer, Mike Peterson, Harold Burrows, Becky Jacobsen, Fred Lang, Greg Hani, Joe Slavic, Dan Cady, John Wise, Jim Olson, Steve Riley, and Dolores Ullstrom.

Here are some of the things these people did over just the last four years:

- Mike is always present and willing to pitch in and was the main person to get the temporary control structure to stop the erosion at the outlet and to maintain some kind of water level. (I know, it is being looked at.)
- Brad, Greg and Fred were instrumental in overhauling the LSIA bylaws
- Joe ran the crew to remove a dangerous floating bog and kept the lake navigable and also chaired the Ice Clean Up event this spring.
- Fred has spent numerous hours setting up a database for the Association that gives us the ability to track and sort by various functions and identifiers.
- Cheryl was secretary for my first term and still is the editor of our newsletter, The Mouth of Lake Sarah, and goes above and beyond the call.
- Becky took over as secretary and has done a superb job, a task often overlooked for the amount of time that has to be dedicated. She also donated coffee and cookies at our General meetings.
- Greg has kept the books in balance, furnished timely financial reports and introduced various funds to control and has made certain we are always legal.
- Dolores Ullstrom delighted us with the stories of Lake Sarah's past, bringing them to life. Many of her historical stories are on the website, [www.lakesarah.com](http://www.lakesarah.com).
- LSIA's Annual Picnic was chaired the last three years by Pam Peterson, chaired previously by Mary Lou Peterson and Kathy Hahn. The land, tables, tents, etc. have been graciously donated by Ron and Mary Jorgensen. If you have not shown up for this event, you have missed a very good time meeting your neighbors, fun events for the kids, and fantastic food.
- The annual July 4th Boat Parade was chaired by John and Terri Wise three years running, until they said they just had to be in it last year - remember the pontoon with the wild sailors? Tom and Sue Mizell stepped in and chaired the event in 2007.
- Harold is chairing the new Lake Sarah Stakeholders Committee with the main purpose of cleaning up the lake, with phosphorous being the main culprit. It's a huge task and is going to take many people and many years to accomplish, but it can be done. We didn't acquire the necessary funding to treat the whole lake this spring with a dual treatment to control Curley Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), but over fifty lakeshore owners stepped up and are going to pitch in and treat well over fifty acres of Lake Sarah for these invasive species that have been destroying our lake.

**John Ruskin said, "The highest reward for a person's work is not what they get for it, but what they become because of it."**

I thank you for the opportunity afforded me. Oh, and one more thought—***Step up and Volunteer.***

Jerry Wise  
LSIA President



2006 Ice Clean Up day - pictures taken by Brad Spencer

## 2008 Ice Clean Up - Thank You to Volunteers

### *more trash reported than in past years*

**Joe Slavec, chairman**

The 2008 Ice Clean Up event held on Saturday, March 1st was attended by about 20 people – and the Boy Scouts from the Orono Troop made it closer to around 60. The Boy Scouts cleaned up most of the visible debris on the east end of the lake while the rest of crew cleaned up anything and everything in between.

**Thank you to all those who volunteered** for the Ice Cleanup Event which included John & Terri Wise, Scott Scharf & family, Eric Milow & son, Kirk Reiersen & daughters, Carol Roberts, Jeff Puth, Joe Slavec, the Orono Troop Boy Scouts and many other volunteers whose names were missed. Keeping our lake free of garbage is important and your efforts are appreciated!

The crew enjoyed donuts, coffee, and neighborhood chatter at the landing before they got started. *“It is fun to get out and do this and it’s always surprising that more people don’t show up”*, said Joe Slavec, Ice Clean Up chairman.

After the March 1st event, warming temperatures melted much of the snow cover and Joe Slavec reported an alarming amount of trash that was exposed, that previously could not be seen. Joe quickly put together a second ice clean up crew on short notice that worked the entire lake on Thursday evening, March 13th. **Volunteers for this second event were Paul**

**Klesmit, Jim Olson, Scott Walsh, and Joe Slavec.** Many thanks to these four who gave up their evening to clean up the lake.

Thank you also to all those residents who collected and disposed of garbage all year around and to those sportsmen who have been policing up their own trash.

Joe reported one ice fishing shack, with a plethora of garbage around it, that had been left on the lake after the mandatory removal date. It was quite clear that the owner intended to abandon the shack on the ice as it had fallen apart and the owner had removed their name.

Fortunately, Joe had noticed this particular shack several weeks ago and made note of the owner’s name. Joe worked with Todd Kanieski, DNR Conservation Officer, to find the owner. Todd went to the person’s home in Loretto which was now vacant, then went to the owner’s mother’s home which was also vacant, and eventually tracked the individual down through his sister. The perpetrator was fined \$350 per day (two days) for leaving the house on the lake and an excessive litter fine. The owner finally removed the ice fishing shack on their own.

# LSIA Membership Report

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As of 3/31/08, we've received **125 paid memberships** and 70 of the paid members have signed up for the VES/LSIA Discounted Trash Program. For those of you who have not yet done so, please send in your dues ASAP!

Payment of your 2008 annual dues of \$35 must be received by April 26th (Spring LSIA Membership meeting) to remain a member in good standing, vote on association matters, receive the 2008 Lake Sarah Directory, and be eligible for the Veolia/LSIA discounted trash program!

The annual membership mailing was sent at the end of December last year. If you did not receive your letter or have misplaced it, you can find a membership application form on [www.lakesarah.com](http://www.lakesarah.com). Please complete the membership application form and make your check payable to LSIA for \$35 and mail it to:

**Lake Sarah Improvement Association  
P.O. Box 25  
Loretto, MN 55357-0025**

## **The annual membership fee is used to:**

- support water quality improvement and weed control programs
- coordinate three yearly membership meetings
- coordinate the July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade/ Decorating Contest and the annual LSIA summer picnic
- print 2-3 newsletters and the Lake Sarah Directory each year
- Promote a normal water level on Lake Sarah, remove or mark menaces to navigation, and promote safe and proper utilization of the lake.

For additional information about membership in LSIA, please contact John Wise, LSIA Director of Membership (763-477-4095).



**Veolia Environmental Services (VES)** is again offering significantly discounted group residential trash service to all residents with a paid LSIA membership (Note: You must reside in the VES service area, of course).

LSIA members are eligible for the reduced rates from July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009. For more information on this program, please visit the *Veolia/LSIA Trash Program* page at [www.lakesarah.com](http://www.lakesarah.com).

## **This years group negotiated trash rates\* effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 are:**

- 38-gallon weekly service is \$10.00 per month plus tax and fees\* (regular rate per month is \$16.25)
- 65-gallon weekly service is \$10.40 per month plus tax and fees\* (regular rate per month is \$17.25)
- 95-gallon weekly service is \$10.75 per month plus tax and fees\* (regular rate per month is \$18.25)

\*These rates do not include the Hennepin County Surcharge, the MN Solid Waste Tax and the Fuel/ Environmental fee (a fluctuating fee that is currently 12.3%).

## **Note that the VES/LSIA Trash Program savings more than pays for your LSIA membership!**

If you have any questions in regards to this program, please contact Veolia Environmental Services toll free at 1-888-251-8919.



# Artificial Eutrophication

www.scienceclarified.com

Eutrophication (pronounced you-tro-fi-KAY-shun) is a natural process that occurs in an aging lake or pond as that body of water gradually builds up its concentration of plant nutrients. Natural eutrophication is usually a fairly slow and gradual process, occurring over a period of many centuries. It occurs naturally when for some reason, production and consumption within the lake do not cancel each other out and the lake slowly becomes over fertilized.

Artificial eutrophication occurs when human activity introduces increased amounts of these nutrients, which speed up plant growth and eventually choke the lake of all of its animal life. Artificial or human-caused eutrophication has become so common that the word eutrophication by itself has come to mean a very harmful increase and acceleration of nutrients. It is as if something receives too much fertilizer or has too much of what is a good thing.

Humans add excessive amounts of plant nutrients, primarily phosphorus and nitrogen to streams and lakes in various ways. Runoff from agricultural fields, field lots, urban lawns, and golf courses is one source of these nutrients. Untreated, or partially-treated, domestic sewage is another major source.

Studies have shown that phosphorous export from agricultural lands is at least 5 times greater than from forested lands, and urban areas may be more than 10 times greater. Other activities that contribute to eutrophication are lawn and garden fertilizers, faulty septic systems, erosion into the lake, dumping or burning leaves in or near a lake, and feeding ducks.

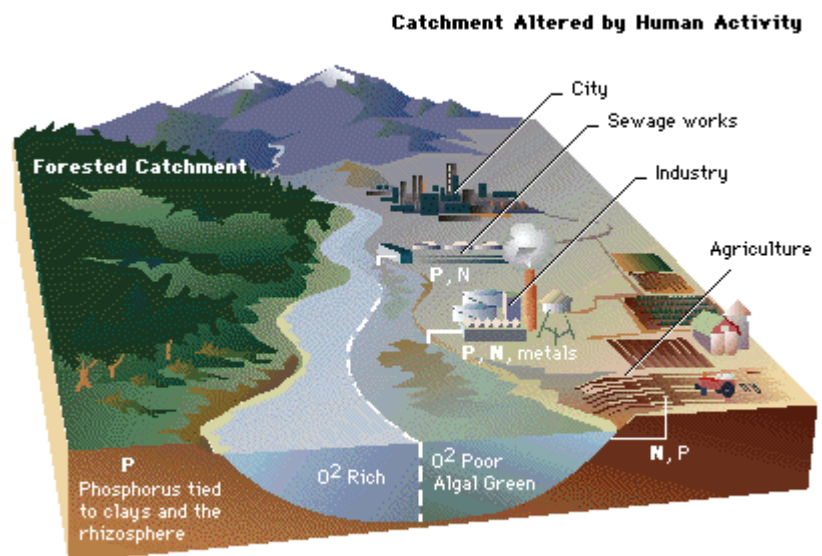
## Point Sources

- Wastewater effluent (municipal and industrial)
- Runoff and leachate from waste disposal systems
- Runoff and infiltration from animal feedlots
- Runoff from unsewered industrial sites
- Overflows of combined storm and sanitary sewers
- Runoff from construction sites

## Nonpoint Sources

- Runoff from agriculture/irrigation
- Runoff from pasture and range
- Urban runoff from unsewered areas
- Septic tank leachate
- Runoff from construction sites
- Atmospheric deposition over a water surface
- Other land activities generating contaminants

Both nitrates and phosphates are absorbed by plants and are needed for growth. However, the human use of detergents and chemical fertilizers has greatly increased the amount of nitrates and phosphates that are washed into our lakes and ponds. When this occurs in a sufficient quantity, they act like fertilizer for plants and algae and speed up their rate of growth.



Algae are a group of plantlike organisms that live in water and can make their own food through photosynthesis (using sunlight to make food from simple chemicals). When additional phosphates are added to a body of water, the plants begin to grow explosively and algae takes off or "blooms." In the process, the plants and algae consume greater amounts of oxygen in the water, robbing fish and other species of necessary oxygen.

All algae eventually die, and when they do, oxygen is required by bacteria in order for them to decompose or break down the dead algae. A cycle then begins in which more bacteria decompose more dead algae, consuming even more oxygen in the process. The bacteria then release more phosphates back into the water, which feed more algae. As levels of oxygen in the body of water become lower, the fish literally suffocate to death.

***phosphorous export from agricultural lands is at least 5 times greater than from forested lands, and urban areas may be more than 10 times greater.***

Eventually, the lake or pond begins to fill in and starts to be choked with plant growth. As the plants die and turn to sediment that sinks, the lake bottom starts to rise. The waters grow shallower and finally the body of water is filled completely and disappears. This also can happen to wetlands, which are already shallow. Eventually, there are shrubs growing where a body of water used to be.

Proposed solutions to the eutrophication problem are multidimensional and include actions to restore wetlands and riparian buffer zones between farms and residential homes and surface waters, reduce livestock densities, improve efficiencies of fertilizer applications, reduce urban runoff from streets and storm drains, reduce nitrate emissions from vehicles and power plants, treat invasive aquatic species that increase a lake's internal phosphorous load, and further increase the efficiency of nitrate and phosphate removal from municipal wastewater. All of these help reduce the external and internal load of nutrients on the lake.

## What is a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Study?

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The Federal Clean Water Act requires states to adopt water quality standards to protect the nation's waters. These standards define how much of a pollutant can be in a surface and/or ground water while still allowing it to meet its designated uses, such as for drinking water, fishing, protection of aquatic life, swimming, boating, recreation, irrigation, etc.

Many of our water resources cannot currently meet their designated uses because of pollution problems from a combination of **point sources**, such as septic systems, industrial dischargers, etc. and **nonpoint sources**, such as pollutants carried by rainfall runoff from forests, agriculture lands, housing developments, etc.

For *each* pollutant that causes a water body to fail to meet state water quality standards, the Federal Clean Water Act requires the states to conduct a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study.

**A TMDL is a calculation of the greatest amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive without violating water quality**

**standards**, and assigns the amount of pollution that can be contributed by the pollutant sources.

A TMDL study identifies both point and nonpoint sources of each pollutant that fails to meet water quality standards. Water quality sampling, biological and habitat monitoring, and computer modeling determine how much each pollutant source must reduce its contribution to assure the water quality standard is met. A water body may have several TMDLs, each one determining the limit for a different pollutant.

States must publish, every two years, an updated list of streams and lakes that are not meeting their designated uses (impaired waters) because of excess pollutants. The list, known as the 303(d) list, is based on violations of water quality standards.

The 303(d) list and developed TMDLs are submitted by the states to EPA for review and approval. If EPA disapproves a state developed TMDL, then EPA must complete the TMDL. The TMDLs are to be implemented using existing federal, state, and local authorities and under voluntary programs.

# LSIA Board Elections –April 24th, 2008

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**LSIA is always looking for members who are interested in serving** on the Lake Association Board as a director or officer. Any member interested in being considered for an open board position should contact a Nominating Committee member - Joe Slavec, Carol Roberts, or Dan Cady. Contact phone numbers are in your Lake Sarah directory.

depends on people willing to participate in a large variety of capacities.

**LSIA Board positions up for election at the Spring Membership meeting include:**

- President
- Secretary
- 2 Directors

Candidates for LSIA elections are required to be current paid members of the association. Each position is a two year term. Our continued success

The LSIA Spring Membership Meeting is at 7 pm on Thursday, April 24th at Independence Hall off County Road 90.

## LSIA Board and Committee Chairs

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<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Name</u>
<b>President</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Jerry Wise</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Dan Cady</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Becky Jacobsen</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Greg Hani</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Fred Lang</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Joe Slavec</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Mike Peterson</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Harold Burrows</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>John Wise</b>

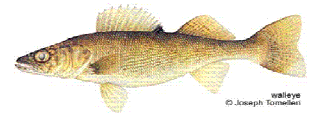
Active Committees  
Safety & Navigation  
Water Level  
Water Quality / TMDL  
DNR / Conservation  
Grants and Funding  
LSIA Membership  
LSIA Group Residential Trash Program  
LSIA Directory  
LSIA Database  
Newsletter  
Lake Sarah Ice Clean Up Event  
LSIA Picnic  
July 4th Boat Parade/Decorating Contest

Committee Chairperson  
Mike Peterson  
Mike Peterson  
Harold Burrows  
Joe Slavec  
Dan Cady  
John Wise  
John Wise  
John Wise  
Fred Lang  
Cheryl Wise  
volunteer needed  
Pam Peterson  
volunteer needed

Please refer to your LSIA membership directory for contact addresses and phone numbers.

## Walleye Enthusiast

*Joe Slavec*



Walleye in the range of 6" to 10" have been reported on both the east and west ends of the lake. **Our walleye stocking project has been a success!** While it is difficult if not impossible to guess the success rate, the fact that we are getting sporadic unsolicited reports is exciting.

The initiative to further stock the lake is alive and we fully intend to stock again this spring or fall. We may be able to work out a really good deal with Goeden Fisheries for their leftover fingerlings in the fall so we want to be in position for this.

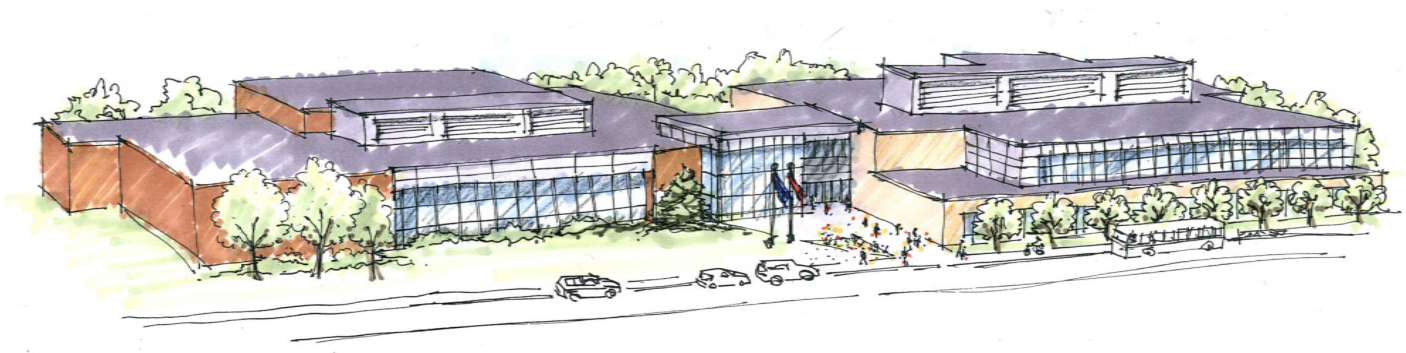
**Thank you very much to our past contributors.** We need the help again this year - every bit helps! Please, if you are considering helping this

year by contributing, make your check payable to *LSIA, c/o Walleye Fund* and mail it to:

**Lake Sarah Improvement Association  
P.O. Box 25  
Loretto, MN 55357-0025**

### Carp Eradication

Professor Sorenson of the University of Minnesota at the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation is currently studying ways of eradicating carp by causing them to school in masses making them easier to net and eradicate. He is also working on several other water related issues. I have made contact with him through Ann Slavec, who works in the Office for Commercializing Technology, to see if we may be able to test any of these upcoming technical breakthroughs.



## Delano School District Bond Referendum—4/22/08

### *Voting 'Yes' is a vote to increase your property taxes*

Residents should be familiar with Delano's \$980,000 (15 year issue) land acquisition bond and \$27 million (20 year issue) construction bond referendum questions when they go to the polls on April 22nd -- they're the same proposals voters rejected last November.

In Delano, one of the main factors prompting school officials to seek an early vote is the fact that the purchase agreement the district signed with the owner of the 13-acre site (where the proposed elementary school would be built) expires April 30, 2008. With time running out on a land purchase agreement and overcrowding at all three of its schools, Delano School District recently moved forward with plans to seek voter-approved funding for a new elementary school.

An informational brochure was sent to every household in the school district with the details concerning the election. Home-

owners who did not receive a brochure are encouraged to call 763-972-3365, ext. 2111 and a brochure will be mailed to you. Or you can go to [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us) (click on 'Election Info for April 22, 2008') to read the brochure and other information, including a calculation of the estimated tax impact on your property.

Homestead Residential Taxable Market Value	Estimated Cost Per Year	
	Question #1	Question #2
\$200,000	\$11	\$116
\$272,500 (Average)	\$15	\$158
\$400,000	\$22	\$232
\$500,000	\$28	\$290
\$600,000	\$34	\$363
\$700,000	\$41	\$435
\$800,000	\$48	\$508
\$1,000,000	\$62	\$653

#### SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION NO. 1

##### APPROVAL OF BOND ISSUE FOR PURCHASE OF LAND FOR SCHOOL

- ☐ YES Shall the School Board of Independent School District No. 879, Delano, be authorized to issue its general obligation school bonds in an amount not to exceed \$980,000 to provide funds for the acquisition of land for a future school site?
- ☐ NO

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

#### SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2

##### APPROVAL OF BOND ISSUE FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENTS

- ☐ YES Provided that Ballot Question No. 1 is approved, shall the School Board of Independent School District No. 879, Delano, be authorized to issue its general obligation school bonds in an amount not to exceed \$27,295,000 to provide funds for the construction of a grade 4-6 elementary school building, additional high school science rooms, additional middle and high school music rooms, security and other facility improvements?
- ☐ NO

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

You may vote if you are a U.S. citizen, a resident of Delano School District 879, and 18 years of age or older by April 22, 2008. Voters may register at the polls on Election Day with appropriate identification showing residency within the precinct.

Absentee ballots are available at Delano Public Schools District office by calling 763-972-3365, ext. 2111. All absentee ballot applications must be returned to the District Office by 10 a.m. or to your designated polling place by 8 p.m. on April 22, 2008.

**The polls will be open Tuesday, April 22nd from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

- Delano Middle School, 700 Elm Avenue E.
- Independence City Hall, 1920 County Rd. 90
- Loretto Fire Station, 259 N. Medina Street



# Safety and Navigation

Mike Peterson

Please don't forget about the obvious this spring:

**Life Preservers:** On all boats (except a sailboard) regardless of length (including canoes, kayaks and duck boats), there must be a readily accessible U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V wearable personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket) for each person on board. Type IV throwable devices, such as buoyant cushions, are no longer acceptable primary lifesaving devices. In addition, on boats 16 feet or longer (except canoes and kayaks,) there must also be at least one U.S. Coast Guard approved Type IV throwable device, such as a buoyant cushion or ring buoy immediately available for each boat. As of May 6, 2005, Minnesota law requires a life jacket to be worn by children less than 10 years old when aboard any watercraft while underway. Underway means not attached to a permanent mooring or tied to a dock.

**Fire Extinguishers:** Fire extinguishers are a good idea on any boat where fuel is used or carried. All fire extinguishers must be U.S. Coast Guard approved, fully charged, and readily accessible.

**Whistles/Horns:** Motorboats 16 feet to less than 26

feet long must be equipped with a hand, mouth, or power-operated whistle or horn capable of producing a continuous sound for two seconds and audible for at least one-half mile.

**Navigation Lights:** Navigation lights must be on from sunset to sunrise. If you can see the red light on a motorboat—give it the right-of-way. Also, check your light sockets and wiring often—they can corrode over time.

**Clean Your Boat and Trailer:** Remove visible aquatic plants and animals from your boat and trailer...and drain water from your boat, motor, live well, and bait containers before leaving the water access. This is required at posted *infested waters*. Dispose of any unwanted bait in the trash, NOT in the lake.

**Battery, Ropes, and Anchor:** Check your boat and make sure all your equipment is intact and in working order.

**And don't forget common sense and respect for other boaters, our lake and the environment.**

## Respect Gasoline!

One of the most hazardous substances most of us have to deal with is gasoline. We tend to take it for granted since it is so common and familiar, but **NEVER underestimate how much damage gasoline can inflict!**

Igniting vapors can melt your skin in a split second, and change your life forever. Never handle gas without plenty of ventilation and complete and total respect for its volatility! Taking chances with gasoline isn't worth the gamble!

### Poisoning Hazards

Gasoline is poisonous if swallowed. If you accidentally swallow gasoline, call a doctor at once. Do not induce vomiting. If you get gasoline in your eyes, flush with water for at least 15 minutes and call a doctor. Gasoline on your skin may not initially appear to be a problem, but prolonged or repeated liquid contact can lead to irritation or dermatitis.

Breathing gasoline fumes is dangerous also. Exposure to vapor concentrations can cause respiratory irritation, headache, dizziness, nausea and loss of coordination. Higher concentrations may cause loss of conscious-

ness, cardiac sensitization, coma and death resulting from respiratory failure.

### Fire Hazards

We all know that gasoline is highly flammable and easily ignited. In fact, a single cup of gasoline has the explosive power of five sticks of dynamite. Because gasoline is so easily ignited, you must use great care in handling it. A few basic principles for gasoline safety include:

- Never smoke within 50 feet of gasoline.
- Never refuel a hot engine or an engine that is running. Shut down the engine and let it cool off for at least 10 minutes. The highest temperatures attained by a small engine occur immediately after shutdown, so it is not safe to refuel immediately after shutdown.
- Use only approved gasoline containers. When transporting containers, be sure they are secured in the vehicle. Fill containers no more than 95 percent full to allow room for thermal expansion. Be sure your containers have secure lids.
- Never remove the cap from a gasoline tank while the





engine is hot. Combustible vapor can flow out and come in contact with manifolds, exhaust pipes and other hot engine parts.

- Do not leave gasoline containers in direct sunlight or in the trunk of a car.
- Never store gasoline containers or equipment with gasoline tanks near a flame.
- Do not use electronic equipment such as cell phones near gasoline. A spark from the electronics could ignite the gasoline.

### Static Electricity Hazards

A spark from static electricity can ignite gasoline. Static electricity is more of a problem under low humidity

conditions, but you should always be aware of the potential problem and take steps to avoid sparks from static electricity.

- Avoid sliding on or off the seat of a mower or tractor while fueling; a static charge and spark can result.
- Place your hand on a metal part of the machine, away from the fuel tank, to discharge any static electricity before you open the fuel tank and fuel can.
- When filling gasoline containers at a service station, place the container on the ground. Do not leave it in the bed of a truck or in a vehicle. Hold the nozzle in constant contact with the container while filling.

In summary, treat gasoline with respect. Use it safely.

## Rules of the Road

DNR Boat Regulations

**Passing:** When overtaking another watercraft going in the same direction, the craft being overtaken must maintain course and speed. The passing watercraft must keep a sufficient distance to avoid collision or endangering the other craft from its wake.

**Meeting:** When two watercraft approach each other “head-on,” each must alter course to the right to avoid collision. If the two watercraft are far enough to the left of each other, no change in direction is needed for safe passage. Both watercraft will maintain their course and speed so as to pass clear of each other, and keep to the right in narrow channels.

**Crossing:** If two watercraft approach each other at a right angle, the watercraft to the right shall have the right-of-way.

**Non-Motorized Craft:** Non-motorized craft (sailboats, canoes, etc.) have the right-of-way over motorized craft in all situations, except when the non-motorized craft is overtaking or passing.

**Commercial Vessels:** Small boats should not insist on the right-of-way when approaching larger vessels, which may be limited in maneuverability.

**Emergency Craft:** All watercraft will yield right-of-way to an authorized watercraft displaying a red or blue flashing light.

**Boating While Intoxicated (BWI):** The alcohol concentration for impaired operation is now .08. Operating a motorboat while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance (or its metabolite), or other illegal chemical is unlawful. Operators who are impaired may be required to take tests by an enforcement officer. There is a penalty for refusal. BWI convictions and refusals are recorded on the violator’s driver’s license record. Most of

the BWI law is now found in the motor vehicle statutes, and *first time* violators (no prior DWIs of any kind) who are convicted are subject to

- up to a \$1,000 fine plus surcharges,
- possible jail time,
- loss of motorboat operating privileges for 90 days during the boating season, after conviction and written notification by the DNR.

In addition to the above penalties, persons who refuse testing will also be subject to a separate and more severe criminal charge for refusal and loss of their motorboat operating privileges for one year, immediately upon refusal.

If any of the following aggravating factors are involved, the offense automatically becomes a gross misdemeanor an alcohol concentration of .20 or more,

- prior DWI conviction(s) or refusal(s) of any kind in the past 10 years,
- there is a child less than 16 years of age on board.

Penalties will increase with any of the aggravating factors or a refusal, and can include the following:

- a higher fine,
- mandatory jail time,
- loss of motor vehicle driver’s license,
- loss of motor vehicle plates and
- forfeiture of the motorboat and trailer being operated at the time of arrest.

The BWI law does not prohibit drinking alcoholic beverages aboard boats nor having an open bottle. The law applies to operators of motorboats that are not anchored, beached, moored, docked or being rowed or propelled by non-mechanical means at the time of the offense.

# The Quiet Woodland Garden

There's nothing like a tranquil woodland garden, with its verdant, low-lying plant life spreading at the base of trees and spilling around the ankles of everyone who walks through it. Tall trees form a leafy canopy overhead while ferns, wildflowers and creeping groundcovers carpet the forest floor below.

April and May are wonderful months in the woodland garden. Unlike other gardens that are at their best in summer, woodland gardens often peak in early spring, when they get the most sun exposure. The plants come up out of the soil, they flower, they set seed and die before the trees have even fully leafed out.

Woodland gardens, which mimic the forest landscape, have four vertical elements; the canopy layer, the understory, the shrub layer and the ground layer. Try to incorporate each layer into your garden.

The canopy layer consists of the tallest trees which provide the shade and dictate what you'll be able to plant. The type of canopy determines the amount of light reaching the ground. Closed canopies allow little to reach the ground and are created by evergreens and large deciduous trees growing close together. Open canopies, on the other hand, create dappled shade and occur when trees are spaced far apart. The understory layer is made up of the smaller woodland trees such as the flowering dogwood. Viburnums, azaleas, and other lower growing woody plants create the shrub layer. Ground layer plants include wildflowers, perennials, ferns, and bulbs.

The forest landscape changes often so plan accordingly; design your garden giving thought to the seasonal qualities of trees and shrubs.

In the spring, beneath deciduous trees, quite a bit of sunlight is able to reach the ground through the branches, allowing flowering shrubs such as rhododendrons, as well as perennial and bulbs to bloom. Though the spring flower display can be stunning, be careful not to plan your woodland garden around these flowers as they will soon disappear and die back to the ground.

Include plants with lush foliage which will last through the summer months. A few weeks into spring, the canopy closes and plants such as ferns, mosses, and the foliage of herbaceous perennials will become the focus of the garden as they create a lush green carpet.

In the fall, trees such as sugar maple, dogwood and hickory and deciduous shrubs such as viburnum and summersweet provide brilliant, colorful foliage.



Don't overlook features such as a plant's form, colorful berries and interesting bark. It is these features which are treasured through the winter months. Berry producing plants also provide wildlife with food.

Many woodland plants can be considered year-round attractions. For example, the dogwood begins the season with flowers and red fruits. After its colorful fall foliage falls to the ground, its bark which flakes with age provides the garden with interest through the winter. The birch tree's beautiful form is a year-round feature but is most noticeable in the winter after it sheds its brilliant yellow leaves. Red twig dogwood is a shrub layer plant which, as the name suggests, has red bark. It stands out wonderfully against the snow and the barren winter landscape. And don't forget evergreens such as yews for winter color and as a dark green backdrop for wildflowers and perennials in the spring.

## Getting Started

**Make a border.** A distinct border between the garden and lawn makes a difference. So, the first step is to establish the garden's edge. Use a hose or rope as a temporary border, to be replaced with bricks, trenching, or the like. Since some groundcovers can spread into the lawn, consider a shallow root barrier (no more than 2" to 3" deep -- more could interfere the tree's roots) or a mulch or stone border 6" to 12" wide.

**Add objects and paths.** For a natural look, start with some medium to large rocks for visual focus and winter interest. The garden also needs stepping stones or pathways for access to any part of the garden more than 2 ½ feet from the border; other-



wise, you'll end up regularly stepping on the garden and compacting the soil.

**Cut the weeds and spread the mulch.** Agricultural science has found that less labor is actually better. The soil contains countless seeds and countless beneficial soil critters. Disturbing the soil opens the seed bank, encouraging the weeds, and interferes with the helpful micro-critters. Today, the best practice is to spread mulch, such as wood chips or compost, on top and let the earthworms and other "tiny gardeners" do the work.

**Guard the tree roots.** The tree's roots go all the way out to the tree's "drip line" (edge of the leaf canopy). If possible, let the new garden cover this entire area so the tree roots get the benefit of the garden mulch and protection from foot and machine traffic. Under a tree, the mulch layer should be no more than 2" to 3" - a thicker layer can smother the roots. Save the good stuff. Don't over-clear the ground. Some hardy, useful native and naturalized plants may have already established themselves in your garden-to-be.

**Let The Planting Begin.** Do a web search for "Minnesota native plants" to find a local supplier of plants native to your area. To get some ideas of classic woodland gardens, just walk through the natural forests in your nearby parks.

Plant the larger shrubs and perennials first. You may want to plant some this year and, after they are established, plant some more later, getting a feel for the personality of your woodland garden.

Then plant the smaller plants. Under a tree, use starter plants from flats or 3" to 5" pots, remove excess soil, and dig the smallest possible hole, using a slim bulb trowel. Gradually add plants, a few this fall, a few in early and mid-spring, some next fall, etc. As the plants spread, their roots will gently mingle with the tree's roots. You can safely dig a few larger holes for accent plants but be careful that you're not disturbing more than a small percent of the tree's roots each year.

When creating your own woodland paradise, experiment with plants. Buy three of the same plant and plant them in three different areas. Watch which one does the best. Then move the others to join the one that's thriving.

There are three challenges that a woodland garden poses: drought, shade, and falling leaves. Trees have enormous root systems for taking up water, so they pose stiff competition for any other plant in the area seeking a decent drink. Unless you irrigate your woodland gardens or



avoid locating them too close to tree, stick to dry shade plants in your plant selection. Many native plants fall into this category. As for falling leaves, that's the beauty of a woodland garden - you don't need to be so fussy about leaf removal. Correctly-selected perennials require less weeding, water, and feeding than lawn and many annuals. Further, most perennials can be divided frequently, so you can inexpensively convert some lawn to garden each year.

Most perennials, except bulbs, can be planted spring or fall. Fall planting gives the plants the best start next spring, unless we have a harsh winter. Spring planting avoids the risk of winter-kill, but the later you plant, the more vulnerable the plants are to summer heat and drought. Consider planting some things in the fall and some in the spring. The riskiest planting time is July and August.

**New garden care:** New perennials need to be watered during dry spells their first and second year. Also, you'll also have more weeds to contend with the first year since the soil has been disturbed. Woodland plants spend a lot of time developing roots before you ever see anything above ground. Trillium, for instance, sometimes takes seven years to go from the seed stage to blooming plant.

**Enjoy.** When planning your woodland garden be sure to include benches, logs, and spaces for rest as woodland gardens provide a pleasant respite from the hot summer sun.

Whether in shade or sun, the key to a natural-looking successful garden is making it appear as if nature has the upper hand when in reality it's the gardener who creates the illusion.



The Woodland Garden is a wonderfully quiet, out-of-the-way shade garden full of ferns, wildflowers, shrubs, and shade-loving ground covers. It is a great place to stop and sit on one of the hidden benches and watch the world go by.



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## 2008 LSIA Calendar

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**Mark your calendars for these upcoming 2008 LSIA events!**

<b>LSIA Spring General Meeting (Board Elections)</b>	<b>Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>LSIA Fourth of July Boat Parade</b>	<b>Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>LSIA Picnic &amp; Summer General Meeting</b>	<b>Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>LSIA Fall General Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup></b>