



Letter from the LSIA Board President

Where Are We On Lake Control?

Like most Lake Sarah residents, I am disappointed in the progress to improve our lake. We have heard many proposals to rid the lake of weeds but no real solution has emerged. Some of the experimental programs such as at Medicine Lake are now proving to be less than satisfying. Some of the Lake Minnetonka bays have shown great improvement but it is the flow of fresh water and springs that are helping those treatments. I have heard about wiewels that will eat lake weeds. Unfortunately, most of them end-up in the stomach of sunfish who are very fond of them. Suggestions of whole lake treatments are very expensive and most lake communities can not or will not spend the money.



So what can we do with what we have where we are. Each of us can take care of our own shoreline. This means either removing the weeds with rakes (which is what I intend to do) or pay for one of the lake water treatment companies to apply chemicals on the beach in front of our properties. The first suggestion does require some work but no chemicals need be used and the work can be done whenever the homeowner wishes. It may be unpopular but is much less expensive. The second alternative is for those who prefer to have professionals do the work.

There is no feasible plan at this time to treat the open areas of the lake. Your LSIA Board of Directors has been looking into the possibility of a harvester system for the open areas but no conclusion has been reached on that idea. Suggestions from the membership are more than welcome - they are greatly desired! Please contact any of the LSIA members of the Board with your ideas. Even better, volunteer to serve on LSIA committees to help find solutions to these lake problems. Lake Sarah belongs to all of us and everyone's thoughts and, especially, help are what will make our lake organization more effective.

**Sincerely,
Len Nadasdy
LSIA Board President**

Lake Sarah Fishing

The DNR reported that ice fishing enthusiasts in general did not make their regular appearance on Minnesota lakes this year as they have done in past years citing the economy and “good old, cold Minnesota weather”. This was true for Lake Sarah as well. The number of ice fishing houses declined from 120 houses last winter, to 84 houses at midwinter’s count. This is actually good news as there is less fishing pressure on Lake Sarah’s already overfished crappie population. In fact, a few Lake Sarah anglers reported that they felt the crappie population is down from past years. Some believe this to be a slow decline of a popular metro lake, however, it is quite assuredly normal to have regular cycles of fish populations. In an effort to help maintain crappie levels and locally curb the rise in unlicensed fisherman, this year conservation officer, Dephong Lee, visited several anglers on Lake Sarah.



Walleye Stocking Update



Lake Sarah walleye are most likely now in the 10-12 inch stage and feeding primarily at night in the deep ravines – particularly in the muddy deep areas. This is the stage when they make a major change of diet and will likely start showing up sporadically on the end of a line. However, of the fish that have been stocked we can expect high mortality in this class as it is a favorite size for aggressive predators like northern and dogfish (bowfin). In addition, the walleye will tend to migrate more as they search for sustenance which can make them even more of a target.

Lake Sarah was not stocked last year so we can separate the class of fish. Depending on the amount of funding raised, we may stock as many as 1,500 fingerlings in the fall of 2010. Your contributions and in put are greatly appreciated and will pay off through the years. Incidentally, the last known large walleye to come from Lake Sarah was a whopping 10 pounds! It was caught in the middle of the lake in the channel and was suspected to have been “accidentally” stocked in the lake by Bud Eppel of Elm Beach Resort. It was said that he had a habit of sorting through the minnows and letting the walleye minnows go rather than sell them as bait.

Sonja Tilbury

Sonja has lived in Lake Sarah's "tornado house" for almost two years, but has lived in the Delano school area for over 24 years. She has done extensive remodeling to her house and still has a ways to go, but loves her home! She works for a landscape company and is involved in Rose Valley Food Products, which is an organic farm in Wisconsin. Sonja is excited to start an organic vegetable farm of her own and enjoys working on home projects. Her focus in LSIA is membership recruiting and fundraising events.



Help Keep the Beach Buddy Busy



Frustrated with weeds on your shoreline? Let one of the LSIA's recently purchased Beach Buddy's assist you with the removal of your weeds. We had a member test one last fall and it worked well and was easy to operate. If you'd prefer to have someone operate the Beach Buddy for your weed removal, we are looking for a few responsible teenagers (minimum age 16) who are willing to spend their summer removing weeds from our lake. If you know of someone who might want to do this as a summer side job, please have them contact Joe Baker at (612) 868-8702. We also have a member that is willing to take all of the weeds removed from the lake to use as a soil enhancement. We are planning to ask for a \$20 LSIA "water quality" donation for each use. Plus, at the April 30th General Membership meeting you can sign up for a free day's use of the Beach Buddy! We'll have the Beach Buddy on display at the meeting and will provide instructions on how to use it. Keeping the Beach Buddy busy this summer is just one way we can all "do our share" of cleaning up Lake Sarah!

Annual Ice Clean Up Day

The annual Lake Sarah Ice Clean Up Day was another success with nearly 15 bags of trash collected! Some of the larger items collected were wood pieces that ice fishing shanty's rest on while on the ice. These can be very harmful to boats and especially water skiers. A large transmission oil spill was also absorbed in the effort. This year's clean up also even required the help of the local conservation officer! He was called to assist in persuading a resident to clean up the remains of a charcoal pit left from an ice bonfire. It had glass, nails, and 10 inches of black soot that would have otherwise ended up in our lake.



The following people participated in the clean up efforts. Christine and Donelle Maloney; David Pearson; Ava, Annika and Kirk Reiersen; McKenna, Hunter and Dave Allen; Fred, Freddie and Alex Lang; Scott Walsh; Joe and Matthew Baker; and the Boy Scouts from Orono Trinity Troop #206: Robert Anderson, Derek Meyer, Peter Weber, Daniel Wall, Kevin Lamp, Wyatt Thurber, Joe Weber, Jimmy Swenson, Steve Ruchti, Craig Passow, Daron Meyer, Scott Thurber, and Jeff Puth. Please let these folks know you appreciate their efforts and commitment!

Free Dinner!

At Spring LSIA General Membership Meeting

Please join us for the spring LSIA General Membership meeting and dinner on **Friday, April 30th at 6:30 p.m. at Dobo's restaurant!** (Dobo's restaurant is located on Highway 55 and County Road 19.)

At the meeting you will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about current Lake Sarah issues such as lake level and weir status; water clarity and quality; LSIA's 2010 Action Plan; and new grant writing and fundraising efforts
- Socialize with friends and neighbors
- Receive a free day use of the Beach Buddy
- Enter to win great door prizes
- Pick up your 2010 LSIA Membership Directory
- Celebrate spring
- Have a free dinner!



Because food will be provided, please RSVP by Monday, April 26th to Victoria Marley at 763-479-2552 or marley.victoria@gmail.com. We hope you can join us!