



# Lake Sarah Improvement Association Newsletter

Issue 53

April 2013

## LSIA Spring Member and Nonmember Meeting

Date: Monday, April 22, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Axle's Tavern (upstairs), 130 Railway St. W., Loretto

**Free light appetizers and an oak tree provided to all attendees so please join us!**

### AGENDA:

Call to Order (7:00 p.m.)	Roger Van Beusekom	
Set Agenda	Roger Van Beusekom	5 minutes
Approval of Past Minutes	Roger Van Beusekom	5 minutes
Board Realignment	Roger van Beusekom	10 minutes
Treasurer Report	Brent Lau	5 minutes
Water Level/Outlet/Navigation	Scott Walsh	5 minutes
Water Quality / Clean Water Fair	Joe Baker	30 minutes
Nominating Committee Selection	Joe Baker	5 minutes
Open/ Miscellaneous		



## Introducing the Realigned LSIA Board of Directors

- Roger Van Beusekom.....President
  - Joe Baker.....Vice President & Water Quality
  - Brent Lau.....Treasurer
- The term of the above officers will expire in July of 2014.

We are also very fortunate to have two past Board members rejoin the Board through July of this year. Let's welcome:

- Victoria Marley.....Secretary/Communications
- Mike Peterson..... Director-at-Large

Current Board Members are:

- Scott Walsh.....Water level, outlet, navigation & safety (expiring 2014)
- Sonja Tilbury.....Membership (expiring 2014)
- Joe Slavec..... Director-at-Large (expiring 2013)
- Mel Knapton.....Director-at-Large (expiring 2013)

A nominating committee will be selected from those present at the Spring Meeting on April 22. This committee will identify candidates for each open seat and present this slate for election at our July meeting. We are looking for the following seats to be filled:

- Secretary** – Keep accurate records of all Board and Membership meetings
- Membership Director** – Keep accurate records of the membership data base & promote membership
- Communications Director** – Newsletters and general communications via lakesarahassociation@yahoo.com
- Community Relations Director**—Coordinate membership activities: meetings, boat parade, and picnic, etc.
- Fund Raising Director** – Promote fund raising activities
- Director-at Large** – Assist other officers and directors

**Thank you in advance for your interest and participation in your organization!**

## Water Quality Update

From Joe Baker

**We are pleased to report our Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) was fully approved by the Minnesota DNR on March 12th.** With the LVMP now approved, we are (finally!) entitled to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) on a “whole lake” basis. At this time, we are estimating the area to be treated as approximately 260 acres, subject to wherever we visually see CLP in a pre-treatment plant survey.

Based on what we learned and confirmed from last year’s successful pilot treatment program, we plan to scale up our efforts as follows:

- **LSIA volunteers will again perform the “early season, low dose” treatment.** By self treating, we save over 50% of the cost vs. hiring a professional treatment company. We can also choose the treatment timing to when the water temp and weather conditions are ideal to ensure optimal effectiveness.
- **Aquatic Solutions** will provide our Aquathol K product at a very competitive price, their application equipment at no cost, and Craig Mueller will again volunteer to coach us during the treatment process.
- **Tom Larson & Al Moen** will again volunteer their pontoons for the application process. Thank you!
- **Eric Fieldseth** will pre-inspect for us to determine the number of acres to treat and the amount of product needed in order to achieve the desired results. He will then complete a post-treatment inspection and the required reporting back to the DNR. Eric will also attend our public information meetings to answer any questions.
- **Richard Brasch of the Three Rivers Park District and the Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission** are supportive of our approach – and each will provide funding assistance.
- **We applied for and were successful in receiving a DNR grant award of \$26,000 for CLP treatment!**
- **The “block captain” concept was expanded** – to help further educate and administer the process of collecting signatures of consent and LSIA donations to support this first whole lake CLP treatment.



We also plan to provide Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) treatments for those blocks who wish to optionally treat for EWM in addition to CLP. Please note we will be limited to just 50 acres of EWM treatment – and the cost for the EWM treatments will be paid by those blocks that choose to treat.

### Next Steps (& what you can do):

- **Please attend the LSIA Spring Member and Nonmember meeting on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Axel’s at 7:00 p.m.**
- **The LSIA will also host 2 public informational meetings to be held at the Independence City Hall on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.... and on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** – to allow lakeshore owners the opportunity to learn more and ask further questions. We plan to collect signatures of consent as well as donations to support this year’s treatment program.
- We encourage all to visit [www.lakesarah.com](http://www.lakesarah.com) where the most current and complete information related to our CLP treatment process will be available. You can also call Joe Baker at (612) 868-8702.
- **Again, we ask that residents NOT make any commitments to other weed treatment providers.**

**On behalf of the LSIA, we thank you for supporting our efforts toward improving Lake Sarah!**

To learn more about what curly leaf pondweed is, why it is a problem, how to prevent it, and what there is to do about the problems caused by curly-leaf pondweed, go to page 4.

## Clean Water Fair



The Clean Water Resource Association invites you to the Clean Water Fair on Thursday, April 25, 2013, from 1:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the City of Independence Community Center. If you own lakeshore property and are concerned about your lake, and want to know what is available to help make it better and more enjoyable, then you should be at the Clean Water Fair. The Clean Water Resource Association, sponsored by the Pioneer Sarah-Creek Watershed Management Association and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, will be hosting the resource fair where you will have all of the newest lakeshore resources in one place. Hourly educational seminars begin at 1:00 p.m. There are several seminar topics applicable to you, most notably the one led by Richard Brasch at 4:00 p.m. regarding the restoration of Lake Rebecca. It will give you a good overview of what LSIA will be doing with Lake Sarah over the next five years, and the reasonably expected results. Attendance is free. For more information about the event and a complete list of exhibitors, go to [www.cleanwaterresource.net](http://www.cleanwaterresource.net).

## Membership Update

From Sonja Tilbury



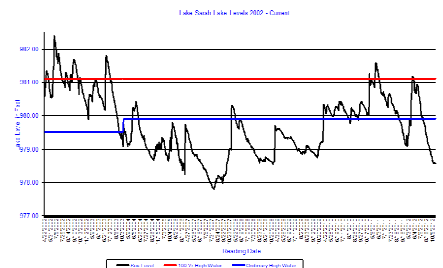
LSIA is still accepting membership renewals for 2013! To renew your LSIA membership or to become a member, go to [lakesarah.com](http://lakesarah.com) to print the membership form, and bring it with your \$35 to either the Spring Member and Nonmember meeting at Axel's, any of the upcoming April informational meetings, or the Water Quality Fair. LSIA now also has the ability to receive payment via PayPal. Or, you can also simply mail your form and money to Sonja Tilbury at 4350 Woodhill Dr., Independence, 55357. Renew now to still take advantage of the Randy's and Finkens water softener salt benefits too!

## Water Level Update

From Scott Walsh

Listed below are some notable dates and observations at the weir (outlet) of Lake Sarah:

- May 30, 2012 Lake level 981.17 feet above sea level, about 28 inches of water flowing over weir. Highest recorded level for 2012 and .07 feet over 100 year flood level.
- Sept 15, 2012 lake level 978.80 feet above sea level, no water going over weir.
- Nov 27, 2012 lowest level recorded for 2012 at 978.53 above sea level. Drought conditions are nearing severe in our area.
- April 1, 2013 lake level estimated to be 979.28 above sea level. Start of spring runoff.



Once ice out takes place, please report anything that could be a hazard to watercraft:

- Floating debris such as loose bogs, trees, dock sections, tree limbs etc.
- Any exposed rocks or slightly submersed rocks that are not normally marked by Hennipen County.
- Any other concerns with safety or navigation.

Let's hope Mother Nature treats us well in 2103, so everyone can enjoy our wonderful lake!

## Curly-leaf Pondweed

From the Invasive Species Program, Minnesota DNR

### What is curly-leaf pondweed and where did curly-leaf pondweed come from?

Curly-leaf is a submersed aquatic plant that is not native to North America. It generally grows in 3-10 ft. of water. Curly-leaf tolerates low water clarity and will readily invade disturbed areas. Curly-leaf was first noted in Minnesota about 1910. It was probably accidentally introduced to the state when common carp were intentionally brought to Minnesota. Curly-leaf has been in Minnesota so long that most people do not realize that it is a non-native species.



Curly-leaf Pondweed  
first found in Minnesota in 1910

### Why is curly-leaf pondweed a problem?

In spring, curly-leaf pondweed can form dense mats that may interfere with boating and other recreation on lakes. Curly-leaf also can cause ecological problems because it can displace native aquatic plants. In mid-summer, curly-leaf plants usually die back, which results in rafts of dying plants piling up on shorelines, and often is followed by an increase in phosphorus and undesirable algal blooms. Like other aquatic vegetation, the abundance of curly-leaf varies from year to year depending on environmental conditions, such as winter snow depth, and spring water clarity, which can effect its growth.



### How does curly-leaf pondweed spread and what can be done to prevent it?

Curly-leaf is believed to spread from one body of water to another primarily by the unintentional transfer of turions, which are hardened stem tips, on plant fragments carried on trailered boats, personal watercraft, etc. Therefore, it is important to remove all vegetation from your watercraft before you move it from one body of water to another.

### What can be done about problems caused by curly-leaf pondweed?

Past experience in Minnesota and elsewhere has shown that eradication or elimination of curly-leaf pondweed from lakes is not a realistic goal. Nevertheless, problems caused by curly-leaf can be managed using available methods of control. Short-term control of dense mats of curly-leaf that interfere with use of a lake can be obtained using contact herbicides or mechanical harvesting. Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of lake residents and associations requesting assistance with problems caused by curly-leaf pondweed. More specifically, people want to know whether control can:

1. Reduce the lake-wide abundance of curly-leaf pondweed for long periods of time,
2. Increase the abundance of native submersed aquatic plants, and
3. Improve water quality by reducing peaks in concentrations of phosphorous, and associated algal blooms

In response, the DNR has increased its efforts to 1) provide technical assistance to lake residents and 2) evaluate new strategies for control of curly-leaf pondweed. The evaluation of new methods has been focused on experimental lake-wide treatments of curly-leaf, which are done early in the spring. Since these treatments require monitoring that is expensive in terms of both time and money, there are a limited number of them in Minnesota. Until the results from multi-year monitoring of current lake-wide treatments are available, it will remain unclear whether more such treatments should be undertaken.

More detailed information on experimental lake-wide treatments of curly-leaf pondweed can be found at: [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological\\_services/invasives/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/invasives/index.html).