

LAKE SARAH IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



A Sarah Summer

LSIA Summer 2020 Newsletter



Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendar!

- ***Cancelled*** Summer General Membership Meeting and Picnic
- **August 1st - Gondola Palooza** (see article below)
- **October 19 – Fall General Membership Meeting**
 - 6:30 social hour/7:00pm meeting
 - Caboose at the Choo Choo



Newsletter Special Feature!

See the "There Is A Ringer on Woodhill Drive" article by Dolores Ullstrom.

Click the link at the bottom of the newsletter for the story!

Weed Treatment Update

With the help of our independent survey provider, AIS Consulting Services, and our applicator, Aquatic Solutions of Minnesota, another successful year of invasive weed treatments is in the books! We have continued to make progress against our most pressing nemesis, curly leaf pondweed (CLP), and against Eurasian water milfoil (EWM). In total, we treated 122.1 total acres of CLP and 34.3 acres of EWM. A special thanks goes out to AIS Consulting, Aquatic Solutions, and the MN DNR for their timeliness and flexibility, and of course our watershed (Pioneer Sarah Creek), Three Rivers Park District, and all of our LSIA members for their ongoing financial support of this effort. We are making great progress!



A New Record!



A big thank you to Brad Spencer who has for many years volunteered his time in taking secchi disk readings to measure our water clarity. **Brad tells us that on July 3rd, we had water clarity of 7 feet in both bays of Lake Sarah!!!** This is the best water clarity measure for early July that Brad has on record. While we will still see variation in water clarity in any given year, things are moving in the right direction and this news is worth celebrating! Kudos to the many people who have played a role in this progress throughout the years!

CD3 Update

Our CD3 station at the public access got off to a late start this year due to COVID, but is now in service and has seen 396 total uses since its uncovering at the end of May. The station's use is particularly important this year given heightened use of the lake, and its role in slowing the spread of AIS. Special thanks to our good neighbor Gary Sandlass for keeping an eye on the unit so we can keep it up and running!

Grant Update

Our Hennepin County AIS Education grant has been temporarily sidelined due to COVID. Please stay tuned for future updates!

We are pleased to report that we have also obtained a grant for additional AIS Surveying. Incremental AIS surveys will take place during the remainder of the summer, likely in search of zebra mussels and starry stonewort.

New Guests!

Check out the new loon family calling Lake Sarah home! Let's make them feel welcome (by keeping our distance) and with any luck they'll return next year. This is the first loon family that has stuck around in recent memory!



LSIA Membership Update

Thank you to all Lake Sarah residents for supporting the Lake Sarah Improvement Association! We have received membership dues from **140** residents! If you are new or just forgot to donate there is still time to contribute \$35 toward our annual membership dues. An updated list will be sent to Randy's Sanitation at the end of July to allow paid members to receive their discount.

Thank you again for your continued support!

Reminder: a LSIA group boat storage rate is available! Email Marcus Zahn
(marcus.zahn@gmail.com) for details

4th of July Boat Parade

Thank you everyone who came out for the boat parade. It's always such a great time to connect with our neighbors and enjoy everyone's creativity! We had some great floats this year.

Here are just a few!



Thank you to Nate Uselding and family for leading the parade and Sarah Evjen for coordinating the boat parade this year!

Summer Picnic

CANCELLED

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing public health concerns over Covid 19, we are sad to announce that we will be unable to host our annual Lake Sarah Summer Picnic and General Membership Meeting. We are hoping to possibly plan a fall gathering if we get a break in the virus activity!



LSIA Board Updates

We are sorry to report that Nate Uselding has decided to retire from the LSIA Board. Nate has been active on the board for 8 years. He served a partial term as president and many years as vice president. He has contributed a great deal to the lake association board and various lake projects. We will miss working with him! Best wishes Nate!

We would also like to thank Kevin Horn as he completes his second and final term (4 years) as president of LSIA. Kevin and his wife Anne joined LSIA 8 years ago when they moved to the lake. Kevin and Anne plan on remaining on the board to manage membership and directory. Thank you Kevin for all your work and dedication to Lake Sarah and LSIA!

Special thanks to all the LSIA board members who work countless hours year-round to help improve the quality of Lake Sarah so we may all continue to enjoy this precious lake!

If you have an interest in joining the board please give one of us a call. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet neighbors from all over the lake, learn about water quality and help contribute to improving Lake Sarah!

2020 Lake Sarah Neighborhood Directory

The updated directory will be completed by late summer. We will send out a DRAFT prior to the final edition to allow for additions/corrections. Please take a moment to look at the draft and send any corrections to lakesarahassociation@yahoo.com. The final directory will be sent out by email. A limited number of hard copies will be available by request.

Financial Report

Please view the most recent Lake Sarah Improvement Association financial report by clicking the link below

[Financial Statement](#)

Watershed Commission update

Contributed by: Joe Baker

As Lake Sarah is one of the most monitored lake's in the state, it's worth noting that over the past 10 years, Lake Sarah's total phosphorus has been reduced by **18%** - and (as a result) **water clarity has improved by 37%**.

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission is in the process of updating it's 10-year Watershed Management Plan and is looking for public input.

Details can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/630373867604975/>

Some of the Lake Sarah related projects we have planned are:

1. Carp studies – so that we can assess the population / biomass of carp in our lake.
2. Carp reduction activities – to reduce/control carp (to further reduce sediment and vegetation disruption).
3. External phosphorus loading reduction projects – targeting the old Leuer property along Dance Hall Creek – and others.
4. A TMDL study "refresh" – which we believe will confirm that more phosphorus is internal (sediment) vs external (run-off).
5. Alum treatment – which can be considered (& grant supported) once the above steps are largely completed.

Know this plan will help set our priorities and actions over the next 10 years – and we welcome any questions and/or comments you have toward this plan.

This online public input forum will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

To access the public forum, click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85949276543>. This meeting can be joined from a smartphone, tablet or laptop. You may also join by phone by calling +1 312 626 6799 and entering meeting ID 859 4927 6543.

Lastly, I want to personally recognize **Nate Uselding** along with **Kevin and Anne Horn** for volunteering to serve and lead the LSIA over the past 8 years.

They each joined the LSIA Board within the first year of being on the lake, and the LSIA organization and newsletters have noticeably improved under your leadership.

Thank you!

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There Is A Ringer on Woodhill Drive.

By Dolores Ullstrom

At LSIA's 2019 picnic, someone suggested I might enjoy interviewing another local national champion. Marlys Timm. Marlys and husband Marv have lived on the south shore of Lake Sarah for 34 years. I was interested of course, but it was not until we were all under stay-at-home orders during the COVID-19 pandemic that it happened. Marlys was Postmaster in Loretto for twenty years (1986 -2006). After our several extended phone conversations, I can say she has become a real hero in my eyes.

Marlys grew up on a farm near Echo, a small town in southwest Minnesota.

The farmhouse had no indoor plumbing and electricity came when she was five.

Loving the outdoors, she started driving tractor at age six.



Marlys married at sixteen years of age. She and Marv moved a few times before settling with their young family in Fulda.

They commuted 16 miles to Worthington where both had jobs. Marv started on the second day after the opening of the Armour plant. Marlys worked at Campbell soup.

They alternated shifts so one of them was home to take care of their two young children, Mike and Michelle. During the one hour job transition, a neighbor couple cared for the children.

Marlys' job at Campbell was deboning chicken on the dark meat line. Difficult as it is to understand today, workers on the line did not wear gloves. After a few months, Marlys developed what was called "chicken itch," a rash that slowly progressed up her arms. For health reasons she quit her job. To this day she cannot eat chicken without getting an allergic response.

The St. Patrick's Day blizzard of 1965 is the source of a truly memorable event in her life. Southwest MN is famous for killing blizzards that blow across miles of flat, open prairie. On this day, blinding, blowing snow made it impossible to see the highway.

Marlys called the children's caregiver to say she and her three traveling companions were leaving work early because severe weather was brewing. She was told that Marv had left for work early for the same reason. The car Marlys was in rammed the car in front of it. That car was stopped because it had hit the car in front of it which was also stopped. All in all they were part of a 20 car pileup. Many of the vehicles were food and beverage trucks traveling to and from Worthington. The occupants of all the damaged vehicles made their way to a small two bedroom house located near the scene. The house was soon packed with worried, cold but safe individuals.



It was obvious to everyone that that night no one was going anywhere. A close neighbor was called and agreed to have Marlys and her three female companions come to her house for the night.

First, they had to get there. About 50 inches of snow had fallen and 60 mph winds had created huge drifts.

The trip between houses was not far but it was hazardous. Marlys remembers trudging over clothes lines with just the tops of clothes poles sticking up through the snow. She had to physically help one of the ladies who was having great difficulty.

Once safely inside, Marlys got to worrying about Marv. Where was he? She knew he probably didn't make it to Worthington. After several calls between houses, she was relieved to learn that while she was on the east end of the pileup, Marvin's car was on the west end. He was staying overnight at a third house close to the scene.

The blizzard occurred on a Wednesday. It was Saturday before the road was cleared of snow and cars.

Contents of the food and beverage trucks provided much needed nourishment for the stranded motorists.

The couple caring for the Timm children did a great job with the kids during the four days.

Photo from Christmas 1964



After the Armour plant was up and running for three months, Marv and all second day hires were laid off. A friend in St. Louis Park told the Timms about openings at Reuter Inc. The family up and moved to the cities. Marlys eventually got a job working on a candy line at Preferred Products. She liked her job and enjoyed the candy.

In 1976 the Timms bought a home in Victoria. A friend and coworker told Marlys she had potential to improve her job skills and encouraged her to get her GED. When the candy factory went on strike, she became aware of a soon to open position in the Victoria post office. She was interested.

First of course, she had to take classes and pass the GED exams. She then took and passed the Civil Service exam with a score of 94.5. She got the job at the Victoria post office. To get more hours she was borrowed out to other post offices as needs arose. In addition to working and caring for her family, Marlys continued taking post office classes in supervision and management as well as bulk mail training.



When the Loretto Postmaster went out on medical leave, she filled in for about three months as the officer in charge (OIC). When the postmaster position became vacant, she and many others applied for the job.

Marlys was informed that her application was taken out of consideration. PO policy stated that anyone who had temporarily held the OIC position is ineligible because of possible interviewer bias.

Marlys, normally a very mild person, did not think this fair. She made an appointment with the Mpls Postmaster and explained her rational. She was successful and her name was again added to the mix. She got the job, and the post office soon changed the offending policy.

In 1986 the Loretto post office was closed over the noon hour. Invariably, when I went there, it was around noon, and doors were locked. Frustrated, I uttered unkind words under my breath. I was not alone apparently. Realizing this, Marlys gathered revenue and volume numbers and again went to Mpls. She made her point successfully to the Postal Operations Manager and the Loretto PO was allowed to stay open through the day. Marlys also extended daily hours and added Saturday hours.

After years of dealing with many post offices in the seven county metro area, I can report that postmasters were not known for their customer service skills. What was worse, they didn't seem to care. When I entered the building, I was treated like an unwanted interruption. Postmasters were, I may add, almost always grumpy men (Sorry guys but its true). I am guessing that Marlys and many like her effectively change this mind-set because it's not true today.

In order to get the Loretto job, it was policy that she had to live within the delivery area. With their kids grown and out of the house, the Timms heard about a nice two BR home on Woodhill Drive. Ann Osier, a widow who had, with her husband built the house, and lived there 24 years, was selling. One look was all the Timms needed. They have enjoyed their Lake Sarah home to this day.

Eventually, during our many conversations, I got around to asking Marlys about her horseshoe pitching skills which I had heard about over the years and again at the LSIA picnic. She did not participate in high school sports because, prior to Title IX, there were no sport teams for girls. Imagine that.



Before horseshoes and while living in Victoria, a lot of Marlys' time was taken up chauffeuring children to their sporting events. She became aware of the Chaska A&W girls softball team. She decided time had come for her to try sports. The team was good, playing in several state tournaments, and friendships were rewarding. Marlys eventually became president of the District 112 Women's Softball League. Her organizational skills, attention to detail and strong work ethic were lost on no one.

After moving to Lake Sarah at age forty she did not want to travel to Chaska several times a week. She dropped out of softball.

While calling bingo at the 1988 Loretto Sports Bonanza, she learned that women horseshoe players were needed right now. She left the bingo table and never looked back. Horseshoe pitching became her next challenge.

Marlys and Marvin joined the Rockford Ringers Horseshoe League. It was a very active group with about 40 members. There are two twelve week sessions per year, May through September. One night a week is for doubles play and the other night is for singles.

Marlys and Marv have pitched in 13 World Tournaments and all 30 MN State Tournaments. In world events, Marlys has finished in the money nine times. In 2000 she came in first in Class E averaging 53% ringers, going 12-3 over three days of play. In 2017 with 40% ringers and going 12-1, she also came in first in Class F.

In MN sanctioned tournaments, pitchers are placed in either 6 or 8 person classes according to ringer percentage. Percentages are determined by the three highest averages over the past 12 months. Tournament and league play generally consist of 40 shoes pitched per game.

At picnics and other informal settings, games are usually won by achieving twenty-one points.

After playing for many years, Marlys learned from a 90 year old uncle that her deceased mother loved horseshoes. At a time when most women were in the kitchen, men pitched horseshoes during lunch breaks on the farm. Her mother often joined the men. She was reportedly very good. Marlys regrets she didn't know this about her mom while she was still alive.

Like so many activities, horseshoe pitching is attracting fewer followers these days. Beanbag tossing is gaining in popularity and seems to pull people away. Currently there are 600 horseshoe leagues in the US. Minnesota has the largest number with 30. Age 70 plus is the largest age group. There were twelve kids 18 and under participating in the MN State Tournament last fall.

The Timms have promoted participation in the sport of pitching at the Loretto Fun Fest, Heritage Fest in Independence and the Hamel Rodeo. They donate time, horseshoes, and portable pits.

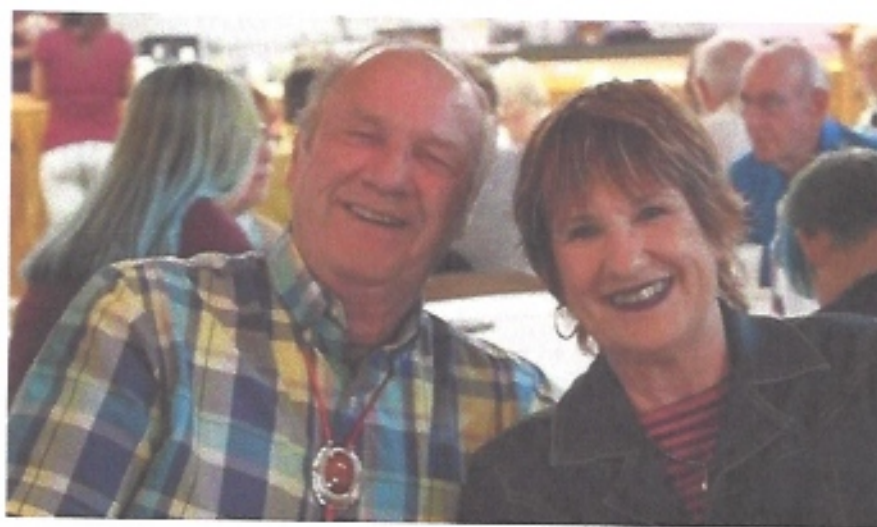
Horseshoes is a family friendly sport. Marlys and Marv's son and grandson have also pitched with them over the years.

Since 2007 Marvin and Marlys have spent a month each winter in McAllen, Texas. They participate in the Golden Age Olympic Games.

In 2007 Marlys took first place in the women's Class A horseshoe event. She has done so every year since. In 2011, she entered 12 different events. She wound up with three first place finishes and was named overall top female Olympian (see photo at right) winning tickets for two to Las Vegas.



Marlys and Marv, like me, are members of the silent generation. We were young during a time when hard work paid off. Jobs, for those who wanted them, were always available. Because of that, we have few complaints. Thus we remain silent.



Are you convinced? Marlys is one successfully competitive woman. Thanks for telling us your stories Marlys, may the best woman win!