



Lake Sarah Newsletter

LSIA Spring 2024

Issue #83



Lake Sarah Improvement Association 2024 Calendar Of Events

April 29 Spring General Membership Meeting (Independence City Hall)
July 4 Boat Parade
July 15 Summer Ice cream social and Annual Meeting

General Membership Meeting

When: April 29

Time: 6:30 Social Gathering, 7:00 Meeting Start

Where: City of Independence Town Hall, Community Room

Please mark your calendars for the LSIA General Membership Meeting. The meeting will be held on April 29 at the Independence City Hall. We will have a membership social at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting at 7:00.

This is your opportunity to hear a recap of our 2023 activities and our 2024 schedule of events. We will also discuss our water treatment plans for 2024. This conversation will be supported by our water quality experts, including representatives from the Minnesota DNR.

This meeting will also provide the membership with a forum to share your comments, suggestions, and concerns with the LSIA board and the water quality experts.

We will officially unveil our new Lake Sarah logo, merchandise options, and a sneak preview of our new Lake Sarah Improvement Association website which will support the association's ongoing needs to improve communication, and to help with the tasks related to membership and fundraising.

Lastly, we will showcase another option for membership renewal and water quality and fisheries fund donations.

Please recruit your neighbors to join us on April 29!

Water Quality and Aquatic Invasive Species Update

As we move into the Spring season, the LSIA Board reviewed the efficacy of the 2023 invasive weed management effort with the DNR and decided to adopt a different move forward approach for the management of Eurasian Milfoil on the lake.

In past years, LSIA used a chemical called Diquat to treat both Curly Leaf and Milfoil. Diquat kills weeds topically providing rapid visible surface level results. It is a cost effective but short-term solution requiring yearly or more frequent application. We will continue to use it for treatment of Curly Leaf on the lake. Moving forward, we will treat Milfoil using a chemical called ProcellaCore. It is a more expensive treatment compared to Diquat because it is a species-specific chemical that kills Milfoil at the root providing multi-year control. Other lakes have experienced 3-5 years of control with a single treatment. We treated the South-East basin last Fall and will treat the North-West basin this Spring. Additional fundraising will be required to complete the plan – you will hear more about this in future updates.

As with any DNR approved invasive weed treatment, LSIA can only treat patches that are 150 feet or more from the shoreline. Inside 150 feet, homeowners will need to address these patches individually with DNR approved permits and chemicals, or through other means (e.g. weed rollers, manual raking/extraction, etc.). The LSIA has secured discounts from our treatment partners (Aquatic Solutions and PLM Lake and Land Management) for homeowners wishing to perform their personal treatment.

Lastly, we will be placing Zebra Mussel traps in this lake to monitor for possible infestation in the future. Many local lakes have seen infestations over the past several years (e.g. Lake Independence) and we want to detect them as soon as we can if they enter into Lake Sarah.

If you have any questions about the LSIA's water quality and invasive specific management, contact Mark Klein at 612-850-0871 or Mark.Klein.MN@gmail.com

Lake Sarah Membership Dues and Recommended Water Quality Donation Increases

Scott Beaupré – LSIA President

Maintaining the pristine beauty and ecological health of Lake Sarah requires continual investment and collaboration between the Lake Sarah residents and other stakeholders at the local, county, watershed, and state levels.

Over the past several years, we have responded to changes in the lake and experienced rising costs to survey and treat the lake. Because of this, the Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA) Board of Directors has determined that a modest increase to membership dues and suggested donations for water quality initiatives is necessary. Beginning this year, the annual membership dues will increase from \$35 to \$45 and the suggested donation for water quality efforts will rise from \$150 to \$200.

These adjustments come after careful consideration and consultation with members, environmental/lake experts, and our stakeholders. Here's why these changes are necessary and how they will benefit you and our community:

Sustaining Environmental Stewardship: Through our collective efforts, we have improved the water quality and reduced invasive species such as Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Milfoil in the lake. We must maintain vigilance in these efforts and build upon our progress in future years. The increased dues and donations will allow us to do just that. As an example, our water quality experts recommended a more targeted and aggressive treatment approach to mitigate the infestation of Eurasian Milfoil. Though the front-end costs of this treatment are higher than our previous treatment program, this new treatment plan should allow us to treat milfoil every 4-5 years versus every year resulting in better efficacy and overall lower costs.

Another example is our response to changing weather patterns. Due to the lack of cold weather and snow cover this winter, our consulting experts are forecasting a higher-than-normal level of invasive weed growth (e.g., Curly Leaf Pondweed) which will result in a larger treatment plan this year. We have just completed our survey of the lake to confirm this forecast and have applied for permits to treat more acres of the lake at a higher cost than previous years.

Each year provides its unique challenges, and we must have the awareness and financial capacity to respond to changes in the lake as they occur.

Enhancing Recreational Accessibility and Quality: From boating to fishing, Lake Sarah offers a plethora of recreational activities for our residents. By augmenting our financial resources, we can undertake projects to improve shoreline facilities, maintain boat ramps, and ensure safe swimming areas, enhancing the overall experience for all members.

Property Values and Appeal: A well-maintained lake isn't just a source of enjoyment; it's also an asset that enhances property values in our community. By investing in the upkeep and preservation of Lake Sarah, we're safeguarding the long-term economic prosperity of our neighborhood.

As we move forward with these changes, the Lake Sarah Board remains committed to fiscal responsibility and accountability. All Board Members are volunteers, and every dollar of contribution is used to preserve and enhance the natural beauty and ecological health of our Lake.

The modest membership dues and suggested donations reflect our ongoing collective commitment to safeguarding Lake Sarah for current and future generations. Together, let's continue to cherish and protect this invaluable resource that enriches our lives in countless ways.

[Click here to access the new 2024 Membership Form \(with Venmo payment option\)](#)



Changes to LSIA Marketing & Communications

By Scott Engle

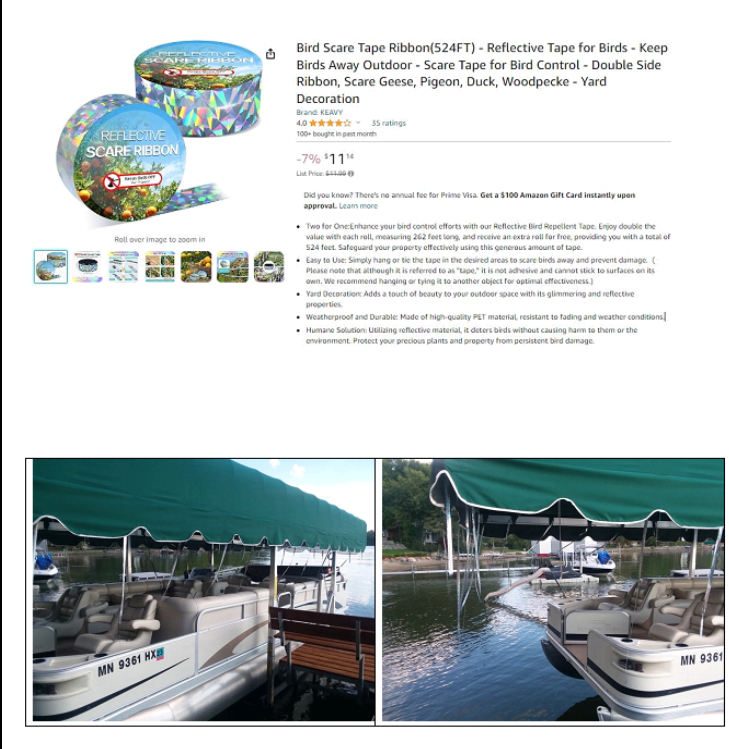
As you know, LSIA has been working toward improving Lake Sarah for the enjoyment of our members and the broader public for many years. Of critical importance to our members are water quality, lake usability, and continued improvement of the desirability of our lake as an investment. It is not to be understated that the broader public also benefits from the work of the association and its partners. Over the last three months, we have undertaken a review of our current marketing and communications programs. Feedback from the membership has indicated a need for more communication from the association regarding all things LSIA. In all of our busy lives, there is a premium on volunteer hours to get the work done for LSIA and our projects because the current tools used (think US mail), are time consuming and expensive. Additionally, we have seen a fundamental shift in funding programs for our continued efforts without the availability of government grants for weed control. It is with these significant changes in mind that we have plotted a course to improve communication, lessen the burden on volunteer hours, and broaden Lake Sarah's appeal and reach for future fundraising needs. Already approved is the development of an LSIA specific website, along with social media pages. Many of our membership tasks will be able to be handled by automation through the website, along with fundraising for the newly branded Clean Water Fund, and Fisheries Fund. There will even be an official store for Lake Sarah merchandise. In the long term, the new website will enable us to implement sponsorship programs and highlight our sponsors, with all proceeds going to help with clean water and fisheries programs, along with helping to lessen the donation burden on our membership. We look forward to launching these new tools. If you are looking to get involved in our efforts as a volunteer e-marketer, please reach out to Scott Engle (612.804.7622) as we are in need of content creators, photographers, webmasters, moderators, etc. Scott is willing to teach if you'd like to learn about working with web pages, and social media. All ages and abilities are welcome!

BirdTape!

By Scott Engle

Many of us on Lake Sarah experience the barn swallows nesting and perching inside of our boat lifts and the guano that the birds leave all over the boat. We like watching the swallows and their acrobatics but can do without all the clean up every week. This season we tried a different approach that many of you have seen dangling from our boat lift this summer and looking like a disco ballroom. Found on Amazon for less than \$12, reflective "Bird Scare

Ribbon” did the trick. This ribbon, cut in 5 – 6 foot strips, and tied to the canopy frame around the perimeter of the frame and under the cover spaced 2 feet apart, was the first technique we’ve tried that worked, and unlike netting, won’t cause injury. We would see the swallows flutter next to the canopy trying to find a way in, but to no avail. If you have this issue, this simple, shiny ribbon is something to try next season.



Bird Scare Tape Ribbon(524FT) - Reflective Tape for Birds - Keep Birds Away Outdoor - Scare Tape for Bird Control - Double Side Ribbon, Scare Geese, Pigeon, Duck, Woodpecke - Yard Decoration


4.5 ★★★★★ 35 ratings

100+ bought in past month

-7% \$11¹⁴

Did you know? There's no annual fee for Prime Visa. Get a \$100 Amazon Gift Card instantly upon approval. Learn more

- Two for One: Enhance your bird control efforts with our Reflective Bird Repellent Tape. Enjoy double the value with each roll, measuring 262 feet long, and receive an extra roll for free, providing you with a total of 524 feet. Safeguard your property effectively using this generous amount of tape.
- Easy to Use: Simply hang or tie the tape in the cleared areas to scare birds away and prevent damage. (Please note that although it is referred to as "tape," it is not adhesive and cannot stick to surfaces on its own. We recommend hanging or tying it to another object for optimal effectiveness.)
- Yard Decoration: Adds a touch of beauty to your outdoor space with its glimmering and reflective properties.
- Weatherproof and Durable: Made of high-quality PET material, resistant to fading and weather conditions.
- Harmless Solution: Utilizing reflective material, it deters birds without causing harm to them or the environment. Protect your precious plants and property from persistent bird damage.



Some Scream for Sunscreen

By Tyler Johson

How about that solar eclipse? I figured with all the recent attention the sun is getting we should take time to remember that our warm sunny days are ahead of us. I am sure that many were able to escape a mild Minnesota winter and got color on some tropical getaways. However, it is key that regardless of skin tone that we provide adequate protection to our skin this season against harmful UV rays. In terms of hierarchy, sun avoidance is best. This is difficult when on a lake but staying out of the sun between the hours of 10AM-4PM can help avoid the most powerful UV rays. Next steps would be measures to avoid direct sun exposures. Think umbrellas, canopies and the bimini on your boat. Additionally, this includes sun protective clothing. These days it's not just for young kids, but multiple brands provide strong UV protective attire and should be considered for activities on and off the lake. Finally, sunscreen. When applied daily to sun exposed skin, it is essential. Make sure to use at least 30+SPF sunscreen as well as to apply water resistant sunscreen 15 minutes before entering the water. Additionally,

make sure to use an adequate amount when applying sunscreen to the skin. One full body application should be about an ounce of sunscreen. If spending extended time outdoors reapplying sunscreen every two hours helps to prevent lapse in coverage. With that said, I look forward to seeing everyone out and about this summer around the lake!

Financial Update

By Jon Arneson

[Please click the link to view the financial report](#)