

MOUTH OF LAKE SARAH

October 2004

Issue 31

2005 LSIA Calendar

Mark your calendars for these 2005 LSIA events!

| | |
|---|----------|
| Ice Cleanup | 03/05/05 |
| 2005 LSIA Board Elections and Spring Membership Meeting | 04/28/05 |
| 8 th Annual July 4 th Boat Parade | 07/04/05 |
| Summer Membership Meeting and 17 th Annual LSIA Picnic * | 07/24/05 |
| Fall Membership Meeting | 10/27/05 |

*membership and board present at the October 2004 LSIA meeting voted to combine the Summer Membership Meeting and the LSIA Picnic.

2005 Board Candidates

Brad Spencer, Nominating Committee

Election of the following LSIA Board positions will be held at the Spring Membership Meeting on 4/28/2005.

- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Director of Safety and Navigation
- Director of Conservation and DNR Liaison
- Director of Tax, Road, Sewer, and Government Relations

LSIA members who would like to volunteer to be part of the Nominating Committee or to be considered for an LSIA Board position (2 year term) are invited to contact Cindy Sykes, Mike Peterson, or Brad Spencer.

Safety & Navigation Committee Update

Steve Riley, Safety & Navigation Director

The Safety & Navigation Committee, formerly known as the Lake Level Committee, will be exploring the possibility of getting CP Rail to place an additional outflow culvert above the ordinary high water mark next to the existing culvert. The purpose of this project is to enhance the utilization of the wetland during periods of high water and reduce the spikes in our lake level. The overflow culvert would function as an overflow valve which would automatically shut down as soon as the lake's elevation approaches the ordinary high water mark.

On 9/21 the Greenfield City Council voted unanimously to proceed with the Cable-Crete project to stabilize the weir on the northwest end of Lake Sarah at the elevation approved by the DNR based on their recent survey and study of the lake. The Greenfield City Council made their decision after considering input from the City of Independence and various individuals present, including Leonard Nadasdy, Brad Spencer, Jerry Wise, Harold Burrows, Kim Jacobsen, Steve Riley, Todd & Lori Zaugg, Joe Slavic, Dick Tubesing and Loren Schiebe.

The Council had previously been given a copy of a petition that 92 individuals signed that was based on unsubstantiated premises that were rebutted during the Council meeting by Greenfield's Engineer Tim Hanson. Specifically, the petition attributed the current lake level solely to the "outlet dredging project" which allegedly "eroded" the weir "by as much as one foot". The petition also concluded that the aforementioned factors "produced a drastic lake level change" which will "impact our ability to use the lake" and adversely affect "property values", although no evidence was provided to support any of these conclusions.

Several residents report that they signed the petition after being told that failure to do so would result in a two foot drop in the lake level when in fact the Cable-Crete project would actually raise the weir by 5 inches.

Then, despite the petition only requesting that the City "maintain normal lake levels as seen in history", it was in fact used by those who advocate high water levels to support raising the weir's elevation well beyond the elevation recommended by the DNR which already was based on the actual "historic" elevation as DNR determined it to be.

Tim Hanson cited a number of factors affecting the lake level such as inflow, evaporation and lack of precipitation last fall/winter which significantly lowered the lake level this spring. Tim said the weir will be set at an elevation of 978.6' to 978.8' as allowed by the DNR approved permit, which will raise the ordinary high water mark by 1/10th of a foot. The weir will be 62" wide at the bottom and 24' wide at the top and 24' long with an elevation that is approximately 5" higher than the lowest level of the weir at present. Tim also pointed out that the culvert under the CP Railroad bed is the actual "control structure" and not the weir. Mayor Swanson stated that the Cable-Crete project will in fact result in less runoff and the Mayor added that if the elevation of

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Safety & Navigation Committee Update

Steve Riley, Safety & Navigation Director

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the weir is an issue in the future, it can be addressed at that point in time. The Cable-Crete work will be done by Doboszinski & Son's at a cost to the City of \$12,500.

Per Tim Hanson, the City of Greenfield's engineer, the Cable-Crete block mat system is being assembled and will be installed in early November, weather permitting. Greenfield received the final permit required for the project from Three River's Parks at the end of October.

LSIA owes a big thank you to both Greenfield and Independence City Councils and especially Councilors Sykes and Smith, as well as Tom Hovey of the Minnesota DNR among others.

LSIA Membership

Brad Spencer, Membership Director

If you are interested in joining LSIA (Lake Sarah Improvement Association), please contact Brad Spencer, Membership Director, at 763-479-3525 or b.spencer@lakesarah.com. Take a moment to check out all the activities LSIA is involved in at www.lakesarah.com.

Onyx Waste Services is currently offering significantly discounted group residential trash service to all LSIA members. This year's group negotiated trash rates effective July 1 2004 through June 30, 2005 are:

Onyx Waste Services reduced rates

38 gallon weekly service is \$8.25 per month + tax
65 gallon weekly service is \$8.65 per month + tax
95 gallon weekly service is \$9.00 per month + tax

*2004 LSIA membership (\$35) is required to participate in the reduced rates.

Bog Update

Joe Slavec, Director of Conservation and DNR Liaison

The large bog (300' x 100') that loomed in the channel over the winter waiting to break free and destroy our docks and boats, etc. is now part of a compost pile behind the City of Independence. **Thanks to the following people: Ron Jorgenson, Pat Lyrek, Brad Swenson, Greg Reitan, Mike Petersen, Steve Riley, Paul Williams, Joe Slavec, John Wise, Scott Walsh, Ben Endsley, and Dale Hahn** (sorry if I failed to mention any names). These individuals donated their time, land, equipment, and fortitude to finish a difficult job that threatened every one of our properties and safety. If you have not said thank you to these people – you should make a point of doing so – they acted on your behalf.

There is another bog that has broke free at the west end of the lake. There are no immediate plans for removal of this bog. Donations are being accepted by the LSIA to assist in the removal of this bog should it break free and become a hazard. The team involved in removing the large bog from the lake is unwilling to donate anymore time and effort to removing another bog and we may have to rely on an outside source. This may cost as much as \$5000.00

Bog Fund Established

Please, if you feel as though you did not contribute to Lake Sarah by assisting with the removal of the large bog, donate what you can afford to the "Bog Fund". The LSIA Treasurer will take checks noted for the "Bog Fund" and keep us informed on what we have set aside. Your contribution may be tax deductible.

Send checks to:

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

LSIA 7th Annual July 4th Boat Parade and 16th Annual Picnic

www.lakesarah.com

Looking back over the 2004 summer, we had a great time at the July 4th Boat Parade and 16th Annual LSIA Picnic.

The 2004 Independence Day Boat Parade included as many as 18 boats filled with holiday revelers and many spectators along the parade route. Decorating contest Judge **Jim Olson** reported the following results:

- **First Place** - The Bob & Sherry Englund / Warren & Julie Grist entry bedecked in Hawaiian theme.
- **Second Place** - The Jon & Julie Myhre / Andy & Missy Sorensen pontoon with lots of flags, 4 presidents, all wearing matching t-shirts.
- **Third place** - a tie between pontoon entries from Dan & Jane Maland Cady and from Fred & Lynette Lang.

Thanks to our Judge Jim Olson and this years' parade Commodore/Chairman, Bob Englund.



The Winning Entry in the 2004 Boat Decorating Contest. photo by Jim Olson



The Myhres and Sorensens show their spirit in the 7th Annual Boat Parade. photo by Jim Olson



Klaers' horses passing by Harper's car

The LSIA 16th Annual Picnic was held in perfect weather at **Ron & Mary Jorgenson's** property on Shady Beach Circle. The event Co-Chairs **Kathy Hahn** and **Mary Lou Peterson** did an outstanding job coordinating the LSIA Picnic. Thanks to **Randy & Colleen Klaers** for having the horse/wagon rides again this year. The pork chop and hotdog dinner was a big hit and LSIA members brought plenty of hot-dishes, salads, and desserts to share. There was plenty of games and activities for the kids and a drawing for door prizes.

Special thanks to **Ron & Mary Jorgenson** for the use of their property, canopies, chairs & tables

LSIA extends its appreciation to the individual and business sponsors and donors who helped make this event possible.

Thanks to Greg Hani for his artwork and to the many businesses listed on the next two pages for their donations.



Ron & Mary Jorgenson



Kids try their luck at the Minnow Race



State Senator Gen Olson

Water Level & Quality

Mike Peterson, Water Level/Quality Director

Water Level

Visit www.lakesarah.com for charts and information on Lake Sarah's current and historic water levels.

| | Water Level Reading |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| initial reading (4/03/04) | 979.73 |
| highest reading (6/13/04) | 980.42 |
| lowest reading (8/31/04) | 978.70 |
| most recent (10/22/04) | 978.93 |

Records

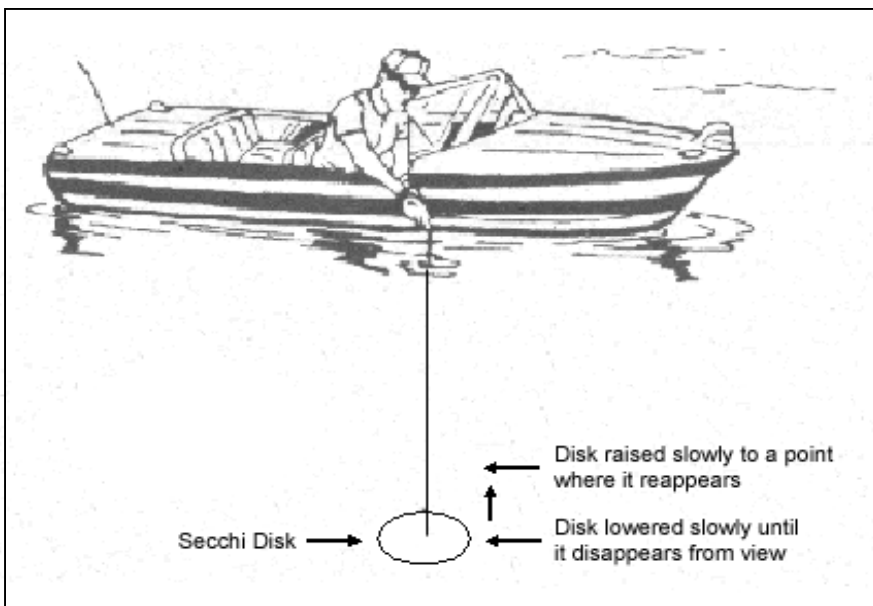
- The highest level ever recorded was 982.40 on 6/28/02.
- The lowest water level ever recorded was 977.80 on 8/4/77.

The Ordinary High Water Level is set at 979.90 (revised from 979.50 as of 10/13/03—Minnesota DNR OHWL study) . The FEMA 100 year flood level is 981.20.

Water Clarity

Measurements in feet are taken in the East Bay at 50+ feet depth by Bill Hibbard. Results of **secchi disk** show water clarity consistently below averages. Water clarity may have been negatively impacted over the past few years by excessive runoff and erosion resulting from the record high water levels.

The **Minnesota Citizen Lake-Monitoring Program** uses the all-white secchi disk described by Shapiro *et al.* (1975). The volunteer is asked to make readings between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on bright, calm days. The disk is lowered over the shady side of the boat and the volunteer is asked to remove sunglasses. The depth of disappearance and reappearance of the disk is averaged, and



the depth is measured to the nearest 1/2 foot. The line is marked. Dacron, or other polyester material, is recommended for the line because nylon has a tendency to stretch when wet, as well as being adversely affected by repeated exposure to sunlight.

Monthly Average Clarity Readings

| Year | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. |
|----------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| Mo. Avg. | 9.6 | 5.9 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.8 | --- |
| 2004 | 7.5 | 4.5 | 1.83 | 2.3 | 2.0 | --- |
| 2003 | 7.33 | 3.83 | 2.2 | 2.0 | --- | 4.0 |
| 2002 | 10.5 | 5.5 | 2.75 | 1.5 | --- | --- |
| 2001 | 6.75 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.7 | --- | --- |
| 2000 | 8.5 | 6.0 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.0 | --- |
| 1999 | 7.0 | 5.0 | 4.2 | 2.5 | --- | --- |
| 1998 | 8.5 | 3.7 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.3 | --- |
| 1997 | 9.8 | 10.0 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 2.2 | --- |
| 1996 | --- | 8.1 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 3.5 | --- |
| 1995 | 15.5 | 7.2 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.5 | --- |
| 1994 | 12.5 | 6.9 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 3.8 | --- |
| 1993 | --- | 7.1 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 3.0 | --- |

Eagles

Joe Slavec, Director of Conservation and DNR Liaison

The eagle that has nested near Lake Sarah can be seen soaring in the wind or scanning the shores foraging for food and it's a really neat thing to see. However, a person was spotted killing a pan fish and trying to feed it to the eagle by throwing the fish overboard to 'lure' the eagle in for a closer view. This activity is highly illegal and can result in some serious fines.

Eagles mate for life and will often return to the same nest year after year if it is successful. Human disturbance near the nest site may cause eagles to abandon their nests or leave the young vulnerable to severe weather and predators. Therefore, the Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program personnel have developed site management plans to protect each bald eagle nest site.

DNR Watershed Chart

The DNR has provided LSIA with an educational chart for homeowners on or near the lake to help people understand how our lifestyles can effect our watershed / water quality. These were distributed at the Fall General Meeting and are available upon request from Joe Slavec. These colorful, insightful charts can be useful tools to help explain to neighbors and children the impact of certain activities so they may better understand the watershed and make the right decisions relating to the environment.