



Lake Sarah on “Impaired” List

reprinted from The Pioneer

A special “Clean Water” committee has been established in the Lake Sarah Improvement Association to investigate the best approach to control the amount of phosphorus in the lake. This committee will go beyond the association and is inviting other interested parties to become involved. Both the city of Independence and the City of Greenfield will be part of this newly developed task force, along with Three Rivers Park District and the Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission.

Some of the actions that should be taken to improve the lake quality include:

1. Identifying malfunctioning septic or sewer systems in the watershed. By law failing systems must be corrected.
2. Livestock and large animal owners need to identify and implement best man-

agement practices to ensure that nutrient runoff is not adding phosphorus to Lake Sarah.

3. Identifying erosion sites in the watershed and shore land. This includes all riparian and non-riparian residents of the watershed district, including property owners on the streams that feed into Lake Sarah.

4. Ensuring that residents are following the no-phosphate mandate for the maintenance of their lawns as well as other lakeshore best management practices.

For more information or if you would like to be involved, please contact one of the following:

Harold Burrows, Chairman, LSIA Water Quality Committee, hbrbsarah@aol.com

Jerry Wise, President, Lake Sarah Improvement Association, jerrywise@frontiernet.net

Look to the Future

Mike Peterson

LSIA Director, Water Level, Safety & Navigation

Look to the future, not the past. The cablecrete project that was installed in late 2004, established for the first time in Lake Sarah’s history, a permanent structure to help maintain a normal lake level. Every structure before it was at best temporary, was installed at the spur of the moment, and was not sanctioned by homeowners or regulatory agencies. The cablecrete structure is tamper resistant; can be easily maintained and monitored; establishes a verifiable base line that will provide more accurate measurements for future actions; and can be raised or lowered as time, circumstances, homeowners, and regulatory agencies dictate.

Many people have strong opinions about what the water level should be, and what should or should not be done to arrive at the perfect level. But we need to accept that our neighbors may not share our opinion. We also need to remember that Mother Nature plays a role none of us can predict or ultimately control. Above all, we need to extend the courtesy due our neighbors, even

when we may not see eye to eye. Life is too short and the lake is too small!

Environmental factors, watershed inflow, weeds, algae, shoreline management, boat traffic and more will all play a role in the future health of Lake Sarah. Keeping Lake Sarah the place to live and play we’ve become accustomed to will require technology, government involvement, financial resources, homeowner participation, a lot of time, hard work and luck!

What’s best for Lake Sarah is an elusive, constantly evolving science. Even the engineers can’t really agree on a lot of the factors that play a role in the level and health of the lake. Surveys are not 100% accurate. There are even conflicting opinions about where the definitive runoff for Lake Sarah is. Some say it’s the cablecrete, some the culvert under the railroad, and some feel it’s on the West side of the culvert in the wetlands. **But each year we learn more about our lake and that will enable us to better serve her in the future.**

Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes—April 21, 2005

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission met April 21. Jerry Wise requested assistance from the Commission regarding curly pondweed in Lake Sarah. Whalen stated the Commission's interest in providing support and outlined the

process. He was advised to identify a stakeholder committee to develop goals and determine ways to achieve those goals. The committee should represent a broad spectrum of concerned individuals/groups. The Commission would formally appoint the committee

at its May 19, 2005 meeting.

Jerry Wise was also advised to contact John Barten, Three Rivers Park District, to identify the process. The Commission has \$3,145 in its budget to assist the committee.

LSIA Water Quality Committee

Jerry Wise
LSIA President

At the LSIA Board meeting last May, a discussion on the quality of Lake Sarah led to a formation of a committee to deal specifically with cleaning up the lake. Chairing the committee is past LSIA President, Harold Burrows.

Committee members to date are Harold Burrows, Mike Peterson, Jane Maland Cady, and David Allen. John Barten, Wendy Crowell, and Jim Kujawa will act as advisors to this committee.

John Barten, a water quality expert from Three Rivers Park District, states the number one problem with Lake Sarah, even more than Lake Independence, is the Curly Leaf Pondweed. This weed grows early in the year and usually forms dense growth by late spring but then dies off by mid July. This die-off releases a substantial amount of nutrients into the water that may lead to

an overall decline in water clarity.



curly leaf pondweed

Milfoil, another exotic nuisance species, generally begins to form dense surface growth by mid-summer, but not experience the same level of summer die-off as curly leaf pondweed. Both of these nonnative plant species can lead to impaired usability for motorboats due to very dense growth at the surface of the lake and they regularly displace native plant species through shading effects, thus decreasing the quality of

available fish habitat and food sources for wildlife.

Wendy Crowell, an Aquatic Exotic Species Specialist and Biologist from the DNR, gave an interesting presentation at last year's April general membership meeting. She is currently working to eradicate exotic species in test lakes throughout Minnesota.

Jim Kujawa, a specialist with the Hennepin County Environmental Services, is also the Advisor to the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Water Management Commission.

If you are concerned with the quality of Lake Sarah and would like to serve on this committee, contact Harold Burrows, Chairman, LSIA Water Quality Committee, hbrbsarah@aol.com.

What is an Impaired Water?

"Impaired waters" are those rivers and lakes that currently do not meet their designated use and associated water quality standards. During the 1970's, each river and lake in Minnesota was assigned a designated use. For each water body, the standards define the maximum amounts of specific pollutants that may be present in a water body and not adversely affect a particular designated use. There are seven classes

of designated uses, such as aquatic life, primary contact recreation (swimming and diving), secondary contact recreation (boating), drinking water, agriculture, wildlife and other uses. Under section 303 of the 1972 Clean Water Act, states are required to assess their waters and develop lists of impaired waters. The law requires the development of TMDL study (Total Maximum Daily Load) for each pollutant that

causes a water body to fail to meet its designated use and associated state water quality standards. The TMDL study is a written plan that analyzes the problem and determines how water quality standards will be attained. A TMDL study identifies both point and non-point sources of each pollutant that fails to meet water quality standards.



Zero Phosphorous Law for Lawn Fertilizers

Molly Zender Zins,
Minnesota Lakes Association, molly@mnlakes.org

The new statewide Minnesota law, prohibiting the use of phosphorous lawn fertilizers, went into effect January 1, 2005.

Minnesota law bans the use of phosphorous fertilizer, because phosphorous is the nutrient turning Minnesota's lakes and streams green with algae.

When shopping for your lawn and landscaping supplies purchase fertilizers that contain zero phosphorous, and only buy brands that have clearly indicated a middle number of zero (X-O-X) on the packaging. This simple action will help protect Minnesota's lakes and streams from increasing algae blooms, excessive weed growth and deteriorating water quality.

The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (MOEA) offers the following suggestions for unwanted fertilizer containing phosphorous: use it in your compost bin or yard waste compost pile; you can also use the fertilizer carefully on your garden and shrubbery; however, if the fertilizer contains pesticides and herbicides DO

NOT use it in the compost pile—take these fertilizers to your nearest household hazardous waste collection site.

For more information on the new statewide phosphorous-free lawn fertilizer law please contact the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance at 1-800-877-6300.

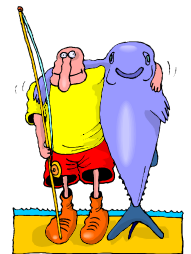
*“If we all do our part
Minnesota lakes and streams
will have cleaner and clearer
waters this summer!”*

The Minnesota Lakes Association, a statewide nonprofit dedicated to the protection and preservation of Minnesota's lakes, reminds Minnesota citizens that aside from using phosphorous-free lawn fertilizers homeowners can take a variety of additional measures, in order to reduce the stormwater runoff reaching Minnesota's lakes and streams.

- Rake and sweep all lawn clippings, leaves and other yard debris into an enclosed yard compost bin or dispose of them at city composting piles. These are all sources of phosphorous and can quickly make their way to nearby water bodies if left in yards, on curbs, or in ditches.
- Pick up and properly dispose of all pet waste, because this can be a harmful source of bacteria in lakes and streams.
- And cover or protect any exposed soil in your yard, because spring rains quickly wash away any loose soil, resulting in cloudy sediment-filled waters.

If we all do our part Minnesota lakes and streams will have cleaner and clearer waters this summer!

For more information on the Minnesota Lakes Association or what you can do to protect Minnesota's lakes and streams from harmful yard runoff, contact us today: 218-824-5565 or lakes@mnlakes.org



Lake Stewardship / Lake Management

www.dnr.state.mn.us

Lake Stewardship: An Attitude

Lake stewardship really is an attitude—it is the first important step in protecting a lake. Stewardship reflects an understanding that what we do on land and in the water affects the lake.

Stewardship centers on thoughtful consideration of the intricate lake ecosystem and the interdependence between the lake and its surrounding watershed. It takes into account the need to better balance our lives and lifestyles with the needs of our lakes. In short, it is a recognition that lakes are

vulnerable—that in order to make them thrive, we, both individually and collectively, must assume responsibility for their care.

Lake Management: A Process

Lake management is a process, and the second major step in lake protection. It reflects a willingness to study a lake, to assess its status and its needs, and to determine how best to maximize its potential as a thriving ecosystem.

Lake management can be as simple as fostering the practices of stewardship

among lake homeowners and other interested individuals. Or it can include taking an active role in altering certain ecological relationships within the lake and its watershed to make a lake healthy and keep it healthy. Lake management can also include protecting the health of a lake ecosystem through a plan of preventive action.

Lake management, to be effective, requires the coordinated efforts of a group of individuals in the form of a lake association, sportsmen's or conservation club, or some other organization.

2005 Board Positions Filled

The membership present at the April 28, 2005 LSIA meeting elected the following members to fill the open Board positions:

Vice President	Jim Olson
Treasurer	Greg Hani
Director Conservation/DNR Liason	Joe Slavec
Director Gov't Relations	Fred Lang

Secretary
Director Water Quality
Director Water Level

Becky Jacobsen
Harold Burrows
Mike Peterson

Thank you for your willingness to contribute your time and efforts for the benefit of the lake residents!

President Jerry Wise appointed the following members to fill the role of Secretary (open due to Cheryl Wise's resignation) and Director, Safety and Navigation (no volunteers—combined with Director, Water Level) and Director, Water Quality (new standing committee).

LSIA thanks the departing board members **Dolores Ullstrom** and **Steve Riley** for their many years of service to the lake community. Both Dolores and Steve have made *significant* contributions to the association and to the lake residents. We are grateful for their efforts on our behalf!



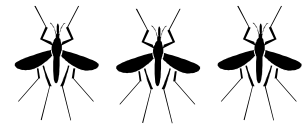
July 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4★	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24★	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Schedule of Events
• July 4, 2005 - 8 th Annual July 4 th Boat Parade
• July 24, 2005 - Summer Membership Meeting and 17 th Annual LSIA Picnic
• October 27, 2005 - Fall Membership Meeting

LSIA Membership

Brad Spencer
LSIA Membership Director



As of May 1st, there are **148 paid LSIA members** and 74 participants in the Onyx Waste Services program.

If you are interested in joining the Lake Sarah Improvement Association, please contact Brad Spencer, Membership Director, at 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, 2005 through June 30, 2006) are:

	<u>weekly service</u> ¹
38 gallon	\$8.50 / month
65 gallon	\$8.90 / month
95 gallon	\$9.25 / month

¹ plus tax and Hennenpin County surcharge

*2005 LSIA membership is required to participate in the Onyx group rates.

Onyx Waste Services - pay online

Jerry Wise
LSIA President

Have you ever forgotten to pay the trash bill on time? Do you know what their terms are? Do you know what happens when you are late?

I normally pay bills after I receive the service I am paying for. With Onyx, I have normally paid the bill during the three month cycle. I was paying it just the other day and noticed a \$5.00 difference. So I called and talked to the manager, Joanie, and she politely said that it was for paying *after* the due date. "Well" I said, "I always pay my bill on time." Then I was directed to look at the terms clearly marked on the invoice. She was right. In fact, it not only says 'If payment is not received within 30 days of invoice date you may be assessed a service charge of at least \$5 or 1.5% of the unpaid balance.'",

there is a statement in bold print that says '**BALANCE DUE UPON RECEIPT—MUST REACH OUR OFFICE BY** (specific date printed).

We had a discussion on how I could avoid this in the future, so I thought I would pass it on.

You can get the bill and sit down and write a check on time. Make sure the mail will reach their office by the due date. Or you can call and charge it on your credit card. Or you can pay on line. They now accept payments on line over the internet. And it is easy to do.

Go to www.billonline.com/OnyxWaste and follow the directions. It is easy and efficient. You have the choice of

paying one time or you can select to have them automatically charge your account when it is due. That way you will never pay a service charge.

"They now accept payments on line over the internet. It is easy and efficient. You have the choice of paying one time or you can select to have them automatically charge your account when it is due."

P.S. Are we getting a good rate? According to Onyx, our service would normally be between \$18.00 to \$20.00 per month.

Take advantage of your membership!

Heritage Fest

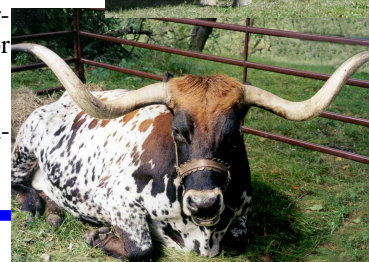
Mark your calendars for **September 10, 2005 for the Independence Heritage Fest** at the Pioneer Creek Community Park on County Road 90, just north of Hwy. 12.

Adults and children alike will enjoy the petting zoo, corn maze, horse drawn wagon rides, the Northland Oliver Collectors Association Tractor Field demonstrations, a free ride in the Wright

Hennepin boom truck, see Blackjack, the longhorn steer, and much, much more.

LSIA will have a booth at the Heritage Fest. If you're interested in volunteering for the booth, contact Jim Olson or Dolores Uhlstrom.

Admission, parking, and this memorable experience are all free.



Child Life Jacket Wear Law

www.dnr.state.mn.us



A new requirement, for children under age 10 to wear a life jacket while boating on Minnesota waters, was signed into law by Governor Tim Pawlenty and went into effect Friday, May 6th.

Called the "Grant Allen Law," the measure was named in memory of the child who drowned after falling out of his father's boat in 2003.

The new law requires that a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket to be worn by children less than 10 years of age when aboard watercraft in Minnesota when the craft is under way (not tied up at a dock or permanent mooring).

Exemptions from wearing

1. When in an enclosed cabin or below the top deck on a watercraft.
2. When on an anchored boat that is a platform for swimming or diving.
3. When aboard a charter (passenger) craft with a licensed captain.

Penalties

1. Written warning only for the first offense until May 1, 2006.
2. Petty misdemeanor for second offense during period above and any offense on or after May 1, 2006



DNR Boat and Water Safety Program

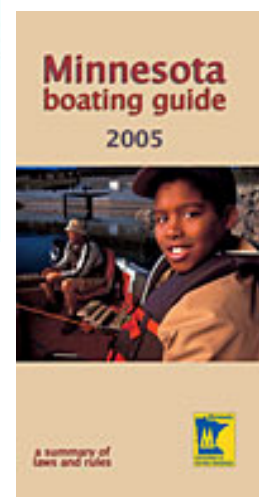
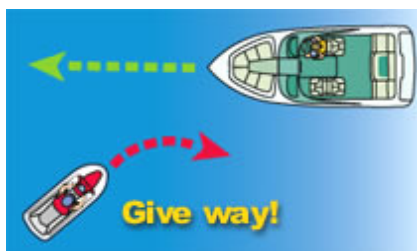
www.dnr.state.mn.us

The Minnesota DNR Boat & Water Safety program:

- provides the public with safety information and education programs, and coordinates the efforts of other safety agencies and groups throughout the state.
- collects and interprets statistical data on boat and water accidents and boating in general. *Minnesota has the highest per capita boat registration figure in the country.*
- handles the free mandatory boating and safety education program for 12 through 17-year-olds; water surface use management; informational programs on boat and water safety; and in-service training programs for safety and enforcement personnel.
- Order the Boat Operator's Course and Test packet from the Minnesota DNR:
 - E-mail info@dnr.state.mn.us (please be sure to include your name and address)
 - Call (651) 296-3336 or toll free 1-888-646-6367
- Take the Minnesota Boating Regulations and Boat Safety Course online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html> (Click on Boat Minnesota online.)

2005 Minnesota Boating Guide

This booklet summarizes the 2005 Minnesota boating laws and regulations. It's available for download (1.6 Mb PDF) at www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html



Think Boat Safety

www.dnr.state.mn.us



For many Minnesotans, the opening of the inland fishing season on May 14 also marks the beginning of a new boating season. **For a safe start, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommends a pre-launch review of safety equipment and regulations.**

Minnesota law requires a wearable personal flotation device for each person on any boat. For some boats there are requirements for lighting, horns, a fire extinguisher and other equipment. Regulations and safety recommendations are listed in the Minnesota Boating Guide, available online at www.dnr.state.mn.us or by calling toll free 1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367).

"Take a few minutes to think about safety as you are preparing your boat and fishing equipment," said Tim Smalley, boat and water safety specialist for the Minnesota DNR. "It's a small investment of time that could save a life."

Last year, 15 people were killed in boating accidents, down from 17 deaths in 2004. Boating deaths in 2003 totaled 30, the highest number of boaters killed since 1985 when 31 Minnesota boaters died.

LIFE PRESERVERS

Minnesota law requires a U.S. Coast Guard approved "Type I, II, III or V" wearable personal flotation device, more commonly known as a life jacket, life vest, or personal flotation device for each person on any boat. **Also required is a flotation device that can be thrown (Type IV) on boats 16 feet or longer.**

"Life jackets also have to be the correct size for the person they are intended," said Smalley. "In other words, you can't have a size large life vest for a small child and expect it to pass muster for the law or safety."

"Lack of the correct number, type

and size of life jackets is the second most common boating law ticket issued - right behind expired boat registrations," Smalley said. "Not wearing a life jacket is the number one reason people die in boating accidents."

Adults, while not required to wear flotation devices on boats, are required to wear flotation devices on personal watercraft such as Jet Skis, Wave Runners, and Sea Doos.

NAVIGATION LIGHTS

Boats under power after sunset and before sunrise must be illuminated by red and green bow lights and a white stern light. Motorboats at anchor or drifting are required to be illuminated by the white stern light.

All lights should be operational and placed so they aren't blocked by passengers or equipment such as mounted trolling motors or canopies on pontoon boats.

"One common problem with many clamp-on flashlight-battery operated stern lights is that the mounting pole is too short," said Smalley. "The white stern light is legally required to be visible from 360 degrees around the boat and not be blocked by people, the motor, etc. If people can't see you at night, you may get hit."

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Many motorboats are required to carry a fire extinguisher that carries the seal of approval by the U.S. Coast Guard. "Unfortunately, many extinguisher cartons are poorly marked," said Smalley "You might have to open the box to check the extinguisher label itself."

"Take a few minutes to think about safety as you are preparing your boat and fishing equipment,"

HORN OR WHISTLE

Boats 16-feet or longer must carry a hand- or power-operated whistle or horn capable of producing a sound for at least two seconds that can be heard for at least one mile.

SPARE PARTS AND TOOLS

Although not a legal requirement, tools and spare parts like spark plugs and shear pins (if your motor uses them) are a good idea. **"And don't forget to put the drain plug in before you launch,"** Smalley warned.

CELL PHONE OR MARINE RADIO

Many areas of Minnesota have cell phone coverage. **If people have a cell phone they should bring it along in case of emergencies.**

NO ALCOHOL

Errors in judgment brought on by alcohol can cause trouble long before a person reaches the level of legal intoxication. "Also, it gets expensive if you are caught operating your boat under the influence," Smalley said. "Lawyer fees, fines, civil penalties and a conviction for boating while intoxicated goes on your auto driver's license and may also effect your insurance rates."

"With precautions for safety, boating can be safe and fun for fishing or just cruising the lake", Smalley said. "Just a few minutes of time and the proper precautions can make a big difference in preventing tragedies on the water."



**Lake Sarah Improvements Association
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