Issue 37
April, 2007

LAKE SARAH IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Mouth of Lake Sarah

TO ALL LAKE SARAH LAKESHORE OWNERS

THIS IS IMPORTANT TO YOU

Lake Sarah has been put on the impaired waters list for the state of Minnesota. I think most of you would agree it belongs there not just because of the clarity of the water but also because of the mass of exotic weeds on the top of the water each spring and early summer. (It's tough to sell your property that time of year.) We all know a clean clear lake is a much more beautiful place to live and play.

There has been a Lake Sarah Stakeholders Task Force that has been set up along with the auspices of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission. This task force is made up of people from the cities of Corcoran, Greenfield, Independence, Loretto and Medina and consists of members of these cities councils, horse association, Hennepin County offices, Three Rivers Park District, LSIA and other citizens of the watershed.

The Lake Sarah Stakeholders Task Force has been meeting since May 2004 and has been approved for a TMDL Study. That study is and has been underway since last year. We are now entering the next stage where it is imperative for your involvement. Following are the minutes from the last task force meeting. Please take the time to read and familiarize yourself with their contents. **The LSIA Spring Membership Meeting will be held on April 26, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Independence City Hall.** At this meeting John Barten, Water Resource Manager, will present 'What is a TMDL Study', the latest findings, what it means to you, and have a question/answer period. **The TMDL Study presentation starts at 7:30 p.m. following the LSIA Membership Meeting. Non-members are also welcome to attend this presentation.**

Lake Sarah TMDL Stakeholders Meeting

Minutes – Regular Meeting
February 28, 2007
Independence City Hall

Committee members present: Harold Burrows, John Barten, Jerry Horazuk, Marvin Johnson, Jerry Wise, Willard Vetsch, Mike Peterson, David Allen and Sylvia Walsh.
Absent: Jim Kujawa, Cheryl Wise, Tom Swanson, Mario Crespo, and Jane Maland/Dan Cady.
Others present: Lisa Whalen – PSCWMC Chair, Lance Gyllenblad – Independence City Council, Toni Hirsch – Independence City Administrator and residents Colleen/Randy Klaers, Carol/Heather Beaseeker, and Beth Kunkel.

Harold Burrows opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and handed out copies of a letter sent to the cities of Independence, Greenfield, Corcoran, Loretto, Minnetrista and Medina. This letter explained the purpose, history and goals of the task force and the actions necessary by the cities. Harold asked for any questions/comments. It was noted that Minnetrista is not in the Lake Sarah watershed. (The letter sent by chairperson Harold Burrows addressed to the cities of Independence, Greenfield, Corcoran, Loretto and Medina is on page 3.)

TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Presentation by John Barten, Water Resource Manager, Three Rivers Park District, covered a lot of ground. Some important points are:

- *Three Rivers is doing the test. The last significant test was done in 1991-92. Last year's monitoring was hindered by lack of rain. They will test throughout the summer in 2007.*
- *Phosphorous levels are well over 100 parts per million (micrograms per liter); Has to be reduced to 40 (our target is set at 36) - Minnesota State requirement.*

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- *Committee has to determine the following:*
  ***WHERE** the pollutants are coming from. I.e.: geese, livestock, yards, etc.*
  ***WHAT** management practices will be necessary to solve the problem.*
  ***WHO** will be responsible for implementing and paying for the Management Practices. Cities must decide how to allocate the reduction of pollutants and the costs. This is the real challenge, as it involves allocating costs to the people doing the polluting, the cities where the pollution is coming from, making sure the cities uphold Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans, going after funding from multiple sources, and educating residents in the watershed.*
- *Lake Independence is the first EPA approved TMDL plan for phosphorous in the state of MN.*
- *Phosphorous loading in Lake Independence is approximately 1,600 lbs. annually.*
- *Independence Lake allocated costs by poundage. Other alternatives include land mass, population, tax valuation, number of animal units and more.*
- *MS4 cities can use Storm Water Pollution Preventive Plan fees.*
- *Greenfield is the only city that is not presently a MS4 city.*
- *Costs to implement EPA approved TMDL program for Lake Independence is $1.5 million.*
- *Samples of other lakes recently corrected of similar problems. Cleary Lake, because of its shallowness, was drained. Lake Sarah (574 acres) is more similar to Lake Medicine (900 acres) and Weaver Lake (140 acres), which were treated. Lake Sarah, because of the Curly Leaf Pond Weed, would probably be treated with Aquathol Super K.*
- *Preliminary estimates for phosphorous loading in Lake Sarah are 7,000 lbs. annually, of which 853 lbs. are being generated internally.*
- *Preventing phosphorous from getting into the watershed is much less costly than trying to remove it. Cost to remove phosphorous is approximately $500 per pound.*
- *Curly leaf needs to be treated when the water temperature is 55F; dies off by July 4th.*
- *Can only treat 15% of growth area w/o DNR permitting process.*

PERMITTING PROCESS FOR LAKE WIDE TREATMENT

- *Get a permit issued by the DNR*
  - *This would be for spraying exotic species (Curly leaf and Eurasian milfoil) in the littoral waters. (15 feet or less in depth)*
  - *Need signed permission from each landowner bordering Lake Sarah.*
  - *No other spraying could be done by landowners. This will likely be for 3-years in a row.*
- *Submit an AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN*
  - *How we plan to replace exotic species with Native species. It's important to emphasize that Lake Sarah will always have weeds; it needs vegetation to remain healthy. Goal is to kill off the Curly Leaf and Milfoil and replace them with Native species that are none threatening to recreational activities and are much more conducive to fresh water game fish.*
  - *How we plan to protect the Native species .*

Some of you are probably saying, "Well what about the water level?' That issue will be reopened after the EPA is satisfied with their mandates being met. As you can see, there is a lot to do before we clean up our lake. It only gets easier the more people get involved. I know some people might be leery of signing off on treating the lake. That's again why **it is important to show up at 7:30PM on Thursday, April 26, 2007 at the Independence City Hall for the TMDL Presentation by John Barten**. We need this education.

Remember, it's your lake.

Thanks for reading this,

Jerry Wise, President
Lake Sarah Improvement Association

Letter to the Cities of Independence, Greenfield, Corcoran, Loretto and Medina

from Harold Burrows, Chair, Lake Sarah TMDL Task Force Committee

February 14, 2007

City of Greenfield
7738 Commerce Circle
Greenfield MN 55373

Dear Mayor Jill Krout and Council Members: Loren Harff, Leonard Jankowski, Mark Lee and Sylvia Walsh

To: The Mayor and City Council members of Corcoran, Greenfield, Independence, Loretto, Minnetrista and Medina.

Purpose: To introduce the Lake Sarah TMDL Task Force Committee and explain its purpose.

History and Goals: In April of 2004 the Lake Sarah Improvement Association established a Clean Water Committee to investigate the best approach to control the amount of phosphorus in the lake. The Clean Water Committee then teamed up with the Three Rivers Park District and the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission to begin completion of a TMDL for Lake Sarah. The committee was designated by the Watershed Commission as the Lake Sarah TMDL Task Force Committee.

The goals of the committee are two fold; to reduce the amount of phosphorus coming into the lake from the watershed, and to reduce the phosphorus being recycled in the lake.

The task currently underway is the monitoring by Three River Park District of phosphorus coming into the lake. Preliminary data indicates that the current in-lake total phosphorus concentration exceeds 109 micrograms per liter. The state required mandate is no more than 40 micrograms per liter, or a 63% reduction. The current level in Lake Sarah is between 2 or 3 times the level present in Lake Independence.

To achieve corrective action, we will require significant effort and cooperation from:

1. The Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed Commission.
2. The cities of Corcoran, Greenfield, Independence, Loretto and Medina.
3. All the residents of the Lake Sarah Watershed, including shore and non shore residents.
4. The technical assistance of the Three Rivers Parks District.

Specific actions will need to be taken to mitigate contributing factors which are causing the current "impaired water status." Actions would include such things as:

1. Identifying and correcting malfunctioning septic or sewer systems in the watershed.
2. Help livestock and large animal owners to identify and implement best management practices to assure that nutrient runoff is not adding phosphorus to Lake Sarah's watershed.
3. Identify erosion sites in the watershed. Encourage implementation of:
    a. Buffer strips along streams and shore land where needed.
    b. Cities sweeping streets as needed to prevent direct runoff into the lake.
    c. Cities requiring rain gardens or landscaping to prevent run off from all new construction.
    d. Work with cities to educate homeowners about best management practices for lawn and property.
4. Create and implement a goose control management plan.
5. To review and determine ways to help eliminate the current erosion from crop fields and shoreline alike.
6. To ensure that residents are following the no phosphate mandate for the maintenance of their lawns and other best management priorities.

Our desire is to develop group cooperation whereby all parties are willing to take the necessary actions to correct the current "impaired water body status" of Lake Sarah.

Our next meeting is on Feb 28th at Independence City Hall at 6:30 P. M.

We would like at least one representative from each of the cities. We also would like to know who your contact person would be. Please call me at 763-479-1900, or email me at hbrbsarah@aol.com.

Yours truly,
Harold Burrows, Chair

Walleye Enthusiast

Joe Slavec

It is that time of year again – think eggs, think fish, think walleye fry.

The date to purchase and release walleye fry into area lakes is May 5th – May 15th. This is when Goeden Fisheries (last year's supplier of 90,000 walleye fry) has recommended releasing the walleye fry into the lake.

Last year we rounded up about $900 dollars to purchase fry. It is still too early to tell the result but there have been scattered reports of small walleye caught in the lake.

Doug Lawmen reported that a friend of his caught two six inch walleye off of his point last fall while panfishing. Two ice fisherman reported catching several small walleye to a local conservation officer. A separate report of catching a small walleye came from a fisherman near the landing. In addition to these reports, Dave Allen and I released a large number of fingerlings (4" – 8") from a nearby pond we stocked and netted last fall.

What does this mean? We are having walleye success in our lake! It will take several years until we catch the size of fish we are hoping for - we need to be vigilant about continued stocking in the lake for several years until we can establish a population. If we have the type of success we are hoping for, the DNR will assist at some point. Look as far as Red Lake for evidence of this. Incidentally, Red Lake was stocked entirely by walleye fry and not fingerling.

What is needed? At this point, we need your tax-deductible contribution of $50 or more. The money is going entirely to the purchase and release of fry in Lake Sarah. Please indicate if you are interested in taking part in the release of these fry. Joe Slavec can be contacted at mplsga-rage@yahoo.com.

This year the goal is $1250 which will allow us to release about 150,000 fry. Please consider being a part of this landmark opportunity!

Let's Get The Lead Out!

Brad Spencer

When lead fishing sinkers are lost through broken line or other means, birds can inadvertently eat them. Water birds like loons and swans often swallow lead when they scoop up pebbles from the bottom of a lake or river to help grind their food. Eagles ingest lead by eating fish which have themselves swallowed sinkers.

A bird with lead poisoning will have physical and behavioral changes, including loss of balance, gasping, tremors, and impaired ability to fly. The weakened bird is more vulnerable to predators, or it may have trouble feeding, mating, nesting, and caring for its young. It becomes emaciated and often dies within two to three weeks after eating the lead.

Between 1980 and 1996, the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota reported lead poisoning in 138 of 650 eagles they treated. Since 1996, 43 additional eagles were treated for lead poisoning including 22 last year. Most of the time, the source of the lead cannot be detected as the birds have cast the material out of their systems. Because lead shot was banned in waterfowl production areas in the early 1990s, bullet fragments in big game carcasses, lead shot lodged in upland game and lead fishing tackle are considered possible sources of lead poisoning of eagles.

...a 15-year study examined 186 dead loons and revealed that lead poisoning, primarily from lead jigs. was the number one cause of death...

In Michigan, a 15-year study examined 186 dead loons and revealed that lead poisoning, primarily from lead jigs, was the number one cause of death at 24% (44/186) of overall mortality. Limited research in Minnesota has also documented lead poisoning of loons. A study conducted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency concluded that lead poisoning accounted for 12 percent of the dead adult loons with known causes of death.

There are alternatives to traditional lead tackle. Anglers can now use sinkers and jigs made from non-poisonous materials such as tin, bismuth, steel, and tungsten-nickel alloy and they can find them at established sporting goods retailers and on the Internet.

A great way to help is teaching good stewardship to young anglers. Outfit kids' tackle boxes with non-lead weights. They are nontoxic and safer for youngsters to handle. Plus, inexperienced anglers tend to lose the most sinkers, so you'll be cutting down on the amount of lead getting left behind in Minnesota lakes and rivers.

More information and non-lead tackle samples will be available at the LSIA Spring Membership meeting on April 26th. This article was prepared using information contained in a public document produced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The non-lead tackle samples and information to be provided at the LSIA Spring Membership meeting are courtesy of the MPCAs ***"Get the Lead Out"*** program.

Safety & Navigation

Mike Peterson

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

Do you have a throwable device on board your boat? Laws on Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) have changed in the past few years. So have laws on operator age and the hours you're allowed to water ski and operate Personal Water Craft. A summary of current laws is listed below. You can also go on-line to review the complete 2007 MN Boating Guide (http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf).

All boats, regardless of length (including canoes, kayaks and duck boats) must have a readily accessible U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V wearable life jacket for each person on board.

TYPE I 

TYPE II 

In addition, on boats 16 feet or longer (except canoes and kayaks), there must be at least one throwable device, such as a buoyant cushion, ring buoy or horseshoe buoy.

- PFD must be the appropriate size.
- PFD must be readily accessible — not in plastic bags or under anchors.
- PFD must be U.S. Coast Guard approved.
- Anyone operating or riding a personal watercraft must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved type I, II, III or V PFD.
- Children less than 10 years old must wear a PFD on any watercraft while underway. Underway means not attached to a permanent mooring, dock or anchored.

A personal request: Please don't let any person (or your pet) sit on the front of your pontoon boat when it's underway, especially if their feet are hanging over the side. It only takes a small wave to pull you off the boat or knock you overboard, and then it only takes a split second before you reach the propeller.

Fire Extinguishers

- Must be U.S. Coast Guard approved.
- Must be fully charged.

Navigation Lights

- Must be on from sunset to sunrise.
- Non-motorized watercraft, whether underway or at anchor, must have a white lantern or flashlight.
- Motorized boats must have a red and green bow light and a white stern light.
- When at anchor the white stern light must be on.

Age of Operators

- Operators less than 12 years old can operate a boat with 25 HP or less with no restrictions.
- Operators less than 12 years old must have someone at least 21 on board to operate a boat with 25 to 75 HP.
- Operators less than 12 years old cannot operate a boat with over 75 HP, even with an adult on board.
- Operators 12-17 years old must have either a watercraft operator's permit or someone on board that's at least 21 to operate a boat with over 25 HP.

Towing people on water skis and other devices

- You must have a mirror or someone in the boat watching the person(s) being towed.
- Water skiing and similar acts are prohibited from one hour after sunset to sunrise.

Personal Water Craft

- Operation is allowed only from 9:30 AM to 1 hour before sunset.
- If you tow someone with a PWC there must be an additional person on board the PWC to act as an observer. They do not have to face backward.
- If you have factory-installed mirrors on the PWC you do not need an observer.
- You cannot operate a PWC if you're less than 13 years old.
- If you're 13 years old you must have someone at least 21 on board (or have an operator's permit and be in visual supervision by someone that's at least 21.
- 14 to 17 years of age must either have a watercraft operator's permit or someone at least 21 on board.

Be safe, watch your wake, turn on your lights, don't get too close to other boaters, put on sun screen, respect your neighbors, and have a FANTASTIC SUMMER!

Natural Shorelines

Necessary rainwater filters and valuable habitat

Converting a natural shoreline with native vegetation to a developed, "lawn-to-lake" style of shoreline has adverse impacts on water quality. A lawn-to-lake style destroys annual and perennial ground cover for small animals. With ground cover gone, amphibians lose shelter and songbirds lose habitat. Most importantly, nutrient runoff to the lake or river increases dramatically.

...the lawn-to-lake shoreline allows seven times to nine times more phosphorus to enter the lake than a more natural, native-vegetated shoreline...

Hydrologists and chemists have also found interesting differences between the lawn-to-lake style of shoreline and a natural, native-vegetated shoreline. In residential areas, the largest source of phosphorus is runoff from lawns and impervious surfaces. Rainwater runoff amounts from lawn-to-lake shoreline are five times to ten times higher than forested shorelines. Runoff from lawns occurs more often than previously thought with a high percentage of storms resulting in runoff. Lawns and urban soils are often very compacted; as the soil becomes more compacted, rainwater runoff increases. Lawns often constitute the largest fraction of land area within residentially developed shoreland, and they often have similarities with impervious surfaces. Water flowing over lawn surfaces then picks up dirt, pesticides, toxic chemicals, pet waste, and other pollutants.

Affecting lake water quality, the lawn-to-lake shoreline allows seven times to nine times more phosphorus to enter the lake than a more natural, native-vegetated shoreline. Phosphorus is a plant nutrient, and Minnesota soils are usually phosphorus rich. Increasing the amount entering the lake causes more algae growth, resulting in lower water clarity (0.2 pound of phosphorus can produce 100 pounds of algae). For many lots, the phosphorus yield to the lake resulting from the alteration of the natural near shore vegetation may exceed the phosphorus yield from all other sources. Excess nitrogen will also be transported to lakes from these land uses. Nitrogen will enter attached to soil particles as organic matter or dissolved in the form of nitrite, nitrate or ammonia–forms that are readily usable by algae and rooted plants.

Shoreline buffers are corridors of natural vegetation along rivers, streams, and lakes that help to protect water quality by providing a transition between upland development and adjoining public water. A shoreline buffer of natural vegetation traps, filters, and impedes runoff. Buffers stabilize banks of lakes and rivers, offer scenic screening of shoreland development, reduce erosion, control sedimentation, and provide habitat for shoreline species.

Biologists have found that trees, shrubs, and the forest understory near the shore have declined over time on

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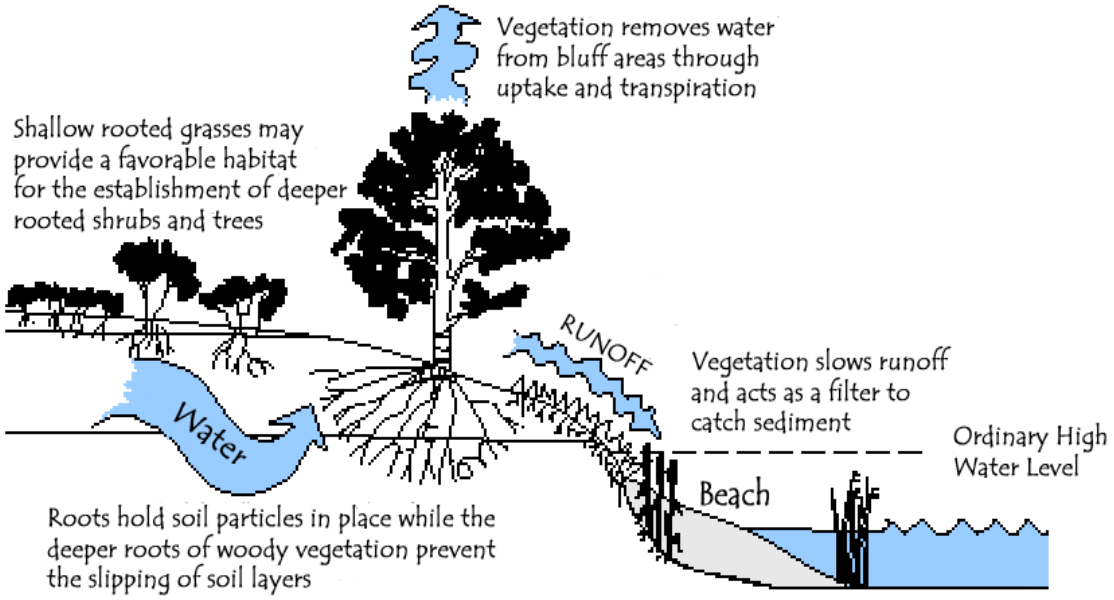

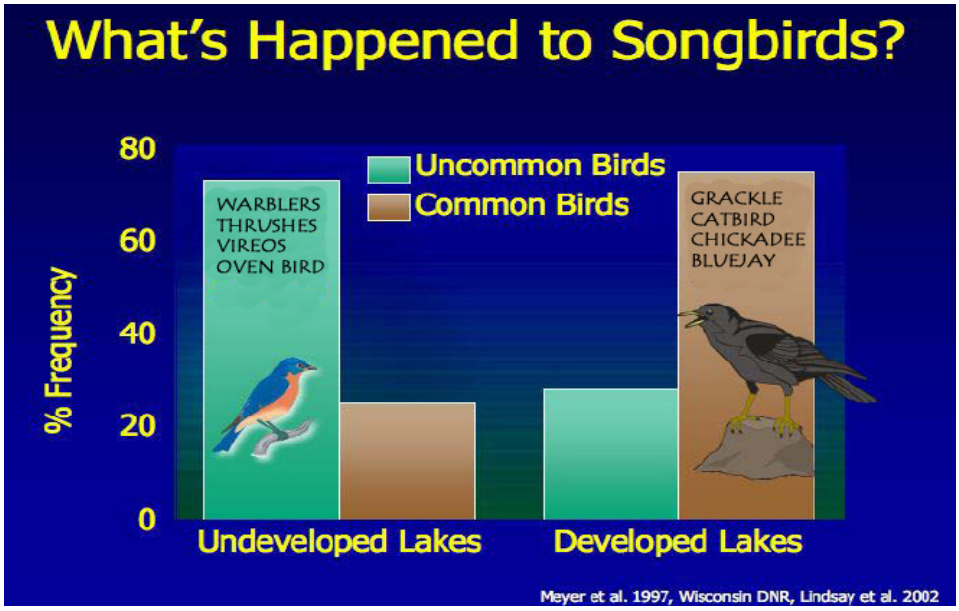

owners who develop a lawn-to-lake shoreline fragment the near shore habitat. Fragmented habitat forces frogs and other amphibians to spend extra time and energy seeking access to nesting, basking, and feeding sites. Extensive alteration, such as is now found on many Minnesota lakes, causes these animal species to become isolated or wiped out. Over time, the removal and alteration of the natural, near shore vegetation has destroyed or degraded habitat along most of Minnesota lakes, with increasing impacts on wildlife populations.

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developed shoreline. This change in lakeshore habitat leads to changes in bird communities.

Common suburban-style birds like chickadees, cowbirds, blue jays, and grackles replace the uncommon bird "species of special concern" like warblers, loons, and vireos along developed shores. Bald eagles will nest on developed, altered shores but most nest in areas of less alteration and disturbance; thus, they have to spend significantly more time and energy feeding. Since loons are shoreline nesters that can be sensitive to human disturbance, it has been shown that the probability of loons on the lake decreases with increasing housing density. Loons are unlikely to nest on a groomed and manicured beach. They prefer to nest near shore on vegetated hummocks, small islands, or masses of emergent vegetation. Therefore, excessive alteration of near shore vegetation has affected loons and the structure of native bird communities.

Green frogs, which are often common along shores, disappear where development exceeds 30 homes per mile or where the average lot width is 180 feet (see graphic at right). The density of homes is not the causal mechanism, but the direct alteration of riparian areas associated with shoreline development is. Male green frogs establish breeding territories within 2 feet of the lake's edge, and disturbance to the shoreline vegetation eliminates their habitat. It is these critical areas that are often altered or destroyed. Lake home

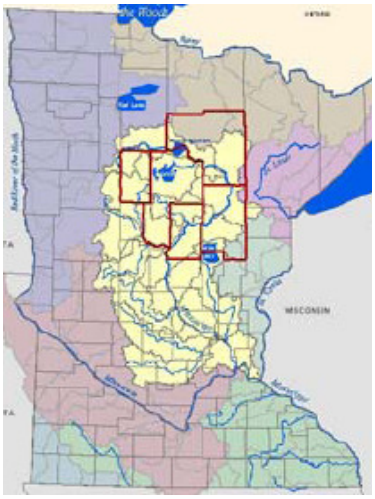
A lawn down to the lake's edge is bad. It diminishes fish and wildlife, reduces water quality, and degrades the scenic quality of the lake. The alternative shoreland management standards ask lake home owners to preserve or establish a native forest buffer along the lake.

In a recent survey, 85 percent cite development as a cause of decline in scenic quality. But, development does not have to harm scenic quality. All of us, personally and as a community, can protect our lakes and shorelines, through individual acts and through shoreland development standards and ordinances that regulate development around our lakes.

Alternative Shoreland Management Standards

Voluntary tools for local governments to protect water quality

The effort to develop Alternative Shoreland Management Standards began as part of Governor Tim Pawlenty's Clean Water Initiative pilot project in the north-central lakes area (Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, and Itasca counties). The initiative was divided into three phases. In 2004, Phase I identified key issues through 12 public input meetings. Phase 2 in 2005 was devoted to developing an alternative set of shoreland management standards through the work of the 34-member Shoreland Advisory Committee. This phase was completed on December 12, 2005. The advisory committee reached general agreement on the issues originally identified and developed a set of alternative standards that address them. Phase 3 is devoted to providing information and assistance to interested local governments on the alternative shoreland standards.



The shoreland standards developed by the Shoreland Advisory Committee are not new shoreland rules; they are alternative standards, which local governments may consider including in their existing shoreland ordinances. For example, if a county chooses to adopt all or parts of these alternative standards, it is still required to conduct a public review and comment period for any proposed ordinance changes.

These standards focus on new development and construction along lakefront property. The alternative standards provide additional tools for local governments to address increasing growth and development that can negatively affect water quality and habitat. The Shoreland Advisory Committee believes development is possible without jeopardizing natural resources, including lakes. The alternative standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Advanced subdivision controls, including promotion of conservation subdivisions over conventional (lot and block) subdivisions.
- Multiple shoreland lake classifications on a single lake; for example, a natural environment bay of a general development lake.
- Sensitive area districts for lakeshore segments where development standards follow natural environment lake class standards.
- New special protection lake classification for lakes where there is considerable wetland fringe, shallow depth, and/or unique fish and wildlife habitat or endangered species.
- Improved planned unit development (PUD) standards, including residential densities for all PUDs, increased setbacks, clustered or grouped docking, and no density bonuses.
- Special resort standards that allow for expansion and improvements while addressing water quality concerns with provisions for shoreland revegetation and compliance with storm water and wastewater treatment standards. (If converted to a residential development, the resort must then meet residential standards.)
- Better water quality standards achieved by improved management of storm water runoff, increased drainfield setbacks, and higher shoreline vegetation standards.
- Larger lot sizes for new lots on general development lakes, and no lot size bonuses for sewered areas in any classification.
- Back lot access to water for nonriparian lots not allowed.

The voluntary alternative standards are "tools in the toolbox" that local governments may choose to adopt to deal with issues identified through the pilot project. For more information on the alternative shoreland management standards, see the following DNR website:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/shoreland/shoreland_rules_update.html.

Existing Residential Properties and the Alternative Shoreland Standards

How would adoption of these standards by my local government affect me and my lake home property?

The Alternative Shoreland Management Standards focus on ***new*** subdivisions, development, construction, or reconstruction on the shoreland. Owners of existing residential property who wish to renovate their lake homes or alter their shorelines may or may not be affected by these standards.

In summary, the common issues include the following:

• Lots created compliant with official controls that meet or exceed existing state rules will continue to remain conforming. The new lot dimension prerequisites of the alternative standards would not apply to any existing, conforming lake home property.

• These standards allow greater flexibility for some construction projects. For example, if you have a large lot that meets specific lot size and suitability standards, it may be possible to construct a 1200 square-foot guest cottage instead of a 700-squarefoot structure.

• Where local governments allow new water-oriented accessory structures (e.g., storage shed), these standards have specific size limitations and a requirement that they be located in the center one-third of the property. New boat houses are also prohibited.

• These standards ask that lake home owners preserve or establish a native forest buffer along the lake to protect water quality. Stairways, landings, access paths, view corridors, and recreational use areas are allowed. The near shore area would need to be brought into compliance through restoration with issuance of any variance or permit.

• These standards prohibit the filling of any wetlands between the required structure setback and the lake or river.

• To be consistent with other DNR policy, the standards ask that natural rock riprap only be used for correction of an established erosion problem that cannot be controlled with vegetation or other best management practices. It also asks that retaining walls not be used for ornament or for terracing natural slopes in near shore areas.

• Large reconstruction projects and highly affected properties would need greater attention to erosion control and storm water management.

• For new septic system installations, greater setbacks are proposed for general development and recreational development lakes.

The voluntary alternative standards are "tools in the toolbox" that local governments may choose to adopt to deal with issues identified through the pilot project. For more information on the alternative shoreland management standards, see the following DNR website: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/shoreland/shoreland_rules_update.html.

Membership Report

Brad Spencer

As of 3/30/07, we've received **123 paid memberships**. For those of you who have not yet done so, please send in your dues ASAP!

Payment of your $35 annual dues must be received by April 26th (Spring Membership meeting) to remain a member in good standing, vote on association matters, receive the 2007 lake directory, and to be eligible for the Veolia/Onyx discounted residential trash program! We are easily on track to match last year's record membership of 155 members. Tax deductible donations included with 2007 dues payments are $167.50 directed to the general fund and $442.50 specified to the Walleye fund .

Welcome to our new lake neighbors!

Jeff & Kathy Carlson - 4716 S. Lake Sarah Dr. (formerly Gleason's)
Aaron & Ann Neubert-6230 Lake Sarah Heights Dr. (formerly Steeber's)
Mike & Colleen Malone -4708 S. Lake Sarah Dr. (formerly Englund's)
Cindy Wenell - 4574 Shady Beach Circle (new construction)
Suzette Rothberg - 4508 Shady Beach Circle (new construction)

My apologies to anyone I may have missed. If you know of any other new lake neighbors please me an email to b.spencer@lakesarah.com so I can update the lake directory and newsletter mailing lists.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us

KEEP IT NATURAL - RESTORE YOUR SHORE

Preserving or installing a shoreline landscape that is rich in native species allows water to soak in rather than run off. Plants absorb nutrients that would otherwise end up in the lake, causing algae blooms and excessive growth in aquatic vegetation. Vegetative buffers along shorelines also trap sediments that fill in wetlands and lakes. As an added benefit, natural shoreline erosion controls are more consistent with an "up-north" look than unnatural shoreline erosion treatments such as rip-rap.

KNOW YOUR LAKE RULES

Shoreline areas provide important habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and fish and are crucial for maintaining healthy populations of the native species that Minnesotans cherish. It is unlawful in Minnesota to knowingly alter shoreline, fish habitat or aquatic vegetation without a permit from the Minnesota DNR. Upland permits are often required by the county or city - check local ordinances. It is also important to be informed about all the rules that govern lake use - from boat and water safety, to installing permanent and floating docks, to hunting and fishing regulations.

APPRECIATE AQUATIC PLANTS

Those aquatic "weeds" everyone seems to be trying to get rid of are actually a critical life support system for our lakes. With their amazing filtering abilities, native aquatic plants such as cattails and bulrush are natural water purifiers -- taking up nutrients and allowing sunlight to penetrate into the lake and create the base of the food chain. The rooted aquatic vegetation is also a veritable fish nursery, which provides critical refuge habitat for young fish. Do your part by minimizing the removal of aquatic vegetation along your shoreline.

REDUCE YOUR LAWN

The fertilizers and clippings from traditional suburbanized lawns contribute to poor water quality in our lakes. Install a native landscape and mow less. Once established, natural landscapes are less expensive and easier to maintain than traditional lawns. If lawn is desired, use only phosphorus-free fertilizers and maintain a lawn that is at least 30 feet from the lake. Keep native trees and vegetation, with their extensive root systems, as they will help stabilize the landscape, aid in groundwater recharge and reduce runoff.

MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

A well-maintained septic system saves money, headaches and the environment. To keep your septic system in good working order: 1) pump at least every three years (more if you use a garbage disposal); 2) conserve water; 3) properly dispose of harmful paints and household chemicals; 4) fix leaky faucets; and 5) consider service agreements with regular maintenance.

REDUCE ROOFS AND ROADS

Roofs, sidewalks, paved driveways and roads all increase the amount of water that runs off into our lakes - carrying with it fertilizers, household cleaners, paints, solvents, pesticides and motor oil. Decrease the amount of hard surfaces on your property to allow water to soak into the landscape and keep pollutants out of lakes. Consider installing a rain garden or use newer, more pervious materials or pavers for sidewalks, driveways and patios.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF ANIMAL WASTE

Controlling pet and livestock waste not only makes you a courteous neighbor, it also improves the quality of our waters. Pet and livestock waste can travel into our waters more easily than human-produced wastes, because they are not subject to the same wastewater treatment that human wastes are. Dispose of such wastes far from the water's edge to help ensure that bacteria, phosphorus and nitrogen from these wastes don't end up in our lakes.

BE CONSIDERATE OF ALL LAKE USERS

Lakeshore owners and users value Minnesota lakes in many different ways. Consider some of the many different ways we use our lakes: jet skiing, boating, tubing, water-skiing, fishing, hunting, wildlife watching and swimming. Part of being a good lake steward and neighbor is being considerate of everyone's values. Follow local watercraft rules and noise ordinances to help ensure a positive experience for everyone who uses Minnesota's lakes for recreation.

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SUPPORT LAND CONSERVATION

The donation or purchase of conservation easements is one of the most cost-effective ways to protect sensitive shorelines from development. Lakeshore owners can help in these efforts by keeping a watchful eye out for upcoming land sales or transfers; and encouraging donations to conservation easement programs, projects, or land trusts.

SHOW UP -- SPEAK UP -- WRITE A CHECK

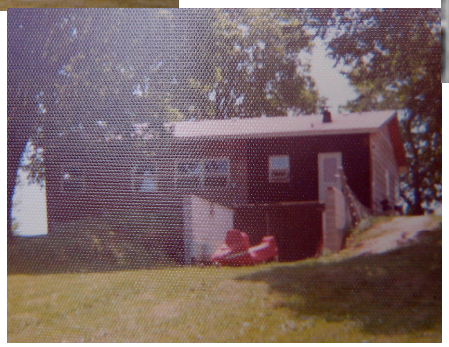
Decisions are made by those who show up and speak up. Join your lake association. Give money, time, input and feedback to support organizations working to protect Minnesota's lakes for future generations. Share your knowledge with your neighbors and with those elected and appointed officials who represent you. Be vigilant.

Old Postcards Can Offer A Rare Glimpse Of Our Past!

Brad Spencer

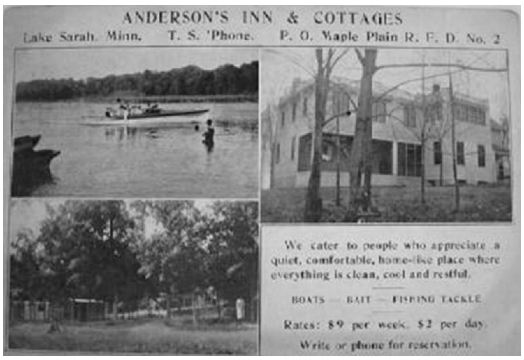
Most of us have seen this often circulated old advertising post card of the famous Shady Beach Inn (aka Anderson's Inn) dated around 1926. Note the old Ford in the driveway on the left edge of the photo.

The pictures below show the greatly reduced structure in the 70's which had been by then converted to a single family residence. The two photos show the street view (left image) and the lake side of the building (right) after it was purchased from the Erickson family by Darrell & Roberta Schultz in 1972. (The Ericksons bought the house from Dorothy Makowski.)



Note the building is missing the second floor and you can see the footings on the lake side for an expansion. The garage was added a few years later.

After months of looking for pictures I stumbled across the postcard below which shows the only view I've encountered of the east facing (lake side) of the Anderson's Inn from the period prior to the Great Depression.



By enlarging the portion of the image on the cards right side we now know what the lake facing of the old Inn was like in the 1920s. Admittedly, not at all what I had expected!

Thank you to Darrell and Roberta Schultz for sharing some of their photos and stories with me! If anyone has old postcards, photos, or stories from Lake Sarah's resort and dance hall heydays that they would be willing to share, please contact Brad Spencer 763.479.3525 or email b.spencer@lakesarah.com.

Lake Sarah Improvements Association
P.O. Box 25, Loretto, MN 55357-0025

Place label here

LSIA Board Elections —April 26th, 2007

LSIA is always looking for members who are interested in serving on the Lake Association Board as a director or officer. Any member interested in being considered for an open board position should contact a Nominating Committee member.

Each position is a two year term. Our continued success depends on people willing to participate in a large variety of capacities.

LSIA Board positions up for election at the Spring Membership meeting include:

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- 3 Directorships

The LSIA Spring Membership Meeting is at 7 pm on Thursday, April 26th at Independence Hall off County Road 90.

2007 LSIA Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming 2007 LSIA events!

Thursday, April 26	**Spring Membership Meeting and Elections - 7:00 p.m.**
	TMDL Study Presentation, John Barten - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 4	Boat Parade & Decorating Contest
Sunday, July 22	Membership Picnic & Summer Membership Mtg
Thursday, October 25	Fall Membership Meeting