



## ***Letter from the LSIA Board President***

**Dear LSIA members and non-members:**

As the new LSIA President, and on behalf of our energetic and very capable LSIA board members, we look forward to furthering our Association's mission and objectives - most notably - to promote a normal water level and to improve Lake Sarah's water quality for maximum enjoyment of this great shared resource.



Lake Sarah is one of the most impaired waters in the state with regard to excess nutrient loading (primarily phosphorus). In fact, our peak phosphorus levels have been measured as high as 3.5 times the level which the DNR set to define an impaired lake. Our phosphorus comes from both external loading (watershed runoff) and internal loading due mainly to an abundance of curly-leaf pondweed.

As a result, our lake experiences nuisance algae blooms in the summer, severely restricting recreational use, and making it difficult to sell a home at a reasonable area lakeshore home market price.

All area residents recognize Lake Sarah's water quality as a primary concern. However, thanks to the past efforts of the LSIA and the Lake Sarah Stakeholders Committee (LSSC), we are soon to have the TMDL study approved by the MPCA. The upcoming fall LSIA membership meeting on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> will primarily focus on summarizing the TMDL study. The spring membership meeting will primarily focus on summarizing the Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP), which along with the TMDL, will allow us to begin addressing and solving our lake water quality situation.

More than ever before, NOW IS THE TIME to renew, or become a member of LSIA. If you truly care about improving Lake Sarah's water quality, improving your lake fishing and/or recreational experience, and ultimately improving your lake area property values, then please become a member of the LSIA today. At just \$35 per year, "it pays to be a member" as our leveraged group discounts for garbage and water softener salt savings alone are greater than the \$35 membership fee. Moreover, for us to be successful in improving Lake Sarah's water quality, we will need to demonstrate to the DNR, the watershed district, and to other agencies and municipalities that we are well educated of the issues and demonstrate clear consensus in our efforts as an association toward a great cause. In unity there is strength!

**Sincerely,  
Joe Baker  
LSIA Board President**

## ***Meet the Newest LSIA Board Members***

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### **Carol Beasecker**

Carol and her daughter, Heather, live at 6255 North Shore Drive. Carol is retired and has a real concern for the lake and it's future. She has lived on Lake Sarah for over 35 years and can remember when you could see to the bottom of the lake. Her hope is to bring some of that clarity back to Lake Sarah.

### **Donna Sheeley**

Donna and her husband Rob have lived on Lake Sarah at 4724 South Lake Sarah Drive for eleven years. She enjoys gardening, making crafts, traveling and spending time with her two wonderful grandsons. Donna now holds LSIA's secretary position.



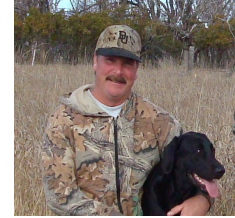
### **Roger Van Beusekum**



Roger and his wife Mary have lived at 5575 Lake Sarah Heights Drive since 1995. He retired from Norstan Inc. in 2005 and now enjoys hunting, fishing, golf and travel on any day of the week. He is also very interested in doing what ever he can to improve the quality of Lake Sarah. Roger is now LSIA's treasurer.

### **Scott Walsh**

Scott and his wife Sylvia have lived on Lake Sarah at 6395 North Shore Drive since 1992. Scott was born in Minneapolis and is graduate of Wayzata High School. Scott enjoys playing and watching sports, hunting and fishing.



## ***LSIA 2010-2011 Board Members***

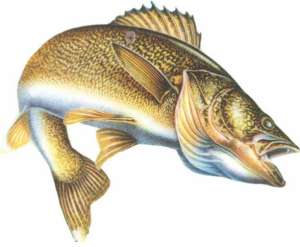
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<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Committee</u>
Joe Baker	President	
Ann Slavec	Vice President	
Roger Van Beusekum	Treasurer	
Donna Sheeley	Secretary	
Carol Beasecker	Director	Membership & other projects
Mark Holton	Director	Water quality & level, and weed control
Mel Knapton	Director	Water quality & level, and weed control
Victoria Marley	Director	Newsletter
Joe Slavec	Director	DNR liaison and conservation
Sonja Tilbury	Director	Membership and membership directory
Scott Walsh	Director	Water quality & level

## ***Walleye Update***

By Joe Slavec

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This October Lake Sarah will once again be stocked with 1,000 walleye fingerlings. The cost to do so is \$1,000, which will allow Lake Sarah to be stocked again next year. Previously stocked walleye are doing well and are now estimated to be 14-16 inches long - almost eating size! The last reported caught walleye was 13 inches long. I myself caught eight walleye this year and have seen they are looking very healthy!

We are soliciting funds from interested parties again to help the cause, and can always use a small donation from those with interest. As a reminder, the presence of walleye in our lake helps everyone's property value in addition to their recreation.

## ***New LSIA Membership Benefit***

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LSIA is excited to announce another benefit to membership! LSIA has leveraged the opportunity to provide water softener salt for members from Finken Water, Inc. at a discounted rate. The more members who participate in the program, the better the per bag discount will be. Pricing rates for a 40# bag of salt based on the number of participating members will be as follows:

- \$5.95 plus tax per bag for fewer than 20 members participating
- \$4.95 plus tax per bag for 20+ members participating
- \$4.15 plus tax per bag for 50+ members participating



All pricing for delivery of salt includes delivery, salt brought into the house, and dumped into the salt tank. This is C.O.D pricing with a five bag minimum delivery. Finken's will coordinate with members to schedule the deliveries far enough apart to meet this minimum. If anyone would like to have 30 day terms it is:

- \$5.95 plus tax per 40# bag for fewer than 50 members
- \$5.15 plus tax per 40# bag for 50+ members

If you are interested in taking advantage of this new benefit, please contact Sonja Tilbury at [sit-jat@aol.com](mailto:sit-jat@aol.com). Once the number of members participating in the program is established, program participation and pricing will be confirmed.

# ***LSIA Membership Renewal & Trash Discount Program***

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LSIA is pleased to announce the continuation of the trash program with Randy's environmental services at a 5% increase. So what does this mean to you?

1. If you are currently an LSIA member and participating in the trash program, you are automatically enrolled when you submit your 2011 LSIA membership dues by December 31, 2010. You do not have to fill out the Trash Program form.
2. If you are currently an LSIA member and you do not use Randy's, you can fill out the Randy's enrollment form and send it in with your 2011 LSIA membership dues by December 31, 2010. Then you too will start receiving the reduced cost benefit LSIA members receive.
3. If you are not an LSIA member and would like to start receiving this benefit, simply fill out the membership and trash form and submit it with your \$35.00 tax deductible annual dues by December 31, 2010 to start receiving LSIA membership pricing on garbage service. This alone could very well save you more than your membership dues!

**Your annual membership fee is used to:**

- Support water quality improvements and weed control programs.
- Coordinate and organize the 4<sup>th</sup> of July boat parade/decorating contest.
- Host the annual summer picnic.
- Promote a normal water level.
- Remove and/or mark menaces to navigation.
- Promote safe and proper utilization of the lake.
- Promote the vitality of the fishery.
- Coordinate three yearly membership meetings.
- Provide member-only benefits for services and to local merchants.
- Publish three newsletters and the membership directory each year.

<b>Container Size</b>	<b>2011 LSIA Member Rates*</b>	<b>Estimated Annual LSIA Member Savings</b>
<b>35 Gallon</b>	<b>\$9.87</b>	<b>\$12.96</b>
<b>65 Gallon</b>	<b>\$10.29</b>	<b>\$31.92</b>
<b>95 Gallon</b>	<b>\$10.66</b>	<b>\$51.48</b>

*\*The above rates are base monthly fees and do not include the Hennepin County Surcharge, the MN Solid Waste Tax and the Fuel Surcharge Fee (a fluctuating fee that is currently 17.501%).*

- You are pre-billed quarterly. For your convenience you can set up an automatic credit card or bank payment with Randy's, or you can pay on line by credit card.
- The fee for walk-up service is an additional \$5.00 per month not including taxes and fees. Randy's also offers other optional services. For more information you can contact Randy's at 763-972-3335 or go on-line at their web site [www.randyssanitation.com](http://www.randyssanitation.com).

## 2011 LSIA Membership Form

Last Name:		Phone:
First Name:	Cell:	Work:
Email Address:		
Spouse's Last Name:		Phone:
Spouse's First Name:	Cell:	Work:
Spouse's Email Address:		
Lake Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Mailing Address (if different):		
City:	State:	Zip:
Winter Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Approx Leave Date:		Approx Return Date:
I am interested in receiving the LSIA newsletter via email <input type="checkbox"/>		
Enclosed is my 2011 LSIA Membership Fee		\$35.00
Additional tax deductible donation for: Water Quality Fund		
Walleye Fund		
Other :		
<i>Make Checks Payable to LSIA - Total Remitted</i>		
Year you first joined LSIA (If you don't know, guess):		
I am interested in serving on the LSIA Board		Name:
I am interested in volunteering for LSIA Projects		Name:

## 2011 Environmental Services Trash Program Enrollment

Are you a current Randy's customer? (Circle) Yes No		
Service Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Billing Address (if different from above):		
City:	State:	Zip:
Service Size: (Circle) 38 gallon 65 gallon 95 gallon		
Walk-up Service is an additional 5.00 plus taxes per month (Circle) Yes No		

Mail By Dec 31, 2010 to: LSIA, P.O. Box 25, Loretto, MN 55357-0025

# ***LSIA Fall Membership Meeting October 28***

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Please join us for the LSIA 2010 Fall General Membership Meeting on Thursday, October 28, at Independence City Hall. Social time with cookies and coffee will be available at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will feature updates from Richard Brasch and/or John Barten from the Three Rivers Park District, and Sylvia Walsh from the Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed. Plus, everyone will receive the 2010 LSIA membership directory and will be entered into the drawing for a Lake Sarah sweatshirt! You won't want to miss it! All members and non-members are invited to attend. We look forward to seeing you then!



## **LSIA FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Thursday October 28, 2010

6:30 p.m.

INDEPENDENCE CITY HALL

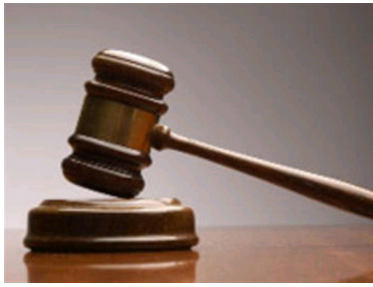
**Theme: Understanding the TMDL study – our first step to improving *Lake Sarah!***

### **AGENDA**

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|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Call to order (7:00 p.m.)  | Joe Baker               |
| 2. Set Agenda<br>Anyone not on agenda may be placed under Open/Misc   | Joe Baker               |
| 3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting  | Donna Sheeley           |
| 4. Approval of Treasurer's report   | Roger VanBeusekom       |
| <u>Reports of Active Committees:</u>  |                         |
| 5. Report on Fishery / DNR  | Joe Slavec              |
| 6. Report on membership, dues, trash and salt program   | Sonja Tilbury           |
| 7. Report on lake level / Outlet / Bogs   | Scott Walsh             |
| 8. Report on water quality<br><b>TMDL study summary – TRPD speakers Richard Brasch and/or John Barten</b><br><b>Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed update – Sylvia Walsh</b><br><b>LSIA water quality objectives for the coming year</b> | Mark Holten / Joe Baker |
| 9. Open / Misc  |                         |
| 10. Adjournment and coffee  |                         |

## ***LSIA Bylaw Amendments***

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The LSIA board is recommending a change to the bylaws of the Lake Sarah Improvement Association to make budgeting for each coming year more effective and efficient .

Article VII, paragraph I (titled, duties of officers and directors-at-large, and directors) sub paragraph C (titled secretary and treasurer), item 3, which currently states: “The treasurer shall prepare an itemized annual budget for consideration by the Board of Directors to be presented to the membership at the annual meeting each year.”

The LSIA board of directors recommends changing “annual” to “calendar year” and “annual” to “spring” which will read as follows: “The treasurer shall prepare an itemized *calendar year* budget for consideration by the Board of Directors to be presented to the membership at the *spring* meeting each year.”

The Annual meeting is generally held in July and the spring meeting is generally held in April of each year. LSIA membership dues, tax filings and garbage enrollment/contract are all on a calendar year basis. Therefore, it would be appropriate to have the budget be prepared on a calendar year basis as well and submitted at the spring meeting each year.

A vote to accept these changes will be made at the LSIA general membership meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Allocate Your United Way Donations to LSIA***

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For those that contribute to the United Way each fall, please consider allocating your annual pledge to LSIA. The United Way recently implemented the opportunity for donors to designate their funds to specific organizations of their choice. It is easy to do! Simply use the online pledge process to search and designate to any nationwide 501 (c) 3 (qualifying non-profit) agency, of which the LSIA is on the list. Below are the LSIA details.



Lake Sarah Improvement Assn,  
P.O. Box 25, Loretto, MN 55357  
FEIN = 41-1694232

## ***TMDL Report Update***

By Joe Baker

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Barb Peichel, MPCA TMDL project manager advises that the draft TMDL has been amended to include the comments received from the EPA. The public notice from the MPCA has been mailed to residents in the lake Sarah sub-watershed and is also published on the lake-sarah.com website.

A public informational meeting will be hosted by the Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission **on Thursday, October 21, at Independence City Hall beginning at 5:00 p.m.** This meeting is intended to offer Q & A to the public regarding the TMDL study such that stakeholders who wish to make comment during the 10/11/10 – 11/10/10 comment period. No comment will be transcribed or provided to the MPCA or EPA from this meeting. Only written public comment submitted by mail within the open comment period will be considered by the MPCA and EPA. **This would be a good opportunity for members to get further educated on the TMDL study results, and likely recommended implementation plans.** As a number of our local city representatives will likely be at this meeting, your attendance will help convey our association's desire to make meaningful strides toward noticeable lake water quality improvements in the coming years. Hope to see many of you there!



## ***Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) Update***

By Joe Baker

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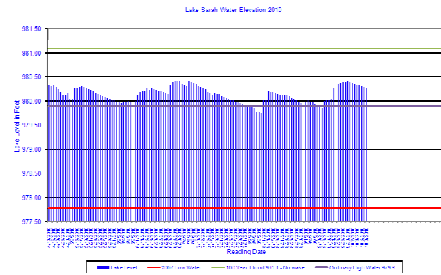
Mark Holten and Joe Baker met with Brittany Hummel of the DNR in September to begin discussions regarding the drafting of Lake Sarah's LVMP. We also met with John Barten and Richard Brasch of the Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) who are both quite knowledgeable and supportive of our efforts. The lake vegetation management plan (LVMP) is required by the DNR and must be approved by the DNR for any lake that is considering a whole lake treatment approach (whether mechanical or chemical) to the lake's vegetation. While the DNR was somewhat hesitant to work with us prior to the TMDL being finalized, we have the support of John and Richard to move forward with our draft writing such that it can be submitted to the DNR for their review just as soon as the TMDL receives final approval. The membership can expect to see the draft LVMP prior to our Spring Membership meeting in April.



# Lake Sarah Water Level Update

By Scott Walsh

The current lake level reading as of Oct 4, 2010 is 980.32 feet. With near normal rainfall/snowfall for the year, the lake has spent most of the year above the ordinary high water level of 979.90 feet and is close to the FEMA 100 year flood reading of 981.20 feet. Once the beaver dam and beavers were removed this past spring, the lake has been draining as fast as it can under current conditions. The weir and its flow are being monitored on a nearly daily basis and efforts are being made to ensure that our lake does not flood. We are all aware of what can happen during periods of high water such as loose bogs damaging docks and boats, loss of lake use due to a lake wide "no wake zone", and flooding of yards and homes. It is LSIA's intention to keep the water flowing out of the lake and let the weir do its job as intended. The weir's lowest point is 978.8 feet, and once at that level the lake quits draining.



Some of you may have seen or experienced loose bog material on your shoreline. Please be aware that it is not legal or ethical to move it along to some other place. The right thing to do is to get a required permit from the DNR and remove it. Currently there is a lot of loose, free floating bog material near the outlet. The material came from a large bog that broke loose in 2004. After the bog broke loose, the area grew back as bulrush, and is now being pushed up and up-rooted by cattail growing in its place. If you are interested in helping the lake and the outlet in an emergency, please e-mail Scott Walsh at [Scotwalsh@aol.com](mailto:Scotwalsh@aol.com).

We should all be thankful we did not get the rains southern MN and Iowa received this year! Let's also thank Fred Lang (East bay) and Cindy Keating (West bay) for keeping our lake level records! We appreciate and thank you for your efforts!

## ***“Lake Sarah News” Final Issue November 1, 2010***



After five plus years, Brad Spencer has decided to “retire” his monthly e-newsletter entitled “Lake Sarah News”. This e-newsletter was created to communicate timely information and to promote use of the *lakesarah.com* website as a lake community information resource. Those of us who were monthly subscribers can personally attest to the quality and creativity of Brad’s volunteer efforts over the years and that he so completely accomplished his mission. While the Lake

Sarah News monthly e-newsletter may go away, the *lakesarah.com* website will remain as a repository for nearly all our pertinent LSIA information. I encourage all to view Brad’s site, save it as a personal “favorite” site, and that you’ll consider replying to the last issue of “Lake Sarah News” to personally thank Brad for his time and talent in creating a real treasure for our lake area community. **Bravo, Brad – BRAVO!!**

## ***Volunteer With LSIA***

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Get active in LSIA to help improve Lake Sarah's water quality and to enrich our community! There are so many ways to share your time and talents, especially now with the TMDL in its final stages . Below are just a few ways to donate your time.

- Lake clean up
- Conservation and DNR
- Water quality and lake level
- Safety, navigation and neighborhood watch
- Annual picnic and boat parade
- Fundraising projects and grants
- Membership promotion
- Emergency volunteer task force



Contact Joe Baker at [swiftbaker@aol.com](mailto:swiftbaker@aol.com) to get involved.