



# LAKE SARAH IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## A message from your LSIA President

Fall greetings to you all !

While our fall newsletter and membership meeting have normally been an October event, we will blame the glorious fall weather for our slight delay into November - a month in which we give thanks to our many blessings. As it relates to Lake Sarah this year, we have many accomplishments we can all be thankful for, of which the "top ten" is worth highlighting:

1. Our long awaited TMDL study was approved by the EPA in April - a testament to the years of hard work from Huck Burrows, Mike Peterson, and others that contributed.
2. Scott Walsh and his "outlet army" - who limited our all lake no-wake zone to just 2 weeks whereas many other area lakes were restricted for 2 months or more.
3. Our TMDL Implementation plan was written by Richard Brasch and approved by the MPCA in September.
4. Our membership grew by 33% this year to an all-time record of 179 members under the leadership of Sonja Tilbury - thank you all for your support!
5. Fred Lang, Cindy Keating, and Brad Spencer who have completed daily water level readings - that now extends to 13 years worth of meaningful measurements.
7. A Clean Water Legacy Grant was filed by the cities of Medina and Loretto which if successful will provide treatment for approximately 490 acres of our watershed on Loretto Creek.
6. Two Clean Water grants were filed by the City of Independence under the leadership of Brad Spencer to target projects that will reduce phosphorus from reaching Lake Sarah.
8. We received another \$500 gift from RBC to honor Brad Spencer's years of volunteering his time and talents to the Lake Sarah community - most notably by his lakesarah.com website.
9. Another 1,000 walleyes were stocked this fall thanks to Joe Slavec - and your walleye fund donations. Several 16" walleyes were caught this summer attesting to the success of the program.
10. We have \$41,161 in funds readily available under the watchful eye of Roger Van Beusekom to help towards projects planned to begin in 2012.

It is an honor and a privilege for me - and for all of us - to have such dedicated volunteers that are making a clear difference in protecting, preserving, and improving the natural and aquatic environment of Lake Sarah. In support of their efforts, let's thank them all by renewing our LSIA memberships now for 2012 - and please consider becoming a volunteer this coming year so that we can continue to build on the momentum from 2011.

Many thanks to all,

Joe

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# Water Level and Outlet Update

By Scott Walsh

A total of 161.5 man hours was spent clearing out Sarah Creek from 150' lakeside to County Road 92!

An estimated 10,000-20,000 lbs of loose material was removed from the creek. The work started in March and ended in August.

A big thanks goes out to all the

volunteers who helped with the work and all who signed up!

As of today there is a small beaver dam at the weir. Three Rivers Park District has issued a permit for a trapper. While the outlet area has a sign posted indicating the presence of traps, please be sure to take extra caution to keep your pets away from this area!



Once the trapping is complete we will clean out the small dam and walk the creek to make sure we have no obstructions for spring snowmelt.

LSIA is working with Three Rivers Park District, The Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed and City of Greenfield to come up with an on going maintenance plan for the creek. Lets hope we get some moisture soon!

# Walleye are in!

By Joe Slavec

Once again Lake Sarah was stocked with 1000 walleye fingerlings! The fingerlings were purchased from Rademacher Ponds and were released into the lake on November 3rd.

We have been setting them in three areas of the lake and it seems to be working well. The walleye that have been caught (and released) are from all corners of the lake so we know they are spreading out and finding food and habitat.

We are still hoping to put some

pressure on the DNR to help our cause. If anyone is interested in making a phone call occasionally to let the DNR, please let me know. You can email me at [joe@mplsgarage.com](mailto:joe@mplsgarage.com). I can provide you with a phone # and a brief statement you may want to use when making the call.

It's free - won't take much of your time, and would be much appreciated in our quest to help get the DNR to match our financial investment into the walleye supply.

As winter approaches, please

remember to leave the lake as you found it! Last year, there was one particular fish house that left 6 piles of nails and ash on the lake that were a pain in the rear to clean up. Please be respectful when ice fishing this winter! Thanks!



*Doug Lawman, August 6th, catches the first 16" Walleye since the stocking program began.*

# It's that time again - time to renew your LSIA membership!

The new membership form is included in this newsletter, and also available online at [www.lakesarah.com](http://www.lakesarah.com).

Your \$35 LSIA dues help support:

- water level, water quality improvements and weed control programs
- three yearly membership meetings
- coordination of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July boat parade/decorating contest and the annual summer picnic

- three newsletters and annual membership directory
- promote safe and proper utilization of the lake

We currently have 179 members. That's 62% of the Lake Sarah homeowners!

Lets work toward getting that number up!

If you are interested in helping out with membership, send me an email and I will

contact you next month.

The discount on your Randy's Service alone pays for your membership dues!

Email Sonja Tilbury:



[sitjat@aol.com](mailto:sitjat@aol.com)

with any questions, concerns, suggestions, and volunteer info!!!

# Annual Financial Audit a Success!

The 2011 LSIA financial audit was completed by John Wise on September 30th, 2011. The board would like to extend a big thank you to John for volunteering his time and efforts. Thanks John!


	<b>LAKE SARAH IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION</b>		<b>Financial Report 9-30-2011</b>
<b>Assets:</b>	Beginning checking 1-1-2011		\$ 19,468.85
	Beginning checking Walleye 1-1-2011		2,373.50
	21st century CD ( Mature 6-18-11)		6,914.77
	21st century CD ( Mature 7-27-11)		<u>8,785.90</u>
	<b>Total Beginning Cash assets 1-1-2011</b>		<b><u>\$ 37,543.02</u></b>
	From checking-4-18-2011		\$ (20,000.00)
	21st Century CD ( Mature 4-17-2012)		20,000.00
<b>Receipts:</b>		<b>2011 budget</b>	<b>2011 actual</b>
	Memberships-(target 161x35)	\$ 5,635.00	\$ 3,220.00
	Contributions-Special		
	Contributions-Clean water	1200.00	695.00
	Contributions-Walleye Fund	1200.00	275.00
	Fundraising-United Way	2000.00	1276.40
	Fundraising--Other	500.00	418.91
	Interest-checking	15.00	9.74
	Interest--CD's	<u>100.00</u>	<u>122.51</u>
	<b>Total Receipts---2011</b>	<b><u>\$ 10,650.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 6,017.56</u></b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>			
	Printing/Mailing	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 235.78
	Office Supplies	50.00	
	Dues/Subscriptions	200.00	
	Membership/Board meetings	500.00	80.46
	Ice clean up/ice out contest	50.00	
	Boat Parade	200.00	175.00
	Summer Picnic	1,225.00	1,376.16
	Public Support	100.00	
	Walleye Program	1,000.00	
	Clean Water Fair	100.00	
	Insurance-Liability	400.00	
	Lake Improvement Projects	2000.00	254.38
	Fundraising--other cost	250.00	277.45
	<b>Total Disbursements:</b>	<b><u>\$ 7,575.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 2,399.23</u></b>
	<b>2011 Overage / (Deficit) YTD</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,075.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,618.33</u></b>
	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b><u>\$ 40,618.02</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 41,161.35</u></b>
<b>Other Assets:</b>	2 Beach Buddy's, 1 winch stored at Joe Baker's		

October 21, 2011

To the Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA)

I have reviewed the accounting of the financials of the LSIA for the 12 months period ending September 30, 2011 and, to the best of my ability and in regard to our understanding of the general accounting principles, have found everything to be satisfactory.

Yours Truly

  
John Wise, EA

# Fall LSIA General Membership Meeting

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Thursday, November 17, 2011

6:30 PM

INDEPENDENCE CITY HALL

## Theme: **Building on the momentum!!**

### AGENDA

#### **Association social (baked goods/coffee) from 6:30-7:00pm**

1. Call to order (7pm) Joe Baker
  
2. Set Agenda Joe Baker  
(Anyone not on agenda may be placed under Open/Misc)
  
3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting Jessica Fischer
  
4. Approval of Treasurer's report Roger Van Beusekom
  
- Reports of Active Committees:
  
5. Report on Fishery / DNR Joe Slavec
  
6. Report on membership, dues, trash and salt program Sonja Tilbury  
**"It PAYS to be a member!!"**
  
7. Report on lake level / Outlet / Bogs Scott Walsh
  
8. Report on water quality Joe Baker / Mark Holten  
**LSIA water quality objectives for the coming year**
  
9. Guest speaker: **Terrie Christian of AMLAC and MN Waters.**  
**To speak on the West Metro COLA, and what's worked well on Medicine Lake.**
  
10. Misc / open topics
  
11. Adjournment

# West Metro COLA

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By Joe Baker

The LSIA is planning to join the West Metro COLA in Partnership with MN Waters. The challenge of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Minnesota Lakes has grown, most recently with the discovery of zebra mussels in Lake Minnetonka. As a result, lake associations in the metro area have been working to find ways to prevent zebra mussels from spreading to other local lakes.

Terrie Christian, a member of the Association of Medicine Lake Citizens (AMLAC) began organizing a meeting with the Three Rivers Park District to discuss AIS prevention strategies, and the interest in this meeting quickly spread to other local lake associations in the area that share the same concerns. Soon the idea of a regional Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) was formed along with



Minnesota Waters is a state wide non-profit organization with extensive experience in working with concerned citizens to organize and take action on lake and river issues.

The main goal of the West Metro COLA will be to create an AIS action plan for the west metro lakes area. Working as a coalition with other local lake associations will give us a stronger, more unified voice with the DNR - much moreso than what we can accomplish on our own. Sonja Tilbury attended the first COLA meeting on behalf of the LSIA, and we are pleased to advise that Terrie Christian will be our guest speaker at our Fall Membership meeting on Thursday, Nov 17th, where she will further explain the West Metro COLA - and what we together hope to accomplish. In unity there is strength! We hope you will attend.

## Meet the new LSIA Secretary!

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Jessica Fischer has had one heck of a year! Not only did she marry the man of her dreams, she also got a puppy, moved into a new home, and became the secretary for the Lake Sarah Improvement Association!

Jessica and John moved into the neighborhood this summer from Plymouth, MN. John is a commercial pilot and avid water skier and Jess works at Cargill in Research and Development and is an amateur boat driver. So if you see a crazy man doing jumps and tricks behind a bright

yellow boat and a scared blonde girl driving, be sure to wave!

John ski's for the Ski Otters show ski team in White Bear Lake, and was a Tommy Bartlett



Jessica, John and Piper.

star back in the day. Jess has high hopes of joining the team this year on the ballet line and as pyramid climber. She is hoping for lower water levels this spring so she can practice as she is not as naturally talented as her husband.

Jess and John have a yellow lab pup named Piper who just got her first chance to hunt this fall. With 16 ducks and 2 pheasants retrieved, John deemed her a keeper.

All joking aside, I'm very excited to be part of the LSIA board and hope to meet you all very soon!



LAKE SARAH IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



**LAKE SARAH IMPROVEMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

LSIA  
P.O Box 25  
Loretto, MN 55357

**We're on the web!**

**Catch up on all the happenings on Lake  
Sarah by checking out the website!**

**[www.lakesarah.com](http://www.lakesarah.com)**

Here are a few pictures of Matthew Baker honing his wrestling skills in harvesting carp from the lake this spring.

Over 40 carp were removed from the lake this spring by the Slavecs and Bakers. Carp are viewed as "rough" fish, primarily bottom feeders, and known for stirring up lake sediments, and otherwise not a good eating fish - however, they may good fertilizer when mixed with compost!






# Lake Sarah Improvement Association

## 2012 Membership Form

Name	
Address	
City	
State	
ZIP Code	
Lake Address (if different from above)	
Telephone	
E-Mail	

THINK GREEN!  And help reduce our printing and mailing fees!

Please check here to receive your newsletter via email (your information will be kept confidential)

### Annual Dues

2012 Membership Fee		\$35.00
Annual Donations	Water Quality Fund	_____
	Walleye Fund	_____
	Other	_____
	TOTAL:	_____

Please make checks, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to:

### LSIA

#### PO Box 25

#### Loretto, MN 55357

Interested in getting involved? Volunteer on one of our many committees! Check here to be contacted with more info!

- Membership Committee
- Water Quality Committee
- Summer Picnic/Boat Parade
- Bog/Outlet Army
- Fishery Committee
- Ice Clean Up Committee

Randy's Environmental Service provides our members with a discount worth \$31.92 on a 65 gallon can and with water softener salt discounts (which vary by household) – IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER!

Are you a Randy's Customer? Yes  No

If not, are you interested in being contacted about the program? Yes  No

Do you purchase water softening salt? Interested in learning more about the LSIA salt program? Yes  No

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR ON LAKE SARAH!

Questions?? Concerns?? Contact Sonja Tilbury, sitjat@aol.com