



## *Letter from the LSIA Board President*

Warm spring greetings to you all!

Many of you are receiving this newsletter electronically for the first time, and we thank you for choosing this option as it will save us on paper and postage.



2011 promises to be one of great momentum and progress for the LSIA. As a volunteer community organization, we have been busy serving the associations goals.

Some notable examples of this include:

- last fall's stocking of walleyes by Joe Slavec
- the membership committee, led by Sonja Tilbury, grew our membership by 25% and added the water softener salt program that along with our Randy's garbage program, ensures discount offerings that more than cover our membership fees.
- Scott Walsh closely monitored our outlet flow throughout the winter and rallied volunteers to clear cattail debris which has clearly helped to reduce the extent and the duration of lakeshore flooding this spring.

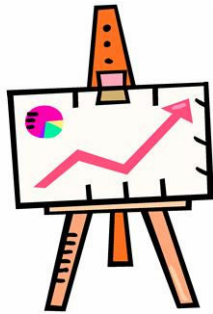
With our TMDL Implementation Plan and Lake Vegetation Management Plan (LVMP) soon to be completed, we as an association must soon collectively decide on what actionable approaches we want to take toward improving the water quality of Lake Sarah. In order to do this, we will educate the membership to arrive at a clear consensus as to what we can cost effectively do to reasonably achieve our desired outcome. Obviously there are cost implications to the decisions we make, and while some grants may be available to us, we need to determine how these costs will be covered. These are some of the challenges we face this coming year, and thus will be a primary focus at our Spring LSIA Membership Meeting coming up on Thursday, April 28th at the Independence City Hall. Please come to meet your neighbors, and engage in the learning and decision making process with us!

We welcome your ideas on how we can better serve our great lake community, and we are always in need of volunteers to help carry out our objectives. Warm regards!

**Sincerely,  
Joe Baker  
LSIA Board President**

# ***LSIA Membership Updates***

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## Membership

The LSIA membership committee has been working hard to grow the membership to nearly record numbers! So far this year there is a total of 167 members. This includes 37 homes that were not members last year! It is wonderful that LSIA is such a strong and thriving organization. Thank you to everyone who helped contact our Lake Sarah residents.

## Water Softener Salt Program

The membership committee's new LSIA water softener salt program has 35 participating members. Only five more members are needed to bring the price per bag down to \$4.19 per bag!! If you would like information on the program, please contact Sonja @ [sitjat@aol.com](mailto:sitjat@aol.com).

## Randy's Sanitation

Randy's Sanitation was renewed as the LSIA service provider, and as in the past, are doing a wonderful job. Being the negotiated rate pays for your membership dues, it is foolish not to take advantage of this opportunity! If you are currently a member and would like information on the program, please contact Sonja. If you are not a yet a member and would like information, please contact Sonja [sitjat@aol.com](mailto:sitjat@aol.com).



## Plant Sale

Also, LSIA would like to thank all of you who participated in the first LSIA Spring Plant Sale! The beautiful annual and perennial pots and baskets were grown by Gregor Farms in Medina. They have been supporting non-profit groups like LSIA for 20 years!



## Otten Brothers Plant Fundraiser

LSIA and Otten Brothers in Long Lake are offering another great opportunity for your spring plant needs! Beginning May 1st, when you shop at Otten Bros, or Flower Farm, a portion of your purchase will go to LSIA!

# ***Stay Connected***

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Would you like LSIA to email you important updates, or reminders of upcoming LSIA events or meetings? If so, please email Sonja Tilbury at [sitjat@aol.com](mailto:sitjat@aol.com) with your email address.

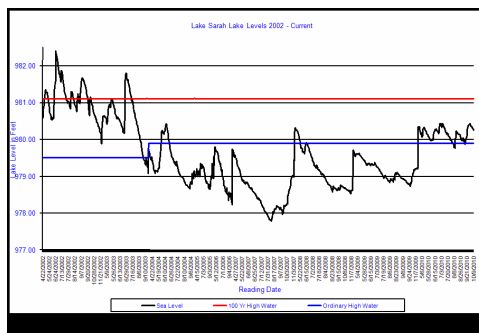
# Lake Sarah's Water Quality and Level Update

The LSIA Water Quality committee was very active over the winter working with various groups to determine treatment options for the lake. In September 2010, Joe Baker and Mark Holten met with representatives of the DNR in St. Paul to discuss overall treatment strategies.

In January the committee met with representatives of the Three Rivers Park District to review the draft TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) report. This document is a base requirement for getting approvals and permits to execute whole lake treatment activities. Once the TMDL is approved we will draft a lake vegetation management plan, which lays out more specific treatment activities and timing.

In February, Ann Slavec, Joe Baker, and Mark Holten attended the Minnesota Waters invasive aquatic species management meeting at Baker Park. Minnesota Waters is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help communicate and push for statewide water quality improvement initiatives. This session brought together representatives from a number of lake associations, the DNR, and Three Rivers Park. It was a very informative and helped us understand that Lake Sarah is not unique in our invasive species issues; other lake associations are experiencing the same. We are establishing relationships with these other associations and will leverage their experiences to more effectively deal with the situation in Lake Sarah.

The LSIA Water Quality committee researched weed harvesting options. They found that the Three Rivers Park District has a harvester they use in the area which we investigated as an option for Lake Sarah. However, due to timing issues and feedback from other lake associations, we don't believe this is viable or effective.



The Water Level group was also active over the winter, monitoring the lake levels and the outflow at the west end of the lake. Scott Walsh has been instrumental in documenting and communicating to the lake association board and the Greenfield city council about the potential blockages in the outflow. Given the large amount of snow over the winter, combined with the unusually high lake levels at the end of last year, we are concerned that any impediment to the drainage of the lake could cause high water and flooding in areas of the lakeshore.

The city of Greenfield has reached out to the city of Independence to discuss the issue, and is looking at potential funding for work to clear the outflow. In February Scott Walsh, Joe Slavec, Joe Baker, Mark Holten, and other lake residents met with a dredging company at the weir to discuss options. We will have more information at the upcoming LSIA general membership meeting on April 28th .

# ***Spring General Membership Meeting***

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Please join us for the LSIA 2011 Spring General Membership Meeting held on Thursday, April 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 Richard Brasch, from the Three Rivers Park District. Everyone who attends 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 SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Thursday April 28, 2011

6:30 P.M.

INDEPENDENCE CITY HALL

**Theme: Objectives for improving *Lake Sarah!***

### **AGENDA**

**Association social (baked goods & coffee) from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

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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. Presentation of Treasurer's report and 2011 budget               | Roger VanBeusekom |

### **Reports of Active Committees and Objectives for 2011:**

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|--|-------------------------|
| 5. Report on fishery / DNR   | Joe Slavec              |
| 6. Report on membership  | Sonja Tilbury           |
| 7. Report on lake level / outlet   | Scott Walsh             |
| 8. Report on water quality   | Mark Holten / Joe Baker |
| <b>9. Guest speaker Richard Brasch, TRPD<br/>TMDL Implementation Plan preview<br/>Rebecca Lake CLP and Alum treatment update</b> |                         |
| 10. Open / Misc  |                         |
| 11. Adjourn  |                         |
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## ***Outlet Clean Up***

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A special thank you to several Lake Sarah residents for their efforts this March in keeping the weir and outlet area clear and its water flowing. Spear headed by Scott Walsh, the crew included Joe Baker, Dan Cady, Jeff Carlson, Scott Heintzeman, Brock Klein, Lee Nguyen, Rob Sheeley, Joe Slavac, and Roger Van Beusekom. With over 65 hours on the project, their dedication and concern for our lake has helped keep our flooding issues to a minimum.

## ***Summer LSIA Events***

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### Progressive Party

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 6 for the first annual LSIA Progressive Party! The fundraising event will feature three to four interesting Lake Sarah homes and will benefit vital LSIA programming. More details to come. You won't want to miss it!

Be a part of new nostalgic history by joining the event's planning committee! Contact Ann Slavec 612-559-1580, Bonnie Roeder 763-479-8112 or Scott Walsh 763-477-6600.



### July 4th Boat Parade

The theme for the 2011 July 4th LSIA Boat Parade will be "Memorable Moments in American History". Each year the floats get more and more creative! Plan to join us for the festivities!

## ***Walleye Update***

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The LSIA walleye stocking committee would like to say thank you to everyone who contributed to the cause over the years. As seen here, Joe Slavec caught a 15" walleye this winter. (Please note that it was mortally hooked, or he would have released it.) It was a very healthy, broad fish, and very tasty he reported!

Your support is making a difference! The committee is planning to take the next step with this project. To join the project, contact Joe at [mplsgarage@yahoo.com](mailto:mplsgarage@yahoo.com).



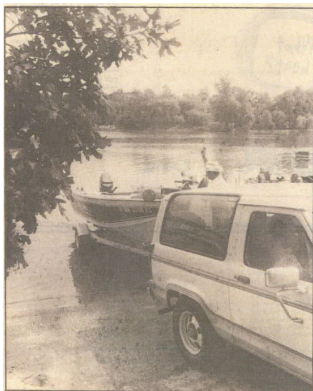
# Hubert B. Kohnen Memorial Landing

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Most visitors and residents who use the current public access on Lake Sarah in Hennepin County drive right past the sign pictured on the right without giving it much thought – assuming they noticed the sign at all. Many of the public landings in this great State are created and maintained by the Minnesota DNR, for some reason this one is an exception. It stands testament to the things people can create when working together to solve a problem.



Prior to 1987, a public access to Lake Sarah was located on the west end of North Shore Drive in Greenfield, almost directly across the lake from the present boat landing. Additionally, boats could be launched for a fee at the Shady Beach Resort on the south side of the mid lake channel. In early 1987 the North Shore Drive access off Hwy 55, which was located across private property, was closed at the request of the property owner John Lambros.



PREPARING TO LAUNCH — Shady Beach Resort does have a well-built launch point for boats. However, being the only public access has created congestion problems for campers and local residents.

The only remaining access to the lake for public use was the boat launch at the Shady Beach Resort operated by its new owner Steve Emery. That summer Steve was quoted in the newspaper as having too much business at his ramp creating a problem for parking and for customers staying at his campground. “I’m running a campground not a boat launch”, he said. “I haven’t turned anyone away and I try to be cordial to everyone, but it gets to be a problem sometimes”.

In July of 1987, Martha Reger - MN DNR area manager, wrote in a memo that she had received 30-35 calls regarding the closing of the Highway 55 access since June 15 of that year. She wrote that she felt there was a large and hurried need for an access on Sarah and added that Delos Barber, MN DNR coordinator, Region 6 trails and waterways, had informed her of the DNR's inability to pursue any acquisition or development of a Lake Sarah public access for at least the next year due to lack of funds.

An article in the August 31, 1987 edition of the *Delano Eagle* noted a flurry of activity requesting the DNR to investigate the construction of a public access on the lake. Andy McClay of the Delano Sportsmen's Club submitted a petition signed by nearly 600 area residents. In his letter to Martha Reger, Mr. McClay indicated that he could have obtained many more signatures but he hoped the 587 would be sufficient.

Victor Faith, city administrator for Greenfield, was quoted as saying the city owns roughly 1.25 acres on Lake Sarah and that they are in the process of doing a feasibility study concerning using some of the land for a boat access. Bob Gove, park manager at Hennepin Parks, said public access to Lake Sarah has been placed high in the list of priorities for park development. “The earliest we could do anything would be 1988. We first have to get the

funds, and they won't be available until then” Gove said.

The Aug 17, 1987 *Rockford Newsleader* reported the DNR & Greenfield were working together to develop an access on the south side of the lake. “We're pretty close. It could be in here by fall” said Victor Faith.

The informal proposal from Martha Reger, MN DNR dated August 6, 1987 reported she had visited the south side site and found it to have potential. She suggested that the City of Greenfield and the DNR enter into a cooperative agreement with the following conditions:

1. The City of Greenfield will retain ownership of the land. They will agree to operate and maintain the site as a public access according to MN DNR specifications.
2. The City would agree to provide equipment and labor for the purpose of clearing, grubbing, and blading a rough area for a parking lot and blade the steep entrance road down the hill.
3. The DNR would provide the gravel necessary to cover the lot and access road area. They will furnish, deliver, and spread it.
4. The DNR would also provide the concrete planks and connecting hardware and gravel to put in a ramp. The DNR will furnish some of the labor to install the ramp if the City could provide a front end loader to install the planks as well as equipment to prepare the site.

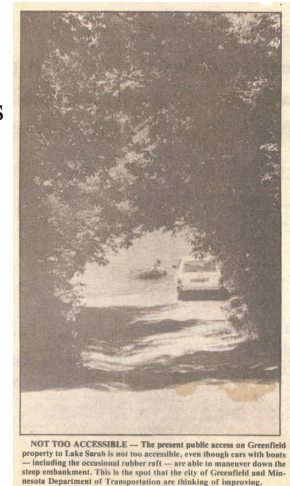
No other documents or newspaper accounts were found on the subject through fall and winter of 1987.

In the June 13, 1988 *Rockford Newsleader*, Larry Windom reported the City of Greenfield had received a proposal from the DNR whereby the City and the DNR would create a free public access on Lake Sarah. At the recommendation of Peter Bishop, Greenfield's city engineer, a special council meeting was set for Monday June 27, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the proposal with residents since there “is some public concern on what's going in there”.

An article in the July 2, 1988 *Delano News Leader* discussed the options being considered to solve the public access problem. One of those solutions was to develop the city owned property on the south side of the west bay along S. Lake Sarah Drive. The photo on the right from the 7/2/88 newspaper article shows the site which was nothing more than a steep dirt path to the water. The DNR favored this site as an interim access, to be used until something better comes along and proposed a joint DNR and city of Greenfield access be constructed.

Residents at the June 27, 1988 Greenfield City Council meeting also heard a proposal from the Hennepin Parks District regarding the possible development of the Lake Sarah Regional Park which would include an access on the west end of the lake, possibly as soon as 1990.

Representatives from the Delano Sportsmen's Club were in attendance and presented the Council with a petition signed by 624 residents in the Delano area who were in favor of a



public access. DSC representative Bill Bauman announced that the Sportsmen's Club was willing to donate \$5,000 to the city to go towards the construction of the new access. Greenfield Mayor Doris Conzet announced a decision regarding the DNR-Greenfield proposal would be voted upon at the next Council meeting.

In a letter to Greenfield dated July 5, 1988, Loren Kohlen and the Kohlen family offered to essentially fulfill Greenfield's obligations in development of the access by contributing all of the labor to clear the brush, stumps and trees from the site and agreed to provide the equipment to grade the site and spread the gravel to DNR standards. They also provided the equipment needed to install the concrete timbers for the ramp. In exchange the family requested that the landing become a permanent public access dedicated to Loren's Grandfather, Hubert B. Kohlen, who had long served on the Greenwood Township board before the conversion and renaming of the township to the City of Greenfield.

Loren and Marlin Kohlen (Loren's uncle) with some help from Ervin Kohlen (Loren's father) worked for the better part of a week to clear the brush, stumps and trees from the landing area, hauling the cuttings to Marlin's farm in Burschville, and burning them there.

Andy McClay, Bill Bauman and the Delano Sportsmen's Club donated \$5,000 to the project and with the help of Wally Cates and Cates Construction poured the concrete driveway down the hill to make access safer and to cut down on soil erosion from the steep grade. The forms for the driveway were filled from the bottom of the hill upwards by Delano Sportsmen's Club members who rough floated the concrete mix one load at a time.

The MN DNR contributed the concrete boat ramp planks, the gravel, and the engineering along with a 51' dock to serve the landing. A State of MN agreement signed in 1988 provides for the City of Greenfield to be solely responsible for maintenance of the landing as needed in the future.

**The Hubert B. Kohlen Memorial Landing was officially opened for use on September 22, 1988.**

The Kohlen Memorial Landing was updated somewhat in 1997 by cooperative agreement between the MN DNR and the City of Greenfield in conjunction with the Independence decision to reroute

South Lake Sarah Drive further from the south shoreline to accommodate the newly created Tamarack subdivision. The State relayed the concrete plank ramp and replaced the old dock with a new roll in dock. Additional parking was created at the top of the hill above the landing



Ribbon cutting ceremony September 1988. L to R: C.O. Jim Konrad, Gordy Peterson, Carl Peterson, Mark Bauman, Lawrence Bauman, Kelly Arents (seated), Marlin Kohlen, Loren Kohlen, Agnes Kohlen, Joanne Kohlen, Ervin Kohlen, Andy McClay.





Kohnen Family sign dedication 1988. left to right: Agnes & Marlin Kohnen, Bernice & Elton Kohnen, Genevive "Gen" & Lloyd Kohnen, Lucille & Everett Theies, Harold Kohnen & unidentified lady friend, Hildegard & Ervin Kohnen, Helen & George Applequist.

by expanding the newly created circle at the end of Genaker Way.

More recently it was determined that a portable toilet was needed at the landing during the open water months. As a result, for the last several years, a rented portable toilet is installed to serve the public from May to October each year. The cost of this service is shared equally by the Delano Sportsmen's Club and the Lake Sarah Improvement Association.

People working together to share resources, funds, and skills to fulfill a public need for no other reason than it just needed to be done. Now that's "Old School". Thank you to everyone who joined the effort to provide the public with access to lake Sarah!

*Article by Brad Spencer written March 2011 with a lot of help from Loren Kohnen, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Delano Sportsmen's Club, John McClay, Kathy McCullum, City of Greenfield and Toni Hirsch, City of Independence.*

## ***LSIA Directory***

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LSIA will be redesigning the membership directory this year to make it even more functional for you. We would like your input on how to make it the most useful for you.

Should we include a section that contains area business, school and government listings? Would you like to include your business contact information along with your home info? A line in the directory would cost approximately \$10 and a business card size ad will be about \$25. Larger ads would be available as well. Please email your comments and/or submissions to [sit-jat@aol.com](mailto:sit-jat@aol.com).



## *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. Below are just a few ways to get involved.

- 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.