



# Little Rock Lake News

Little Rock Lake Association, P.O. Box 326, Rice, MN 56367

June 2011 edition [www.littlerocklake.org](http://www.littlerocklake.org) or [www.freewebs.com/littlerocklakeblog](http://www.freewebs.com/littlerocklakeblog)

**Meetings are held at Rumors on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month, 11 A.M.  
Future Meetings- July 9<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> & Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**

## SURVEY RESULTS

During March, the LRLA sent a twenty-two question survey to 310 Little Rock Lake shoreline owners. We received 108 completed surveys or a response rate of 34.8%. This is terrific, because a response of 15-20 % is considered quite good. The intent of the survey was to determine what owners thought about the lake, shoreline property, and water quality, how they use the lake, and how they believe the lake should be managed. We thank all who responded. The data will provide valuable guidance in our efforts to properly manage the lake.

Sixty-one percent of lake shore owners are year-round residents and 9% spent 90-365 days on their property with only 6.6% living at the lake less than 30 days a year. Quiet enjoyment is what 83.5% of them report is their primary use of the lake. Fishing, beach activities, swimming and water activities are all major uses. Many more would like to use the lake for swimming but think the water is just too green.

Responses regarding water quality were as follows: staying the same 44%, getting better 29%, and getting worse 9%. Most felt it varies from year to year depending on rainfall, temperature, irrigation impact on inflow of water, and the amount of manure and commercial fertilizer flowing into the lake. Many felt that if something isn't done to reduce phosphorous loading water quality will continue to get worse. Participants get information on water quality from the following sources: LRLA 54%, neighbors 15%, government agency 15%, and MN Extension 7%.

Ninety-one percent of respondents thought that how the lake is managed has an impact on water quality. Most owners felt that water quality/clarity affects their property values.

When asked if they would consider participating in a project testing grasses and flowering plants used between the beach and lawn to control erosion, 32 said yes, 16 said maybe, 10 wanted to know more and 30 said no. Fourteen folks provided their names, addresses and phone numbers and said they wanted a buffer strip. Thirteen said maybe, but they needed more information.

—Guy Spence, LRLA President

**LOST: blue & white paddleboat** that floated away from 114xx W Lake Rd, May 31st. Reward; Please call 763-639-3065.

**FOUND: paddleboat** (another one found last fall), See Craig's List, St Cloud, Lost & Found

## MINNESOTA WATERS CONFERENCE

The Conference was held in St. Cloud in late April, focused on "Citizens protecting and improving our Lakes & Rivers". Over 200 attendees representing Watershed Districts, Lake Associations, State and local governments and industry, were all present to share ideas and brainstorm potential solutions to what is rapidly becoming a water crisis. There was strong emphasis on Surface Water and Storm Water runoff and rapidly expanding Aquatic Invasive Species and what should be happening now and in the near future to make change happen. As a representative from LRLA, I was impressed by what I saw and heard and particularly impressed with a lake cleansing technique using a synthetic island, that the association is now investigating" (more info in the next news letter). I believe that, if we partner and work together, we can move our Watershed and Little Rock Lake back to a healthier place to live and play. -- Marilynn Corcoran, LRLA Mbr.

## LRLA ANNUAL PICNIC

Please come to the July 9<sup>th</sup> pot luck picnic and silent auction. It will start at 11AM, at Rumors. The Lake Association will provide chicken, potato salad, hamburgers and buns. We ask that you bring your family and a dish to share. LRLA flags (for your dock), T-shirts and hats with the Little Rock Lake logo are for sale at the picnic or from Guy Spence. Feel free to call Guy for the gear at 320-255-8916. The flags are nylon and two sided. Proudly display your membership! We thank Phyllis Post and Judy Christofferson for soliciting items for the auction, local businesses, for their donations, and Jim Hoihjelle for providing the location.

## TMDL

The MPCA is requesting comments on the draft Report for LRL TMDL between 5-23-2011 and June 22, 2011. The draft report is available for review at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/tmdl-draft.html>. Following the comments, the MPCA will revise the report and submit it to the EPA for approval. The approved TMDL is followed by implementation activities to achieve the necessary pollutant reductions.

## BUFFER STRIPS

We planted the first 2011, 100 foot buffer on the west side of the Little Rock Channel on June 1st. We had the Conservation Corp of four young people to assist with the planting under a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The shoreland owner did an excellent job of eliminating the reed canary grass prior to planting. We will be planting two additional native buffers on North Freedom Road on Thursday, June 16th @ 8:30 am. Helpers or interested shoreland owners are always welcome! The Conservation Corp is also coming to assist. Hope for good weather! A buffer design workshop for interested shoreland owners will be scheduled for later in the summer. For more info call Maureen Graber 320-282-7113.

## Rice Elementary-Save the Lake Contest

A pizza party was held on May 17th to thank the 4th graders from Rice Elementary for taking part in our annual design a poster to save LRLA contest. Each student received a certificate from Twin Pines Restaurant and LRLA offering a free meal for a job well done. Our top three winners were, 1st place-Mackenz Oberg, 2nd Amanda Voigt and 3rd Maykenna Goering. The winners received a medal and a T-shirt with their design printed on it. The classes are taught by Tom Isaacson and Carrie Hennes. We hope to teach the children that they can make a difference in the lake and to promote safety on the lake. Thank you to Joyce and Vic Hengel, Tom Boyda, Cory Johnson, Cliff Weitgenant, Jerry Post for serving the pizza and to Steve from Twin Pines for his help and generosity. The posters are on display at Twin Pines Restaurant.

-Phyllis Post