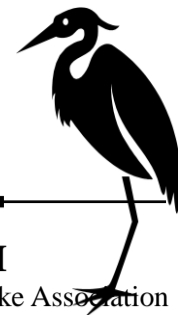


Little Rock Lake News

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



Fall 2008 edition

www.littlerocklake.org or www.freewebs.com/littlerocklakeblog

Meetings are held at Rumors on the 2nd Saturday of the Month.

September 13th & October 11th LRLA Meeting at Rumors, 11AM

President, Bruce Christofferson is looking for public input to determine the direction that the Little Rock Lake Association should take in the following year. We may consider a fishing tournament. The more members we have, the more positive news we generate, the more likely we will be to get funding that we will need. Your ideas are valuable; please share them.

November 8th LRLA Meeting at Watab Town Hall-11AM

Guest speaker, Valerie Prax, U of M Extension, will address managing and maintaining private septic systems.

Questions will be answered and trouble shooting hints given. The public is invited to attend.

September 13th Is Watab Fall Clean Up Day

This cleanup is for citizens of Watab and Langola townships. You can bring in tires, limit of 4 (\$1 each), scrap iron, demolition waste and appliances (1 free and each additional is \$15) Rockwood Estates, 11000 Hwy. 10 NW, from 8am-2pm.

November 4th, Clean Water Amendment

Minnesota voters will vote on a constitutional amendment called Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Funding of this bill will supplement and not replace traditional sources for lakes and natural resources. Much of the money will go into cleaning up lakes, thereby improving our property values and helping lake shore owners. www.littlerocklake.org has excellent information on this bill. The referendum could generate 300 million annually to help clean our lakes and streams so LRLA asks that you do what you can to support it.

TMDL Study

The Federal Clean Water Act of 1972, gave states authority to protect water quality. The TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) is a detailed assessment that determines how much pollutant is present, the source, and what reductions will be needed.

Annie Felix, Benton County Soil & Water and Maggie Leach, MPCA, presented the TMDL study to the public at the Sauk Rapids Middle School on June 29th. The good news is that LRL is at the head of the TMDL Studies and that we are "on the fast track". This happened because of our severe problem in 2007 and because members called Public Officials, MPCA, the DNR and Media. The squeaky wheel gets the grease. As a result, Benton County has hired William Walker, who wrote the original clean water models for the Army Core of Engineers to study, test results and make recommendations. Other officials have also been hired to collect and interpret data. The scheduled date of completion is May of 2010. You can learn more about this study by checking out the web.

LRLA Past Meeting Highlights

DNR MN Shoreline Specialist, Darrin Hoverson, complemented our up to date, excellent web site, www.littlerocklake.org saying "it's not often that a Lake Association has so much information available to its members. Thanks go to Joan Spiczka our web master. On July 9th discussions concerned a temporary fix for algae problems and lake quality. Marilyn Corcoran reported doing research and contacting state officials about the algae. There were discussions on chemical control, copper sulfate, Solarbees, as well as enzymatic treatment and netting carp. In most cases, the cost was prohibitive and results were poor. Air quality monitors were discussed and the consensus was that if we have a problem we need to contact the DNR and MPCA. It was suggested that Anne Felix might look into ordinances to protect the lake. We need to be proactive for the lake to receive positive attention. Mention was made that we can take small steps now by leaving grass buffer strips, upgrading septs, not fertilizing, collecting rain water, etc. The picnic was discussed and we learned that Walmart will match the \$722.00 we earned at the silent auction. We had about 115 people attend. Special thanks to Phyllis and Judy for soliciting door prizes/auction items and to those who donated and worked to make it a fun day. Highlights of August 9th were renewed discussion of the TMDL study and the stakeholder presentation in Sauk Rapids as well as the Newsletter. The board has approved sending this Newsletter to all LRL property owners. We have obtained a Non-Profit Bulk Mailing Permit to help reduce the costs. Jeff Soderholm stated he will sell Snow Baron raffle tickets. We keep 85% of those profits. Also mentioned were special thanks to Joe Wollak for his concerns and help with funding issues and to Annie Felix for her dedication to the lake. Marilyn Corcoran explained the Clean Water bill. Elections were held. Jim Rau replaced VP Chuck Wilson. Maureen Graber replaced Cliff Weitgenant as director. Judy Christofferson and Phyllis Post retained their positions on the board. We now have 86 members of LRLA. We need to remind everyone that membership equates to power when it comes to getting things done on the lake. Thank You goes out to former board members for their hard work over the years as well as to new members who volunteered to serve.

Did You Know:

40% of the tested lakes and rivers in Minnesota are so polluted that they fail to meet basic health standards. The MPCA can not do an investigation of a feedlot or other potential source of pollution unless a complaint is formally filed. Members are encouraged to write to the MN commissioner of the MPCA and ask him to change this policy in areas where watersheds are causing major pollution to lakes. MPCA's 2008 Impaired Waters List contains 1,475 impairments on 336 rivers and 510 lakes and it's growing. The 2006 list contained 2,250 impairments on 284 rivers and 1,013 lakes. Our waters are not better and the main reason for the decrease in 2008 is the removal of Mercury impairments.

Members Encouraged to Develop Buffer Zones

New board member, Maureen Graber encouraged everyone at the August 9th LRLA meeting to develop buffer zones along their lake shore. Restoration project tours were discussed as a way to show the beauty of the buffer zones and develop interest of other residents. Benton Soil & Water has money available for shared costs of shoreline restorations. Craig Gondeck presented material on a new garden that Watab Township recently put in showing native shoreline grasses.

Little Rock Dues Membership--\$25--Payable to LRLA, P.O. Box 326, Rice MN 56367

Name(s) _____
Cabin Address _____
Preferred Mailing address _____
Phone number _____ Email _____