

Little Rock Lake News



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

Dec 2008 edition

www.freewebs.com/littlerocklakeblogwww.littlerocklake.org

Meetings held at 11AM, the 2nd Saturday of the Month at Rumors.

Next Meetings- March 14th, 2009

January & February Meetings have been Suspended

Past Meeting Highlights

The Little Rock Lake Buffer Program was created to encourage residents to re-establish the ecosystems at shorelines. Discussions were held about the lake association and the county applying for Grants to assist with costs. The landowners share of the costs could be offset by doing the designing, ground preparation and plantings. Watab Township has planted a buffer zone around a pond, at the township hall, to identify plants and educate interested people. [Www.littlerocklake.org](http://www.littlerocklake.org) has been updated with more pictures of buffer zones that are growing around the lake. We thanked Jeff Soderholm, who sold raffle tickets for a snowmobile and earned almost \$150 for the Lake Association and Joe Wolak who got Benton County funding to cover the \$5,000 cost of insurance for William Walker while he is working on LRL's TMDL study. Annie Felix collected the last lake monitoring data in October. The data will be processed and we should get some information, in the spring, about how much phosphorus is coming from the sediment on the bottom of the lake. Funding was approved for a postcard to notify people of a November septic system seminar. There was a pizza party to thank and honor Mark Beckman and Cliff Weitgenant for the many hours of their time and the use of their pontoons to escort Annie Felix and others who are involved in the Little Rock Lake TMDL Study and water testings. They have been collecting data for several years and it will be used as a part of the study. Funding was requested by Benton Soil & Water to develop and distribute a TMDL newsletter to landowners in the Little Rock Watershed. They have grant money for the study but that funding did not include the expenses of a newsletter. The Lake Association approved \$2,000 to partially fund the newsletter and it is hoped that they will obtain the balance needed from local sportsman's clubs and other organizations. The November meeting included a talk by a University of Minnesota Extension Agent about how to manage and maintain private septic systems. Last spring Watab Township approved a \$2,000 donation to the lake association to be used for weed spraying but the DNR did not issue permits so we lost that donation. On December 2nd President Chrisofferson and Maureen Graber presented the Watab Board with an outline of our new direction, focusing on buffer zones and shoreline management to improve water quality. As a result Watab will donate the \$2,000 to LRLA to be used for buffer zones.

Did You Know:

The Mission Statement of The Little Rock Lake Association is to protect, maintain and improve the ground and surface water resources within the Little Rock Lake watershed and adjacent Mississippi River area by encouraging appropriate water use and shore land management practices.

History of Shoreline Management: Protecting Our Lakes and Rivers

The booming economy of the 1960s and 1970s gave Minnesotans money to invest in outdoor recreation. Seasonal cabins began popping up and the legislature commissioned the University of Minnesota to inventory lakeshore development. The study found that between 1954 and 1967 there was a 90 % increase in the number of permanent and seasonal homes on lakes. In 1969 the legislature enacted the Shoreland Management Act that provided the statewide template for shoreland development and directed the DNR to develop the standards. It only applied to unincorporated lands and counties were required to add the standards to their zoning controls which could be as strict or stricter than the statewide standards. It was amended in 1973 to include municipalities and in 1976 those standards were established. The 250 ordinances in the 1989 shoreland rules combined the municipal and county standards to be one statewide set to manage proper buildings and sewer systems. Last year the legislature recognized that the current rules had not kept up with development pressures and they directed the DNR to revise the shoreline rules. The work will set the rules for the next 20 to 30 years and is expected to take about 18 months. The informational gathering phase was recently released with the top issue being water quality, in terms of stormwater, impaired waters and on-site sewer. To stay current on the project activities and make comments go to their Web site at <http://mndnr.gov/waters/shoreland.html>

Septic System Compliance CAN BE Monitored:

Wadena County has adopted a resolution in support of a septic system evaluation project on properties around Stocking Lake. Essentially, this means the County, per State Shoreland guidelines, can support a process to find any non-compliant septic systems and provide enforcement of septic replacements, when deemed necessary. Blueberry Township received a \$10,000 Initiative Foundation grant to promote the protection of the lake, property values and human health. Phosphorus levels are on the rise in Stocking Lake, as the quality of the lake water is in decline. The township will administer the project with the bulk of the costs to evaluate the septic systems being spent on consultants and professional fees. About 50-60% of their lakeshore owners belong to the lake association.

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

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