

# Little Rock Lake News

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



September 2009 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, 11A.M.

Future Meetings- Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, Nov.14<sup>th</sup> & Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, at Rumors

## Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 -Election of Officers

Guy Spence, retired Rice Elementary Principal, is the new President of our LRLA. He and his wife Pat have lived on the Channel for 15 years and have been very involved in our community. Vic Hengel retained the Treasurers position that he has held since 2003. Duane Cekalla and Jeff Soderholm were re-elected to Directorship positions that they've had since 2004. Other Board Members that were not up for election in 2009, that have served since the listed years are: Vice President/Membership, Jim Rau, 2008 -Secretary, Jim Hovda, 2005 -Directors Phyllis Post, 1998 and Judy Christofferson, 1999. We appreciate and thank them for their time and commitments to our Lake Association.

## A Message from President Spence:

This is a great time to be a member of the Little Rock Lake Association! We are on the cusp of some significant efforts to improve lake water quality and create ecologically sound shoreline development. Our membership drive is in full swing and the results are excellent!

Annie Felix, our Benton County Water Plan Technician, anticipates that the results of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study, which began on June 16, 2008, will be complete in May of 2010. The purpose of this project is to identify sources of excessive phosphorus in Little Rock Lake. Water samples have been taken per a carefully designed plan by volunteers and Benton County SWD staff in many locations in the lake and channel out to the Mississippi River. Paleolimnological sediment core samples were taken from the deepest (17 feet) part of the lake. All these water samples and core material will be analyzed by Bill Walker, the nation's foremost environmental engineer, MPCA Hydrologist, Mark Evenson, Wisconsin DNR Research Scientist, Paul Garrison and Bill Janes, Army Corp. of Engineers.

The TMDL study will determine what types of pollutants are entering the lake and where they originate. The six foot long core sediment sample will provide an overview of the lake's sedimentation history over at least six decades. A plan will be developed to eliminate the pollution at its sources.

The LRLA is in the process of improving shoreline ecology by the installation of buffer strips. The Native Buffer Program, spearheaded by Tiffany Determan, Watershed Coordinator, is a voluntary effort that encourages the creation of high quality shore land and stream bank buffers that protect water quality within the Little Rock Lake Watershed. Funding for the Native Buffer Program is provided by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (MNBWSR). The LRLA is also contributing by paying out-of-pocket expenses for buffer strips installed around the lake by utilizing a \$5,000 grant from the Initiative Foundation.

Yes, this is an exciting time the LRLA! We will soon know the depth and breath of the problems we face, what are the possible solutions, and we'll be able to apply the necessary tools to make our lake as healthy as possible.

## MEMBERSHIP

We're not quite there yet but we've had one heck of a terrific membership blitz. Your Board of Directors and some that aren't even ON the board have certainly given it their all. Working nights and weekends they are determined to achieve our 75% membership goal. Everyone did a great job but a few superstars deserve a hand. Your president Guy Spence was under pressure, being new and all, but fared well with the help of Maureen Graber. Bob and Dolly Rahn took on the task of building the Little Rock Lake Association booth that you saw at Rice Fun Days and STILL found time to sell quite a number of memberships. We didn't even know Delroy Shane but he wanted to get involved and he sold 7 memberships. Jeff "The Ticket Man" Soderholm did it again. Thank you Bruce and Judy Christofferson and Jim Hovda. I'll tell you what though; we have our own **Dynamic Duo**. Charlene Moran and Phyllis Post are "really something". Charlene does our news letter, Phyllis does the Rice Elementary contest to promote a healthy Little Rock Lake but they are not to busy to GITTER DONE. According to Phyllis, Charlene is quite the motivator, she got Phyllis to step out of her "comfort" zone a bit and together they "kicked butt", WOW over 40 memberships and still counting.

As an association we all owe these folks a resounding "ATTA BOY, or YOU GO GIRL". I hope that through this effort our lake owners are beginning to understand the importance of a large membership base. The way I see it, the State is not going to let our lake remain on the Impaired Waters list, they're going to clean it up. If we have the support of a strong membership (at least 75%) we'll garner funds from State and Federal agencies. If not, I'm afraid they will find other remedies to get the money necessary to do it. I've been getting a lot of support from folks that are not even ON the lake simply because they understand that a special taxing district would more than likely include the entire water shed and nobody wants THAT particular alternative. So, show this newsletter to any "Friends of Little Rock" that may be interested and if you haven't done so, JOIN NOW. We're still short of our goal but the thermometer at Rumors Bar and Grill tracks our progress, so stop and see how we're doing.

If you have any questions or would like me to pick up your membership give me a call.

Jim Rau 320-253-8499 or e-mail me at [jimrau2@msn.com](mailto:jimrau2@msn.com).

**LRLA Membership (August 2009/July 2010) \$25--Payable to LRLA, P.O. Box 326, Rice MN 56367**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_  
Cabin Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_