



# Little Rock Lake News

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

December 2010 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- Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> & March 12<sup>th</sup>**

## **TMDL STUDY - Little Rock Lake Water Quality Public Meeting**

We received an E-mail from Katie Winkelman, Benton County Water Plan Technician, that she will conduct a **Little Rock Lake Water Quality Public Meeting** on **January 5, 2011**, at the **Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School, Community Art Center**. There will be two sessions, one running from 1:30 to 3:30 PM and the other is from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The school address is 901 1<sup>st</sup> Street S, Sauk Rapids.

This is the results of our TMDL Study and the county has notified local residents about the meeting in many ways. It's a very important meeting about OUR LAKE and we strongly encourage you to attend one of these sessions. She presented some basic information to the Lake Association at the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting but on January 5<sup>th</sup> there will be more details. We will learn the cause of our poor water quality and potential ways to improve it. In June of 2008, William Walker was contracted to compile this information after Little Rock Lake had a severe algae bloom and was put on the MN Endanger Water Quality List. Our water quality has improved but we need to understand this information so we can continue to improve it.

### **The Carp Problem**

Little Rock Lake has a large carp population, which is a problem that needs to be addressed. In order to adequately deal with these prolific fish, it's important that we understand everything possible about them if we hope to control them.

Carp were introduced into United States waters in 1877 when 345 adult fish were brought from Germany. They were deemed a good food source by German settlers. During the sixteen years from 1879-1895 lakes and rivers across the country were stocked with carp.

The life cycle of carp begins when adults actively migrate to shallow waters to spawn. Any wet land: marsh, swamp, river's edge or shallow part of a lake is an ideal locale for carp to lay and fertilize their eggs. A single female can lay millions of eggs which can be fertilized by male fish. The hatchlings grow rapidly and can become a fifteen-inch fish in seven months. Carp have huge appetites and feed on everything on and near the bottom of a lake or river.

Carp have a negative impact on plant life and water quality. They uproot and devour plants and hence greatly reduce food sources for other animals in a lake or river. They create turbidity in the water by trashing about the bottom in search of food. Algae blooms result from the action of carp. The greater the population of carp the smaller the number of plants and water fowl in lakes.

There are a number of methods that can be used to eliminate carp or control their population. Draw downs of water levels can isolate them so that they can be removed. Unfortunately, this approach to solving the problem also eliminates other more valuable species of animals and fish that inhabit a lake. Rotenone can be used to poison the carp with success. This is not a good solution because other fish and amphibians are killed. The population of sunfish can be increased, because these pan fish like to eat the eggs of carp.

Commercial fishermen can be enlisted to harvest them with nets. This is usually done in the early spring while the carp are congregated in various locations. Temporary fences could be installed in Little Rock Lake between the main lake and west side of the lake and also in the channel to segregate the population, which would facilitate the harvest. Commercial harvesting is a solution which will reduce the population for a few years but must be repeated as needed. Jim Rau has just met an individual that has a market for carp and he may be able to hire or assist us in hiring commercial fisherman.

If the carp population in Little Rock Lake is to be successfully controlled at a level that minimizes their negative impact on the lake's ecosystem, a plan will have to be in place and adequately funded by the LRLA. We'll be discussing this at future meetings.

*-Guy Spence*

### **Zebra Mussels**

The DNR has posted Beware of Invasive Species signs at LRL accesses. Last fall they were found attached to irrigation hoses and at least one persons dock posts south of the Highway 10 Bridge. More information is available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.html>

**LRLA Membership (August 2010/July 2011) \$25 -- Payable to LRLA, P.O. Box 326, Rice, MN. 56367**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
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