

Little Rock Lake News

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



March 2010 edition www.littlerocklake.org or www.freewebs.com/littlerocklakeblog

Meetings are held at Rumors on the 2nd Saturday of the Month, 11A.M.
Future Meetings- April 10th, May 8th & June 12th

The last few months have been eventful, though not without some disappointment. We have been informed by Annie Felix, (Benton Soil Water Conservation) the TMDL study on Little Rock Lake scheduled for completion this May will now be completed in June of 2011, due to a delay caused by our expert consultant, Bill Walker. We were not awarded the \$5,000 grant we applied for from Minnesota Waters. We are prepared to apply again next year. In spite of these setbacks, we are forging ahead with a number of initiatives. We were awarded a \$ 1,200 donation from each of two townships at their annual meetings last week. A Big **THANK YOU!** To both Watab and Langola townships for supporting our lake & programs.

We know surface water runoff into the lake is laden with pollutants that will be filtered out with well-designed and maintained native buffer strips. These buffer strips will also reduce erosion of shorelines. Our effort to plant as many buffer strips as possible this spring, summer and fall will continue with funding we have from our \$5,000 Initiative Foundation Grant, matching BSWR grants, and the \$2,000 we received from Watab Township. Lakeshore owners will be reimbursed for any cash cost related to planting buffer strips. Remember, these strips are designed and planted with native species of plants that can become a beautiful landscaping feature on your property. If you are interested in having a buffer strip, please call Maureen Graber at 282-7113 or Guy Spence at 255-8916.

At our January meeting, there was discussion about cleaning the trash off the ice on the lake left by ice fishing activities. The DNR conservation officer responsible for overseeing fish house operation concurred; trash left on the ice has been a problem every year. He suggested a sign be designed by the LRLA which asked each occupant to clean up around their fish house before removing them on March 1. We posted such a sign on each fish house in mid February. We also collected any trash we found. The county provided a trash container near the Benton Beach Office. Information about this container was on the fish house signs.

Please come to the May 22 breakfast at the Benton Beach shelter. Meet your lakeshore neighbors and discuss our common goals of encouraging appropriate water use and shore land management practices. Breakfast will be at 10:00 a.m. followed by an information session on buffer strips or any Little Rock Lake issues you would like to discuss. We will have small containers of the lake safe Rodeo® herbicide available for anyone interested in using it to eradicate the invasive plant, reed canary grass on their shoreline. Instructions will be given on how and when to use the Rodeo®. After the education session, Tiffany Determan, our Buffer Project Water Technician would like us to help replant portions of the buffer strip around the pond, so bring your knee pads, gloves and perhaps a hat to keep the sun at bay.

Note Date Change: The Annual Picnic will be on Saturday, July 10th at Rumors.

The event will start at 11:00 a.m. with a presentation by Annie Felix. It's potluck plus chicken & burgers provided by Rumors, so bring your specialty hot dish, salad or dessert.

LRLA is now over 230 strong and we're pleased to have all the new members. I would like to extend a special invitation to each of you to attend the regular monthly meetings. They are held on the second Saturday of each month at 11:00 A.M. in the back room of Rumors.

Guy Spence, President

Please come!

We need your input and ideas!

LRLA Membership (August 2010/July 2011) \$25 Payable to

LRLA, P.O. Box 326, Rice MN 56367

Name(s) _____

Recruited by _____

Cabin Address _____

Preferred Mailing address _____

Member Phone _____ Email _____