Little Rock Lake News

Little Rock Lake Association, P.O. Box 326, Rice, MN 56367
December 2012 edition www.littlerocklake.org

Meetings are held at Rumors on the 2nd Saturday of the Month, 11 A.M.
Future Meetings- Dec. 8th, Jan. 12th & Feb. 9th

Lakeshore development in Minnesota is changing. In the 1960's and 70's lakeshore development in the state consisted mainly of seasonable cabins and small homes. The trend of turning seasonal homes into year-round residences in the 1970's and 80's continues today along with homes built on lakes. In fact, lakeshore development is increasing mainly in the northern part of the state, with counties in the northern portion of Minnesota having a greater than 500 percent increase in seasonal homes between 1990 and 2000. DNR reports that in 2004 there were 225,000 lakeshore dwellings on Minnesota lakes.
It has been estimated that two thirds of all lakeshore in the state is privately owned and not all that land has been developed. One study found that 25 percent of lakeshore owners have mowed lawns down to the shoreline. A summer time trip around Little Rock Lake would, no doubt, substantiate those findings. This "lawn-to-lake" land use has been found to have significant, cumulative, negative impacts on water quality.
Impacts on water quality are related to adjacent land use in the watershed. Nearly 60 percent of Little Rock Lake's 67,000 acre watershed is agricultural. Negative impacts to LRL's water quality are due to increased pollutants and nutrients in storm water runoff, from septic system leakage, and agricultural runoff into wetlands and creeks which are lake water sources, and altered shore land.
In lawn-to-lake lots, the volume of water runoff is 5-10 times greater than forested landscapes. On such properties, the amount of phosphorus entering the lake is 7-9 times greater than on shore land that is buffered with natural vegetation which grows from the shore to at least fifteen back from the shore. Sedimentation is eighteen times greater.
Other pollutants in runoff include lawn herbicides and pesticides. A natural landscape has been found to produce about 10 percent runoff while a hard surface landscape {including lawns} has about 50% runoff. Abundant nutrients such as phosphorus running into Little Rock Lake cause a change in vegetation since one pound of phosphorus generates 500 pounds of algae. This precipitates the green color of the lake.
The Little Rock Lake Association is in the process of monitoring lake water quality so that base line data is available to determine water quality improvement over time. This summer from July through September we sent five water samples from three locations on the main lake to RMB Laboratory in Detroit Lakes. The samples were analyzed for Phosphorus and Chlorophyll A, and the results were rather sobering. There was five times more phosphorus and Chlorophyll A than the TMDL study indicates the lake can safely handle.

August 1st marked the beginning of our new fiscal year. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2012 – 2013, please save us some time and forward your check for $25 to: Little Rock Lake Association, P.O. Box 326, Rice, MN 56367. This year there were expenditures to underwrite the cost of the Pizza Party at Rice Elementary School, the Annual Picnic, the cost of water quality monitoring and part of the cost of buffer strips which were planted along the lake shore. We need and appreciate everyone's support.

If the label on this newsletter is addressed to "**Non-Current Member"**, you are not a current member. Please complete the following form and forward it with your check, for $25, to the Little Rock Lake Association.

Your support in dues and time to help clean up our lake is greatly appreciated.

LRLA Membership (August 2012/July 2013) **$25 -- Payable to LRLA, P.O. Box 326, Rice, MN. 56367**

Name(s) _____
Cabin Address_____
Preferred Mailing address_____
Phone number_____Email_____

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