# Little Rock Lake News

Little Rock Lake Association, P.O. Box 326, Rice, MN 56367
**June 2014 Edition** www.littlerocklake.org

**Meetings are held at Rumors on the 2nd Saturday of the Month, 11 A.M.**
**Future Meetings- June 14th, July 12th and August 9th**

**Littlerocklake.org** is our web site address. Over the winter months, our Web Master, Jennifer Mace has been busy rebuilding our web site. The site contains the history, meeting minutes, newsletters and bylaws of the Little Rock Lake Association. We have included links to maps of the lake, DNR fishing information, boating information, and local government. Please spend a few minutes becoming familiar with the information available. We would appreciate a volunteer to take digital photos at our events this summer and send them to the web master to update our "Events" page. Please visit the Photo page of the web site for guidance on submitting photos.

**Shorelands** are naturally full of a rich diversity of life: plants, animals, and microorganisms, including humans. As we understand more about the structure and function of shoreland, we also become aware of the importance of our role in keeping these systems healthy. Our efforts can lead to the restoration of a quality outdoor resource, and a community full of life and beauty. Traditional lawns, while not particularly harmful, have few of the benefits of a more natural shoreline. Lawns are shallow rooted, provide little wildlife habitat, need frequent maintenance and are often over-fertilized. These factors can lead to problems on your lake such as:

- Shoreline erosion and lake sedimentation
- Algal blooms and excessive aquatic plant growth
- Loss of wildlife habitat, but an increase in nuisance animals
- Loss of leisure time

**The buffer zone solution**

Creation of a buffer zone is the essence of the lakescaping concept. It is an opportunity to balance our needs and priorities with the needs and priorities of those with whom we share life at the edge of the water. Lakescaping and shoreland restoration can return many desirable features to your shoreline:

- Provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife
- Filter out pollutants and runoff that degrade water quality
- Prevent shoreline erosion by absorbing wave action
- Enjoy abundant nature: flowers, shrubs, trees, aquatic plants, fish, insects, birds
- More leisure time to relax and enjoy the nature of life at the lakeshore*(MN DNR)*

**We've presented many articles on the benefits of a shoreline buffer, but what about the rest of your lawn (turf grass)? How can we minimize the amount of chemicals and nutrients that runoff or leach into the lakes and streams?**

1. Phosphorous in lawn fertilizer is only recommended where a soil test shows a deficit, or on a new lawn. Over the years, continuous use of phosphorus-containing fertilizers can build up soils phosphorous to high levels. Over-use of phosphorus fertilizer should be avoided because of the detrimental effects to surface water quality. If soil test phosphorus is in the very high range, use a fertilizer with a zero phosphorus analysis.
2. Grass clippings should be returned to the lawn whenever possible. As grass clippings easily decompose once in contact with the soil, they do not contribute to thatch buildup. Grass clippings are a valuable organic source of nutrients, especially nitrogen (N). As they decompose, these nutrients become available for use by the grass plant. In fact, yearly nitrogen applications may be reduced by one-third to one-half when grass clippings are returned to the lawn.
3. The most effective method of controlling lawn weeds is to maintain a dense and vigorously growing turf grass cover. Killing weeds without correcting the underlying problem will lead to unsatisfactory results. Often, turf grass weeds can be controlled simply by altering the cultural practices to favor the grass plants rather than the weeds. Shoreland owners must demonstrate prudent use of herbicides, if necessary, to control weeds effectively in turf grass. University of Minnesota Extension *Horticulture for the Home Gardener*

**Annual Little Rock Lake Association Picnic**

Plan ahead and mark your calendars to reserve the date that has been set for the Annual Picnic. It will be held at Rumors on Saturday, July 12th beginning at 11:00 a.m.

If the label on this newsletter is addressed to "**Current Occupant"**, 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 2013/July 2014) $25 -- Payable to LRLA, P.O. Box 326, Rice, MN. 56367**

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