



Little Rock Lake News

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

March 2015 Edition

www.littlerocklake.org

Meetings are held at Rumors on the 2nd Saturday of the Month, 11 A.M.
Future Meetings- March 14th, April 11th and May 19th

Each year since 2009, we've installed shoreline buffers of native plants in the yards of many of your neighbors on the lake or the channel. These residents have been pleased with the process, and the results. The native plants draw pollinators, bees, butterflies and song birds to their yards. The plants create summer and winter interest. As we've become more experienced at installing the buffer plantings, we've hired the Conservation Corp out of Brainerd. This team is comprised of 4 to 6 young adults who come with their own tools and equipment to assist with the planting. They work very hard and are hired on a full-day basis. In order to keep them busy for a full day, and to justify the cost of hiring them, we need at least one or two more shoreline buffers for this summer's planting. The Lake Association pays for the Conservation Corp to support the program. All of the cash costs of the shoreline buffer are covered by a grant through the Benton County Soil and Water office, (SWCD). ***Why not get expert advice on how to do it in addition to getting it paid for?***

As you know:

1. The natural vegetation serves as a filter strip that helps prevent lawn fertilizer and pesticide runoff from reaching the lake.
2. The native plants in the buffer zone do not need fertilizer or herbicides.
3. Buffer zones reduce the acreage of lawn and the amount of time needed for mowing and lawn maintenance.
4. Wildflowers, grasses, and sedges along the shore create a biological barrier that will deter Canada geese from loitering on the lawn.
5. Nature will thank you!

Please call Nathan Sanoski at the Benton SWCD office 320-968-5300 Ext 3, or Maureen Graber @ 320-282-7113 now to schedule a site visit!

Ice Fishing

As Ice fishing comes to an end, please make sure to pick up any remaining garbage on the lake. Each year we try to have volunteers look for any remains after the season closes. Please help as you can.

Carp Project

After three years our carp project is now on a fast-track. The carp project consists of placing radio trackers into carp; these will enable us to find where the fish are schooling and the netting of those fish. All the necessary permits have been issued or at least applied for, with the DNR and they are on board with our plans. Jeff Riedeman is scheduled to be netting this winter yet, and has been assured that we as an association will roll up our sleeves if he needs any help when the time comes. Tony Havrenak has got the signed proposal and has ordered the radio tags for the 10 initial fish and will be on hand to do the surgical insertion when Jeff is at the lake. \$25,000 of the \$35,000 necessary to fund the project has already been committed and a number of meetings in March to secure the rest of the money.

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 11th beginning at 11:00 a.m. Please plan to come and bring your favorite potluck food, the association will again be furnishing the meat.

Next Association Meeting

The LRLA has a monthly meet on the second Saturday of the month at Rumors beginning at 11:00 a.m. everyone who is a member of the association is encouraged to attend. The next meeting is Saturday, March 14th.

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 2014/July 2015) \$25 -- Payable to LRLA, P.O. Box 326, Rice, MN. 56367

Name(s) _____
Cabin Address _____
Preferred Mailing address _____
Phone number _____ Email _____