

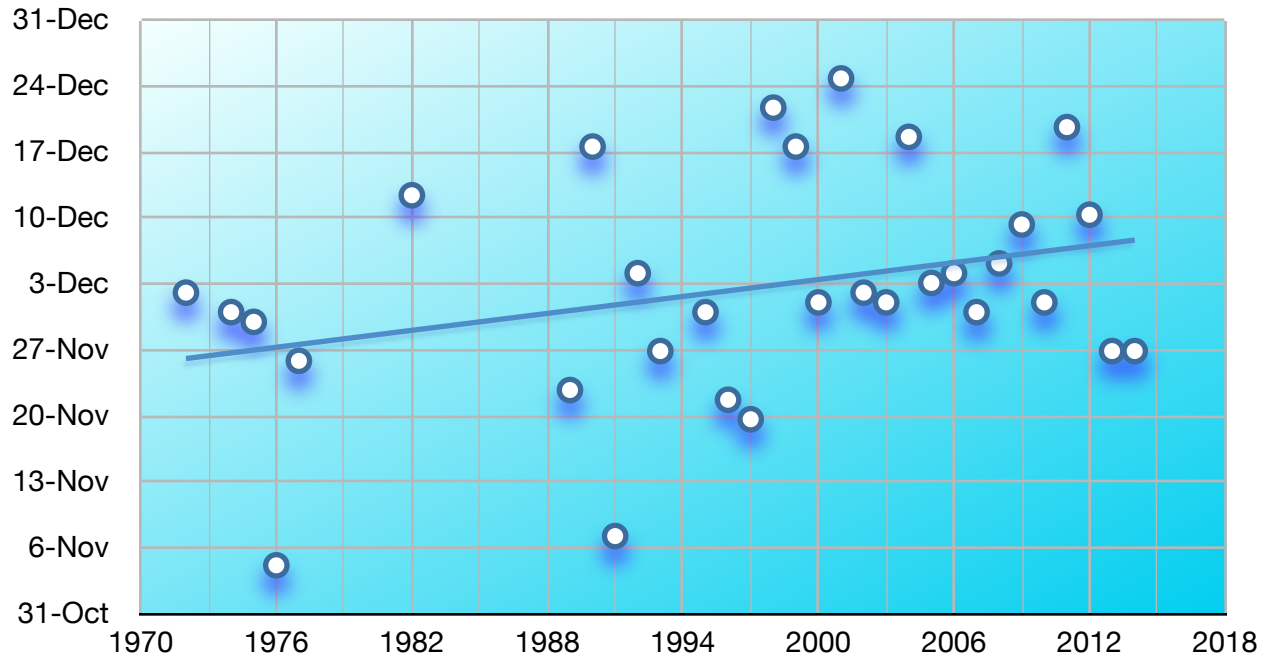
The Lake Riley Launch

December 2014

*An email newsletter for
Lake Riley Improvement Association Members*

Lake Dates. Historically it is not common for the lake to freeze over in November, but this is the 2nd year in a row with the official freeze date of November 27th. The lake ALMOST froze over completely on the 21st, but there was enough open water and wind that it opened up significantly in the days following. Now there are dark patches and cracks showing through the snow-covered lake ice. Will we have another winter like 2012, when open cracks in the ice persisted all winter long? Some unlucky people - and a car - went through the ice that year, so PLEASE BE CAREFUL. Be smart about venturing out on the ice - read the excellent [MN DNR Ice Safety](#) information!

Lake Riley Ice Over Dates



Evening with the Watershed. On **Tuesday, Dec. 2** the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed board invites everyone to the Chanhassen American Legion for their December meeting (290 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen.) The board meeting is at 6 p.m. and the at large session is at 7 p.m. Among the topics to be discussed will be a Pollinator Initiative, Purgatory Creek Carp Management, and AIS in Christmas Lake. This is a good opportunity to hear about Watershed projects and ask questions of your Watershed Board.

Nice Ice! Ice Castles in Eden Prairie. From the Star Tribune, October 28th:

"Ice castles are coming to Eden Prairie this winter.

Last week, the Eden Prairie City Council gave approval for Utah-based Ice Castles LLC to bring the attraction to the west metro suburb. Two years ago, the Mall of America in Bloomington hosted the company's creations. Now, Eden Prairie's Miller Park, at 8208 Eden Prairie Road, will host the acre-sized ice attraction with construction starting and tickets going on sale in November. Crews will "grow" 5,000 icicles a day on "ice farms," and then "harvest" the icicles, lighting them up at night with thousands of multicolored LED lights. The ice castles are expected to open to the public Dec. 26, if the weather permits. They will be open from 2-10 p.m. Monday - Friday and noon-10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through March. For more information or to buy tickets, go to www.icecastles.com."

Listen for Owls This Winter. The Minnesota DNR lists 12 Owls in Minnesota, with 5 species commonly found in this area: the Barn Owl, Barred Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Long-Eared Owl. The male great horned owls begin claiming their territory in December, when you may hear their call. They begin nesting in January or February and the deeper male hoot can be heard in duet with the higher-pitched female great horned owl. The barred owl begins nesting in March, but you might hear their distinctive, “Who-cooks-for-you? Who-cooks-for-you-all?” call. Owls make more sounds than just hooting: they screech, growl, beep...Listen to various owls and some of the incredible sounds they make at this [Journey North Owl page](#). It’s really a “hoot!” Better yet, listen for them around your house this winter.



Great Horned Owl

This e-newsletter is published in March, June, September and December. If you have questions, comments or ideas - or if you need to add or update an email address - please contact Anne Florenzano at 612-730-9470 or anneflorenzano@gmail.com