

The Lake Riley Launch

June 2011

*An email newsletter for
Lake Riley Improvement Association Members*

Lake Dates. Some things never change, and that's fortunately how it is with the **12th Annual Lake Riley 4th of July Boat Parade!** As always, boats will meet in the west bay, and the parade will start at **12 Noon**. Patriotic decorations of boats, humans, tubes and unsuspecting pets are highly encouraged!

The **ice-out date of April 11** this year seemed long in coming. Last year warm weather gave us a swimmable lake temperature of 75° on Memorial Day; this year it was a chilly 62.6°. The few, brave tubers out on Monday did not last long.

Annual Meeting. The annual Lake Riley Improvement Association (LRIA) meeting was held on Monday April 18, presided over by President John Bushey. At the end of the evening Mike Domke was elected as our new President. Linda Nolan was elected Vice President. Pete Lillie will continue as Treasurer and Anne Florenzano will continue as Secretary. Mike can be reached by phone at 612-860-3501 or by email at mike.domke@donaldson.com

The District Representatives will collect dues in their zones:

- 1 - John Bushey
- 2 - David Florenzano
- 3 - Eduardo Fernandez and Eldon Berkland
- 4 - Norm Kruse
- 5 - Dennis Mills and Dick Chadwick

Please note: the minutes from the annual meeting are attached to this email. If you have corrections to the minutes, please contact Anne Florenzano (contact info at the bottom of this newsletter.)



The new LRIA board (from left to right) is President Mike Domke; Vice President Linda Nolan; Secretary Anne Florenzano; Treasurer Pete Lillie.

Membership. Vice president Linda Nolan is already making her mark, as she has been coordinating and cleaning up our membership list and making sure all members are included on the email list for *The Launch*. To those of you who have been members but have not been receiving the newsletter until now, the LRIA board offers our sincerest apologies. With Linda's help we will keep better track of these details. Please let us know if you change your email address so we can keep you on our mailing list.

We are currently undergoing our annual push for membership. We hope that you will all choose to renew your membership by paying your dues. The nature and appearance of the lake, and even its reputation (for instance, as a clean lake, a good walleye or fishing lake,) can protect and improve all of our property values. And, of course, this makes the use of the lake by our own families and friends all the more enjoyable. Your dues help us to ~stock the lake with fish ~develop community around the lake ~fund the U. of MN carp study ~distribute vital information to all who care about our lake. The price of membership is a bargain at \$20! Also please consider an optional contribution to our "stocking fund."

You can pay your district rep, or send your contribution directly to Pete Lillie at 9355 Kiowa Trail, Chanhassen MN, 55317. He can be reached at Tel: 952-496-0714 Email: lilliesales@msn.com.

Creel Study. Last summer our lake water did not seem clearer as anticipated after the carp removal. You can read about it in much more detail in the attached minutes from the Annual Meeting. Lake Susan was noticeably cleaner after their carp removal. This has led to more questions about how to establish more water clarity in Lake Riley. One factor contributing to our lack of water clarity may be that there are too many small sunfish, bluegills and crappies eating the beneficial zooplankton that help control algae and milfoil. Does fishing remove too many of the predators of the small fish, and remove too many of the older, larger panfish? The small native fish population may play a pivotal role in the health of the lake. To find out more, Dr. Peter Sorenson's team is embarking on a year-round "creel" survey (a fishing survey) to determine: what is the present harvest of fish? How many panfish are in the lake? What are their sizes, ages? What proportion is being taken out by fishermen? Can these fish, too, be managed as well as the carp? The creel survey will be done by 2 undergraduate students from the University of Minnesota, Eric and Reid. They will survey three of our watershed lakes 3 days/week and most weekends. The anglers will be counted at random times, and data on the catch rates and sizes will be collected. Be sure to say "hi!" if you see them- they'll be around a lot, and appreciate our support.



U of M students Eric Sanft and Reid Swanson, who will be doing the creel survey on Lakes Riley, Ann and Susan to learn about the fishing pressure on our native fish population.

Evening With The Watershed - Another Success. The Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed Board hosted another successful meeting on May 3. Perry Forester, chair of the board, talked about the work the board has been doing. The third generation plan was approved in January, which makes us eligible for grant money. The board's vision is to achieve sustainable uses appropriate for each body of water in the district. Because the State of Minnesota requires the watershed districts to "promote the retention and conservation of all water precipitated from the atmosphere in the areas where it falls, as far as practical," there are grants and matching funds for shoreline restoration and other projects relating to runoff. The first guest speaker of the evening was Przemek Bajer, who gave an update on the U. of M. Invasive Species Project to control carp to enable restoration of plants, fish and water clarity in Riley-Purgatory watershed lakes. Next to speak was Raymond Newman, also from the U. of M., who is working on the restoration and maintenance of native vegetation in the lakes in our watershed district. He is focusing on restoring native plants to help maintain the aquatic habitats and clarity, while trying to control the invasive weeds like milfoil and curly leaf pondweed. The third speaker was David Austin from CH2M Hill who discussed what they've learned about increasing sedimentation of our lakes through time and development from taking sediment cores from Lotus, Mitchell and Round Lakes. Mark Enochs from CH2M Hill outlined the projects they are working on for each of the lakes in our district. Finally there were two speakers relating to water runoff projects: Rusty Schmidt, from the Washington County Conservation District near Stillwater, who has established proven strategies for small projects that do a lot to stop phosphorus getting into our streams, rivers and lakes; and Sam from Metro Blooms, a twin-cities based non-profit that works with communities to do rain gardens and other projects to prevent runoff. It was an informative evening of great information shared by professionals who are doing a lot on all fronts to protect our water.

Basic Boating Rules. There are so many good rules and regulations about boating and water safety that it is impossible to cover them all here. But let this be a reminder to PLEASE READ OVER THE [MINNESOTA BOATING GUIDE](#). Whether you are new to lake activities or you've been around watercraft all your life, it doesn't hurt to refresh yourself on the basics, for your safety and well-being. On page 45 are the regulations regarding swim platform permits: "All structures placed under a permit must have the permit number painted on them. In addition, the structure or buoy must either have a light visible in all directions or be reflectorized so as to reflect light from all directions." Register your watercraft in person at any deputy registrar of motor vehicles (where you license your car); at the DNR License Center in St. Paul (address at the end of the Boating Guide booklet) or online at www.wildlifelicense.com/mn/. And remember, if you see dangerous or illegal water activity occurring on the lake this summer, contact the sheriffs' offices; they both respond when we need them:

*** Hennepin Water Patrol: 612-596-9880* *Carver Water Patrol: 952-361-1137***

Lakes, Rivers and Wetlands Quiz.

1. What MN park is the largest water-based park in the National Park System?
2. How many counties in MN have NO natural lakes?
3. What is the maximum depth of Lake Minnetonka?
4. What is the largest lake in MN, with the entire lake within the borders of MN?

For the answers, go to [THIS WEBSITE](#).

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 952-937-5354 or anneflorenzano@gmail.com