

The Lake Riley Launch

September 2014

*An email newsletter for
Lake Riley Improvement Association Members*

Lake Dates. Fish stocking usually takes place in October. During our annual meeting in April, however, the decision about whether to continue stocking was left open. The committee chosen at that time will make the determination, and if stocking takes place, a notice will be sent out to everyone.

Membership 2014. If you have not yet paid your \$20 dues for this year, now is the time! And check with your neighbors to make sure they're paid up and "in the loop" of what's going on around our lake. Email membership questions to Shelly Manning at smanning90@comcast.net, or call her at 612-963-9092.

Invasive Watch. As you pull out your dock sections and boats this fall, please be vigilant in checking for zebra mussels. They have been [found in nearby Christmas Lake](#). Lake Minnetonka and Prior Lake are also infested, and because they had such high water this summer, many boaters from those lakes came to Lake Riley and could easily have infested our water. Carefully check your dock poles, boat hulls, irrigation hoses and filters - anything that has been submerged. Zebra mussels need something hard to attach to, so be on the lookout. If you should find suspicious signs of them, call Minnesota DNR Conservation Officer Jackie Glaser at 952-442-6423, or 612-559-8753.

Lake Vegetation Update. Ray Newman and John JaKa from the University of Minnesota have sent us the following update. There is some good news hidden among all the milfoil!

"The early-season endotohall herbicide treatment successfully controlled curlyleaf pondweed in Lake Riley this spring. Curlyleaf was present in about 27% of sites surveyed in May (prior to treatment), about 20% of sites in June (after the treatment) and in only 3% of sites by mid-August. Curlyleaf frequency of occurrence increased substantially from May to June in an untreated reference lake (Mitchell). Curlyleaf frequency in Lake Riley has declined overall since treatments began in 2013. Native aquatic plant frequencies increased for most taxa in 2014 compared to 2013, 2012 and 2011. Although the increases were slight, the following plants species were observed at their highest frequency of occurrence since we began surveying Lake Riley in 2011: Chara, water stargrass, Canada waterweed, bushy pondweed, white water lily, narrow leaf pondweed and sago pondweed. Although water clarity was slightly better in 2014 compared to 2013, native plant growth and recruitment is likely still being hindered by low light during the summer growing months. Water clarity is an issue that may need to be addressed by managers in the future. A noteworthy increase in frequency was observed for Eurasian watermilfoil in the summer of 2014 compared to summer of 2013. A management strategy for Eurasian watermilfoil will likely be important in future efforts to enhance native plants and reduce nuisance levels for lakeshore home owners on Lake Riley. We are working with the watershed district and the Minnesota DNR to address these issues."

Watershed Rules Update. The board of the Lake Riley Improvement Association has joined with other area lakes association boards in the newly-formed Southwest Metro Lakes Coalition (SWMLC). As a result of our campaign to raise awareness of this issue, last night the Eden Prairie City Council passed a motion at their meeting for staff to request the Watershed Board to postpone their rule-making until the City Council has had a chance to look further into the issue. This is important, as Smith Partners, the legal counsel to the Watershed, has stated that the rule-making process was "initiated at the request of city representatives." In addition, the Council asked the Eden Prairie City Attorney to investigate the statutory authority of the Watershed to implement and enforce the proposed rules. Here is the video link to the EP City Council meeting last night. Fast forward to 14 minutes to see our relevant information discussed and voted upon. It's about 10 minutes long.

http://eden-prairie.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=3&clip_id=867

Revised proposed rules are up on the Watershed website at rbcwd.org/permits/. They will be discussed tonight at their board meeting at 7 p.m. at Eden Prairie City Hall, as hopefully will be the postponement request from the E.P. City Council. You are all encouraged to come again to the Watershed meeting, regardless of whether there is a vote. Our presence at their meetings has made a real difference, with the

Watershed Board making some changes to the rules as originally proposed, especially regarding buffers for lakeshore owners. But many of the buffer rules remain in place for thousands of other parcels of land near wetlands and watercourses.

Southwest Metro Lakes Coalition (SWMLC). The coalition is now official. The SWMLC Articles of Incorporation state, “*The purpose of this corporation is to promote and support activities to preserve and protect the lakes within the Purgatory Riley Bluff Creek Watershed District and conduct non-partisan research, education, and informational activities to increase public awareness of conditions and events that may impact such lakes.*” So far the coalition has representatives from Lotus, Lucy, Mitchell, Red Rock and Riley, representing roughly 1000 households in this watershed district. The collaboration between the lake associations has already proven to be positive, as demonstrated by the changes in the proposed rules, recent Eden Prairie City Council action, plus the coordination and large number of citizens who have now become aware of and invested in the Watershed Board’s rule-making process. To ensure the continuation of the coalition’s work, each member lake association will contribute a founding membership fee of \$300.

We Can’t Just Complain, We Have To Participate. There is need for one more volunteer from Lake Riley to become a member of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). It is a citizen-led volunteer advisory group to the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District. It requires 2 meetings a month; the Watershed Board meeting and a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. Bob Adomaitis has already applied, but he does travel some for work, and we need one other to join him so that there is always a Lake Riley member present to stay informed about what our Watershed Board is working on and to facilitate better understanding between us. Please call Bob at 952-463-5645 or email him at badomaitis@hotmail.com if you are willing to step up. It won’t all be on your shoulders, but you can help!

A Fond Farewell. We lost two members of our Lake Riley “family” in August. Pete Lillie, former treasurer of the LRIA, passed away on August 14, and Bettyann Kirtland died on August 29th. Our condolences go out to both families.



Bettyann (standing on left) and John Kirtland (seated, center) surrounded by family at Lake Riley, 2005.

Bettyann was a founding member of the Lake Riley Improvement Association, along with Jo King, who still lives on the lake. Bettyann and John bought their place on Lake Riley in 1951, and have spent every summer here since then, 63 years.

Pete Lillie at the helm of his pontoon boat, 4th of July Riley boat parade, 2005. Pete and George-Ann have lived on Lake Riley since 1988.



Endings. "The end of a melody is not its goal: but nonetheless, had the melody not reached its end it would not have reached its goal either. A parable."

— Friedrich Nietzsche

"The summer," Randy explained. "I'm going to appreciate it. I'm going to walk in the woods noticing everything, and ride my bike on all the roads I never explored. I'm going to fill a pillow with ladies' tobacco so I can smell it in January and remember about August. I'm going to dry a big bunch of pennyroyal so I can break pieces off all winter and think of summer. I'm going to look at everything, and smell everything, and listen to everything so I'll never forget --"

— Elizabeth Enright, *Then There Were Five*

"And the day inevitably comes when the scrapbook of summer, smeared with ice cream slurps and sweat stains, gives way to that new clean white notebook, spine unbroken, begging to be smudged with the enthusiasm of a number two pencil and a mind open to the possibilities."

— Toni Sorenson

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