

The Lake Riley Launch

June 2013

*An email newsletter for
Lake Riley Improvement Association Members*

Lake Dates. The **14th Annual Lake Riley 4th of July Boat Parade** will take place as always next Thursday. Boats will meet in the west bay, and **the parade will start at 12 Noon.** Last year we held the parade in record-setting 101 degree heat; this year the forecast is for 70's and possible showers...let's make it showers of sunny smiles, happy families and bedecked boats!

This spring the **ice-out date of April 28** was the latest ever! Quite a contrast from last spring, which brought the earliest ice-out of our records on March 18th, nearly a 6-week difference. The latest record previously was from 1975 when the ice-out was recorded on April 26.

Annual Meeting. The annual Lake Riley Improvement Association (LRIA) meeting was held on Tuesday April 23, presided over by President Mike Domke, at the Chanhassen American Legion. For the first time in memory, the lake was still frozen for the annual meeting! *Clair Bleser*, District Administrator of Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District gave an overview of the work they're doing on behalf of our vegetation management plan. *Ray Newman* Prof. from University of Minnesota Dept of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology gave a more detailed description of the planned spring treatment for curly-leaf pondweed. And Przemek Bajer PhD gave an update on our overall lake health. Please see the attachment of the complete minutes from the meeting. A big "THANK YOU!" to Mike for all the work he has done on membership, keeping up with the issues facing the lake, and organizing the annual meeting!

Annual Dues Due! Consider, for \$20 you could get this T-shirt...



...or you could **keep up your membership with the Lake Riley Improvement Association!** With your investment the LRIA will continue to support the world-class University of Minnesota study on our lake and watershed, keep you updated on interesting and important information relevant to Lake Riley, and foster a sense of community and care centered around our valuable Lake Riley. What a bargain! If you have not already done so, please send your annual dues check of \$20 to our new Treasurer **Shelly Manning**: 9520 Lakeland Circle, Eden Prairie, MN 55347 (smanning90@comcast.net, 612-963-9092.) Don't forget to include an extra money donation for fish-stocking if you are so inclined.

Update From Przemek On The Lake Study. What a crazy, rainy year this has been! We have been monitoring water clarity, phosphorus and zooplankton in Riley since May. As you probably know, Riley had a really nice water clarity in mid/late spring and we hope that the clarity will persist at least through the first half of the summer. Next week we will begin the enclosure experiment to test if high densities of bluegills contribute to poor summertime water clarity in Riley. The enclosures will be located by John Bushey's house. Hopefully people will be able to watch them and see the difference in water clarity. This

year, we will have four enclosures (last year we had only two.) Two of them will be stocked with bluegills and two will be kept fish-less. We will monitor water clarity and zooplankton abundance in each enclosure, as well as in the lake, through the end of the summer. Later in the summer we will be conducting our standard fish surveys to see if the carp are showing any sign of recovery - we are expecting not - and to get another estimate of the size and density of bluegill sunfish.

Update From Ray Newman On Lake Riley Vegetation. The spring treatment was very successful at controlling curlyleaf pondweed. Curlyleaf was widespread before treatment and very little was found after treatment. Eurasian watermilfoil is abundant however, and likely will be problematic this summer. Native plants are just starting to come in due to the late spring. In addition to the lilies, we spotted Canada waterweed, narrow leaf pondweed, Sago pondweed and coontail. With additional funding from the university, we collected sediment samples to evaluate the native seedbank in Riley (along with Ann, Staring and Susan). We are currently incubating the samples to see what will emerge.

To see descriptions of some of these native plants go to the [MN DNR Aquatic Plants](#) website.

Help With Website? The LRIA now has the web domain name lakeriley.org. If any web-savvy member is interested in helping with the creation and maintenance of a website for this lake association, please contact me: anneflorenzano@gmail.com or 612-730-9470.

Basic Boating Rules. I repeat this message every year, but where safety is concerned I feel it is always worth it. There are so many important 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. 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. I have them in my smart phone contact list under "Water Patrol." I hope I never need to call them.

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

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