

# The Lake Riley Launch

March 2017

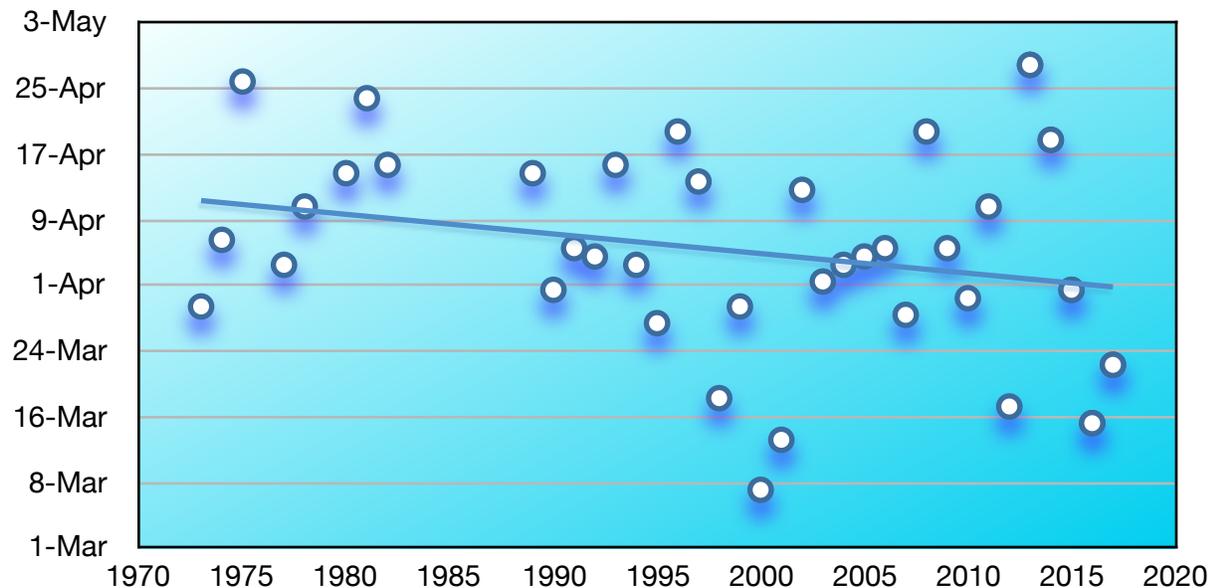
*An email newsletter for  
Lake Riley Improvement Association Members*

**Lake Dates.** The 2017 Lake Riley Improvement Association (LRIA) annual meeting will be held on **Monday, April 24th from 7-9 p.m.** It will be held in at the **EDEN PRAIRIE CITY CENTER, 8080 MITCHELL ROAD, EDEN PRAIRIE in HERITAGE ROOM 3.** Please come prepared to:

- Pay your \$20 dues, and additional fish stocking fee if you like.
- **Share your experience with lake vegetation removal.** Last summer we lakeshore owners tried a lot of different methods to get rid of lake weeds. We are doing a great job of not using chemicals! On my side of the lake several of us hired a scuba company that manually pulled the weeds, and we were happy with the results. Let's talk about how our different methods worked, the cost, and overall satisfaction with our various efforts. This should be a great conversation! Please bring all the information about your weed removal efforts - sharing this information will help all of us.
- Reconnect with your lake neighbors. It's a welcome sign of spring to turn our attention to lake matters once again. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR APRIL 24TH.**

**Become a new member of the LRIA board.** The positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are up for new, fresh volunteers. The term is for 3 years. The duties of each position are straightforward and mostly the time required to do them comes in brief spurts. We are a small group and we depend on each member to take their turn. Really. It is not hard, and you gain more by being more involved than it takes in time and effort! E-mail Bob at [badomaitis@hotmail.com](mailto:badomaitis@hotmail.com) or me, [anneflorenzano@gmail.com](mailto:anneflorenzano@gmail.com).

## Lake Riley Iceout Dates



**Ice Out on March 23, 2017.** The slow-motion ice out did not break any records this year, but it sure was interesting! The extraordinarily strong winds around March 8 -peak wind gust from MSP airport of 60 mph- was a good reminder of what an important factor wind can be in the ice out process. That wind created open water around the shoreline and jump-started the whole process. Our earliest ice-out date was on March 8, 2000 and latest was on April 28th, 2013, putting our ice-out date of March 23 still on the early side. The Minnesota DNR has a nice chart that shows the [2017 Lake Ice Out Dates](#). I have posted the Lake Riley Ice Out date on their [Facebook page](#).

**Alum Treatment Recap.** Last year, the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) approved funding of an alum (aluminum sulphate) treatment for Lake Riley. The treatment was applied the week of May 9th, 2016. This method for reducing the amount of phosphorous available as nutrient for weed growth was under consideration since the mid-2000s.

It was decided that before applying the alum, it was first necessary to control Riley’s explosive population of common carp, an invasive fish that, among other things, disturbs lake sediment and plant roots, which would negate the benefit of having the phosphorus confined in the sediment. This led to the extensive carp study done by the U of MN, led by Dr. Peter Sorenson.

In 2015, with carp managed and kept at low numbers, the **RPBCWD** says: “...the district conducted herbicide treatments to control two invasive aquatic plants: curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil. By knocking down these invasives, the goal was to promote a healthy and balanced native [weed] population. Establishing a thriving native plant population was particularly important because Eurasian watermilfoil can reproduce rapidly in clear water, and having healthy native plants prior to alum treatment will help keep the invasives from spreading.” These herbicide treatments took place in spring of 2015 and 2016.

About Alum from the **RPBCWD** website: Alum (aluminum sulfate) is a compound derived from aluminum, the earth’s most abundant metal. Alum has been used in water purification and wastewater treatment for centuries and in lake restoration for decades. Alum reduces the growth of algae by trapping the nutrient phosphorus—algae’s food source—in sediments. Like most other plants, algae require phosphorus to grow and reproduce. Algal growth is directly dependent on the amount of phosphorus available in the water. Without available phosphorus, algae cannot continue to grow and reproduce. Alum is injected into water several feet below the surface. On contact with water, alum becomes aluminum hydroxide (the principal ingredient in common antacids such as Maalox). This fluffy substance called floc, settles to the bottom of the lake. On the way down, it interacts with phosphorus to form an aluminum phosphate compound that is insoluble in water. The result? Phosphorus in the water is trapped as aluminum phosphate and can no longer be used as food by algae. An added bonus: As the floc settles downward through the water, it also collects other suspended particles in the water, carrying them down to the bottom and leaving the lake noticeably clearer.”

The result for Lake Riley 2016 water clarity is below, with four previous years’ data for comparison.

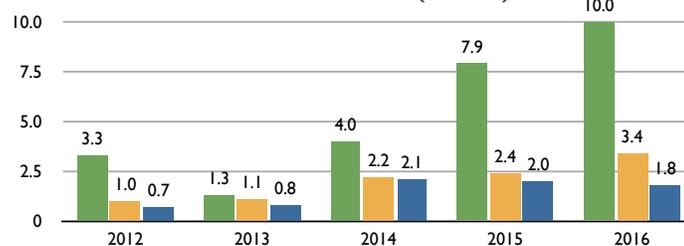
## LAKE RILEY SECCHI DISC READINGS

LAKE RILEY ALUM TREATMENT: WEEK OF MAY 9TH, 2016

WATER CLARITY (METERS)

MONTH	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
MAY	3.3	1.3	4.0	7.9	10.0
JULY	1.0	1.1	2.2	2.4	3.4
AUGUST	0.7	0.8	2.1	2.0	1.8

WATER CLARITY (METERS)



**Riley Lake Park Boat Launch Renovation.** The Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation website says, “Riley Lake Park has a designated parking area for vehicles with boat trailers. Reconfiguration and/or reconstruction of the boat ramp parking area is scheduled to occur in 2017. A new park building will serve as a restroom and changing area for people visiting the beach. The addition of water and a bathroom facility may involve using self-contained holding tanks due to the proximity to the lake/ground water table.” They will be increasing the number of parking spaces for boat trailers from 15 to 22. You can see a detailed plan on their [website](#). (Thanks, Ryan!)

[lakeriley.org](#) Have you been to our website? I hope so! Remember that, among other things, we have a message board under the [LRIA NEWS](#) page. It is empty right now, so if you have anything to sell or trade, let me or Jake Peterson know and we'll put it up. Last spring George Adzick had a small boat lift to sell: he sold it, and a boat, to the Reese family across the lake and made great new friends with them as well! There's a long history of trades among our lakeshore owners, and springtime is a great time to do it.

**Watch for Our New LRIA Google Group.** After the upcoming annual meeting we will be implementing an LRIA Google Group for our communication. You will get an email invitation to join the group and a simple click should get you into the group. Please note: As we prepare to make this change we are cleaning and updating our email list. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE pay your dues and make sure we have your current, preferred email addresses so that you do not get dropped in the transition.

**Muskrat Love.** One benefit of having a couple of weeks of open shoreline was watching the muskrats! They have been busy diving to get vegetation and perching on the edge of the ice to eat it all. I watched an eagle swoop down to catch a muskrat, which thankfully was able to dive under the ice in time. Here's some good information about muskrats from [Biokids](#) and from the [MN DNR](#) and here's a little [video](#) of them eating their veggies, just like they have been doing on the edge of the ice.



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](mailto:anneflorenzano@gmail.com)