

The Lake Riley Launch

September 2010

*An email newsletter for
Lake Riley Improvement Association Members*

Lake Dates. Grab your kids, your nieces and nephews and bring them to the public boat launch to **help us stock walleye fish fingerlings on Saturday morning, October 9 at 10 a.m.** Everyone can help by gently pouring buckets of wriggly, squiggly baby walleyes into our lake. It doesn't take long but it's interesting and fun for kids and adults alike. There will be hot coffee, cocoa and doughnuts for all.

We will be purchasing about 3,000 fingerling walleye from Ronald Radermacher of Waconia. He says that cold water temperatures are very important for the fish and conditions should be appropriate by Oct. 9.

Just in case, however, Radermacher reserves the right to delay the date if the water is not cold enough. The LRIA pays half of what's needed for this fish stocking; the rest is paid for by **generous contributions by our members** for this purpose. If you'd like to contribute money to help with the walleye stocking, contact Pete Lillie at 9355 Kiowa Trail, Chanhassen MN, 55317. Tel: 952-496-0714 Email:

lilliesales@msn.com. Thanks to all who make this possible!

On **Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 7 pm** you will have the chance to hear the latest information on the watershed district activities. The Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed invites everyone to the Chanhassen American Legion (290 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen) for another **Evening with the Watershed**. This is an informative and popular event for anyone interested in our water ecology. It has been VERY well attended in the past. You can support the Chanhassen Legion by coming early for dinner.

Invasion of the Zebra Mussels. We can be vigilant about cleaning our boats, tackle, and any other equipment we take to other lakes, but it may not be enough to stop the invasive zebra mussels. The Eden Prairie News published a very informative article on August 28th by Forrest Adams about the discovery of these destructive mussels in Prior Lake and now Lake Minnetonka. "Zebra mussels are famous for hitching a ride from one body of water to the next. They are the only freshwater mussel that can attach to objects. Native to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea in Central Asia, they caught a ride on some ships and first appeared in North America in 1988 in Lake St. Clair, a small water body connecting Lake Huron and Lake Erie. From there, they spread through the Great Lakes states, until they found their way down the Mississippi River...The discovery of zebra mussels in Lake Minnetonka this summer has local watershed districts on high alert. "They are filter feeders and eat materials that are in the food column," said Skinner. "You see water clarity increase, but when you reduce bait in the food chain, you impact the fishery over time." Skinner said zebra mussels behave differently wherever they live, but, generally speaking, they have strength in numbers. Female zebra mussels can produce between 100,000 and 500,000 eggs per year, according to researchers. These eggs develop into larvae that begin to form shells. They are free swimming and attach to any firm surface, such as boat hulls, mooring buoys and docks en masse. The shells are also razor-sharp and can create hazardous conditions for swimmers. Skinner said the dangers may not be seen immediately, but a slow and gradual build-up of zebra mussels, over time would have long-term impact." For much more information, read the full article [Zebra Mussels Zeroing in on Area Lakes](#). WCCO TV did a [story](#) Tuesday, September 14 on the efforts to track the population in Lake Minnetonka. And if you really want to get upset, learn more about what we might have in our future at the Minnesota DNR site [Lake Minnetonka Zebra Mussels](#). Although officials seem to be doing all they can to prevent this unwelcome onslaught, it appears that the spread of the zebra mussels is inevitable.

Carp Study News. Przemek Bajer of the University carp study team reports that sampling of Lake Riley during July and August revealed no small, young carp in the lake. This is good news, as it was thought possible that winter removal of large numbers of adult carp would allow for better survival of the young (less competition for food.) This appears not to be the case however, supporting the method of winter removal of adults as viable and sustainable. Przemek is working on a report that presents the use of radio-tagged "Judas" fish to find and remove under-ice aggregations of carp. The study team learned one interesting thing about the behavior of carp under the ice by using an experimental archival tag on a Judas fish. This tag records and stores in its memory the depth of the fish every 3 minutes. To get the data back it is necessary for the fish to be caught. They were able to catch their tagged fish in the net last

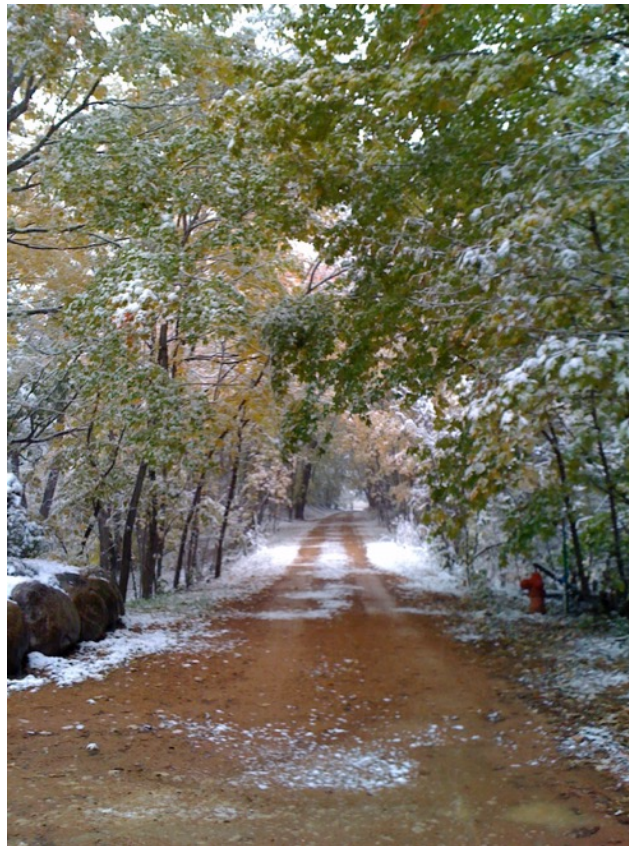
March and then downloaded the data from the tag. The data showed that the fish spent most of the time in the winter right under the ice - at 3 to 4 feet - and very rarely descended to depths greater than 10 feet, even though warmer and oxygenated water extended down to about 25 feet. The University carp study team is not sure why the carp do not go deep as they thought, and they will investigate further why the carp sit right under the ice. The team also collected samples of zooplankton this summer, which they will analyze over the winter to try to explain why the lake turns green.

New Concrete Pads at the Boat Launch. Eden Prairie Park Maintenance says that they will be replacing the concrete pads of the Riley Park public boat launch in the near future (hooray!) You can see the concrete pads stacked up by the launch already. Eden Prairie is working with the DNR to make sure they are installed properly. The launch ramp will NOT be closed; they will be working on it one half - one side - at a time, so it will always be possible to put in or take boats out of the lake.

Riley Sugarbush Maple Syrup Wins Again. Not the blue ribbon, alas, but our intrepid Lake Riley Sapmeisters (John Bushey, David Florenzano, Bob Adomaitis and Eldon Berkland) won second in the Medium Amber category, and third in the Dark Amber category. How sweet it is.

Embrace the Fall, Enjoy the Color. The Richard T. Anderson Conservation Area is a 125 acre park in Eden Prairie mentioned among the "Best Hikes of the Twin Cities" in a story last year on All Things Considered on [Minnesota Public Radio](#). See pictures [here](#). There are miles of hiking trails for you to enjoy. You can even join the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club on a 5-mile hike there on [Oct. 2](#).

Remember October 12, 2009? In the height of our autumn color we woke up to snow - lots of it! It was beautiful, but confusing! Was it glorious fall...or winter?



*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*