

Hello Circle Lake Area Members and Neighbors:

Your invited and encourage everyone to attend our annual CLAA meeting scheduled for:

Date: Sunday, July 17, 2005
Time: 3pm.
Location: Dave & Missy Kalkman, 3525 Culver Trail (south east end of Lake)
“A thank you to Dave & Missy Kalkman for offering/hosting this event”
Plenty of boat parking available.....

It's always nice to see the number of youths we have around our lake, how they have grown and our proud grandparents who bring their grandchildren. We will have events to entertain the young ones again.

Below is a draft agenda for the annual CLAA meeting. This meeting will focus around a Board presentation on our Circle Lake Area Association Survey. The CLAA Board thanks everyone for the strong survey participation. We mailed/delivered 84 surveys in 2004 with 43 responses received. This 51% overall capture, including CLAA membership and neighbors, is a great response. Minnesota Lake Association representatives indicated in a phone conversation with me a year ago that a typical lake survey response is usually in the 1/3 range. Another Rice County lake association presented their own 2004 survey with an overall response rate of 16%.

In late 2003 and early 2004, our Rice County Leadership and Administrative Departments initiated a focus on communicating to area lake associations of the need to consider developing a lake management plan. All lake management plans will evolve and change, but they provide focus in several fronts. We're a total voluntary group and participation from many areas helps build board and plan successes at all levels. The survey process was a recommended place to start. This board maintained our focus on this task, which we believe will be a good tool for the 2005/2006 board to use in furthering CLAA objectives.

I encourage you to place our annual meeting date on your calendar today and look forward to your participation.

Agenda:

3pm – 4pm: Social time and annual membership registration (\$25 for July 05' thru June 06')

4pm – 5pm: Board meeting: a) administrative reports & tasks.
b) board election nominees, ballots, elections (1 per membership/family)
There are 9 Total Board Seats, three year term,
(4) will be open/available.
Expiring Seats – Dan Bartho, Jeff Johnson, Gordy Jones &
(1) vacant for term thru 6/07
c) Circle Lake Area Association Survey – board presentation

4pm – 5pm: Kids events & fun activities, coordinated by Jane Bartho & others.

5pm - ?: Pot luck dinner, please bring a dish to share. Please provide your own meat/entrée item to grill.
The association will provide cooking grills, plates, cups, beverages, & condiments.
We recommend you bring folding chairs.

We hope weather will not be an issue. For any last minute weather concerns call Dan Bartho 663-0266. The Forest Town Hall would be the most likely backup location.

Dan Bartho
President – Circle Lake Area Association
h) 507-663-0266

News & Updates:

Fish Grates

A cooperative program with the Tri-Lakes Sportmen's Club has provided for the purchase of new fish grates to be installed on the Circle Lake dam. The permit has been issued. The dam replacement project (located in northeast corner)

occurred a few years ago, the old fish grates were not repairable. Several groups provided funds for dam replacements costs, but fish grate source of funds were not available within the budget. The fish grates will be install by needed volunteers when water levels allow for quality installation. The fish grate structures will be supported by a floating dock plat forms, an improved installation from prior setup. Program objective is to improve game fish habitat. Rumors have it there use to be a nice population of pan fish in our lake.

Fish Stocking & Commercial Harvesting

CLAA Board continues to have good and open dialog with our two regional DNR representatives, Hugh Valant & Todd Kolander, Waterville Area Fisheries, phone (507) 362-4223. All parties participated in a lake tour last fall discussing how to improve and bring-back this habitat that has occurred 3 winter kills over our past 8 year cycle. Relocating the aerator was discussed and could occur next winter. This past spring DNR presented to area sportsmens groups on our area lakes. The DNR's fisheries program/over-view represents continued support to Circle Lake. Their 2005 stocking program should be similar to the 2004 program. Dan Bartho was given a complete fishing stocking report with records back to 1985. This will be scanned to be placed on our www.circlelake.org website. The professionals in this industry believe this program will bring Circle Lake back for a good fishing cycle. The help of fish grates, improved awareness in catch-n-release and lack of fishing pressure are all habitat benefits. The pro/con assessment of our high nutrient levels, high nutrients helps fish grow faster... Here are the recent statistical numbers on stocking:

Year 2004

626,750 walleye fry.

1,351 pounds walleye fingerlings.

265 pounds prespawm black crappie adults, 190 pounds prespawm bluegill adults, 150 pounds yellow perch adults.

Public communication into the regional DNR Fisheries was helpful in the return of our Circle Lakes assigned Commercial Harvester/vendor. It had been several years since any formal harvesting has occurred. Test netting has been preformed in recent years but the vender was reluctant because of there average size. Our harvesting vendor was present on Circle Lake late fall 2004 and at least (3) ice harvesting net locations this past February/March 2005. The DNR report on winter 2005 has not been forwarded at the time of this news release. An update will be provided at annual meeting.

The DNR report on Commercial harvest summer/fall 2004 is: 11,200 pounds of buffalo & 4,500 pounds of carp. Their netting process provided samples of northern pike, walleye, yellow perch, crappie and bluegill. The DNR's statement to Dan Bartho was "the abundance was low in numbers, but this is not likely a good indicator; recording on game fish often have recording errors".

Pier Dock

A cooperative program with Forest Township, Rice County, Tri-Lakes Sportsman's, CLAA & Minnesota Corrections will have a new recreational pier dock installed on Forest Township property just east of the DNR boat launch this summer. A similar pier dock is installed on Fox Lake and has held-up very well. The old steel docks owned by Rice County were removed a few years ago when Forest Township took over land ownership from Rice County. With the loss of the docks area upkeep has lost priority. The new pier dock design is solid construction utilizing utility type poles anchored into the lake with heavy wood planking and sides, handicap accessible and a safety rail design. Tri-Lakes Sportmen's Club will recruit members to cut lawn area and the township has had discussions with the MN Corrections programs. A Faribault boy scout troop will provide community service for annual area cleanup. The potential of winter ice and subsequent spring thaw movement will be monitored. If the dock sustains damage, or if a continued high probability of damage develops, a relocation of aerators could be a possible solution. Dock maintenance costs will be supported by Tri-Lakes Sportsmen's. Contact was made within Rice County & the DNR about any plant vegetation programs that we could gain access too, but no success to date. We'll keep open to such programs in coming years. If you have awareness of vegetation programs please contact the CLAA Board.

CLAA Board

The 2004/2005 Board objective to develop more Circle Lake neighborhood representation, was accomplished, with board representatives from each of four neighborhoods. A board seat term is 3 years, unless a resignation or a vacancy creates an interim term seat. There will be four board vacancies needing nominations. Last year's new board members Dave Kalkman & Fred Wenthe helped us rebuild CLAA representation on the south end neighborhood. Bryce Waldemar

recommitted and was re-elected to represent the south west neighborhood. Ross Morrison, with a residence in the Benjamin Bay area, covers the middle-east neighborhood. Ross Morrison's commitment is through 2006. The north-east neighborhood has had good historical volunteer commitment. Kim Schnieder's commitment remains through 2006. Gordy Jones stepped-up and took on a vacant seat and accepted an officer position as Secretary/Treasure. Gordy Jones and Dan Bartho have expiring board seats from the northeast neighborhood. The only north neighborhood seat, currently held by Jeff Johnson, is available, because Jeff and his wife Kris moved a few miles north this past April. Jeff's commitment was greatly appreciated. Jeff did a great job completing our Lake Monitoring program requirements for our Impair Waters applications. Also, Jeff oversaw signage needs and maintenance for the aerator. I believe Jeff enjoyed these activities because his participation included his children's involvement.

It's up to volunteers to step up and fill vacancies. To maintain neighborhood coverage and representation, the board is hoping that a minimum of two volunteers from the north neighborhood will consider board seat nominations. Maple Shores is a new and developing neighborhood. Circle Bluff needs representation now that Jeff is gone. Please talk to the friends and neighbors whom you know so CLAA can achieve good regional coverage representation. Please contact Dan Bartho, 663-0266, if you'd like more information about CLAA.