



April 2012

## BRIEF PROGRESS REPORT

In 2010 and 2011, our members funded the preparation of a strong, credible lake management plan, which was presented to our community in a standing-room-only meeting in May of last year. Since then, we have been working to execute on our plan, focusing energy on five areas:

1. **WATERSHED:** We have identified several projects to try to reduce the amount of contaminants that come into our lake, and have been working with officials from Rice County and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. We are focused on improving conditions along county ditch #32 on the west side of our lake and on various ravines all around the lake.
  
2. **CARP:** We consulted with one of the country's preeminent experts in carp control and came up with a plan to reduce the number of carp coming into our lake, remove carp already here, and make it harder for those that remain to reproduce. Volunteers have been working hard for well over a year to navigate the bureaucratic morass that governs fish grates, and just recently received approval to install temporary grates just east of the dam, along Wolf Creek. We'll keep working on trying to secure approval to install permanent fish grates at the dam. Two fish-stocking developments are coming up:
  - In May, 625,000 walleye fry will be added to our lake.
  
  - In June, we'll have a survey done of our lake to determine the approximate populations of various kinds of fish. After that, perhaps in Spring 2013, we will consider adding several thousand bluegill to the lake. Bluegill like to eat carp eggs, so we're big fans of bluegill.

3. **WEEDS:** We have been pursuing options for a combination of chemical and mechanical attacks on the weeds in our lake:
  - **Chemical attack:** We recently applied for and received a permit and grant to do chemical treatment of Curlyleaf pondweed in our lake in 2012! But when the DNR came out to look at the lake and identify areas for treatment, it became apparent that this year we don't have enough of a Curlyleaf issue for it to make sense to treat it chemically. The DNR will be back out this summer to look at the lake and consider our request for a permit and grant to use chemical treatment on Eurasian milfoil.
  - **Mechanical attack:** Last year we bought a used, motorized weed cutter and will be deploying it in 2012 to cut weeds. Each landowner can have weeds cut, without a permit, on up to 2,500 square feet. **If you would like the lake association to bring the weed cutter over and do this work at your place, we'd be glad to do it as long as you provide at least two people to collect the weeds as they're cut.** We'll suggest that you make a \$100 donation to the association if we cut at your place. **To schedule an appointment, contact board members Keith Kluzak (645-0518, [keith\\_kluzak@yahoo.com](mailto:keith_kluzak@yahoo.com)) or Rodger Kluzak (645-7547, [rmkluzak@netscape.net](mailto:rmkluzak@netscape.net)).**
4. **NATIVE PLANTS:** Last year we investigated ways to try to secure grant money to help lake residents put in native plants on the lake shore, and to try to do something to improve Circle Lake Park. Those efforts appear to have been successful. Official announcements have not yet been made, but it appears that we may have a good chance to get up to six \$6,000 grants (\$36,000 total) for this purpose. This money may be available for native planting, rain gardens, buffers, and settling ponds. **Anyone interested in more information should contact board member Sam Sunderlin (663-1948, [sunderlinhouse.sam@gmail.com](mailto:sunderlinhouse.sam@gmail.com)).**
5. **SEDIMENT:** Once we have made progress on more immediate items, we'll attempt to improve our lake sediment.

In all these areas, we're attempting to leverage your dollars with money from grants and other organizations, to have the greatest possible impact. For more details about lake association activities, check out our web site ([www.circlelake.org](http://www.circlelake.org)).

Finally, mark your calendars for our 2012 annual meeting/picnic on **Saturday, July 24, 2012, at 3:00 pm**, at Craig & Ann Arnold's house (3660 120th Court West, on the east side of the lake). See you there!