



Mitchell Lake Association Spring 2014

Dear Mitchell Lake Association Members,

First let me thank you all for your ongoing support and confidence in me and your Mitchell Lake Association Board. We have been meeting frequently to discuss options and opportunities as we move forward. We will now be putting abbreviated meeting minutes on the Mitchell Lake Association website to allow you to keep track of events as they occur.

At our most recent Mitchell Lake Association annual meeting Jim (our VP) led a frank discussion about issues that now confront us as we attempt to cure the issues that plague our beleaguered lake. Perhaps a bit of background as I see them might be in order. Over the last 6-7 years key members of your MLA board have enlisted as Citizen Advisors to the Riley, Purgatory, Bluff Creek Watershed District (WS). Bob Shurson, Dennis Seeger, Frank Spahn, Jim Nehl and I have spent many hours attending regular and special watershed evening meetings. We had significant input into the development of the Ten year Plan, which included significant study and implementation dollars toward Mitchell Lake, beginning last year. \$39,000 was to be allocated for the study of options to improve Mitchell Lake. It did not happen. Our voices, raised through the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) fell upon deaf ears. The new leadership and managers appeared not to view the Ten Year Plan as "cast in stone" as we did. Weed issues were now "navigational issues" and "outside the purview of the WS", as stated by the new administrator, Claire Blesser. She was not interested in setting a precedent that might make other interested parties from other lakes step forward with the same concerns. This was a complete reversal of the position of the previous WS leadership. Much of this was shared with you at our last annual meeting. The vote for recommendations from the MLA membership were included in this mailing. As a result, the board approved a coordinated effort with Friends of Red Rock Lake (FORRL) who have similar issues with their shallow lake as we have with ours. We jointly engaged in the following effort, with the advisory assistance of Michael Casanova and Jon Duckstad:

1. Challenged the Watershed managers at the end of the most recent Evening with the Watershed last December 3rd. Chairman Perry Forster indicated moving Mitchell Lake back to the fore of their discussion in their next regular meeting. In that meeting, a resolution was passed and unanimously approved to embark on a weed management study in 2014. Thank you to those who attended and stayed late during that Evening with the Watershed.
2. We met with Mayor Nancy Tyra-Lukens and also City Manager Rick Getschow, Park Public Works Director Robert Ellis and Environmental Coordinator Leslie Stovring on two separate occasions. We also met with Councilman Brad Aho, Sherry Butcher-Wickstrom, Ron Case and Kathy Nelson (separate meetings). As a result Mitchell Lake is receiving \$20,000 of weed harvesting in 2014 courtesy of the City of Eden Prairie. As Leslie Stovring so generously indicated "the Watershed isn't the only game in town." In all meetings we have had a very good reception to our explaining (educating) EP officials to the lack of funding and efforts by the RPBCWSD our lake is receiving and other issues. Each meeting was at least 90 minutes long.
3. In short, we are seeking general assistance from the City of Eden Prairie, in tandem with the WS, to:
 - Apply for a general variance from the Environmental Lake classification standards to a recreational Lake for use of DNR approved herbicides to control weed growth.
 - If the RPBCWSD continues to ignore us and the Ten Year Plan, file a legal grievance with BSWR, the WS's oversight agency, for non-compliance.
 - Assist in changing the WS manager selection and encourage appointees representing Eden Prairie, where over half the water in the WS exists, so we have better representation.
4. Following the most recent public hearing of the new watershed rules, one of the items that was approved was a \$15,000 contract with Wenck Associates for an aquatic plant management plan for Mitchell and red Rock Lakes. The City of Eden Prairie has committed to approximately half the funding. The intent was reiterated is to have participation of the local lake associations. Progress!
5. Additionally, as part of the weed harvesting process and in an effort to motivate our membership with lakeshore property to further assist the weed removal process, MLA is offering a \$50 per property incentive to authorize the removal of weeds within 150 feet of your shoreline. This expense is usually no more than \$250. This will allow the harvester to make a bigger impact and improve navigation. More on this as the summer approaches.

Our next shoreline cleanup effort and BBQ will be Saturday, April 26th. Please see the enclosed invitational flyer. It will be wonderful to spend time outdoors with good neighbors to help beautify or lake and surrounding area. Frank promises another great cookout!

See you then!

John Tyler

John Tyler
Mitchell Lake Association President

Midwest Weed Harvesting

Here is your opportunity to receive a \$50 rebate from the Mitchell Lake Association to have your private lakeshore harvested at the same time as Midwest Weed Harvesting harvests the general lake this year! To take advantage of this rebate, please contact Midwest Harvesting at 763-238-1012 or email info@midwestweedharvesting.com. Once the harvesting has been completed, submit your proof of payment to Midwest Harvesting to Carole "Coco" Duckstad at 8066 Timber Lake Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55347 and the Association will reimburse you the \$50.

Mitchell Lake Association Annual Meeting

25 people attended the MLA Annual Meeting on September 19, 2013 held at the Chanhassen American Legion. MLA members were asked to prioritize (4) potential MLA Actions. 12 surveys were turned in. Survey action rankings and comments are

MLA Board Members:

John Tyler, President
john.t@boysandtylerfinancial.com
Jim Nehl, Vice President
James.nehl@comcast.net
Frank Spahn, Treasurer
fspahn@signusmedical.com
Carole Duckstad, Secretary
jonduckstad@yahoo.com
Bob Becker
bob@kimballgroup.com
Bob Shurson
shurson@comcast.net
Kevin Persinger
kevin.persinger@gmail.com
Dennis Seeger
drseeger@aol.com
Peter Iverson
petegiverson@yahoo.com

Priority Ranking	MLA Action	Total Priority Score *
1	Take a more political action route (work with the legislative process to pass laws to change "the system" as it currently is)	32
2	Be more assertive with the City in providing additional resources	30
3	Fundraising through increased dues and "going it on our own".	18
4	Continue our current level of interaction with the Watershed District	15

* Priority score calculated as follows:

- #1 priority ranking given 4 points, #2 priority ranking given 3 points, #3 priority ranking given 2 points, #4 priority ranking given 1 point.
- Total Priority Score is sum of all points for all respondents.



Join your neighbors for our 8th Annual Mitchell Lake Cleanup & Lunch Social!

Date: Saturday, April 26, 2014

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon

**Meet at: Miller Park Warming House (near the
hockey rink)**

**Primary areas to be cleaned: lakeshore in park area and the north shore along
Highway 5.**

**Bring gloves, rakes and waders (if you have them.) Help our lake by removing
trash from shoreline and shallow water. Once again, prizes will be awarded for
the most unusual trash found.**

**Lunch provided at 11:30 at the warming house. During lunch, hear Association
updates on our lake improvement projects.**



Does your lake or shoreland have any invaders? Are you worried about what might be coming to your lake or shoreland? **Come to this workshop to learn more about Invasive Species that have the potential to act like monsters in our lakes, ponds and wetlands.** This workshop is jointly hosted by the Cities of Eden Prairie and Minnetonka and the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek and Nine Mile Creek Watershed Districts.

Guest speakers Steve McComas and Cheryl Culbreth will discuss common invasive plant and animal species found in and around area lakes, ponds and wetlands, as well as highlight new and emerging threats. Zebra mussels, carp, curly leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, buckthorn and purple loosestrife will and more will be discussed.

Learn about current threats and areas of concern, find out how to identify aquatic invaders, find out if preventative measures work, discover what control options are available and get the latest updates on where they've been found. Find out what's being done to keep aquatic invasive species (AIS) at bay. Leave with your questions answered and ready to enjoy the summer season!

Steve McComas is an aquatic scientist and owner of Blue Water Science who occasionally appears on the radio as the "Lake Detective" and writes a Lake Detective column for Outdoor News. Steve has more than 25 years of experience working on lake and pond management and improvement projects. He has published two books on lake management ideas, including *Lake Smarts* and the *Lake and Pond Management Guidebook*.

Cheryl Culbreth is the owner of Landscape Restoration and is deeply passionate about restoration of native plant habitats and wildlife. Cheryl has worked on many habitat restoration projects and consults with landowners about identifying non-native invasive plants such as buckthorn and purple loosestrife.



May 8, 2014
6-9 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN

For more information, go to www.edenprairie.com/livinggreen

The Benefits of Being Shallow

A Shallow Lakes Forum

Saturday, April 12, 2014 | 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Register at minnehahacreek.org/shallow-lakes (\$10 online) | Light breakfast provided

Details

What is a shallow lake?

“Shallow Lakes” are lakes that average 15 feet or less in depth. They provide a variety of benefits, including fishing, recreation, and habitat for wildlife. Managing a shallow lake has its own set of unique challenges, which this forum will highlight.



What will I learn?

1. How a shallow lake works
2. How to determine the health of a shallow lake through monitoring
3. Information about regulations affecting shallow lakes
4. How to engage neighbors and friends to protect these unique lakes

Who should attend?

People who live on, live near, work with care for, and enjoy our shallow lakes.



Glen Lake, Minnetonka

Topics

Shallow Lakes Basics

Understanding our shallow lakes
Wenck Associates

Rules and Regulations

What can or can't I do?
Minnesota DNR

Shallow lake monitoring

Understanding the who, what, and why of monitoring shallow lakes
Three Rivers Park District

Shallow Lake management strategies

Got plants? Need fish? Successful and innovative management tools
Blue Water Science

Lake Association Basics

How to start and keep a lake association going
Freshwater Society

Lake Association Panel Discussion

What makes a lake association an effective partner?
Lake association panel

Sponsors

- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
- Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
- Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
- Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization
- Carver County Water Management Organization
- Freshwater Society
- City of Minnetonka
- City of Eden Prairie

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITY OF EDEN PRAIRIE
MARCH - JUNE 2014

HOME, LANDSCAPE, GARDEN & EVERYTHING SPRING EXPO

The Chamber of Commerce will host their annual Home, Landscape & Garden Everything Spring Expo. FREE admission.

When: Saturday, March 15th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Grace Church

FREE SEMINAR: The City of Eden Prairie is sponsoring a FREE workshops start at 11:30 a.m. where you can learn practical, low-cost tips on how to have an attractive and healthy landscape that conserves water and requires less frequent maintenance. Other FREE seminars are going on throughout the day. Go to epchamber.org and do a search for "Spring Expo" to find the complete schedule of events.

Annual Stormwater Meeting: Learn about stormwater in the City of Eden Prairie and how our streets are connected to our lakes, rivers and streams! For more information, go to the Managing our Water Resources web page on the City's web site at edenprairie.org/stormwater.



METRO BLOOMS RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOPS

Metro Blooms schedules a number of Rain Garden Workshops in the surrounding area. These workshops consist of three parts:

Part A—Teaches you basics of designing, installing, and maintaining your rain garden.

Part B—Provides hands-on assistance in planning a rain garden project.

On-Site Consultation—A landscape design assistant will provide answers to property-specific questions.

Workshops cost between \$10 and \$15. An on-site consultation can be scheduled for \$75.

Visit metroblooms.org/workshops.php for workshop locations.

RAIN BARREL AND COMPOST BIN SALE

The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) will provide rain barrels, compost bins and Kitchen Pails at reduced cost to Hennepin County residents.

You must pre-order your bin from the RAM website and then pick up your barrel or bin at one of the various pick-up locations. Visit RecycleMinnesota.org for ordering details.

Earth Machine (Compost Bin) \$55: Compost organic materials to use as nutrient rich fertilizer.

Rain Barrel \$69: Collect rain water for watering landscaping vegetation.

Kitchen Pails (\$15 and \$24): Convenient solution for collecting organic kitchen scraps for composting

PRUNING YOUR TREES

Join our Urban Forester Jeff Cordes to learn the correct way to prune your trees. You will learn to prune young and old trees for structure, safety, health, and aesthetics. The following techniques will be discussed: crown cleaning, thinning, reduction, restoration and raising.

Following the seminar, homeowners will be informed on how to properly prune trees, or instruct a professional tree service company to work on your trees.

When: April 12th, 9:00 – 10:30 am

Where: Outdoor Center

Cost: \$7

Call 952-949-8463 to RSVP, limited space available.

For more information on these items:

Leslie Stovring
Environmental Coordinator
City of Eden Prairie
8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Phone: 952-949-8327
lstovring@edenprairie.org

9 MILE CREEK COST SHARE

Grant funding is available for residents who implement water quality improvement projects.

ninemilecreek.org

Due: April 4th

ARTS IN THE PARK

Art, vendors, and live entertainment!

When: May 17th from 9a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: Purgatory Creek Park

BUCKTHORN REMOVAL WORKSHOP

When: March 12th at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Minnetonka Community Center

Cost: FREE



UPCOMING EVENTS

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Run by Hennepin County and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Wetland Health and Evaluation Program (WHEP) provides the public with a chance to get in touch with the environment. Learn about the ecological and environmental benefits through hands on training. For more information visit mnwhep.org.

NIGHT WITH THE WATERSHED

Join the Riley–Purgatory–Bluff Creek Watershed District to discuss projects and ways to improve water quality.

When: Thursday April 3rd from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Chanhassen American Legion, 290 Lake Drive East

NATIVE PLANT MARKET

The City of Minnetonka will be holding a Native Plant Market to sell native flowers and grasses. The City will also have a variety of activities such as, plant walks and kid activities. Check out the Minnetonka Memo for more information eminnetonka.com.

When: June 4th, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Where: Minnetonka Civic Center

ARBOR DAY WALK

Join us to celebrate Eden Prairie’s “Tree City USA” designation. Free seedlings will be available along with kids activities and tree health information.

When: April 26th, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Where: Round Lake Park

Cost: FREE

THINK SPRING!

The City is offering a number of workshops this spring, such as:

Landscaping with Native Plants Seminar – On March 26th from 7–9 p.m. Fred Rozumalski landscape architect and adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota, will hold an informational seminar at the Minnetonka Community Center to discuss how to incorporate sustainable landscape design into your yard and garden.

Shallow Lakes Forum – Are you a property owner, lake association representative, developer, or other stakeholder that may be impacted by shallow lake management? The City of Eden Prairie and others partners will hold an informational forum discussing issues, policy, and progress associated with shallow lakes. Join us from 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. April 12th at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. For more information visit the City’s website or www.minnehahacreek.org.

Aquatic Invasive Species: Buckthorn to Zebra Mussels – As spring approaches, the City of Eden Prairie, along with Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District and the City of Minnetonka will hold a workshop on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Join us on May 8th from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center to learn how to prevent the spread of invasive species along your shoreline and through local waterbodies.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

EDEN PRAIRIE ECOPALOOZA

Join friend and neighbors for the first-ever Eden Prairie Ecopalooza! A number of events will be held at Riley Lake Park, including the Minnesota Renewable Energy Solar Boat Regatta. See what Eden Prairie residents are doing to “go green”! Visit City’s Event Calendar for more information.

When: May 17, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Where: Riley Lake Park, 9180 Riley Lake Road

EDEN PRAIRIE CITY-WIDE CLEAN-UP DAY

The City of Eden Prairie will hold a one-day **Drop-Off** event for residents.

When: Saturday, June 21st from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Hennepin Technical College (13100 Collegeview Drive)

Cost: Prices will vary by item, please check out the City web site for a price list. Some items, such as yard waste, can be dropped off at no charge.

What to Bring: Appliances, tires, electronics, yard waste, recyclables, fluorescent bulbs, construction waste, barbecue grills (including gas bottles), lawn mowers and more! Bicycles and charitable donations will also be accepted.

Where can I find more information? Go to the City’s Events Calendar page at edenprairie.org for information and a full list of what is accepted.

Can’t make the clean-up? Go to the Hennepin County Website (hennepin.us) and type “drop off facilities” or “A to Z Guide” in the search box or call 612-237-5777 to find other disposal options.



Bluff Creek Improvement

In 2002 and 2004, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency listed Bluff Creek for turbidity and for low fish Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) scores respectively. A Total Mass Daily Load (TMDL) report identified the projects that would reduce sediment loads to the creek and would also address habitat fragmentation along the creek. A project implementation plan was finalized and approved by the Board of Managers in 2013.



Habitat fragmentation is considered a possible stressor because a large drop at the downstream end of the regional trail culvert interrupts the connectivity of Bluff Creek. This interruption of connectivity at the trail crossing prevents passage of fish between the upstream and downstream reaches of the creek. Below the culvert, the stream channel has downcut, undermining the culvert and preventing fish passage to the upstream reaches.

The project will make necessary repairs to prevent further undermining by evaluating the existing vegetation cover, grade and add toe protection to the eroded banks, and create a fish passage along the creek.

The investment of public dollars will result in multiple benefits by addressing both watershed impairments through the stabilization of a large streambank and the restoration of the culvert, while maintaining the integrity of the infrastructure at the trail crossing and reducing the sediment load to the Minnesota River. This project will be undertaken by the District and the City of Chanhassen using a grant awarded to the District from the Clean Water Legacy Fund in 2014.



Attention Property Owners and Developers

The Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District's rulemaking process is now in the **Open Comment Period**, closing on April 7th, 2014.

An **Informational Session** will be held on March 18th, 2014 in the Fountain Room at Chanhassen City Hall starting at 8:30am and a **Public Hearing** will be held on March 19th, 2014 in Council Chambers at Eden Prairie City Center at 6:30pm.

During this period, the Board **welcomes questions and comments**, especially from public and private property owners in the watershed, regarding the new regulatory rules and permitting processes in the District.





Please go to the Permits page at www.rpbcd.org/permits or check out the Events page at www.rpbcd.org/events for more information!



2014 Cost-share Program

The District's **Cost-share Program** will provide funding assistance for efforts that protect, restore, and conserve the water resources within the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed (check out www.rpbcd.org to see where you are in the District).

Cost-share funds may be used for public or private landowners implementing projects that support one of more of the following:

-  Improve watershed resources
-  Increase awareness of the vulnerability of watershed resources
-  Increase familiarity with and acceptance of solutions to improve waters
-  Foster water resource stewardship

Examples of eligible projects include: raingardens, pervious asphalt and pavers, shoreland and streambank restoration projects, volume reduction and runoff treatment practices, or wetland restoration. For more information about applying for a cost-share grant or to download an application, go to www.rpbcd.org/monthly-tips.

Funding for the community partners program comes from Clean Water Legacy Funds.



Educational Programs



Did you know there is more than one type of lake? One type of lake that is common to Minnesota is **shallow lakes**. These lake are generally less than 15 feet deep, allowing sunlight to reach the bottom and aquatic plants to grow over most of the lake bed. Shallow lakes are also rich resources for wildlife, water quality benefits, and recreation opportunities. Unfortunately, many shallow lakes are underappreciated and polluted with turbid water and algae blooms. Please join us at the **"The Benefits of Being Shallow: A Shallow Lakes Forum"** on Saturday April 12th, 2014 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Learn more about the forum and register at www.minnehahacreek.org/shallow-lakes (\$10 fee).

Want to learn more about what is going on in the District?

Please join us at the **Evening with the Watershed** on April 3rd, 2014 at 7pm. The evening will include updates about activities in the District and information on fish management. Please check www.rpbcd.org/events for more information!





Upcoming Events



RPBCWD Rules Informational Session	March 18, 2014	8:30am	Chanhasen City Hall Chanhasen, MN
RPBCWD Rules Public Hearing	March 19, 2014	6:30pm	Eden Prairie City Center Eden Prairie, MN
Landscaping with Natives Workshop	March 26, 2014	7pm	Minnetonka Community Center Minnetonka, MN
Evening with the Watershed	April 3, 2014	7pm	American Legion Chanhasen, MN
Shallow Lakes Forum (\$)	April 12, 2014	8am	Landscape Arboretum Chanhasen, MN
Arbor Day Celebration	May 3, 2014	9am	Round Lake Park Eden Prairie, MN
Invasive Species A to Z	May 8, 2014	6pm	Minnetonka Community Center Minnetonka, MN
Ecopalooza	May 17, 2014	10am	Riley Lake Park Eden Prairie, MN
Native Plant Market and Eco Fun Fest	June 4, 2014	3pm	Minnetonka Community Center Minnetonka, MN
Family Fishing Event	July 9, 2014	6pm	West Bush Lake Park Bloomington, MN
Family Fishing Event	August 16, 2014	9am	Round Lake Park Eden Prairie, MN



Clean: Clean plants, mud, animals and fish from all equipment that touches the water. Rinse equipment with high-pressure, hot water.

Drain: Drain water from your boat, motor, live well, bait bucket and swimming equipment before transporting it.

Dry: Dry everything that came in contact with water for at least five days!

Know the Law: Docks and boatlifts must be dried for 21 days before being installed into another water body. Violation of these regulations can lead to fines up to \$1,000.



Help Stop the Spread so all can enjoy fishing, boating, wading and more in the many lakes we have!



CONTACT US:



8080 Mitchell Road | Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344



www.rpbcwd.org



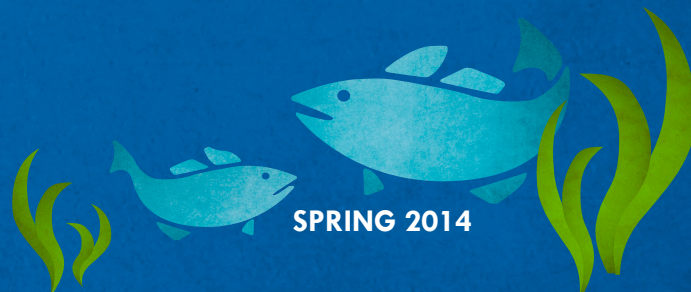
info@rpbcwd.org



952.294.5976



Riley
Purgatory
Bluff Creek
Watershed District



SPRING 2014

Mitchell Lake Association

Membership Form

Mitchell Lake Association Mission Statement: The purpose of the Mitchell Lake Association is to create awareness, knowledge and appropriate actions with property owners, local government and community agencies to enhance the water quality and thereby the boating, fishing and aesthetic values of Mitchell Lake, as a recreational facility for today and for future generations.

We are strength in numbers, please continue as a founding member or join today. Thank-you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date Paid _____ Check ____ Cash ____

Please forward a \$35.00 tax deductible donation made payable to Mitchell Lake Assoc.:

Mitchell Lake Association
C/O Kevin Persinger
17595 Belfast Cove
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

- I am interested in "light" volunteer activities.
 I am interested in an "active" role in the association.
 I am interested in help with a lake "buffer" zone.
 I would like to make an additional monetary gift of \$ _____
and would like it to be used for the following.

Not a member yet?

If you would like to support this important effort...

- Visit our website to learn more <http://www.mitchelllake.org>.
- Annual Membership fee is \$35