



[www.mitchelllake.org](http://www.mitchelllake.org)

MLA Newsletter - March 2019

## Message from the President(s)

Friends of Mitchell Lake,

I hope this message finds you enjoying a great start to 2019! The early ice and recent snowfall have helped me appreciate our lake even more. On behalf of the board, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our efforts. 2018 was another great year that saw us host our 12<sup>th</sup> Lakeshore Cleanup event, partner with the city to deal with the geese, continue our commitment to weed harvesting and engage in the watershed 10-year planning process. Our annual meeting in October was very well attended and we had some great guest speakers and lively dialog about plans for 2019. We also welcomed a new board member with Todd Johnson stepping up to serve.

On the board, we are excited for the year ahead and have laid out a few priorities:

1. Improve the Shoreline (cleanup & restoration grants)
2. Address the Weeds (harvesting credit & city/watershed partnerships)
3. Grow Membership (partner with homeowner's associations)
4. Address the Geese (removal in partnership with the city)
5. Stop Invasive Species (Zebra mussels in Lake Riley)
6. Invest in our Lake (fish stocking)

We hope that you will support us in our efforts to maintain, protect and improve Mitchell Lake by becoming members of the association and taking part in our events and programs.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed being your president for the past two years and while I'll continue to serve as a board member will be handing off the reigns to Todd Johnson. I know you will be impressed by his passion and focus.

~ Thank you, Dave Jackett – Outgoing MLA President / Current MLA Vice President



Greetings All!

Thank you, Dave, and the entire board, for your commitment, enthusiasm, and professionalism. This is a tremendous volunteer team that is driven to learn, teach others, and to make a difference.

You will see in this newsletter that there is a plethora of activities in the works, and under research, to protect and enhance Mitchell Lake. These are exciting times indeed! We do need volunteers so please reach out if you'd like to be more involved.

~ All the best, Todd Johnson – Incoming MLA President

### Mitchell Lake Association Board

Todd Johnson, President  
 Dave Jackett, VP  
 Dan Dorst, Treasurer  
 Cheri Nehl, Secretary  
 Pete Iverson, CAC Rep  
 Jason Burnett  
 John Tyler  
 Travis Yohn

email the board at [mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com)

### MLA 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Cleanup/Picnic on April 27, 2019



## 2019 MLA Key Dates: Mark your calendars!



Sat, Apr 27 **MLA Annual Spring Lakeshore Cleanup and Picnic**, 10am at Miller Park  
 Thu, Oct 3 **MLA Annual Meeting** - 6-9p at Chanhassen American Legion.



**ONLINE OPTION AVAILABLE!!!**

You can now pay your membership dues online at:  
<http://mitchelllake.org/contact/membership-renewal/>

## MLA Membership Form

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Options	Cost	I am including:
<input type="checkbox"/> One Year Membership	\$35	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Year Membership	\$70	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Three Year Membership	\$105	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> *Add'l Contribution for Fish Stocking (Apr 30 deadline for 2019 stocking)	-	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> *Add'l Contribution for Weed Harvesting	-	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> *Add'l Contribution for General Lake Cleanup	-	\$
* All additional contributions donated to the Mitchell Lake Association will only be directed to help fund specific projects and will not be allocated for other purposes		<b>Total</b> \$

**Please send your tax-deductible donation made payable to Mitchell Lake Assoc to:**  
 Mitchell Lake Association  
 C/O Dan Dorst  
 7906 Bailey Drive  
 Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Comments/Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mitchell Lake Association: Dedicated to improving the quality of our lake**

**The purpose of the Association is:**

- To maintain, protect, and improve the water quality, aesthetic values, wildlife habitat, and recreational capacity of Mitchell Lake;
- To educate shoreline owners and the public about the condition and protection of Mitchell Lake; and
- To provide a framework for representation for work with federal, state, and local agencies for improving the quality of Mitchell Lake.

## Great News: Mitchell Lake removed from Impaired Waters List

Thanks to the efforts and partnerships between the Mitchell Lake Association, the RPBC watershed, and the City of EP, Mitchell Lake water quality levels have improved over the past several years.

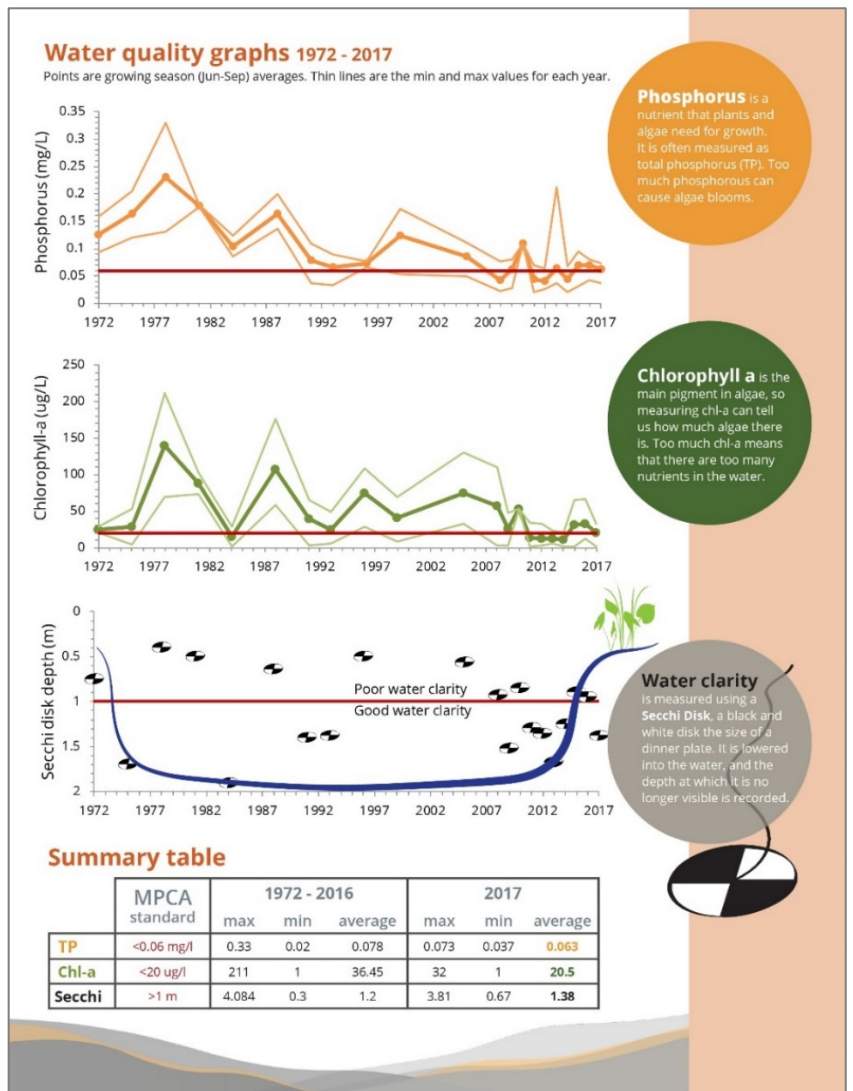
Mitchell Lake has been on the MPCA impaired waters list since 2002. **In 2018, Mitchell Lake was removed from the impaired waters list and is now classified as a Healthy/Shallow Lake.**

Removal from impaired waters list is a great start, but we need to stay diligent in continuing to drive water quality efforts going forward.

*Note: Every two years, MPCA creates a list of impaired waters that do not meet water quality standards. Monitoring suggests that about 40% of Minnesota's lakes and streams are impaired for conventional pollutants.*

*The graphs show the trends over time. The red line on each graph marks the MPCA standard. The goal is for the average values (the dots) to be below the red line.*

*Source: Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District*



## Mitchell Lake receives Clean Water Grant

With help from Hennepin County, Mitchell Lake has been selected as a recipient of a Clean Water Fund grants from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

The grant funds efforts by the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff-Creek Watershed District and the city of Eden Prairie to evaluate phosphorus loading in stormwater ponds that feed into the lakes which will help pinpoint potential phosphorus reduction areas. The grant earmarks \$70,000 for the project.

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring element in lake environments, but high levels of it — from leaves, dirt, and other debris entering storm drains for example— can overload a lake's ecosystem and cause algae blooms that reduce the lake's oxygen content, killing the other plants and animals.



Mitchell Lake is in the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek watershed district (RPBCWD)

MLA Board Member, Pete Iversen, is a member of watershed Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC)

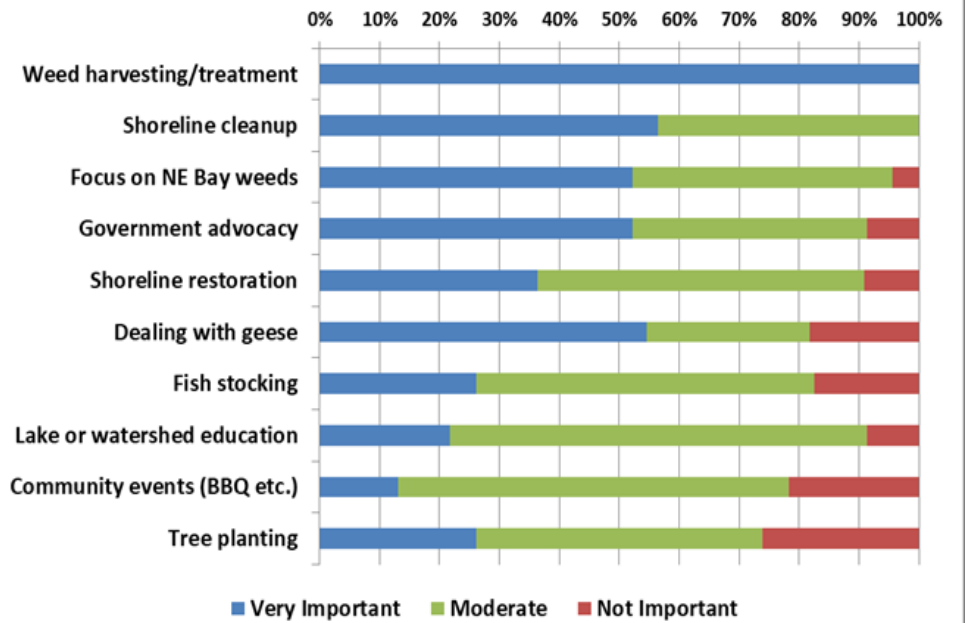
## MLA Survey Results

We are listening! We completed our annual membership survey in the fall of 2018 to help set plans and priorities for 2019. We received 39 responses. Thank you for your feedback.

### MLA 2019 Priorities

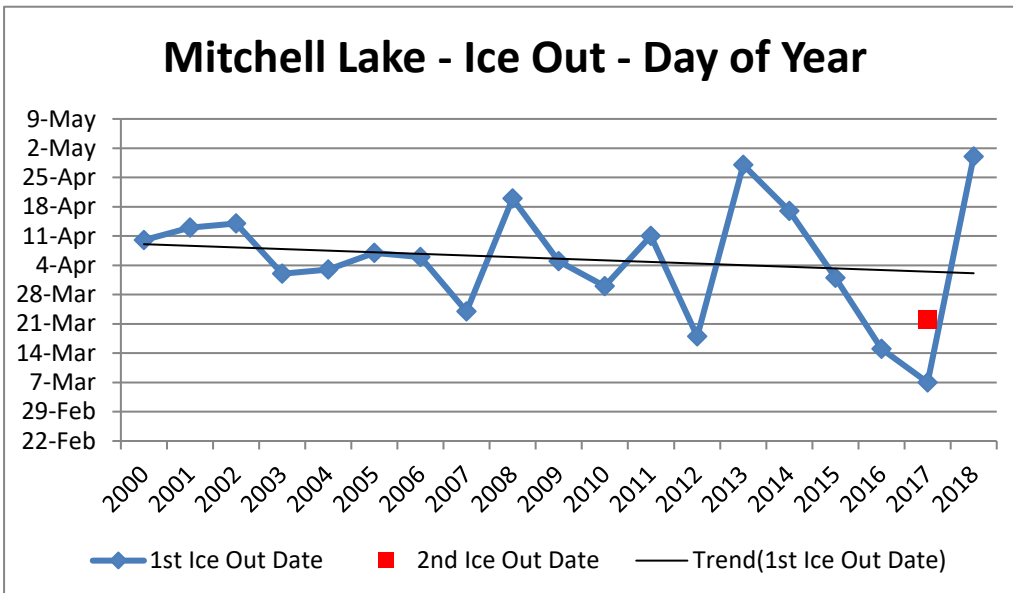
1. **Improve the Shoreline**  
(cleanup & restoration grants)
2. **Address the Weeds**  
(harvesting credit & city/watershed partnerships)
3. **Grow Membership**  
(partner with homeowner's associations)
4. **Address the Geese**  
(removal in partnership with the city)
5. **Stop Invasive Species**  
(Zebra mussels in Lake Riley)
6. **Invest in our Lake** (fish stocking)

### Fall 2018 MLA Survey – 39 Respondents



## Mitchell Lake Ice Out

In 2017 we recorded our earliest ice out date (followed by another ice over) and last year we recorded our latest ice out date. Any bets on 2019 ice out dates?



**Sources:**

**2000-12:** Ice out dates were recorded by the Nelson's of Weston Bay before they moved from neighborhood.

**2013-15:** Ice out dates recorded by John Tyler

**2016-18:** Ice out date recorded by Cheri Nehl.

**Ice out definition used:**

Able to navigate from the inlet at Highway 5 to the Miller Park boat launch.



**NEW for 2019!**

**Weed Harvesting Rebate increased from \$75 to \$100**



**Weeds!!!**

Weed harvesting and treatment was the #1 priority issue for 39 respondents to our fall 2018-member survey.

**Weed Harvesting** – In 2018 the City of EP spent \$14K on Mitchell Lake weed harvesting, covering 15 acres in the spring and 10 acres in the summer. The City of EP will once again be harvesting weeds on Mitchell Lake in 2019.

**Homeowner Weed Harvesting Rebate** – MLA is now offering a \$100 weed harvesting rebate to Mitchell Lake Association members that have paid their 2019 dues. Members can have their private lakeshore harvested at the same time as the City contracted vendor harvests the general lake in 2019. Watch for future notice for the City approved vendor and the date(s) the lake is to be harvested. For reimbursement, send a copy of your paid invoice directly to MLA Treasurer Dan Dorst, 7906 Bailey Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55347.

**North Bay Weeds** - Are you frustrated with not being able to navigate through the weeds in the North Bay? This spring, the MLA board will be holding a meeting with concerned members to develop a plan to address weeds. Philip Reilly, the President of the Terrey Pine Home Owners Association, has volunteered to be the focal point for a North Bay Weed Team effort. **To get involved, please send email to [northbayweeds@mitchelllake.org](mailto:northbayweeds@mitchelllake.org)**

**Zebra Mussels**

Zebra mussels, an aquatic invasive species (AIS), were discovered in Lake Riley last October. This is the first lake in the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District found to have zebra mussels.

These fast spreading mussels attach to docks, boats, rocks, logs, and other surfaces in the lake and can create threats to recreation and to the stability of a lake ecosystem. No zebra mussels have been found yet and we hope to keep it that way. In 2018, three Mitchell Lake residents participated in the Adopt a Dock monitoring program.

**To prevent their spread** - Clean all aquatic plants, animals and mud from watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts, anchors and other recreational equipment *before leaving any lake access.*

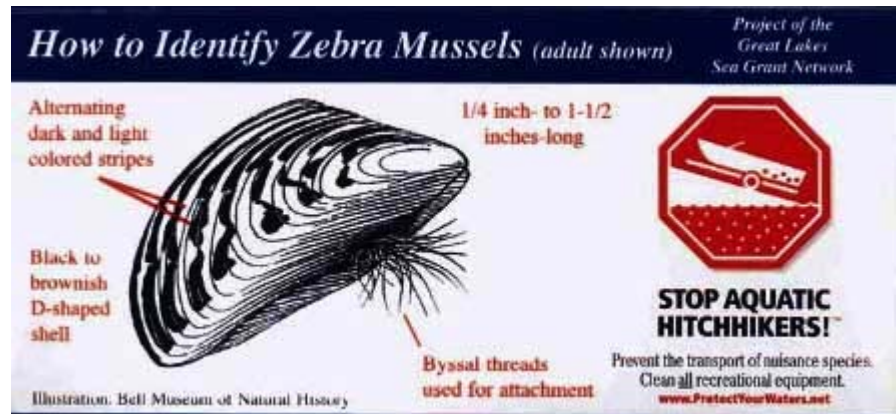
**If suspected Zebra Mussels are detected** – Contact the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek watershed district or the DNR immediately.

**Adopt a Dock**

**What is it?** A watershed sponsored program for lake residents to install mussel detection plates on their dock and monitor monthly.

**Why?** Regular examination can result in earlier detection and opportunity for treatment before they become too wide spread.

**How to Participate?** Email Maya at RPBC watershed at [mswope@rpbcwd.org](mailto:mswope@rpbcwd.org)



## NEW for 2019: Mitchell Lake Fish Stocking

The MLA board is happy to announce that we will be launching a fish stocking effort this year to improve the recreational value of our lake. We are also providing an opportunity for interested members to make contributions (over and above the \$35 annual dues) that will be used specifically for fish stocking.



**Background** - Mitchell Lake was once a great fishing lake, but the large fish population and diversity was significantly reduced after the winterkills in 2007-8 and 2010 – 11 caused by low lake oxygen levels (future winterkills should be minimized because the City of EP now routinely monitors Mitchell lake oxygen levels and installs an aerator when needed). After the past winterkills, the DNR began stocking Mitchell Lake with walleye, bluegill and largemouth bass. The DNR has since discontinued stocking Mitchell Lake and does not plan to start up again unless another significant winterkill occurs. The lake now does have an abundant population of northern pike, but the walleye, largemouth bass and crappies populations remain low.

**2019 Plan** - In effort to enhance and diversify Mitchell Lake's fish population, the MLA board has appropriated \$1000 for fish stocking in 2019. The plan is to stock adult largemouth bass and crappies from Rademacher Fish Farms in Owatonna. By stocking adult fish vs. fingerlings, the survival rate should be greatly enhanced. Stocking to occur in the spring just after ice-out to give fish a chance to spawn this year (approx. 2,000 fertilized eggs per nest is normal for adult bass). Our initial \$1,000 will be used as follows:

Species	Size	Number	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Largemouth Bass	Adults (10-12")	10 pair	\$50/pair	\$500
Crappies	Adults (6-10")	200	\$2.50 each	\$500

MLA Total Contribution \$1,000

**How to Contribute?** - We are inviting interested MLA members to make supplemental contributions to this effort. Additional funds received will be used towards stocking additional crappies this year. **2019 fish stocking contribution deadline is April 30.** To make your contribution:

- Send check to MLA Treasurer Dan Dorst, 7906 Bailey Drive, EP, MN 55347, with "fish stocking" on memo line
- Send in your annual Membership dues with additional contributions (see Membership form on page 8)
- Go to [mitchelllake.org](http://mitchelllake.org) and make online contribution

**What's Next?** – MLA board will assess member interest and stocking success to determine how to proceed in future years. If you value Mitchell lake as a fishery for all to enjoy, please consider contributing toward this effort. If you have questions and/or suggestion on the fish stocking program, please contact John Tyler at [john@boysandtylerfinancial.com](mailto:john@boysandtylerfinancial.com)

## Goose Management

Are the geese making a mess on your lawn or beach? MLA will again be working with the City of EP this summer to remove the bothersome geese. There is a limited window of time when geese can be relocated or removed safely. We will reach out to the membership thru email and share the necessary forms. When spring comes, there are some things you can do to help manage geese:

1. Convert shoreline areas to tall, native grasses or plants (min width 20 feet)
2. Don't feed the geese
3. Erect scare tape or goose fences at the edges of shorelines
4. Minimize the use of Kentucky Bluegrass if you are planting grass
5. Plant groupings of trees or shrubs in grazing areas

For more information, go to [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org) and search for "geese".



## \$250 Landscape for Water Quality Rebate

MLA will continue to offer a \$250 supplemental rebate to paid members who complete a Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) or City of EP approved shoreline restoration or rain garden rebate project in 2019.

### How do Shoreline buffers and Rain gardens improve Water Quality?

- **Capture Pollutants** - Planting rainwater gardens and creating shoreline buffers help slow water runoff, capture pollutants that are in the rainwater and let the water infiltrate slowly into the ground
- **Mitigate Erosion** - Native vegetation slows down water runoff and their longer root systems help reduce erosion and absorb extra nutrients.
- **Provide Better Wildlife Habitat** - Native plants provide food or shelter for many song birds, butterflies and other wildlife and deter geese.



### Where to find more information on rebates?

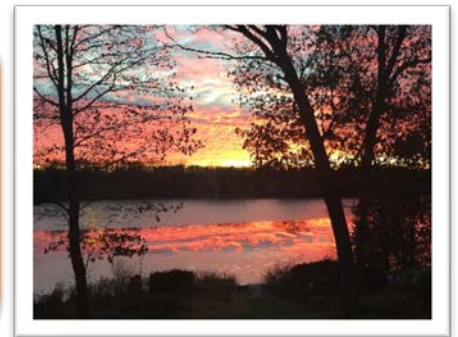
- RPBCWD Cost Share Program - Go to [www.rpbcwd.org](http://www.rpbcwd.org)
- City of EP Landscaping for Quality Rebate - Go to [www.edenprairie.org](http://www.edenprairie.org)
- MLA Rebate - Email the MLA Board at [mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com)

## NEW for 2019: MLA Photo Contest!

The Mitchell Lake Association invites you to participate in sharing the beauty of Mitchell Lake by submitting your photos in the 2019 MLA Photo Contest!

### To Enter:

- 1) Capture photos portraying Mitchell Lake scenery, wildlife or lake life activities
- 2) Email photos to [mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com) by **Sept 15, 2019** with Subject Line: "Photo Contest Submission"
- 3) Include your name and phone number along with your submission and a title or description if relevant
- 4) Entries will be judged by the MLA Board Members and winners will be announced at the 2019 Annual Meeting.



### Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- 1st Prize: \$50 Gift Card and publishing of photo on annual MLA newsletter, website and Facebook page.  
2nd Prize: \$25 Gift Card

*By entering, you represent that your entry is your own original work and that you own or have the rights to the submitted photo. By entering, you also grant permission to the Mitchell Lake Association to republish your submission, along with your name in any and all media without further permission, notice including print publications, online and social media.*

## Stay Current on Lake Updates



**Check out our website** - [www.mitchelllake.org](http://www.mitchelllake.org) is a great source of information about our lake and upcoming events.



**Get on our email distribution list** - If you are not receiving our email updates, please include your current email address on your membership form or email request to [mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelllakeassociation@gmail.com)



**Check out the Mitchell Lake Association Facebook page** - We invite friends and members of the Mitchell Lake Association to join our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/mitchelllakeorg](http://www.facebook.com/mitchelllakeorg)





# 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mitchell Lake Cleanup & Lunch Social!

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2019 (Rain or Shine)

Time: 10 a.m.-noon cleanup, lunch served at noon

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

Help clean up our lake by removing trash from the shoreline and shallow water. Primary cleaning areas: lakeshore in park area and north shore along Highway 5. Bring gloves, rakes and waders (if you have them)

Once again, PRIZES will be awarded for the most unusual trash found.

Lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs, chips & refreshments) provided at noon in the warming house. Please bring a side or dessert to share if desired. During lunch hear about lake improvement projects.