

CARIBOU LAKE: Current News Spring 2007



Water Level Gauge to be installed

Your lake association board did get a start on one of the conspicuous pieces of data – lake level. One of the board members agreed to have Minnesota DNR install a level gauge at their dock and to report readings to the St. Paul office. This will be done every year from now on so we will know exactly what our lake levels are throughout the summer and fall.

Citizen Extraordinaire!

The Cook County lake water quality expert, Dave Stark, will be conducting a training session on water quality sampling for interested persons on June 19. Pat Vaughan has been carrying a yeoman's workload in this regard for Caribou Lake. **SPECIAL THANKS MUST BE MADE TO PAT FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM. WE REALLY**

APPRECIATE YOUR DEDICATION

PAT! This sampling work is the first and most critical step in preparing a Water Management Plan for Caribou Lake. The data from such sampling will guide us in assessing the water quality status and trend and provide the basis for actions and goals for protecting and improving our lake water quality.

Do You Know What a Dry Hydrant Is? Thanks to Jesse Neihart and Paul Nelson we now have one installed at the boat landing. Come learn more about it!

Exotic Species in Caribou Lake?

Attend the next informational meeting of the Caribou Lake Property Owner's Association to learn more about these and other issues.

Sail into Summer Annual Caribou Lake Flotilla

Saturday July 7, 2007

The 4th annual Caribou Lake Boat Flotilla and Regatta will begin at 2 p.m. at the public access of Caribou Lake. as long as they can go no-wake. The flotilla will parade around the northwest bay of Caribou Lake and then return to the Public



Potluck Picnic. Meet at access or simply join

the parade. Decoration of watercraft is encouraged. Who knows? This year there might even be prizes. This is a totally fun event for the whole family. Questions about the regatta? Call Captain Jon Westby



be held on Saturday July 7th. All watercraft are welcome around the northwest Access for a the public

663-0197 or 612 374-2245.

Going Slow – Help for Shorelines and Shallow Bays

The water quality in Caribou Lake is a growing concern to many lake residents and users. One simple thing we can do to enhance the water quality is make sure that our motorized watercraft *go slow or no wake* near the shoreline and in the shallow parts of Caribou Lake. What good does going slow do?

First, it ensures that our boating activity does not stir up the sediment at the bottom of the lake. The water depth in the northwest bay (by the public access), sawmill bay and in the bay outside Cathedral of the Pines is 10 ft or less. Even a low horsepower motor at regular speed is going to churn up the lake bottom here.

Second, going slow keeps waves from washing against the shoreline contributing to shoreline erosion and again churning up the bottom sediments.

Shoreline erosion and disturbances to lake bottoms speed up the eutrophication process by which weeds take over a lake and it eventually dies. The 1995 report by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) indicates that Caribou Lake has the worst water quality in Cook County. Caribou Lake is on the cusp between being a lake that can be redeemed by better stewardship practices and one that will be lost forever.

Going no wake (5 miles per hour or less) can help ensure that we will have a lake to swim in, boat on and enjoy for many years to come. Pass on this information to your friends and neighbors. We can make a difference.

For more information about what can go wrong in lakes and what you can do to take care of our lake see the MPCA's [Guide to Lake Protection Management](http://www.pcs.state.mn.us/water/lakeprotection.html) at www.pcs.state.mn.us/water/lakeprotection.html.

Proposed Changes to Association Bylaws

In response to requests from many multi member family landowners the board is considering changes to the association bylaws to broaden membership criteria. The board will review these changes at the spring meeting and will gather feedback. It plans to implement the new bylaws at the fall meeting.

Proposed new membership criteria are designed to facilitate involvement in the association by people who share ownership in Caribou Lake watershed property. In the proposal, active voting memberships will be available to any person with an ownership interest or lessee interest in a Caribou Lake Property or a vested interest in a corporation that owns or leases Caribou Lake Property. With this change, voting memberships will belong to individuals, not properties. The one vote per lot principle would be discarded and replaced by one vote per dues paying member. This allows all adults with an ownership interest to a Caribou Lake lot to pay dues and participate in association decisions. The basic requirement for a ownership interest in Caribou Lake Watershed property remains in place.

Special memberships will be available to individuals without an ownership interest in Caribou Lake property. This provision is designed to allow the occasional person with an abiding interest in the area to become members. Special members would have to be sponsored by a regular member and approved by a majority of the board of directors. Finally the bylaws could be amended to expand the board of directors to a maximum of 11 and to eliminate the current three consecutive term limits to board service.

Another pending change is the association name. Currently under consideration is the new name of Caribou Lake Association of Lutsen to recognize a broader membership in the association.