

Membership.....jump in, the water's fine!

Caribou Lake opened in time for the fishing opener again this year. Nature takes care of that. We can count on it. Fishing success, lake water quality, shoreline protection that's up to us.

How's the lake look to you? It's spring time so it looks nice and clear and the level's up too, thanks to all that snow and spring rain. But how is the lake really doing? How do we know? Are there any problems with lake water chemistry? Those are the things that really control the appearance and use of the lake. Is the lake water quality improving or holding its own or what? And how's the fishery; and the weed growth and fall blooms; and are there any invasive species; and is the natural shoreline in good shape? There are many important questions to concern all of us Caribou Lake property owners on the shore and in the watershed. So, is anybody doing anything about these questions....and more?

Yes, indeed. We're working on it---that is your lake association is working on it. This news letter comes to you from the Caribou Lake Property Owners Association (CLPOA). It's just one of the things we do for this lake and for all of the property owners in the watershed. About half of us property owners are members and we'd welcome more of you owners, those of you on the shore and those in second tier developments. We all share the same interest---lake quality and property protection. We could do more with more folks and improve on the good job we've been doing for some 30 years. Yes, people saw the need over 30 years ago and have been vigilant and working ever since. Doing what, you ask.

Who samples the lake water? CLPOA members!

Who organizes tree plantings and other lake property improvements? CLPOA members!

Who meets with County and state agency officials and staffs? CLPOA members!

Who monitors variance requests and insists on fair and protective decisions? CLPOA members!

Who purchased and maintains those two loon nesting platforms? CLPOA members!

Who is watching public lands use and disposition around our lake? CLPOA members!

Who prepared the Lake Management Plan to guide our activities? CLPOA members!

There's more but you get the message. We work to protect the lake and protect property values. But we can do better, with you as a member. Check us out at the Spring Meeting, Saturday, May 28, 9:45 AM, (Memorial Day weekend) at the Lutsen Lutheran Church and/or at the Annual Meeting, Saturday, Sept 3, 9:45 AM, (Labor Day weekend, place TBD). You'll meet some good people---neighbors and friends ---doing good work at the CLPOA.

Stop Losing Real Estate to Waves!



Restore Your Shoreline with Natives

Looking for a place to put the flower garden? Have you given any thought to your shoreline? By preserving what plants you already have and installing beautiful, native grasses and flowers, you can have a shoreline that is not only beautiful but healthy for our water.

The lake shore is seemingly tough with its rocks and crashing waves but the opposite is true. The lake shore is delicate and in constant threat of being eroded or washed away. In fact, the only thing saving our shores are the native grasses, flowers, trees and shrubs that have evolved
Restore Your Shoreline with Natives - continued

over thousands of years together with our lakes. This evolution has given them water tolerance and deep roots, often eight feet deep, which stabilize the shore, help filter runoff, and provide habitat and forage for animals, insects, and fish. It is our good fortune that these same plants are beautiful and with a little research, able to be seeded and planted just like a garden.

Before any work is undertaken it is ultimately important to conserve the native plants you already have by not disturbing healthy vegetation. If you are not familiar with proper installation of appropriate seed and plants, a place to start is to identify areas in need of vegetation or enhancement. Look for bare soil, turf grass, deep runoff ruts, an undercut shoreline, or long unvegetated hills such as driveways that accelerate surface water toward the lake. Accumulate a list of plants which are appropriate for the geographical area as well as for the site.

It is extremely important you use native plants and seed. Non-native, invasive, or even ornamental cultivars of native plants can undermine your project by highly aggressive competition for light, nutrients, and water. The introduction of such plants could mean irreparable damage to the lake and watershed. For this reason it is unadvisable to plant "aquatic" plants and ultimately important to know your plant and seed source.

For more information on native plants suitable for shoreline plantings here are three reputable growers that use local ecotype seed and sell native only.

www.prairieresto.com

<http://dragonflygardens.net/>

<http://www.prairiemoon.com/>

For general information and an overview on how to get a project started, try the MNDNR's "restore your shore" online resource (also available in paperback).

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/restoreyourshore/index.html>

If you are interested in planting trees, try this book, Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota by Welby Smith.

For planting planning and recommendations, utilize our county Soil and Water Conservation Department

<http://www.co.cook.mn.us/index.php/government/departments/soil-and-water>



Annual Caribou Lake Flotilla & Potluck Saturday July 2, 2011

The annual Caribou Lake Boat Flotilla and Regatta will be held on Saturday July 2nd beginning at 2 p.m. at the public access of Caribou Lake.

All watercraft are welcome 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 Access for a Potluck Picnic.

Meet at the public access or simply join the parade. Decoration of watercraft encouraged! (There might even be prizes). This is a totally fun event for the whole family. Questions about the regatta? Call Captain Jon Westby 663-0197 or 612 374-2245.

Slash Pit Open Again this season

Slash disposal is available again this season at the Caribou Lake gravel pit. Only slash should be dumped, no roots, no building materials of any kind, no appliances. Help keep the area neat. Try to throw the slash up on to the pile, not just dumping it on the ground. Be "firewise" and clean your property of slash!

Mark your calendars

Saturday May 28 Spring CLPOA Meeting
9:45 AM to Noon
At Lutsen Lutheran Church

Saturday July 2 Caribou Lake Flotilla and Potluck
2:00 PM
Begins at the public access

Saturday Sept 3 Annual Fall CLPOA Meeting
9:45 to Noon
Place TBD

CLPOA Website: <http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/clpoa/welcome>

E-mail address: CLPOA.MN@GMAIL.com