

# SIBLEY STEWARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION

SUMMER, 2019

MINNESOTAWATERS.ORG/SIBLEYLAKE



Mayo Creek Restoration Project

## SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION MESSAGE FROM SLA PRESIDENT MIKE RIDGLEY

Greetings, I hope you are having a great summer so far.

The board has been busy since the last picnic and the activities are included in the rest of the newsletter. Here are a couple highlights:

- We owe a big thank you to the Watershed Task Force for all the projects they have undertaken and accomplished.
- The LID has been active and I think you will notice some of the improvements. They will continue to try to reduce some of the Coontail weed problems.

I am so grateful for all the time and effort the board members have contributed and look forward to the future.

Respectfully,  
Mike

### JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

Search for "Sibley Lake Group" and then request to become a member.

## HARD AT WORK MAYO CREEK RESTORATION

The Sibley Lake Association applied for and was awarded its second Mini-Runoff Grant from the Crow Wing Soil and Water District in 2017 through the Minnesota State Legacy Funds. As a result, work began in October of 2018 to restore a section of severely eroded bank on Mayo Creek near the culverts on 13th Street Southwest. Work on the project concluded in May with the planting of native shrubs and trees along the bank and on the restored hill next to the creek.

In addition to the \$20,000 awarded through the grant, the Sibley Lake Association provided \$5,000 along with the Sibley Lake Improvement District which added another \$5,000. Also, the Nature Conservancy provided \$5,000 and the Mayo Lake Association also provided \$1,000 towards the work. The total cost of the project was just short of the \$36,000 in total contributions.

The purpose of the work was to attempt to reduce the amount of undiluted phosphorus in Mayo Creek and Sibley Lake in the form of eroded soil.

Water quality testing indicated an increase in the undiluted phosphorus after the location. By reducing the amount of eroded soil entering the creek at the washout, it is the hope that it will support efforts to reduce phosphorus levels in our lake. Due to fluctuating water levels in Mayo Creek resulting from significant rain events, continued maintenance of the site will be necessary to prevent future erosion until such time the vegetation is established and reduces the effect of rapidly flowing water on the stream banks.

The Board of the Sibley Lake Association wishes to thank the Crow Wing Soil and Water District, Mayo Lake Association, The Nature Conservancy, and the property owners, Tom and Janet Craig, for their contribution to this project. The participation and financial support of the Sibley Lake Association and lake residents is deeply appreciated in your Board's efforts to improve the water quality of our lake.

### LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT UPDATE

For the new property owners on Sibley Lake, here's a little background on the Sibley Lake Improvement District (LID).

The LID is a taxing district in Crow Wing County that was formed in 2007. Each riparian owner is taxed \$108.40 per year. The original purpose of the LID was to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed, an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). In the early years of the effort, we were allocating approximately \$18k worth of treatments per year. Since then we've been on a maintenance schedule. The LID has contracted with Professional Lakes Management (PLM) for the management and treatments. We also work closely with the DNR.

This year PLM did a spring survey and found only 3 acres of Curly Leaf. A permit was obtained from the DNR and treatment was done on the southeast end.

In recent years, it appears that Coon Tail has taken over the lake quite drastically. This is a non-invasive plant and, as of now, cannot be treated by the LID. Each property owner can obtain a permit from the DNR to conduct their own treatments. It is a goal of the LID to bring this issue to the attention of the DNR and to determine if in the future there is some treatment that will be permitted.

The LID will continue its work with water quality projects in conjunction with the Sibley Lake Association to combat any future AIS plants that may infest our waters.

### COMMITTEE REPORT WATER QUALITY

The Water Quality Committee consisting of Jeff Walden, Dave Lind, Tim Shaw, Tom Paulbeck, and Mark Jurchen, met June 3rd to review the results of past projects and efforts in improving water quality on Sibley Lake along with establishing the goals for 2019, and beyond.

The restorations of Sibley Lake Park and Mayo Creek, along with the continued water quality monitoring, have been the focal points of efforts over the past 3 years. Sibley Lake Park's restoration has aided in reducing runoff from the steep hill in the park, along with enhancing the natural beauty of the shoreline.

The committee established the following areas to focus our efforts on for 2019 and going forward:

- Continue water quality testing to monitor trends and success of past efforts.
- Maintenance of Sibley Lake Park and Mayo Creek restoration projects.
- Identification of additional sites for potential restoration and remediation efforts.
- Survey of watershed to locate sections of Mayo Creek for establishing buffer zones.
- Address lake level fluctuations with the appropriate agencies for possible solutions.

The committee welcomes input and involvement of lake residents and association members. You may contact the chairman, Mark Jurchen, if you have any comments or questions. Mark can be reached at 218-820-5458 or via email at [lowhat@tds.net](mailto:lowhat@tds.net).

### WATER QUALITY TESTING - SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS IS UNDERWAY FOR 2019.

Water samples were drawn from Sibley Lake, Mayo Creek, and the south end of Mayo Lake on May 28th. A&W Research will provide data on the phosphorus and chlorophyll levels in Sibley Lake, along with phosphorus and E. coli levels in Mayo Creek. The water quality committee anticipates a minimum of 5 separate sampling dates centering at times of low water levels, significant rain events, and higher water levels coupled with increased water temperatures. Readings from 2018 indicated a stabilizing of the phosphorus levels in our lake. Also, additional testing reflected minimal levels of chloride and an occasional trace for E. coli at the inlet. 2019 readings will hopefully reflect some improvement, even if very slight, in phosphorus levels as a result of erosion control and restoration work on Sibley Lake Park and Mayo Creek. Continued testing is vital to analyze remediation efforts and trends in our phosphorus levels. The information assists the water quality committee's efforts in identifying sources of phosphorus and how to best utilize financial and volunteer assets.

## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

**SAT, JULY 20, 2019 @ 10AM**  
**SIBLEY LAKE PARK PAVILION**

We cordially welcome you to attend this year's Sibley Lake Association's Annual Meeting. The meeting's agenda includes:

1. Introduction of the Board
2. Review of 2018-2019 Activities
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Voting on Updated Bylaws
6. Open Forum

Immediately following the Association meeting, our annual Sibley Lake Improvement District meeting will be held. Included in this year's agenda:

1. Introduction of Board
2. Review of financial activity for 2018-2019
3. Election of Officers
4. Set the Levy for our next fiscal and levy year

The meetings will be followed by our traditional raffle and annual picnic. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**BY JEFF BENSON**

Hello Sibley Lake Enthusiasts, Thank you all for your generosity! With the help of a \$21k grant from Crow Wing Soil and Water, we've addressed another watershed issue on the West side of Sibley at Mayo Creek and 13th Avenue.

Account Balances as of June 11, 2019

Checking	\$20,773.53
Savings	\$4,901.12
Total:	\$25,674.65



**Mayo Creek Restoration Project**

## SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION

**BOARD MEMBERS**

### Officers:

- President: Mike Ridgley, 218-568-8562.  
mikelaurieridgley@charter.net
- Vice President: Mari Irmiter, 763-238-9891,  
hairycallmari@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Jeff Benson, 218-251-6321.  
jefeben1@gmail.com
- Secretary: Tim Paulus, 651-482-9357.  
tpaulus63@aol.com
- Honorary Member: Mark Jurchen 218-568-4167.  
lowhat@tds.net

### Board Members:

- Steve Caouette, 763-441-4793  
steve@signaturestucco.com
- Pete Clement, 218-820-8201. plclement@tds.net
- Jon Fogarty, 218-831-2638 jon@landsenddev.com
- John Fontecchio, 612-309-5775, 222cobalt@gmail.com
- Maury Graham, 612-730-0899,  
maury.graham@yahoo.com
- Sean Kaneski, 218-330-9205. kaneski9205@gmail.com
- Kirby Koster, 651-484-6820. kirby@clubkoster.com
- Dave Lind, 218-3412853. bigbobber3@charter.net
- Joe Peterson, 952-484-2945. joepeterson04@gmail.com
- Ryan Schlueter, 218-568-4063,  
ryanschlueter@hotmail.com

# SIBLEY STEWARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 83

PEQUOT LAKES, MN 56472

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SAVE THE DATE  
2019 ANNUAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, JULY 20th

## SIBLEY LAKE ANNUAL BOAT PARADE

The Annual Sibley Lake Boat Parade starts at 7:00PM on Wednesday, July 3rd.

We'll meet by the island on the south end of the lake and follow the parade route illustrated on the right .

Start planning your boat decorations today and don't forget to join us on the lake for fireworks after the parade!



*Sibley Lake*  
**Sibley Lake Association**  
*Established 1991*