

Little Rice Lake Association



August 2022 Newsletter

A lot of things have been happening since the new year at the lake, so this newsletter is designed to share this with lake association members. Feel free to share this with any association members who have not received this or share with any others interested in the lake happenings. Also, if you have information/photos/upcoming events you'd like to share with others please send them to any lake association board member and we'll do our best to share with all.

GENERAL MEMBER MEETING AND BRAT SOCIAL HOUR

General Annual meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2022 and will be at May's Bar. We will do a 1:00 Brat social hour prior to the 2:00 general meeting.

AERATOR STARTUP and RESULTS

The aerator began running Jan 1 after assoc. members installed the safety barrier, and the system ran 24 hours/day until April 26. As part of the grant agreement, oxygen data was also collected twice during the winter. A review of the data was very encouraging when compared to that collected by Flambeau Engineering 5 years prior. The previous work showed oxygen levels close to 0, whereas ours showed values of 3-5%. That may not seem like much, but levels we recorded are in the range needed for fish survival. Please note that the aeration system will NOT prevent all fish kills in the future. The DNR said a lake the size of Little Rice would need at least 4 aeration systems to prevent all fish kills. However, what the lake assoc. installed should prevent future major fish kills and allow for quicker recovery by saving a significant number of fish for repopulation. The aerator will be started up again this winter and the barrier will once again be installed. If you want to help with barrier install/pick up, or oxygen data collection, please contact a LRLA board member - all help is encouraged and needed!

FISH NEWS

After ice out, Steve Motiff kayaked the lake picking up barrier poles and saw 150-200 dead fish. On June 1, the DNR placed 5 fish traps in spawning areas for a fish population study. The DNR fish biologist Greg Matzke was contacted about the survey, and he was told about the fish kill Steve saw. Greg said he would have expected a much larger fish kill due to thickness of ice and length of coverage if the aerator had not been

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installed. He said there's no doubt the aeration system prevented a much larger fish kill and gave kudos to the lake association for installing the system.

Marty Thyssen saw a fish kill of several hundred fish on the north side of the lake in mid-June. Greg was contacted and he said a fish kill that time of the year is pretty common as the fish are stressed at the end of the spawning season and succumb to that stress.

Once the results of the fish survey are compiled, the results will be sent to the lake assoc. and will be shared with members. However, Greg did say the results were VERY encouraging and said the number of spawners was about twice that of any other local lakes.

BOAT PARADE

As planned, the annual boat parade was held Sunday July 3. There was a turnout of 8 boats loaded with folks armed with water guns enjoying the great weather - even if the water was cold.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

There was a good turnout of LRLA volunteers for the Brush Run. We had a total of 13 members volunteer and most worked the margarita/Bloody Mary bar for about 5 hour stints at different times over the weekend. The money to be paid to the lake association should help immensely in helping to offset running costs of the aeration system. The next planned volunteer opportunity is for the off-road championships Sept 1-4. Please join us if you can - the work is easy and it's a great way to mingle and get to know assoc. members.

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT VOLUNTEER

TRESURER REPORT

Volunteer from Brush Run	Reimbursement from DNR for Aerator project	Cash on Hand
\$420 plus \$57 in tip money	\$10,587	\$11,000

SECRETARY REPORT

New Members for 2022	5
Returning Members	56
Business	2
Total Voting Members	63

2022 ELECTION

Ballots will be going out to all eligible to vote members (per By-laws must be a paid LRLA member for 90 days prior to voting) during the week of August 8, 2022. For your ballot will need to be mailed back to the address listed on the ballot form. All ballots will need to be post marked by

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September 23, 2022 to counted

LOOKING FOR PICTURES/ ARTICLE FOR NEWSLETTER

It is our goal to keep the members informed and continue to send out periodic newsletters as has been our practice after each board meeting. If you have any suggestions, specific topic or pictures you would like us to add to the newsletter please send to Cheryl Braunreiter at cbraunreiter.rr.com