



March 2023 Newsletter

AERATOR

Start-up for the aerator this winter was on Dec 31, 2022 – a month earlier than last season. The barrier was installed by Jay Barta, Mike Braunreiter, Chris Dockry, Steve Motiff, Marty Thyssen, and Pat Larscheid on the same day as start-up. As part of the agreement for aeration funding by the DNR, Steve Motiff and Dave O'Bright collected oxygen readings on 1/10 and 2/13. The data showed there was a significant drop in oxygen between the two dates – from an average of 20-30% down to an average around 2-5%. Steve and Dave plan on recording oxygen one more time in March. Once the lake opens and the barrier falls in, the barrier will have to be retrieved and stored away for the summer. Anybody that wants to get involved in ANY of the aeration system upkeep, please contact anybody on the LRLA board. ALL help is greatly appreciated!

COMMENTS on dissolved oxygen readings:

1. Dissolved oxygen readings need to be greater than 6% for fish to survive.
2. The oxygen readings were recorded in a total of 12 holes radiating out from the aeration system in three lines. The closest readings to the open water were about 250' away for safety reasons. There is no doubt the oxygen values are much higher below the open water created by the aeration system.
3. An email was sent to Greg Matzke (DNR fish biologist for Forest County) after the second data set was collected to get his input as to why he thought oxygen levels dropped so quickly. He said oxygen values are greatly impacted by plant growth during the summer: the more plant growth, the faster the oxygen will be depleted in the winter due to decaying plants. Therefore, summers with more plant growth will result in oxygen levels dropping faster. Greg also thought there should NOT be a large fish kill this year because the ice is about 10" thinner on average this year and he's anticipating an earlier ice breakup.
4. The dissolved oxygen data is available for anybody interested in getting a copy of it.

A fluorescent throw ring attached to a rope was purchased by the lake association and hung on a large tree near the aeration system. The board of directors agreed to the purchase for potential emergency use during the winter season's open ice.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

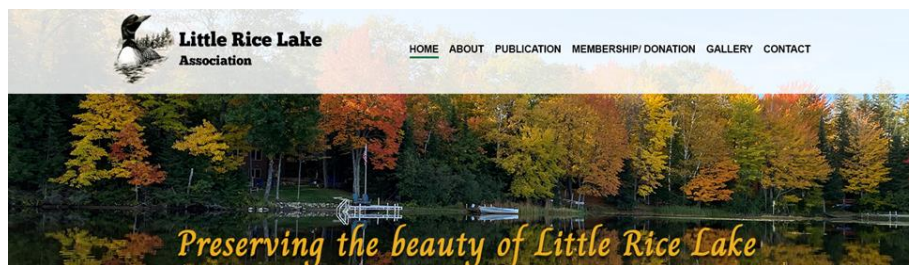
We currently have 57 voting members. This is down from 2022 where we had 65 members. Last year's members that did not renew in 2023 will be taken off of the email distribution list affect April 1st. If you did not renew your membership please do so now by. Let me, Cheryl Braunreiter (cbraunreiter@wi.rr.com) know if you need the membership form send to you.

WEBSITE

Little Rice Lake website is near finish. The design has been approved and now the context is being added to the site. The website will include;

- Home page that will include a list of latest news/ events,
- About us page that will have our Bylaws, Forest County Land & Water Resource Plan and a link to our Facebook page,
- Publication page that will have our Lake Plan, Wild Rice information, Newsletters, and updates for the Aerator,
- Membership/ Donation page for members to renew and pay their annual membership dues if they prefer electronically using PayPal,
- Gallery page for photos (please continue to send me updated photos),
- Contact Us page for members or others to email question. This is linked to a littlericelake@gmail.com account.

Below is a screenshot of the Home Page. The website domain is littlericelake.org.



TRESURER REPORT

2023	Income	Expenses	On Hand Cash
	\$ -	\$ 903.11	\$ 16,612.65

** expense is as of January 31, 2023

DNR WATER SURFACE GRANT APPLICATION

On November 15th, 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received our applications for Surface Water grants. In total, applicants submitted 446 applications requesting over \$7.2 million. The decision-making process was a difficult one, with only \$6.5 million in state funding available. As a result, the DNR was not able to fund all the deserving projects that were proposed. I regret to inform you that our application was not selected for funding this year. We will be looking into the Recreational Boating Facilities Navigational Aids Grant to see if this is something that would benefit our members.

COASTER UPDATE

Dave O'Bright offered to laser engrave cork coasters as part of a lake association fundraiser. The cost is \$5.00 for every four coasters order (4-coaster minimum). To date, \$165 has been raised for the lake association through sale of the coasters. If you are interested contact Dave at dsobright4100@gmail.com. Below is a picture of the six different option available to choose from.

