

Mitchell Lake Association

www.mitchelllake.org

May, 2008

Message from the President

IMPORTANT MEETING

The Watershed District will present their *Lake Restoration Plans* on **Tuesday, May 20th at 7:00** Chanhassen American Legion

Come to learn and show your support for this important lake treatment effort

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster:

Cheri Nehl - jnehl@comcast.net

Check out our Website at

www.mitchelllake.org

to see photos from our 2nd Annual Mitchell Lake Clean-up Day held Sat, April 19th and photos of Mitchell Lake loons and eagles



Do you have a Mitchell Lake photo to share?

Please send to mlboard@mitchelllake.org

THE WAITING IS OVER

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Mitchell Lake Newsletter. While spring has most certainly gotten off to a slow start, the Mitchell Lake Association (MLA) and the Riley Lake Purgatory Creek Watershed District has had anything but a slow start. Spring has barely sprung and already the MLA has hosted our 2nd annual lakeshore cleanup, received notice of approval from the DNR for a \$32,000 Mitchell Lake lakeshore restoration grant and witnessed approval by the Watershed District to move ahead on "Task 10A" which approves spending for five subtasks all aimed at improving the water quality in Mitchell Lake. The waiting is over and we are now starting the "get it done phase".

Spending on Watershed District Task 10A begins in May, 2008 and allocates approximately \$216,000 for project management, weed harvesting, further studies of the lake's microbiology and initial experiments (see related article) for Mitchell Lake. While the district's 10 year plan will not receive final approval until later this year, this level of spending will aid in securing our current inclusion in the District's current draft of the 10 year plan.

At this point in time, I would like extend a thank you to all current paid members for your support of the Mitchell Lake Association. Having a high membership percentage and count (currently at 110 members) is critical as decisions are made on project priorities with limited available funds. Thanks to all of you that participated in our 2nd Annual Mitchell Lake Clean-up day by showing your support and making an impact. Thank you also to the current MLA board and those members that have spent significant time and effort on many activities over the past two years. A special thank you to *John Tyler* who has spent countless hours on the Citizens Advisory Committee, which provides input to the District Board, as well as numerous hours attending the weekly Watershed District meetings on our behalf.

Read on to gain more insight on the key activities on your lake.

Jim Nehl
Mitchell Lake Association President

Not a member yet?

If you would like to support this important effort...

- Visit our website to learn more <http://www.mitchelllake.org>
- Membership form attached to this newsletter.
- Annual Membership fee is \$35

Riley Lake Purgatory Creek Watershed District Task 10A

Submitted by John Tyler

What's a "Solar Bee" you might ask. Answer: a solar powered floating pump station that acts to circulate water to control or limit the production of blue-green algae in a body of water. This is one of many items included in "Task 10A". In summary, Task Order 10A includes the following for 2008:

1. Sediment Oxygen Demand Sampling and Analysis (April-August)
2. Project related Data Gathering (April-October)
3. Aquatic Weed Control-Mechanical Harvesting (May-June), harvesting up to 40 acres.
4. A Solar Bee Pilot (May-August) which will provide two solar mechanical machines which will be located initially in the bay next to the Miller Park playground. There will be extensive studies to determine if this water circulation and mixing can suppress blue-green algae blooms.
5. Project Management - provided on a time and material basis by the subcontracted engineering firm CH2MHILL (www.ch2m.com).

CH2MHILL will be presenting on **May 20th at 7:00** at the Chanhassen American Legion to explain in more detail the "what and how's" of lake treatment methods. Your attendance is requested for this event to not only educate yourself on what treatments will be occurring on your lake, but to also show your support for initial and ongoing spending efforts to improve the water quality for Mitchell Lake. While this initial funding is indeed exciting, we are only at the front end of a multi-year journey to clean up our lake.

Mitchell Lake Association Awarded \$32,000 DNR Shoreline Restoration Grant

Submitted by Cheri Nehl

Great News! Mitchell Lake Association has been awarded a DNR grant for up to \$32,000 for shoreline restoration. The grant allows for up to 7 projects to be completed over the next 2 years.

Who is Eligible?

- Mitchell Lake lakeshore private property owners and associations

What is Eligible?

- Restoration projects that reestablish native vegetation along shorelines

Grant Award Considerations:

- Projects require that at least 75% of the frontage is restored with an adjacent native plant buffer zone that is at least 25 ft deep/wide.
- The grant will cover up 75% of project cost with the landowner covering the remaining 25% of the costs with in-kind labor or materials.
- To be considered for grant, the landowner must submit a site plan that includes: a map, project description, plant list and timeline.

Timberlake Association Commons Project Update:

- Timberlake Association Commons area restoration project has been approved as our first project and work will commence in June.
 - This will be a great educational project for Mitchell Lake residents
 - ***We will need volunteers for spreading mulch and planting***
 - Tentative Timeline:
 - Mulch Spreading - June 14th & 21st
 - Planting - June 28 & 29th
 - Please contact Cheri Nehl at jnehl@comcast.net or Rick Schoeneck at rick@glencoecastle.com if you want to participate.
 - Watch for further updates!

Other Projects:

- Please contact Cheri Nehl at jnehl@comcast.net if you have a potential restoration project or would like more information.

Are you interested in joining the Mitchell Lake Association Board?

Contact Jim Nehl

@ 952-934-8540

for more details

Next elections will be at our September Annual Meeting



Consider creating a natural buffer between your lawn and the lake by restoring your shoreline with native plants.

Want to learn more about Lakeshore Restoration?

Check out these websites:

www.bluethumb.org
www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakescaping/index.html

and Fortin Consulting, Inc. www.fortinconsulting.com can help build a plan and advise the process into reality.



2008 Membership Form

Mitchell Lake Association Mission Statement: The purpose of the Mitchell Lake Association is to create awareness, knowledge and appropriate actions with property owners, local government and community agencies to enhance the water quality and thereby the boating, fishing and aesthetic values of Mitchell Lake, as a recreational facility for today and for future generations.

Mitchell Lake Association Board Members:

Jim Nehl, President
jnehl@comcast.net
Gordon Warner, VP
fwarnerm@cleodusa.net
Dallas Burns, Treasurer
dndburns@earthlink.net
Liz Fundingsland, Secretary
lizfundingsland@comcast.net
Dave Eckstein, Membership
DEckstein@allpointscapital.com
Tom Rabiola
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Tim Benson
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Jay Beaton
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John Tyler
johnth@hsa-healthsavingsaccounts.com
Bob Shurson
shurson@comcast.net
Brian Erickson
Pam@pamerickson.com
Tom Juhnke
tjuhnke@comcast.net

We are strength in numbers, please continue as a founding member or join today. Thank-you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date Paid _____ Check ____ Cash ____

Please forward a \$35.00 tax deductible donation made payable to *Mitchell Lake Assoc.:*

Mitchell Lake Association
C/O Dave Eckstein
16868 Weston Bay Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Not a member yet?

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<http://www.mitchelllake.org>.
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- ___ I am interested in "light" volunteer activities.
- ___ I am interested in an "active" role in the association.
- ___ I am interested in help with a lake "buffer" zone.
- ___ I am interested in a future board member position

Comments:



MAY 2008