

# Gilbert Lake Association Newsletter

Vol. 5, Issue 1, Spring, 2004

<http://www.gilbertlake.org>

## **Next Meeting**

The next Gilbert Lake Association meeting is Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Paul Bunyan Nature Learning Center on Wise Road. Please attend!

Agenda for the meeting:

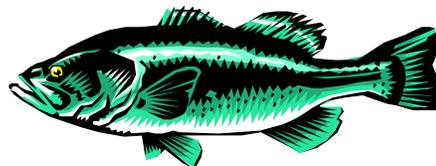
- Brainerd shoreland ordinance update
- Riverside Drive issues
- Lakescaping books for sale - \$12
- Water quality issues over past five years.
- AW Research work proposal and grant application
- Status of park on county land on Gilbert 3.
- Status of improvement of public access
- New fishing regulations for crappies and sunfish.
- Walleye stocking in Gilbert Lake

- Riverside Drive issues
- Lakescaping books for sale - \$12
- Ban of phosphorus fertilizer on turf in Crow Wing county and Brainerd.
- Dishwasher detergent phosphorus ban proposed
- Water quality issues over past four years.
- Website. Approval of costs to maintain (domain name, etc. so far \$30 for two years)
- Approved joining LARA and paying the annual \$25 dues.
- Approved spending \$100 for a replacement hazard buoy.
- Heard a report from Mary Clare Ryan about the Crow Wing County Park's Commission intention to create a low impact park on the County land on Gilbert 3. Voted to endorse the creation of a low impact county park at this site.
- Heard about the county's discussions concerning improving the public access.

## **Action Taken at 2003 Meeting**

At our 2003 meeting on May 8, 2003, the following items were discussed:

- Brainerd shoreland ordinance update



## "Lakescaping"

Copies of the DNR book *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality* will be available at the annual meeting at a reduced price (\$12 –retail \$20).

One of the easiest things you can do to protect Gilbert Lake is to have a buffer zone of vegetation at the edge of your shoreline. This reduces erosion, algae blooms and poor water quality. A buffer zone is a strip of natural vegetation along at least 75% of a property's frontage. The goal of creating the buffer is to restore the shoreline with the native vegetation that was originally there, such as wildflowers, shrubs, grasses, and aquatic plants. A buffer strip:

- Acts as a filter to help prevent fertilizers and pesticides from reaching the lake
- If planted with native plants, doesn't need any fertilizer
- Helps reduce shoreline erosion by slowing down and absorbing the water flowing toward the lake
- Keeps geese away from your yard, because they don't like tall grasses and wildflowers that hide predators
- Reduces homeowner maintenance because they don't need to be mowed

On Gilbert Lake, we still have a number of green lawns that reach to the shore. Runoff from lawns can damage a lake quickly, and is one of the biggest threats to the long-term health of Gilbert Lake. I encourage you to consider buffer zones on your own lots and suggest them to your neighbors. Installing a buffer zone can be as easy as doing nothing -- simply don't mow the last 30 feet of your lawn. Grasses and wild vegetation will

eventually overtake the area – and help save the lake!

## Fishing Regulations for 2005

The DNR intends to institute new regulations for panfish and crappies in 2005. Research has shown that restricting the catch limit for these species will increase their size. Beginning in 2005, the DNR intends to have daily limits of 5 each for crappies and sunfish on Gilbert Lake. Signs will be posted at the access this summer to inform the public. In addition, the DNR will have an information meeting sometime next fall to discuss the changes.

We all know how hard the crappies are fished in the lake during the spawning season, especially in the channel to Gilbert Three. Many of us have seen boats leaving with dozens of large crappies, many filled with eggs. This regulation should reduce the impact of this fishing. I strongly encourage you to support this change, including attending the meeting scheduled for sometime next fall (watch for an email). In a few years, this regulation should improve the number and size of crappie and panfish in Gilbert Lake.

## PAUL BUNYAN NATURE LEARNING CENTER PLANT SALE

The Paul Bunyan Nature Learning Center (on Wise Road, where we have our meetings) is having its annual plant sale on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Plant and tree packages will be available at the center

on those days. If you would like an order form mailed to you, please call them at 829-9620.

Planting shrubs and bushes near the lake can be a part of a lakescaping



project. For example, red-osier dogwoods planted along the shore provide a natural wave break, minimizing erosion even more than rip-rap or other artificial installations. Further, red-osier dogwood, with their bright red bark, give color against the white winter snow.

So, if you've got a moment, go support the Nature Learning Center's Plant sale!

## NEW ADDRESSES

If you have not provided us with your email address, or if your email or street address has changed, please send the information to 16118 Birchwood Lane, Brainerd, MN 56401, or email to [president@gilbertlake.org](mailto:president@gilbertlake.org)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Several projects need a sponsor! Please contact Paul Jacobsen (829-1726) if you are willing to do any of the following:

- **NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION.** We can use someone who is willing to put together this newsletter. Right now, it won't be anything more than an annual event. It would be great if someone could help produce it more often.
- **STUDY CREATING A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR THE GILBERT LAKE ASSOCIATION.** If the Gilbert Lake Association became a 501(c)(3) corporation your donations to it would be tax-deductible. With more money, our association could accomplish so many more things to protect our lake.
- **STUDY WAYS TO ENCOURAGE LAKE RESIDENTS TO IMPROVE LAKESCAPING** We need ideas of practical ways to encourage voluntary use of lakescaping principals on Gilbert Lake. Experience on other lakes has shown that after a few residents begin practicing lakescaping principals, others will follow.
- **RESIDENTS WILLING TO ATTEND CONFERENCES AND TRAINING SESSIONS.** We have had several opportunities for lake association members to attend lake conferences or training sessions relating to lake care. However, no one typically responds to my emails inviting attendance. If you may be interested in the future, let me know, and I'll create a list of individuals for me to contact first.

Gilbert Lake Association  
c/o Paul and Sally Jacobsen  
16118 Birchwood Lane  
Brainerd, MN 56401

Gilbert Lake Association Member  
(address)

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## JOIN THE GILBERT LAKE ASSOCIATION!

Please come to the annual meeting or return the following to  
16118 Birchwood Lane, Brainerd, MN 56401

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up as a member -- \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to the *Gilbert Lake Association*