



# Gilbert Lake Association Newsletter

Vol. 11, Issue 1, Spring, 2010

<http://www.gilbertlake.org>

## **Next Meeting**

The next Gilbert Lake Association meeting is **Monday, May 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the upper level meeting room at the Northland Arboretum building** (north of Movies 10).

Agenda:

- Riverside Drive update
- Crow Wing county water services update and handouts
- Water monitoring summaries
- Officers – any persons interested in leadership positions with the Association should contact Paul Jacobsen
- Lakescaping and books
- Any other new or old business

## **Action at 2009 Meeting**

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- Discussion of Riverside Drive
- Discussion of the boat landing.
- Discussion of Lake Improvement Districts
- Lakescaping and books

## **"Lakescaping"**

The water quality of Gilbert Lake has fluctuated over the past decade. Some of the periods of declining quality may have been due to events beyond our control

(for example, water levels), but other causes have been within our control.

How we keep our shorelines is something we control. A "buffer zone" at the edge of your shoreline is the simplest solution to reduce erosion, algae blooms and poor water quality, according to the authors of the DNR book *Lakescaping for Wildlife and 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. The benefits of a buffer strip are many, as it:

- 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
- Reduces homeowner maintenance because it doesn't need to be mowed

Without a buffer strip, nutrients such as phosphorus can reach the lake and encourage weed growth and algae blooms.

Best of all, creating a buffer strip means less mowing and lawn work for you!

Copies of the Lakescaping book will be available for purchase at the meeting.

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 my family up as a member - \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to the *Gilbert Lake Association*