



# Gilbert Lake Association Newsletter

Vol. 13, Issue 1, Spring, 2012

<http://www.gilbertlake.org>

## **Next Meeting**

The next Gilbert Lake Association meeting is at the Northland Arboretum on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Agenda:

- DNR presentation on Invasive Species
- GLA Financial Report
- GLA Water Testing Data
- Crow Wing County Lake Assessment Report
- Lake Improvement District (LID) discussion.
- Any other new or old business

## **Action at 2011 Meeting**

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- CW County representatives spoke about the new shore land ordinances
- Craig Nathan was elected as President and Karen Colten as Treasurer.
- The color and glare from the new guardrail on Riverside Drive was discussed.
- Water monitoring and test reports were discussed.

## **Riverside Drive Guardrail**

After completion of Riverside Drive in 2010, one of the biggest complaints was the guardrail's visibility from the lake along with its metallic glare, especially in the evening. Paul Jacobsen had several discussions with the Crow Wing County Highway Department about solutions, but money was the problem. Finally, the Department offered to pay for materials to

paint the backside of the guardrail, *if* we provided the labor.

Last fall, Dan Meyer and Paul Jacobsen painted a test section of the guardrail, with large brushes, to see how the paint would weather over the winter. A recent check showed the paint holding up fairly well.

Now, we need volunteers to paint the rest of the guardrail's backside, probably in May when it's warmer, yet before the grasses get in the way. If we have fifteen volunteers, we can probably finish in a morning. Any participants will have to sign liability waivers for the county and the Gilbert Lake Association. Please let Paul Jacobsen know if you are willing to help.

## **Water Access Site**

The Gilbert Lake Water Access Site has been in need of maintenance for number of years. In prior years minor modifications have been done to the road bed to divert storm water runoff from the surface of the road to areas where runoff would not directly enter the lake.

This spring, the County Land Services Department scheduled reconstruction of the boat launch ramps leading into the lake. One of the benefits of this action would have been an elimination of the gravel buildup and hump immediately in front of the boat ramps. Unfortunately the work was cancelled due to the encroachment issue at the access site.

Further work in resolving the encroachment issue will be attempted in an effort to bring the landing area up to current water preservation standards. Until a resolution has been achieved, please be mindful of less than adequate conditions when launching and retrieving boats.

## Invasive Species

The recognition of the need to prevent invasive species into Gilbert Lake has never been higher. Recent legislation has identified the issue and elevated efforts to help prevent the spread of Zebra Mussels and other water born invasive species. .

This year Dan Swanson, Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist from the DNR will present a program at the GLA Annual Meeting to help us become more aware, and plan for the future.

Included in an effort to raise awareness will be a discussion on what we can do to protect our lake and be prepared to act in a timely manner if an invasive species is found in Gilbert Lake. In the interim, please be aware of, and know how to recognize invasive species. The presentation and discussion at the Annual Meeting will better help us accomplish that mission.

## Environmental Stewardship Newsletter

Reminder – The Environmental Stewardship Newsletter, an online connection to a multitude

of activities and sources for environmental stewardship is available on the GLA Website. [HTTP://gilbertlake.org](http://gilbertlake.org)

## High Water Levels

Recent high water levels have caused concerns for some residents. Erosion issues are an challenge in the southern area of the lake with the narrow waterways. Of particular concern is the erosion caused by the wave action of large boats.

Recent inquiries into a no-wake zone for that portion of the lake indicated that the county would likely not approve that request, but would allow a designated traffic lane in the narrowest portions of that area. This effort would require the purchase of buoys to mark the traffic lane, and would be enforceable by the county water patrol.

If high water levels persist, that may be an option to consider, but in the interim, residents of that area are asking that boats that produce a large wake be respectful of others and reduce usage of the southern portion of the lake for these high wake activities.

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## JOIN THE GILBERT LAKE ASSOCIATION!

Please come to the annual meeting or return the following to:  
Craig Nathan – 15490 McKay Road, 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*