

Dec. 12th 2019

The Muskrat Minute

McCarrons Lakefront Alliance

LET'S GET AN UPDATE!

Welcome to the first edition of The Muskrat Minute, a newsletter from McCarrons Lakefront Alliance! The steering committee has been busy getting up and running since our September inaugural meeting. In an effort to keep everyone informed, we plan to provide periodic newsletters when we have important updates to share. We hope you find it informative and fun!

501(c)(3) STATUS

McCarrons Lakefront Alliance learned in late November that we have been granted federal 501(c)(3) status. This is exciting news! This means that those who file for federal tax deductions will be able to deduct any contributions that are made to McCarrons Lakefront Alliance, above and beyond membership dues. We will not be collecting membership dues until 2020, but if anyone would like to make a contribution for this year's tax purposes, feel free to donate before Dec. 31. Donations will eventually be accepted online, but for now, checks may be sent to McCarrons Lakefront Alliance, 324 N. McCarrons Blvd. Please take advantage of any company matches you might have access to as well!

In addition to securing our federal nonprofit status, the steering committee has been working hard to make sure our organization is in tip-top shape. We have filed necessary documents with the Secretary of State, and now that we are a 501(c)(3) organization, we have a few forms to file with the Attorney General's Office. We are setting goals for our first year, with AIS and E. coli as our top priorities. Bylaws are being drafted to create a framework for how McCarrons Lakefront Alliance will operate, and we are talking with other lake associations to determine best practices. The bylaws will be available for public review and will be voted on at our first meeting.

ICE IN ALERT

Do any of you keep detailed records of annual Ice In/Ice Out dates? We'd love to have an unofficial record keeper for the lake and post any historical data you might have to our website. Let us know!

ICE SAFETY

Remember, ICE IS NEVER 100% SAFE! Snow, temps, under-ice currents, etc. all have an influence on ice strength. Make sure to follow proper safety precautions before venturing out on the ice. It's been cold outside but snow on top of the ice will slow freezing and hide thinner areas. See the MN DNR ([link](#)) for more info.

WINTER FUN

McCarrons Lakefront Alliance is planning a winter event on the lake. More details to come once we see how the ice shapes up this year. Everyone is welcome so stay tuned!

If you know of neighbors who might be interested in receiving our information, refer them to our website ([link](#)) and we'll make sure to connect with them!

If you'd like to unsubscribe from future McCarrons Lakefront Alliance emails, reply to this email with "Unsubscribe".

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ZEBRA MUSSEL SAMPLERS

Are you interested in helping monitor zebra mussels in Lake McCarrons? We are creating a monitoring program and would love for you to join! Send us an email so we can gauge interest and prepare materials.



AIS DETECTORS

Would you like to be certified as an aquatic invasive species detector? If so, there are ways to do it through Ramsey County and the University of Minnesota ([link](#)). If you become certified, let us know!

FUN FACTS

Do you have any fun facts about the history of Lake McCarrons or longtime residents? If so, feel free to submit them to info@mccarronslakefront.org so we can consider them for future newsletters. We love to learn about our lake and neighbors!

RESEARCH ON AIS

The McCarrons Lakefront Alliance steering committee recently attended a county forum on aquatic invasive species called Aquatic Invasive Species and You. It was an informational event designed to bring together multiple resources, lake associations and government entities who are all working to control the spread of AIS.

We connected with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the University of Minnesota. We are exploring whether there is a way to partner with them so they can do more monitoring/research on Lake McCarrons.

We learned we can build our own zebra mussel sampler! Chris and Amy plan to do this so we can do some of our own monitoring of zebra mussels on the lake, with the goal of supplementing efforts of the county and Capitol Region Watershed District. We'd love for other lake residents to participate so we can get an idea of how the zebra mussels are acting lakewide year to year.

COMING UP

McCarrons Lakefront Alliance will have quarterly board meetings. Our first meeting will be sometime in February, with a date TBD. As required by rules that govern nonprofits, we will provide at least a two-weeks' notice before each meeting, and meetings will be open to anyone who'd like to attend. We will publicize agendas beforehand and will record meetings and distribute minutes afterward. As is standard practice, the steering committee will set up the initial board to get us through our first year, and we plan to hold elections for future board positions at the end of 2020. We are also seeking volunteers to help out on various committees. If you are interested in getting involved, please let us know.

SEE YOU ON THE LAKE!

<https://www.mccarronslakefront.org>
info@mccarronslakefront.org