

Roberds Lake Reflections



ISSUE: Winter/Spring 2025



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2025 Club Events

- April 13, 2025, 1pm – Wells Town Hall – Annual Meeting**
- April 26, 2025, 9am – Wells Town Hall – Roadside Cleanup**
- June 01, 2025, 5pm – Roberds Lake Resort – Annual Picnic**
- July 4, 2025, 2pm – On the Lake – Boat Parade**
- August 5, 2025, 7pm – Wells Town Hall – Nite to Unite**

Hope to see you there!

Additional event details are on our website

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2024 Officers

Mayor: Mark Vininski

Secretary/Treasurer:
Shermayne Cross

Councilmen:
– Tim Cross
– David Lenway
– Kayla McMenemy
– Lisa McMenemy
– Andrea Peterson
– Dave Sammon
– Julie Schema

Elections are held at
Annual Meeting. We are
looking for a couple new
council members – let us
know if you're interested.

2024 Activity Summaries

WELCOME PACKAGES



For the last several years, the Club has been welcoming new residents to the Lake with welcome packages. In the past year alone, there have been **nineteen** new neighbors to whom we have distributed Welcome Packages.

You can help! When you learn of a new neighbor, meet them and extend your personal greeting, tell them about the Club and invite them to request a free one-year membership.

Requests can be made by contacting any board member, registering on our website or by sending an email with their name, address and phone number to:

roberdslakewelcome@gmail.com

Due to flooding and no-wake restrictions on the lake, we had to cancel the 2024 boat parade.

We hope our 2025 parade is our best one yet! Looking forward to seeing all of the floats on the 4th of July at 2pm!

The events and activities planned by the Roberds Lake Club are all done using members' dues. The annual dues remain at \$25. Membership runs on a calendar year. For your convenience, we will mail a membership form and an addressed envelope for the 2025 year. Please take the time to fill out the form and mail it in – thank you for your support!



Weather was perfect for our 2024 carnival themed Nite to Unite event. The games and prizes were fun for all!

We invited Rice County Soil and Water to present. Our speaker discussed options and methods for shoreline structuring to prevent future erosion and help reduce the algae blooms.

We look forward to seeing you in 2025 at Night to Unite on **Tuesday, August 5 at 7:00 pm** at the Wells Town Hall.

Thank you to those who attended, and to our speaker!

The 2024 Annual Meeting and Roadside Cleanup both went well.

We have noticed a substantial decrease in roadside debris & trash over the past few years and appreciate those who have contributed to that.

For those looking to get an early start on our 2025 cleanup, trash bags (but no vests) will be available to pick up at our Annual Meeting on **Sunday, April 13, at 1pm**. The official roadside cleanup is on **Sunday, April 26, at 9am**.

Jump Into Action This Spring!

Weed Treatment

The Roberds Lake Club treats the invasive Curly-leaf Pondweed in the lake each year. The amount of our lake that we are able to treat is dependent on donations.

Invasive species are expensive to control – the Roberds Lake Club spends about \$500 per acre, annually, to treat the curly-leaf pondweed. With our usual funding, we are able to treat about 20 acres in a standard year, but this year (2025), our funding could cut that area in half.

If you would like to help with the weed treatment, please provide a donation with your annual membership or bring your donation to the annual meeting.

More information on Curly-leaf Pondweed and information on weed treatment options are available on the home page of our website.

Rice County Native Plant Sale

Are you looking to grow native plants on your shoreline to help prevent erosion? Or are you looking to create a habitat for butterflies and bees or a rain garden to treat surface water runoff? The Rice County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has a beautiful selection of native plants for your project.

Their native plant flats consist of 48 plants and usually arrive around the first week in June. New this year is the Native Shoreline Kit - 48 plants for \$70.

Order at www.riceswcdonlinestore.com. Paper order forms will also be available at the annual meeting on Sunday, April 13, at 1pm.

Why native plants?

Their deep, intricate root systems act as natural anchors, binding the soil together and preventing it from being washed away by rain or wind. Unlike non-native species, native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, requiring less maintenance and resources to thrive. The natural properties of native plants create a sustainable long-term solution to erosion, increase soil biodiversity, and improve overall land health.

The Plight of the Monarch Butterfly

Few sights are as magical as a monarch butterfly flitting effortlessly through the air, its fiery wings reflecting the sun. The delicate traveler draped in orange and black averages three to four and a half inches in size, yet every year, it embarks on a migration so vast it almost seems impossible. The monarch butterfly treks up to 3,000 miles every fall to escape the cold weather we're experiencing today and travels the same distance back to experience our gorgeous Minnesota summers. With determination that outweighs its fragile wings, this tiny insect covers 50 to 100 miles each day, taking nearly two months to reach its destination. Despite its strength and determination, however, the monarch is in trouble. A WWF study from the 2023-2024 winter season revealed that the monarch population dropped by 59% last winter, occupying only 2.2 acres compared to 5.5 acres the previous year, bringing the total population decline from the 1980s to a whopping 95%. What's causing this sudden decline, and is there still time to turn things around?

The monarch's impressive migration depends on more than its own resilience – it requires healthy habitats, abundant food sources, and the right environmental conditions along the way. Unfortunately, these necessities are disappearing. Widespread loss of milkweed, the only plant where monarchs lay their eggs, makes it difficult for the few monarch caterpillars to eat and grow. Pesticides, killing both milkweed and the nectar-rich flowers the adult Monarchs rely on for energy, further threaten their survival. At the same time, shifting weather patterns – bringing extreme temperatures, stronger storms, and unpredictable seasonal changes—disrupt migration patterns and make the journey even more difficult. With fewer places to safely rest and refuel, the journey that once defined the monarch's strength is becoming a perilous fight for survival.



Amidst these challenges, efforts to save the regal Monarch butterfly are gaining momentum -- on December 10, 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took a major step by announcing a proposed 4(d) rule to list the Monarch Butterfly as threatened* under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A 4(d) rule is a tool to protect threatened species, and gets its name from section 4(d) of the ESA, which directs the secretary of the interior (and therefore U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to issue regulations deemed “necessary and advisable to provide for the conservation of threatened species” (fws.gov). The proposed 4(d) rule proposal highlights the urgent need to restore milkweed and nectar-rich plants, safeguard overwintering habitats, and reduce the harmful effects of pesticides. Just as importantly, it recognizes that public participation is essential to monarch conservation. People across the country are already taking action—planting pollinator-friendly gardens, reducing pesticide use, and supporting conservation programs. By working together, we can help ensure that future generations continue to witness the breathtaking sight of monarchs filling the summer sky.



If you are interested in growing a pollinator-friendly garden, you can get free milkweed seeds from Bob Gittins and his team at Nebraska Monarchs (mail a self-addressed stamped envelope to P.O. Box 642661, Omaha, NE 68164). You can also purchase milkweed seeds through Minnesota’s Save Our Monarchs project, through the Rice County Soil and Water program, or at many stores in Minnesota.

Other nectar-rich plants to consider adding to your pollinator garden include: Meadow Blazing Star (one of the monarch’s favorite nectar plants!), Hoary Vervain, Common Ox-Eye, Wild Bergamot, Red Columbine, Black-eyed Susan, and Smooth Blue Aster.

*A threatened species is defined as one “likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout a significant portion of its range,” and endangered is defined as “in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.” “Imperiled” or “at risk” are terms that can be used to describe plants and animals that are at low populations and near extinction, but still not legally protected under the ESA.

Monarch graphic designed by aimen-a4 (Image #55154362 at VectorStock.com)

Roberds Lake Reflections Word Search



WORD BANK

CATERPILLAR
ECOLOGY
EROSION
FISHING

FLOODING
INVASIVE
LAKESHORE
MILKWEED

MONARCH
NATIVEPLANTS
NEIGHBORS
PRAIRIE

ROBERDSLAKELAKE
SPECIES
SUNKENISLAND
WATER

Answer Key (rotate)

