

*I hope you've stayed well are ready and excited for another Deer Lake Summer! DLA is planning to hold our **July 16 Spaghetti Dinner** and our **Aug 18 Deer Lake Frolic** in-person. See details in the 2021 DLA Events section below. The June DLA Newsletter also includes important information about Deer Lake water quality and the schedule for our service and social events and activities. **Thank you for your membership!***  
– John Davis

## DLA's Water Quality Initiative

DLA is working to keep invasives out and to reduce the amount of phosphorus running into Deer Lake. This effort is called the Beautiful Deer Lake Water Quality Initiative.

Phosphorus is a nutrient that causes green algae and undesirable weed growth. Deer Lake is highly sensitive to phosphorus loading, meaning that additional phosphorus causes a disproportionate decrease in water quality. The good news is that this sensitivity also means that *if we reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the lake, water quality will increase disproportionately.*

Unfortunately, Deer Lake has lost 2-4' of water clarity over the past seven years. This downward trend is concerning. DLA is taking action to mitigate this decline.

**You can help** reduce the amount of phosphorus running into Deer Lake. Deer Lake water quality has remained as good as it is because Deer Lake property owners and others *for generations* have been willing to apply best practices.

- Maintain or re-establish forested shoreline, or, if that's not possible, establish 50' of vegetative buffer along lakeshore and tributaries. Buffers filter phosphorus and other nutrients from rain water before it runs into the lake, driving algae and undesirable weed growth.
- Keep natural shoreline ice-ridges in place or, if yours has been removed, establish a low berm. Ice ridges and low berms filter rain-water before runoff feeds phosphorus and other nutrients into the lake.
- Repair shoreline and tributary erosion because soils entering the lake contain phosphorus and other nutrients

- Pump your septic tank every 3 years or as recommended by your pumping service
- Order a septic compliance inspection every 5-10 years once your system is 20+ years old.

## 2021 \$\$ DLA Shoreland Incentive

DLA raised funds and offers to partner with Deer Lake property owners during 2021 in an effort to reduce the amount of phosphorus loading into Deer Lake from rainwater runoff and shoreline erosion:

1. DLA offers a disinterested shoreland expert to provide property owners an assessment and options to reduce or eliminate runoff and erosion. **Free and no obligation.**
2. DLA offers to write you a cost-share check for up to \$1000 to help you pay for an eligible rainwater runoff or erosion mitigation project.

Please send a note to [beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com](mailto:beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com) to express interest or learn more.

## Create a Deer Lake Legacy

Up to 5% of Deer Lake Legacy Investment Fund assets can be spent annually on Deer Lake. Right now, that's the source of funding for additional inspection hours at the public access. DLA would like to grow our Legacy Fund for clean water initiatives now and into the future. **Please consider a planned gift to our Legacy Fund.** Planned gifts can be immediate or accomplished through a will or estate plan. A planned gift can provide a current income tax deduction, can enable you to avoid capital gains tax, and can reduce your estate taxes. ***There are many ways to create a Deer Lake legacy without writing a check.*** Examples include:

1. From an IRA if age 70½+
2. Appreciated stock
3. Donor advised fund
4. Beneficiary designations
5. Life insurance
6. Charitable Gift Annuity or Remainder Trust

Deer Lake Association of Itasca County, 36264  
Christmas Point Trl, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.  
More info and a library of examples here  
<http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=262012>

## DLA Volunteer Opportunities

DLA is seeking volunteers to help with necessary DLA administrative functions. Specifically, we need additional volunteers to help with Membership, Communications, or Events functions. It's a great way to get involved in DLA and meet other people around the lake. If you are interested in volunteering, please send a note to [beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com](mailto:beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com)

## DLA Membership Renewal 2021

*All property owners can unite around a goal to maintain and improve water quality.*

If you haven't already done so, please **join DLA or renew your membership for 2021**. It's only \$25. Join DLA even if only to support DLA's water quality work. DLA is a 501(c)(3) MN all-volunteer non-profit. We're not political. We have no employees and no member gets paid to work. That means your \$25 membership fee goes directly to our water quality and other important Initiatives. **DLA is improving our membership procedure to make it easier for you to join or renew**. Click here to renew or join <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=3369>

**Need space** for a meeting, family reunion, retreat, family celebration or other special event? Want to send your child or grandchild to camp on Deer Lake? Consider **Camp Hiawatha**, a Deer Lake FiveStar steward.

<https://www.northwoodsretreatsmn.com>

## Help Prevent Aquatic Invasives in Deer Lake

If not careful, *anyone* who moves from one lake or river to another can cause an invasive to spread to Deer Lake. Invasives are not moved by wildlife. *They're moved by us*. That means all of us who use Deer Lake have a prevention role and are dependent upon each other, including property owners, recreational boaters, anglers, invited and paying guests, visitors, and the businesses that serve us including dock installers, Marine Dealers, and resorts. What we can do:

- Know which waters are infested <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html> or search "MN infested waters"
- Talk with your neighbors, friends, and invited and paying guests about AIS
- Practice **Clean, Drain, Dispose and Dry** – remove drain plugs, then remove mud, weeds, and standing water when exiting any landing.
- Know whether your or your guests' owned or rented boats and gear have been in infested waters prior to launch in Deer Lake. If you don't know for sure, *assume waters are infested*.

- **Drain and dry boats and trailers in the sun for at least 5 days**. If you don't have 5 days, then decontaminate before launching in Deer Lake. *See below for more information about decontamination.*
- **Dry lifts/docks for at least 21 days** before moving from one lake or river to another.
- **Don't let others use your private launch** unless you know where their boats have been. Owners can many times prevent unauthorized private ramp use when absent by strategically placing docks, lifts, and trailers so that others can't use the launch.
- Patronize **FiveStar** service providers when you:
  - Install/remove dock/lift
  - Service boat and engine
  - Rent trailers, boats, and gear
  - Purchase used gear /equipment<http://bit.ly/FiveStarLSPs>

## Free Decontamination Service

If your boat or your invited or paying guest's watercraft or other recreational gear has been or may have been in infested waters, **dry boats, trailers, and gear in the sun for at least 5 days before launching into Deer Lake**. If you or your guest do not have 5 days, then **decontaminate**. Decontamination includes applying verified 140° hot water for 10 seconds or 120° hot water for two minutes. **If you or your guest need or want a hot-water decontamination, call 218-256-4243 or request a decon from the inspector at Deer Lake public access**. Depending upon staffing that day, the inspector will perform the decon for you at Deer Lake Station or will call for a trained professional to be sent over to Deer Lake Station to perform the decon. Otherwise we'll direct you to the nearest staffed mobile decon station. **218-256-4243**

## Deer Lake Station

Deer Lake Station is open for your use 24/7. The Station provides self-service tools to help arriving and departing boaters perform Clean, Drain, Dispose, and Dry as required by law. Fresh rinse-water and hand-tools help boaters clean and flush the mud, weeds, and standing water from boats, trailers, and gear that transport invasives from one lake or river to another. Lights enable Station operation at night. The Waders Rack makes it easy to rinse gear. The Station also provides tools for use only by the Itasca AIS Inspection Program, including 140°+ decontaminating hot water. Station is located at the Deer Lake public access. <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=312044>

## FiveStar Rental Firms

If you or your invited or paying guests rent pontoons, fishing boats, personal watercraft, paddleboards or other similar recreational equipment in Deer Lake, know whether those items were in infested waters prior to launch in Deer Lake. If you don't know or can't find out, assume waters were infested and decontaminate as described above. One strategy for is to recommend rental from a FiveStar provider like

**R&R Rental** <https://www.rrrental.com> or

**Grand Rapids Marine**

<https://www.grandrapidsmarine.com/> who have invested in their own decontamination equipment and have agreed to decontaminate watercraft and gear between rentals. *Please patronize businesses that take AIS seriously.*

## FiveStar Landscape Firms

Landscape firms performing Permitted work along our shorelines must be careful to avoid transporting invasives (AIS) via barges and other machinery and gear when they move from one lake or river to Deer Lake and our shoreline. **FiveStar landscapers** are DNR-certified, apply additional AIS-prevention safeguards, allow us to review their operations, and agree to help identify and disseminate AIS best practices. If you're hiring a landscape firm this year, **please request bids from FiveStar Landscapers**

- **Lange Nursery & Landscape** 218-380-6939
- **McNeil Excavating** 218-259-6364
- **J.V. Tree and Landscaping** 866-232-5183

Learn more info about Landscapers, the Itasca FiveStar Initiative, and other FiveStar providers:

<http://bit.ly/FiveStarLSPs>

**Planning to hire your dock/lift installation this spring?** Move your business to a FiveStar lake service provider who takes AIS prevention seriously. Here is a list of FiveStar providers. <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=262011>

## Camp Hiawatha Sunday Services

I know many Deer Lake members attend 10am Sunday morning ecumenical service at Camp Hiawatha. Camp Hiawatha has asked me to inform you that this summer Camp Hiawatha will be holding service outside. Attendees are asked to bring their own lawn chairs. A coffee hour will be held outdoors following the service. Camp Hiawatha/VLM will offer coffee and treats. A free-will offering is collected following the service. Camp Hiawatha hopes to resume post-service brunch next summer. In the event of rain or

other foul weather, the Sunday service will be held strictly virtually on the Camp Hiawatha Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=camp%20hiawatha>, similar to last year. (If in doubt, check the Camp Hiawatha Facebook page before driving over). First scheduled service for 2021 is 10am Sunday, May 30. Thank you.

## 2021 DLA Events

The DLA Board has decided to **cancel the June 12 DLA Annual Membership meeting**, but DLA is planning to hold our July 16 Annual Business Meeting/Spaghetti Dinner/Music on the Lawn, and our Aug 18 Deer Lake Frolic in-person and as originally planned. See below for more information about these events.

July 16, Friday

**\*\* New this year\*\***

**Music on the Lawn**

**and DLA Spaghetti Dinner/Business Meeting**

5pm DLA Business Meeting, 5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner, 6:30pm Music on the Lawn. At Camp Hiawatha. Musical guest TBD! Free-will offering at dinner for DLA, free-will offering during Music on the Lawn for Camp Hiawatha.

August 18, Wednesday

## **DEER LAKE FROLIC**

5pm gather; 6pm-dinner at Camp Hiawatha

Music, games, food, silent auction. The Frolic is a great opportunity for the entire Deer Lake community to come together, including residents, guests, and visitors both from Deer Lake and the surrounding communities. All are welcome! The Frolic also serves as the primary annual fundraiser for DLA. **Please mark the date & plan to attend!**

## DLA Yoga

We are considering offering Zoom yoga, outdoor yoga, or indoor yoga depending on the pandemic. To express interest, contact Liz Power Hawkinson directly at [lizpower.873@gmail.com](mailto:lizpower.873@gmail.com)

## DLA Bear Island Trail Maintenance

June 4 – Friday 9:00 AM

July 9 – Friday 9:00 AM

August 6 – Friday 9:00 AM

**(In the event of rain - 'Rolex' 24 hours)**

Coordinated again this year by Paul Askegaard. Bear Island was donated to the State of MN by DLA, who purchased it with donations from lake residents plus State matching funds. Once a month during the summer, DLA members spend about 1 hour keeping the walking trail open and removing trash. RSVP not necessary, just arrive on the south end of the Island at 9am on the scheduled day. If conditions are questionable, call Paul at 651-230-3361. **Please volunteer, especially if we have a bad storm during the month.** Bring gloves, wear long pants and bug spray, and bring any equipment you have (chain saw, clippers, loppers, small saw and/or garbage bag). Paul will provide coffee/donuts. Hope to see you there!

## DLA Hwy 62 Clean-up:

**June 5, Saturday**

**September 11, Saturday**

Coordinated again this year by Barb and Kerry Glader. Please join us for DLA Hwy 62 clean-up where we combine community service and fellowship! Gather in the parking lot of the Baptist Church at 9:30 am, corner of Hwys 62 and 177 on the east side of Deer Lake.

<https://goo.gl/maps/7fd9J5frn5o>

Clean-up takes about an hour. Afterward, you're invited to Barb and Kerry's cabin for coffee, snacks, and fellowship. Please call or email Barb if you're able to join us! [320-761-0195](tel:320-761-0195) or [kbglad@aol.com](mailto:kbglad@aol.com)

**Need boat or engine service from a marine dealer?** Choose a FiveStar marine dealer like Ray's Marine or Grand Rapids Marine who takes AIS prevention seriously.

<http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=262011>

## DLA "Deer Readers" Book Club

**June 22 4pm** Book/author: Arrowsmith by Sinclair Lewis  
Leader: Alice Stark Host: Mary Helen Pelton

**July 27 4pm** Book/author: American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins  
Leader: Joyce Erickson Host: Dick & Joyce Erickson

**Aug 17 4pm** Book/author: Accidental President by A. J. Baime  
Leader: Jan Hill Host: Jan Hill

**Sept 8 Wed, 3pm** Book/author: Northland: a 4,000 Mile Journey Along America's Forgotten Border by

Porter Fox  
Leader: Don & Abby Marier Host: Don & Abby Marier

(At this meeting we will also do book selection/voting for summer 2022)

**\*Please note:** tentative hosts were identified for each meeting, however the decision to have face to face meetings (vs zoom) will depend on the pandemic situation.

Deer Readers meetings begin at 4pm except the September session, which starts at 3pm. Please contact Alice with questions [adstark@goldengate.net](mailto:adstark@goldengate.net)

## DLA Golf Scramble

We will be playing our Golf Scramble on one Tuesday of each month. This is a fun time, not a competition. In an attempt to even out the teams we insert in our "Rules of the Day" - fun challenges that make it more interesting. We will take pandemic precautions as necessary. Last year, for example, we had couples play together. If we still have limitations this year we'll do something similar. For dinners, if we are still under restrictions, we will do something similar to 2020. We bought restaurant take-out and ate socially distanced at a participant's home. Once the restaurants were open and had outside dining, we ate at these establishments. In May of 2021 we will determine how to handle this based on the situation at the time.

June, 15<sup>th</sup>, Tue at Blueberry Hills – Tee Off 1 PM

July 20<sup>th</sup>, Tue at Pokegama – Tee Off 2 PM

August 10<sup>th</sup>, Tue at Eagle Ridge – Tee Off 1 PM

September 7<sup>th</sup>, Tue at Pokegama – Tee Off 2 PM

New golfers always welcome to join us on the golf course and former golfers, spouses and significant others who don't golf welcome to join us for dinner!!

