

I hope DLA's Spring Newsletter finds you well and optimistic about and looking forward to the coming Deer Lake spring and summer seasons! DLA will be monitoring and following recommendations from the MN Dept of Health regarding 2021 DLA events listed in this Newsletter. DLA plans to communicate schedule-updates via email, DLA Facebook, DLA Twitter, and our web-site. Stay well everyone!
– John Davis

Beautiful Deer Lake

Deer Lake is special. Maybe it's the magnificence of the clear, blue, violet waters, the striking beauty of the boreal forest remnants that surround us, the magenta dawn of a summer day, or the mournful call of loons on a still night. Perhaps it's simply the comforting presence of time past, or the joy borne by family and friends new to the lake.

Water clarity is among the reasons Deer Lake is so beautiful. When we look around the lake, we see maybe 70% of Deer Lake shoreline remains forested despite the fact that Deer Lake is highly developed. This is unusual. We also see in-place shoreline Ice Ridges created naturally over generations or longer. What many do not realize, however, is, among other reasons, **Deer Lake water is as clear as it is because property owners have kept forested shorelines and ice ridges in place.**

Forested shorelines and ice ridges act as a natural filter. They filter phosphorus and other nutrients from rainwater before it runs into the lake. It's **phosphorus** and other nutrients that reduce water clarity and drive the growth of green algae and undesirable weeds. Forested shorelines and ice ridges also act to stabilize the shoreline itself, preventing storms, high water, and wave-action from eroding soil and nutrients into the lake. It's against the law now to remove forested shoreline and ice ridges, but if your shoreline was cleared or your ice ridge removed by previous owners, **it's possible to add an attractive buffer, low-berm, or similar landscape feature** that will filter runoff and prevent shoreline erosion.

For generations, Deer Lake water quality has served as a foundation for family life and lakeshore property values. People often associate lake water quality problems with large-scale agriculture, or forestry, urban development, or industrial practices. But the truth is that **property owner actions have a significant impact on Deer Lake water quality.** The impact of land use decisions on one lake lot may be

relatively small, yet the cumulative impact of small decisions on many lake lots can result in significant water quality decline.

Recent Deer Lake Water Clarity

Unfortunately, since 2014 Deer Lake has experienced a decline in water clarity. During this time Deer Lake has lost on average between 4-8" of clarity annually, resulting in an average total clarity loss of around 2-4'. This decline is caused by increasing amounts of phosphorus running into the lake from sources including **rainwater runoff, shoreline erosion, and ineffective septic systems.** DLA asks for your help to arrest and reverse this decline.

Deer Lake is highly sensitive to additional phosphorus. Additional phosphorus loading causes a disproportionate decrease in water quality. *Astoundingly, just 100 lbs. of additional phosphorus would decrease Deer Lake water clarity by 9" throughout the entire lake.* The good news is that this sensitivity also means that *if we reduce the amount of phosphorus entering Deer Lake, water quality will increase disproportionately.*

What We Can Do

DLA invites property owners to learn more about which actions improve, harm, or are neutral to Deer Lake water quality. No property owner takes action knowingly to harm lake water quality and undermine family enjoyment and property values. *There are numerous ways to accomplish recreational goals while preserving lake water quality.*

1. If you're new to the lake or simply want to understand more about how you can accomplish your recreational goals while preserving or improving water quality, DLA offers our **Shoreland Service.** DLA pays for a disinterested expert (someone not trying to sell you something) to come to your property, review your situation, and discuss possible options with you. No-obligation. For more info, see our website <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=282027> or contact beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com
2. If rainwater runs unbuffered or unfiltered from your shoreline into the lake, or if you are having difficulty with shoreline erosion, the **DLA Shoreland Service** can help with that too. Contact beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com

3. Phosphorus, other nutrients, and pathogens enter the lake from ineffective **septic systems**. What we can do:
- Most septic systems have a filter that must be cleaned regularly (usually annually)
 - Accumulating solids must be pumped from your septic tank regularly (usually every three years)
 - Over time, the filtering soil under your drain-field becomes saturated. Once your system is 20+ years old, order a septic compliance inspection every 5-10 years.
 - Take care what you send down the drain into your septic.

Please take a few minutes to learn more about how your septic system operates and owner maintenance obligations. You can find a good description of septic system best practices beginning on page 9 of the Deer Lake Property Owner Handbook on the DLA website. <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=3302>

Many of us wrongly perceive our septic systems are working fine as long as they're not backing-up into the cabin. Septic systems are designed to perform effectively for 20 – 30 years, but risk releasing pathogens, phosphorus, and other nutrients into Deer Lake once drain-field soil becomes saturated. In practice, septic systems sometimes last less than 20 years, other times more than 30, depending on use and maintenance. **On average, at 20 years of age 40% of septic systems need replacement.**

How can you know if your 20+ year-old septic system is ineffective? Order a septic compliance inspection. A septic compliance inspection is different than the simple inspection performed when a septic service technician pumps your tank. It's the same inspection required by law when you sell your property or apply for a building permit. A Septic compliance inspection is a simple procedure including only hand-drawn soil-borings near your tank and drain-field, performed by a licensed private inspector. DLA offers to pay for your voluntary septic inspection if your 20+ year old system is eligible. To learn more, contact beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com

Your individual action could make the difference. DLA realizes that septic system replacement can be costly, so we've raised funds to partner with eligible Deer Lake property owners who volunteer for a septic compliance inspection. **2021 is the final planned summer for septic incentives.** Learn more <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=282026>

DLA Membership Renewal 2021

All property owners can unite around a goal to maintain and improve water quality. Is Deer Lake water quality important to you and your family? If 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 changing our membership procedure to make it easier for you to join or renew.** See enclosed Membership insert.

FiveStar Initiative

DLA asks property owners to move our business to a FiveStar dock installer this spring.

FiveStar lake service providers that install/remove docks/lifts seasonally on Deer Lake:

- **Grand Rapids Marine** 218-326-0351
- **Thousand Lakes Dock & Lift** 218-398-7553
- **JJ's Barge Service** 218-244-5194
- **Northland Lake Svcs/Chad Schumacher** 218-256-9691
- **Matt Almquist/38Outpost** 218-259-9997
- **Paul Grooms/Grooms Property** 218-259-2157

Dock installers can unwittingly infest Deer Lake with invasives (AIS) when coming here from infested waters. FiveStar providers are DNR-certified, sign a contract agreeing to apply additional AIS safeguards, and agree to help us disseminate best practices. Learn more about FiveStar at our website <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=262011>

Help Prevent Aquatic Invasives in Deer Lake

- Know which waters are infested <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html> or search "MN infested waters"
- 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, decontaminate. *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 guest's boat have 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 don't know or can't find out, *assume waters are infested*. 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 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>

2021 DLA Events

June 12, Saturday

DLA Membership Meeting

10AM at Camp Hiawatha, Baldwin Commons **or** via Zoom if we are still under pandemic restrictions.

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 guests 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

Stay tuned, 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

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!

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>

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 Kerry or Barb if you're able to join us! [218-246-8397](tel:218-246-8397) or [320-761-0195](tel:320-761-0195).

DLA "Deer Readers" Book Club

May 25 4pm Book/author: Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth by Sarah Smarsh Leader: Dave Stark Host: Jo Landwer

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 situation with the Covid-19 pandemic by summer 2021.

Deer Readers meetings begin at 4pm except the September session, which starts at 3pm. Please contact Alice with questions 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.

May, 18th, Tue at Pokegama – Tee Off 2 PM

June, 15th, Tue at Blueberry Hills – Tee Off 1 PM

July 20th, Tue at Pokegama – Tee Off 2 PM

August 10th, Tue at Eagle Ridge – Tee Off 1 PM

September 7th, 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!!





How to Renew or Join as a Member of the Deer Lake Association

*Please renew your membership annually by **May 1** to take full advantage of our summer activities, initiatives, communications, and to be listed in our annual DLA member directory. **New Members welcome anytime.***

If you are already a DLA member, please renew your annual membership one of two ways:

1. Online with a credit card <https://bit.ly/DonateDeerLake>. You do not need to complete the paper membership form each year. Let DLA know if your contact information changes beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com.

OR

2. Mail your paper check to DLA at the address listed at the bottom of the [DLA Membership Form](#) (on the backside of this insert). You do not need to complete the paper membership form each year. Let DLA know if your contact information changes beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com.

If you are new to DLA or are reactivating a lapsed membership, please join DLA by completing the [DLA Membership Form](#) (on the backside of this insert). The membership form provides DLA with basic contact information. Return the DLA Membership Form via email beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com or via US Mail to the address listed at the bottom of the form. Pay your membership fee online with a credit card <https://bit.ly/DonateDeerLake> or make out a paper check to “DLA” and write “membership” in the memo line.

DLA Lifetime Membership

Join DLA as a Lifetime Member. Never have to renew your membership again. DLA invests your one-time membership donation and withdraws up to 5% annually to fund DLA operations. Details on the [DLA Membership Form](#) (on the backside of this insert).

Donations in addition to DLA Membership

DLA is a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer Minnesota non-profit. Donations of any amount to support our lake water-quality efforts and other important work are encouraged, welcome at any time, and tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. You're welcome to include a donation with your membership payment.

Thank you for your membership!



DLA Membership Application rev 03012021

Please renew by **May 1** to take full advantage of our summer activities, initiatives, and communications, and to be listed in our annual DLA member directory. **New Members welcome anytime.**

____ \$25 **Annual Membership:** Any person, family, firm, association, corporation or other legal entity owning property or residing during all or part of the year within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water mark of Deer Lake. Definition: "Family" shall mean any two adults who reside in the same household.

____ \$500 **Lifetime Membership:** Any person or family owning property or residing during all or part of the year within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high water mark of Deer Lake may purchase a Lifetime Membership via a one-time non-refundable payment. Definition: "Family" shall mean any two adults who reside in the same household. Valid only for the lifetime of the one or two persons named on the original Lifetime Membership application. Not transferable. DLA invests your membership payment and withdraws up to 5% annually to fund DLA operations.

____ \$12.50 **Associate Annual Membership:** Any person, family, firm, association, corporation or other legal entity not qualifying for Annual Membership. Associate Annual Members have all the rights of Annual and Lifetime Members except the right to nominate candidates for Board of Directors or officers of DLA, or any vote of the membership unless actively serving as a director at the time vote is taken.

Name: _____

Mailing Address _____ Lake address _____

City/State _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

eMail address (please print clearly) _____

Please list here whatever personal e-mail address or addresses you wish us to use in our communications with you.

Our privacy promise to you: We will use your contact information only for official DLA communications, will NOT share it with any other organization, nor will we display it on our web-site.

DLA periodically creates and distributes a members-only Directory showing DLA Members and contact information as you've listed it above. If you do **NOT** want your contact information to appear in the DLA Directory, please check here ____.

*DLA is a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer Minnesota non-profit organization. **Donations** of any amount to support our lake-water quality efforts and other work are encouraged, **welcome** at any time, and tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. You may include a donation if you wish. Donation amount _____.*

DLA is an all-volunteer non-profit service organization. Please consider volunteering! Check your areas of interest below:

DLA Officer__ **Board Member**__ **DLEAP Legacy Fund Committee** __ **Lake Conservation Committee**__ **Yoga**__ **Music**__
DLA Neighborhood Communicator__ **Golf** __ **Book Club**__ **Creative Endeavors**__ **Bear Island**__ **Road Clean-up**__

Special interest: volunteer to form a new committee: _____

Deer Lake Assn web site <http://deerlakeassociation.org/>. DLA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1426038024368278/>. DLA Twitter [@beautifuldeerlk](https://twitter.com/beautifuldeerlk)

Pay your membership online with a credit or debit card <https://bit.ly/DonateDeerLake>, or by paper check. Return this completed form via email at beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com or via US Mail. **Herb Lieftring, DLA Treasurer, 36264 Christmas Point Trl., Grand Rapids, MN 55744**