***Deer Lake Frolic Picnic***

*The Deer Lake Frolic Picnic is* ***5-7pm Thur August 18****, at* [*Camp Hiawatha*](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/2/edit?mid=1eGIeOqMYBR3IDA0F5RRifYeLbLhyLxBi&ll=47.39927923888228%2C-93.6477407&z=18)***.*** *All are welcome. We’ll cook for you and your guests!**The Frolic picnic is the best social event of the summer. It includes music, food, silent auction, kid’s games, and also serves as the primary fundraiser for DLA’s Operating Fund. This year we are serving grilled chicken and sweet corn. Tom Brown’s grilled chicken is spectacular! We are grateful for the music of* [*John Perkins*](https://soundcloud.com/johnfperkins)*.*

*Dinner tickets are $12 (age 6 & under free) and are available from any Board Member, Neighborhood Communicator, or at the door. See more details about the 2022 Deer Lake Frolic in the 2022 DLA Events section below.*

*Please help DLA show gratitude to Camp Hiawatha for allowing DLA to use Camp Hiawatha facilities by* [*parking in designated areas*](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/2/edit?mid=1eGIeOqMYBR3IDA0F5RRifYeLbLhyLxBi&usp=sharing) *and respecting Camp Hiawatha* [*alcohol policy*](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12mfTAqGxdxGMFItEJzg-zsDMhavQB7ix/edit)*.*

***Deer Lake Public Access Inspections***

*Sometime this summer, please take time to stop at the Deer Lake public access to say thank you to our AIS Inspectors or bring them a cold treat on a hot day. Many do the job because they love Deer Lake. They are Deer Lake’s final line of defense. We are grateful for their service!*

***Thank you for your membership!****! -- John Davis*

**Deer Lake Frolic Picnic Silent Auction**

Deer Lake Frolic is Thur Aug 18.  **Please consider donating items for our Deer Lake Frolic Silent Auction**.  Examples include created or purchased works of art, including paintings, photographs, pottery, jewelry; handcrafted items of value such as quilts or knitting; creative gift baskets, antique furniture, other treasures from your cabin that someone else could use, or services provided. We're especially looking for items that might sell for $100 or more.  Examples of services could include air-plane-ride, chef-for-an-evening, fishing guide-service, etc.  Frolic attendees bid on these items during the Frolic, with highest bid winning the item.  Funds go to DLA.  Donor can set a minimum bid. We ask only that if your Silent Auction item does not sell you take it home with you at the conclusion of the Frolic.  If interested in donating, pls send a note to beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com

**Deer Lake Public Access AIS Inspections**

Inspectors are generally present at the Deer Lake public access 7 days per week. DLA currently pays about 20% of the cost of inspectors at the Deer Lake public access. Current funding sources for the other 80% are not sustainable. DLA expects to have to pay an *increasingly larger share* for inspections in the future because of budget cuts and from proposed changes in allocation of resources among counties within the State of Minnesota and lakes within Itasca County. As a result, DLA is raising funds to enable us to maintain our current level of service. Please consider a donation to our **Legacy Fund** to help DLA pay for additional inspection hours at the Deer Lake public access.Thank you for your consideration.

**Create a Deer Lake Legacy**

Up to 5% of Deer Lake Legacy Investment Fund assets can be spent annually on Deer Lake. 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, Attn: Marc Fuller, DLA Treasurer, 4145 Washburn Ave So, Minneapolis, MN. 55401.

[***More info and a library of Legacy gift examples here***](http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=262012)

**Congratulations to Camp Hiawatha**, 2022 recipient of DLA’s Margaret Brown Lake Stewardship Award. Thank you Camp Hiawatha for your stewardship of Deer Lake!

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DLA’s Tom Brown with Camp Hiawatha Director Trisha Peterson and her son Kingston holding the MBLSA award.

**DLA Land Purchase Benefits All of Deer Lake**

While we touched on this subject in our April newsletter and spent significant time on this subject at our June 11 DLA Membership Meeting, I wanted to provide additional information about DLA’s recent land purchase.  Good news. DLA was able to negotiate the purchase of 435' of shoreline and 43 unimproved acres in the NE corner of Deer Lake.   Working in conjunction with private donors and the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT), this land will serve as a critical natural filter for Deer Lake water quality.  The land includes a conservation easement so will be conserved in perpetuity.  It abuts the [Wabu Woods Scientific and Natural Area](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas/detail.html?id=sna01048) (SNA).

Wabu Woods was originally donated by Deer Lake benefactor Abby Grey, beloved aunt to current DLA members Abby and Don Marier.  Wabu Woods + DLA's land equals about 1/2 mile of forested shoreline and 140 acres of conserved unimproved land.  High levels of forested shoreline are correlated to better water quality. Hopes are high this is just the first of many opportunities for the DLA, Deer Lake property owners, and MLT to make significant contributions to Deer Lake water quality.......Something we are all thankful to enjoy.

**FiveStar Initiative**

DLA asks you to move your business to a FiveStar dock/lift remover this fall. FiveStar lake service providers that install/remove docks/lifts seasonally:

* **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
* **Lake Home Helpers** 218-969-5028

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

**Septic Systems and Deer Lake**

Unfortunately, Deer Lake has lost 2-6’ of water clarity over the past seven years. We know the culprit for this decline: phosphorus. Ineffective and failing septic systems are one of the key sources for phosphorus in Deer Lake. DLA is asking your help to reverse this

water quality decline.

**Septic System Best Practices**

1. Most septic systems have a filter that must be cleaned regularly (usually annually)
2. Pump your septic tank regularly (usually every three years). [Scooters](https://www.yellowpages.com/cohasset-mn/mip/scooters-septic-service-537196443) and [Bunes](https://www.bunessepticservice.com/) are examples of local firms who will pump your tank.
3. Order a septic compliance inspection every 5-10 years once your system is 20+ years old. **Systems installed 1996 or earlier are especially at risk.**

Septic systems are designed to filter effluent for 20 – 30 years, but risk releasing pathogens, phosphorus, and other nutrients into the water table and Deer Lake once drain-field soil becomes saturated. In practice, septics sometimes last less than 20 years, other times more than 30, depending on use and maintenance.

**Septic systems installed 1996 or earlier are particularly at risk.** That’s because the standard for the soil-filter underneath the drainfield was revised and increased in 1996. This new standard offers an improvement in filtering capability over time. Current law requires a septic system to undergo a *septic compliance inspection* when property is sold or when a property owner applies for a building permit.  DLA recommends property owners with systems installed 1996-or-earlier **consider ordering a voluntary septic compliance inspection now**.  If we're successful in replacing aging systems, we can lower the amount of phosphorus and pathogens loading into Deer Lake

**During 2022, DLA is inviting all eligible Deer Lake property owners with septic systems installed 1996 or earlier to volunteer for a septic compliance inspection.**

Inspection is required by law when you sell your property or apply for a building permit, but waiting until you apply for a permit or sell your property may cause your sale or building project to be delayed while you remedy. **Best to act now.** A voluntary inspection is a simple procedure involving only soil-tests near your tank and drain-field and a visual inspection of the interior of your tanks.

**2022 Deer Lake $eptic Incentives**

DLA raised funds and offers to partner with eligible Deer Lake property owners during 2022:

1. DLA offers to pay the cost for voluntary septic compliance inspections for eligible property owners with systems installed 1996 or earlier.
2. For those whose systems fail that voluntary inspection, DLA has arranged for Itasca County to offer zero-interest 10-year-term loans that you pay back through the property tax payment process. You don’t have to disclose assets or income because the loan is secured by the property itself.

**Eligible property owners include:**

* Those whose septic system was installed 1996 or earlier
* And whose septic systems have not undergone a septic compliance inspection in the past 5 years
* And whose property is not for sale or recently sold
* And who have not applied for a building permit or are otherwise under legal obligation to inspect and replace their septic system
* And who are not otherwise obligated by law to replace their septic system

**To learn more or to order a septic compliance inspection**, send a note to beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com

**Compensated Conservation Easements**

Do you own 20 or more acres of land on or near Deer Lake (e.g. either with or without Deer Lake lakeshore, but within the Deer Lake watershed). Would you like to receive payment of 60 - 80% of the *current* *fair market value* of your land to conserve it forever? This is possible through an initiative created by the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT). It’s called a *Compensated Conservation Easement*. If you’re interested or would like to learn more, please send a note to beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com

**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.** 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

**Deer Lake Shoreland**

Almost any improvement we make to our lakeshore properties requires one or more permits, **especially work we do on or within 50' of our shorelines**.  <https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/567/Shoreland-Alterations>

*The purpose of the permitting process is to conserve our heritage of fishing and family recreation in clean water for ourselves, our children, grandchildren, and future generations*.  Fortunately, there are numerous ways we can accomplish our recreational goals while preserving property values and Deer Lake water quality.  The permitting process is meant to enable property owners to gain an understanding about which choices will have a positive or neutral impact to the lake.

**If you'd like help understanding your options prior to completing the Shoreland Alteration Permit application, DLA can help!** DLA will send an objective expert to your property to provide with you with ideas and options. No obligation.

**Deer Lake Shoreland Best Practices**

* Maintain or re-establish forested shoreline, or, if that’s not possible, establish a 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 or breached, 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

**2022 DLA Shoreland Offer**

DLA offers to partner with Deer Lake property owners during 2022 in an effort to reduce the amount of phosphorus loading into Deer Lake from rainwater runoff and shoreline erosion:

1. DLA offers an objective shoreland expert – someone not trying to sell you something -- to provide property owners with options and ideas to reduce or eliminate runoff and erosion. **Free and no obligation**.
2. If you decide to move forward an implement a solution, DLA’s expert can create a simple plan that you can your contractor can work from. This design plan can also include native plant selection.

Please send a note to beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com to express interest or learn more. [More info](http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=282027) on DLA’s Shoreland Initiative.

**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**](https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Landscape-Company/Langes-Nursery-and-Landscaping-607626122735080/)218-380-6939
* [**McNeil Excavating**](https://www.facebook.com/McNeilExcavating/)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>

**Free Decontamination Service**

Do you have invited or paying guests coming to Deer Lake along with owned or rented boats or recreational gear? If your guest’s watercraft or other recreational gear have been or may have been in infested waters, please call 218-256-4243 to arrange for that boat or gear to be decontaminated prior to launch in Deer Lake. It takes just a few minutes to protect Deer Lake. Likely the decontamination can be performed at Deer Lake Station at the Deer Lake public access.

**Decontamination** includes applying verified 140° hot water for 10 seconds or 120° hot water for two minutes to critical areas of watercraft and gear.

**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.**

**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. Deer Lake 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](https://www.rrrental.com/) or

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

**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>

**2022 DLA Events**

**August 18***, Thursday*

[***DEER LAKE FROLIC***](http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=51750)

5pm gather; 6pm-dinner a*t 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 is the highlight Deer Lake social event of the year!

**DLA Bear Island Trail Maintenance**

**August 5** – 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:**

**September 10, Saturday**

Coordinated this year by Chad and Amanda 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](https://goo.gl/maps/7fd9J5frn5o%20) Clean-up takes about an hour. Afterward, you’re invited to the Glader cabin for coffee, snacks, and fellowship.  Please contact Chad or Amanda if you’re able to join us gladerc@gmail.com or 763-516-6589.

**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 “Deer Readers” Book Club**
**Revised SUMMER Deer Readers SCHEDULE 2022**

**Please note:**At this point, we will assume our book discussions will be in-person – at the home of the host listed for each meeting.  Meetings (other than September) start at 4pm (September meeting starts at 3pm).  Everyone brings an appetizer to share; host provides beverages.  Please contact Alice Stark with questions adstark@goldengate.net .

**Aug 23** (4th Tues) 4pm: The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway (Leaders: Dick & Joyce Erickson, Host: Jan Hill)

**Sept 14** **(WED) 3pm**: (earlier start time for Business meeting/voting and book discussion) Marcel’s Letters: A Font and the Search for One Man’s Fate by Carolyn Porter (Leaders: Don & Abby Marier, Host: Jo Landwer)

**DLA Golf Scramble**

Our Golf Scramble schedule for the remainder of 2022 is listed below.  This is a fun time, not a competition.  In an attempt to even out the teams, we play with “Rules of the Day” - fun challenges that make it more interesting.

* **August 16th(Tuesday)** at Eagle Ridge Golf Course – Tee Off 2pm
* **September 13th(Tuesday)** at Pokegama Golf Course – Tee Off 2pm

Golf is followed by dinner at the clubhouse or at a local restaurant. Non-golfers are welcome to join us for the dinner only if they like.

Trish Bogenrief had coordinated the DLA golf scrambles for many years. Trish and her husband, Jim, sold their home and moved at the end of July. We wish them well and thank Trish for her many years of hard work in making our golf events happen. Thanks Trish!!!

Paul Askegaard has volunteered to coordinate the golf scramble events for the remainder of this year and next summer. If you want more information or are interested in signing up for the August / September golf and/or dinner, please contact Paul at askeupnorth@gmail.com or 651-230-3361.

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