

*I hope you're excited for another Deer Lake Summer! DLA is planning to hold our **Annual Membership Meeting** Sat June 11, our **Spaghetti Dinner** Fri July 15, and our **Deer Lake Frolic** social event and picnic Thur Aug 18. See details in the 2022 DLA Events section below. **Thank you for your membership!***
– John Davis

Compensated Conservation Easements

Do you own 20 or more acres of land that includes at least some Deer Lake shoreline? 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*. DLA recently applied this MLT program in an innovative way to purchase 435' of Deer Lake shoreline and 43 acres of unimproved land that serves as a critical natural buffer for Deer Lake. **Join us an MLT representative speaks about Compensated Conservation Easements at the 10am Sat June 11 DLA Membership meeting at Camp Hiawatha.**

Deer Lake Water Quality

DLA is working to keep aquatic invasives out and to reduce the amount of phosphorus running in to Deer Lake. Unfortunately, Deer Lake has [lost 2-6' of water clarity](#) over the past six years. This downward trend is concerning. DLA is taking action to mitigate this decline.

Many associate lake water quality problems with large-scale agriculture, forestry, urban development, or industrial practices, but **property owner actions have a significant impact on 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 [improvements](#) or [declines](#) in water quality.

Phosphorus is a nutrient that drives green algae and undesirable weed growth. Unfortunately, Deer Lake is highly sensitive to additional phosphorus, meaning that additional phosphorus causes a disproportionate decrease in water quality. *Just 100 lbs. of additional phosphorus would decrease Deer Lake water clarity by as much as 9" throughout the entire lake.* The good news is that this sensitivity also means that *if we reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the lake, water clarity will increase disproportionately.*

You can help reduce the amount of phosphorus running into Deer Lake. Deer Lake water clarity has remained as good as it is because Deer Lake property owners and others *for generations* have been willing to accomplish recreational goals while applying norms and practices positive or neutral to water quality.

- Maintain forested shoreline or re-establish a plant 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 establish a low-berm if your ice-ridge has been removed or breached. 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. Failing septic systems load phosphorus, other nutrients, and pathogens into the water table and the lake.

Your individual action may make the difference.

2022 Septic and Shoreland Initiatives

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

1. DLA offers to pay the cost for eligible property owner septic compliance inspections.
2. DLA has arranged for **zero-interest 10-year-term loans** for septic replacements through Itasca County. These loans are paid back through the property tax system.
3. DLA offers an objective independent shoreland expert to provide property owners ideas and options to reduce or eliminate runoff and erosion. This service is **FREE**.
4. Should you decide to move forward and implement a buffer, low-berm, or other natural shoreland solution, DLA's expert can create a simple plan for you, including native plant selection, that you or your contractor can work from. DLA's expert can also advise you as you implement your plan. This service is also **FREE** to you.

DLA's 2022 Shoreland Offer

There are numerous ways to accomplish recreational goals while conserving lake water quality.

Would you like help from an objective shoreland expert? DLA will send an objective expert – someone not trying to sell you something -- to your property, review your shoreland situation, and offer no-obligation options for you to consider. Maybe you'd like to install a buffer or low-berm to filter runoff. Maybe you have an erosion problem that needs a solution. Maybe you'd simply like to learn more about how your property interacts with the lake.

DLA offers to pay for our expert to come to your property to provide a no obligation assessment and options for you to consider. DLA also offers to pay our expert to produce a design for you (including plant recommendations) if you decide to move forward and implement a solution. More info on our website <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=282027> or contact beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com

DLA's 2022 Septic Offer

How old is your septic system? On average, at 20 years of age 40% of Deer Lake septic systems are contributing to water quality decline and need replacement.

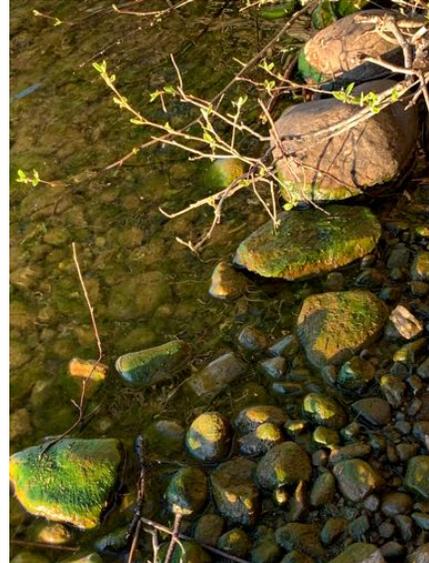
How can you know if your 20+ year-old septic system is contributing to Deer Lake water quality decline? Order a septic compliance inspection. A septic compliance inspection is different than the simple inspection performed when a septic service technician pumps the solids from your tank. It's the same 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 soil-borings near your tank and drain-field, performed by a licensed independent objective private inspector.

DLA offers to pay the cost for your voluntary septic inspection if your 20+ year old system is eligible.

DLA has also arranged for the availability of zero-interest 10-year-term loans for septic replacements on eligible properties.

These incentives are available *now* but only for a limited time. So best to act *now*. To learn more, contact beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com

Here's photographic evidence: The first photo below shows lakeshore in front of a property where a septic system failed inspection and needed replacement. Notice the algae, plant growth, and green hue.



This second photo shows the same lakeshore following septic replacement. Look at the difference! In the second photo, there's much less phosphorus to cause algae and other plant growth, so the water is clear.



Bottom line, if your septic system is 20 years of age or older, and if your system has not undergone a septic compliance inspection in the past 5 years, please consider ordering a septic compliance inspection. Send a note to beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com for more info

2022 Deer Lake Shoreline Initiative

By Beth Riesgraf-Wyman

Hello Deer Lake friends! I am your friendly volunteer shoreline and native plant advisor. I am a self-taught gardener. My science background is being a family physician in St. Cloud for 35 years. My husband Dick and I have had our lake home on Deer Lake since 2005. We did a native planting in 2009 across 200 feet of shoreline, 75 feet deep, assisted by Prairie Restoration. We love our results!

<https://youtu.be/iF7Yt972Qo8>

Maintaining a lake-friendly shoreline is key to keeping Deer Lake water clean and clear. Deer Lake is very sensitive to phosphorus and it enters our lake through rainwater runoff, shoreline erosion, failing septic systems, and the use of phosphorus-containing fertilizer on our lawns.

Our water quality has been decreasing since 2014. We can work to reverse this trend by following a few simple guidelines.

- 1) Please keep your berm or ice ridge. The berm is nature's way of keeping the lake clean. It is a mini-wall that filters runoff before it runs into the lake and prevents or slows down erosion from lake action. The high water this spring was a perfect display of the damage the lake can do to lakeshores that are not protected by berms. Many property owners place their docks on the ridge, even if they have to make stairs to get up to that level. There are many ways to accomplish recreational goals while having neutral and positive impact on lake water quality. That's what we're here for! If you'd like help generating ideas for how you could accomplish your recreational goals while creating a positive impact to the lake, we are happy to do so.
- 2) Reserve a swath 10-15+ feet deep on the shore side of the ice ridge for an additional buffer. You can just leave it un-mowed. Many native seeds are already there and you may be surprised to see what grows. This un-mowed area will act as a sort of sponge that soaks up runoff before it gets to the ice ridge. Consider making a path to your shoreline that meanders a bit rather than a straight line. We are happy to visit and help you sort out native from

invasive plants that grow in your un-mowed site. A small list of flowers, sedges, grasses, shrubs and trees is provided below. You can add more plants over time. Dick and I have had success with all of these plants on our property. You will see bees, butterflies, dragonflies, birds and other wildlife attracted to your planting.

- 3) Please keep shoreline aquatic plants in place. Reeds and bullrushes are a wave buffer and they keep the water clean. They stop growing after three to four feet of water depth and shouldn't impede boating or swimming. If you have a rocky shoreline, you can remove smaller (bowling ball size or smaller) rocks and replace them with plants or shrubs.

These are a few of our favorite plants:

Flowers, full sun, upland medium to dry soil:

Butterfly Weed, Bee Balm, Black-eyed Susan, Purple Prairie Clover, Anise Hyssop, New England Aster.

Flowers, full sun, wet soil or soggy clay:

Rose Milkweed, Bottle Gentian, Blue-flag Iris, Boneset, Blue Vervain, Joe Pye Weed (tall).

Plants that love shade: Columbine, Wild Geranium, Virginia Blue-bells, Wild Ginger, Baneberry shrubs.

Grasses and sedges that love wet soil: Big Bluestem, Lake Sedge, Bullrushes, Switch Grass, Prairie Cord Grass.

Grasses that like dry soil: Indian Grass, Little Bluestem, Path Rush, Northern Dropseed.

Trees that love wet soil: Tamarack, Black Spruce, Birch, White Cedar (protect from deer).

Trees that like upland soil: Red and White Pine, Maples, Oaks.

Shrubs that like wet: Red Osier Dogwood, Silkie Dogwood, Snowberry, Serviceberry, Prairie Ninebark.

Shrubs that like dry: Sumac, Bush Honeysuckle, New Jersey Tea.

If all this seems overwhelming, here are the two on-line resources that taught me most of what I know, including how and when to plant seeds, what likes to

live where, maintenance tips, seed propagation, etc. Prairie Moon Nursery (<https://www.prairiemoon.com/>) and Prairie Restorations, Inc. (<https://www.prairieresto.com/>).

But you don't have to learn all this ... at your invitation, we'll come to your property and provide you with ideas and options to consider. **No obligation.** We look forward to visiting you!

If you are interested in learning more or scheduling a Shoreline Visit, just send an email to beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com for a free shoreline assessment. Thanks so much – Beth Riesgraf-Wyman

DLA Membership Renewal 2022

If you have not done so already, please **join DLA or renew your membership for 2022**. 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 so your membership payment is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. 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 revised our membership procedure to make it easier for you to join or renew. **You can even renew online with a debit or credit card!** **Renew or join here** <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=3369>

DLA Board Members

We will have two openings on the DLA Board of Directors in July 2022 as current Board members complete their terms. **Please consider serving as a DLA Board member.** Send a note to beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com to learn more.

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 Boat/Trailer 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. Deer Lake Station is located at the Deer Lake public access and was engineered, designed, constructed, and is funded and maintained by DLA. <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>

FiveStar Rental Firms

If you or your invited or paying guests rent pontoons, fishing boats, personal watercraft, paddleboards or other similar recreational equipment for use 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 the waters are infested* and have the watercraft of gear decontaminated prior to launch in Deer Lake. **Another 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/) <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 employ AIS Safeguards.***

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. Currently, 100% of applicable Legacy Fund spending is going toward inspection hours, but that amount covers only 20% of the cost. Unfortunately, current inspections funding sources are not sustainable. As a result, 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, Treas, 4145 Washburn Ave So, Minneapolis, MN. 55401. More info and a library of examples here <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=262012>

DLA Website

Are you tech savvy? Or do you know someone who is? **DLA is looking for someone to manage a project to help DLA upgrade our website.** We'd like to migrate to a mobile-device-friendly platform, using a service like Weebly or similar. This a paid project, so would be a great summer work opportunity for a high school or college student interested in studying computer science or graphic design. Please contact beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com if you're interested.

2022 DLA Events

June 11, Saturday

DLA Membership Meeting

10AM at Camp Hiawatha, Baldwin Commons. Our featured guest speaker is **Ruurd Schoolderman** from the **Minnesota Land Trust**. We'll talk about *Compensated Conservation Easements*, and DLA's recent land purchase. We'll also feature a *June Phenology* presentation from **Courtney Kerns** of **KernsEco** <https://www.kernseco.com>

July 15, Friday

DLA Spaghetti Dinner/Annual Business Meeting

5pm DLA Business Meeting, 5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner. At Camp Hiawatha. Free-will offering at dinner for DLA.

August 18, Thursday

DEER LAKE FROLIC

5pm gather; 6pm-dinner at Camp Hiawatha
Music, food, silent auction, games. It's the best social event of the season! 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! **Please mark the date & plan to attend!**

DLA Bear Island Trail Maintenance

June 3 – Friday 9:00 AM

July 8 – Friday 9:00 AM

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> 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.

June 28 (4th Tues) 4pm: The Genius of Birds by Jennifer Ackerman (Leaders: Don & Abby Marier, Hosts: Jack & Susie Jones)

July 26 (4th Tues) 4pm: Anxious People: A Novel by Fredrick Backman (Leaders: Don & Ellen Ardery, Hosts: Ardery's)

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

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.

June, 21th, Tue at Blueberry Hills – Tee Off 2pm
July 19th, Tue at Pokegama – Tee Off 2pm
August 16th, Tue at Eagle Ridge – Tee Off 2pm
September 13th, Tue at Pokegama – Tee Off 2pm

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!! For more info or to sign-up contact Trish at tjbogie@paulbunyan.net 218-326-3824

