

DEER LAKE ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2023

*How's your summer going? We hope you'll find this issue a "good read". This is a neighborhood newsletter - so if you've got something to share with other readers, send it my way! Abby Marier, editor absma58@gmail.com
Many, Many thanks to Dick Wyman, our newsletter format guy!*



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Beautiful Deer Lake



WELCOME! Our new president, JEFF JOHNSTON!



A long-time lake advocate, Jeff is a retired medical device engineer, avid hunter, fisherman, woodworker, and grandpa. Jeff was

elected at our annual membership meeting & spaghetti dinner. See Jeff's comments on page 8.

"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature".

Henry David Thoreau

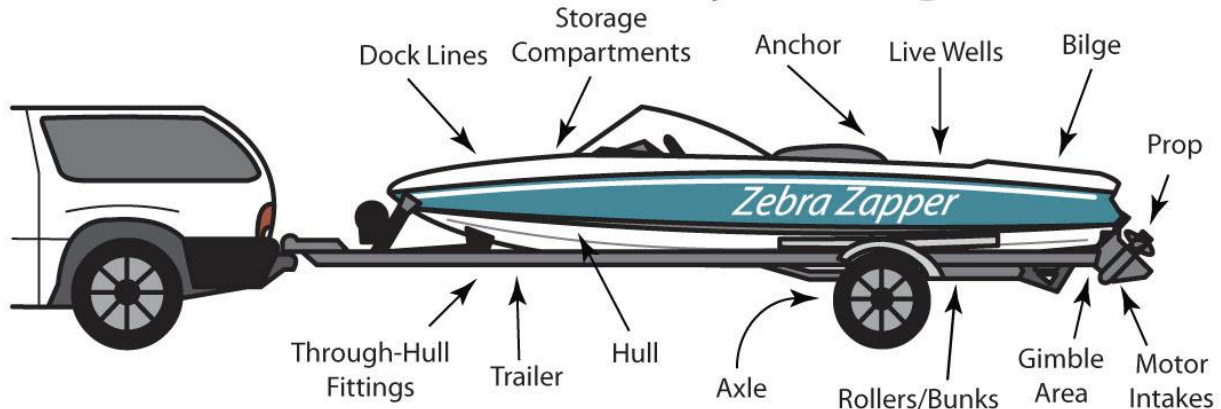


August...Perseid meteor showers! On your dock or in the lake- look north! This spectacular event will be **peaking after dusk this year on August 12 and before dawn on August 13th**. Frequently as many as 90 meteors per hour, look for more as late night deepens.

<https://www.space.com>

[Graphic]

Before leaving and before launching...
inspect everything!



PREVENT AIS FROM SPREADING INTO THE LAKE!

Deer Lake Station is a free service which provides help & self-service tools and hot water. It is located at the Deer Lake public access.

It is NOT just a matter of time...YOU CAN KEEP AIS (aquatic invasive species) from entering Deer Lake:

- ***Clean-** all debris from boat, motor, trailer & gear
- ***Drain-** water from boat, all tanks & containers. Remove drain plug and keep open. Personal watercraft users- briefly run powertrain to expel all water.
- ***Dispose-** all unwanted bait in trash, not the lake!
- ***OR, thoroughly dry watercraft for 5 days before launching.**

Please watch this 10 min video showing AIS infestation in MN lakes. Scenes from Deer Lake included. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkOjL4Q-qgU>

PIONEERS OF DEER LAKE: THE THORPE BROTHERS

by Dick Wyman

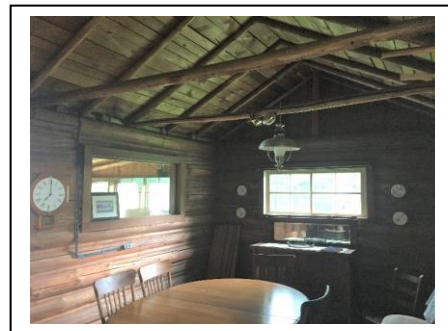


Deer Lake and Moose Lake nearly come together twice, but never actually mingle their waters. The land between these narrow land bridges is “sort of” an island. It is crossed by County Road 19 and has two dusty byroads that are grandly named East and West Thorpe Avenues in addition to Pinehurst Trail that lead to homes on the north side of Deer Lake.

The white pine forests of Deer Lake were harvested in the late 19th century. Around 1918 the land of the island was acquired by the Thorpe Brothers Corporation. The Thorpes were established

developers who had built Grandview Lodge on Gull Lake near Brainard. In 1920 they submitted plat maps to the county, specifying about 200 lots on the island. The lots were typically 100 feet wide with varying depths, generally 250 to 350 feet. Roads were platted as if a city was planned for the site.

A log cabin was constructed on the south side of the island. A handwritten note in the cabin says, *“According to Old Timers – this section of cabin was built in 1918 as land office for Thorpe Bros. selling lots on Deer Lake. Builder was Gus Byne & Son. Gus was an Indian from Okla.”* The cabin still stands and has been incorporated into a larger guest cabin as a dining room.



In 1919 the Thorpes started Pinehurst Lodge on Deer Lake, finishing it in 1920. The dining room served guests, tourists and the local population. In 1929, Charles and Elsie Voight built a resort and store near Pinehurst.

In time, the unsold lots on Thorpe Island became tax forfeit and eventually were transferred to state ownership. There were intentions to develop the land for recreational uses, but only a swimming beach on Moose Lake was established. More recently, ownership has transferred to Itasca County and its land department has sold some of the lots to adjacent landowners, with the remainder assigned to the city of Deer River. A parcel of lots north of highway 19 and fronting on Moose Lake has been offered for many, many times the amount the Thorpe brothers paid for the island a century ago.

DEER LAKE NEWS...

On Birch Island: A Rock Concert !

On June 30th, for a couple of hours, we were treated to ...a rock concert!

(R) *Photo by Dustin Nelson.*



Loon tangled in fishing line is released!

In Mid-July, a loon was found with its' beak and wings entangled in fishing line.

Help came! Two DNR biologists were contacted - who immobilized it with a spotlight, and then freed it. They returned the bird to its' nesting platform, where the loon would likely be incubating eggs. Good going!

The DNR says there are about 12,000 common loons in Minnesota, which puts the state second to Alaska for total population. Loons have a lifespan of about 30 years!

Bear Island cleanup- next , August 4th

Teamwork makes this happen! Thanks everyone for the great job keeping our space beautiful! And thanks to Paul Askegaard for making it happen.



FAULOUS FIREWORKS!

Hey! Did you see them!
Fabulous!!!

Thanks to Matthew Ward and others for the wonderful displays !

Photo by Lisa Abendroth



Deer Lake Frolic

The Deer Lake Assn Frolic takes place at Camp Hiawatha on August 17 at 5:00 PM. The Frolic serves as both a social get-together for everyone, and as the DLA's major fundraiser for the year. Neighbors, guests, and the general public are welcome to attend the Frolic. You don't need to be a member of the DLA to attend. The Frolic includes great food: chicken BBQ, corn-on-the-cob, bread, beans, salad, and Dairy Queen dessert. The Frolic also includes live music, games for adults and kids and a silent auction. Tickets are \$15 each. Children aged 6 and under are free. If you are busy that day or are otherwise unable to attend, please consider buying tickets anyway simply to support the good work of the DLA. Buy one for each family member!

Funds earned from the Frolic are put to good use on Deer Lake. The DLA provides leadership and a collective voice for preserving Deer Lake's fragile ecosystem. We are currently focused on keeping Zebra Mussels and other invasives out of Deer Lake and reducing the amount of phosphorus loading into the lake. We are also active in the community, sponsoring environmental education, funding an annual scholarship for graduating local high school seniors,

August 4 – Friday 9:00 AM Bear Island Clean-up

(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 9, 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.

DLA "Deer Readers" Book Club

Aug 22 (Tues) 4pm: The Salt Path by Raynor Winn (Leader: Abby Marrier, Hosts: Don & Abby Marier)

Sept 13 (WEDNESDAY) 3pm: (earlier start time for Business meeting/voting followed by book discussion) Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain (Leaders: Don Ardery, Hosts: Don & Ellen Ardery)

Please note: Each month's book meeting will be at the home of the HOST listed for each meeting. Meetings start at 4pm (except September meeting, which starts at 3pm). Everyone brings an appetizer to share; the host provides beverages. Contact Alice Stark with questions adstark@goldengate.net.

DLA Golf Scramble

This summer, we will be organizing a golf/dinner event on one Tuesday of each month. This is more of a fun, social event, as opposed to a serious competition, so all skill levels are welcome. We generally use a "scramble" format with a few special rules and contests thrown in. We will play nine holes at one of the area courses followed by dinner at the course or a nearby restaurant.

August 15th (Tuesday): Eagle Ridge – Tee Off 2pm

September 12th (Tuesday): Pokegama – Tee Off 2pm

Dinner location will be determined the week prior to golf. Non-golfers are welcome to join us for dinner only if they like. Contact Paul Askegaard at 651-230-3361 or email askeupnorth@gmail.com.

August Recipe *from Joyce Erickson*



For our August Newsletter, I found it only fitting that I would submit my favorite summer dessert that my grandmother and mother made every summer during raspberry season. The name of the cake is Raspberry "Bublan", a Czech word which I was told translated to berry cake.

I did some research on the word Bublan and it turns out that Bublan or Bublanina translates to Bubble Cake, which is a soft and moist sponge cake, often made in the Czech Republic on Sundays to accompany afternoon coffee. Most often it is made with fruit of the season, mostly berries. And why is it called Bubble Cake you ask? When you bake it, bubbles form up around the fruit and therefore the name Bublan. I learn something new every single day.

Here's the recipe, now that your mouth must be watering, especially if you love raspberries like I do. Beat the eggs and add sugar and milk. Beat well. Add the flour, baking powder, salt to the egg mixture. Lastly, add melted butter. Mix well.

Raspberry Bublan

3 eggs
3/4 C sugar
1 C milk
4 Tbsp melted butter
1-3/4 C flour
3 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt (optional)
2 pints of fresh berries

Pour into a lightly greased 3x9" cake pan. Distribute berries (well drained) over batter and sprinkle 1/2 cup sugar over the berries.

Bake at 375 degrees for about 30 minutes. If it is still a little juicy, bake just a few minutes longer.

You can serve this delicious sponge cake with ice cream if you wish. And you don't have to make it just on Sundays with your afternoon coffee. Enjoy it anytime you wish to have Bubble Cake.

Beautiful Deer Lake Photo Gallery



Pelicans on Grassy Island

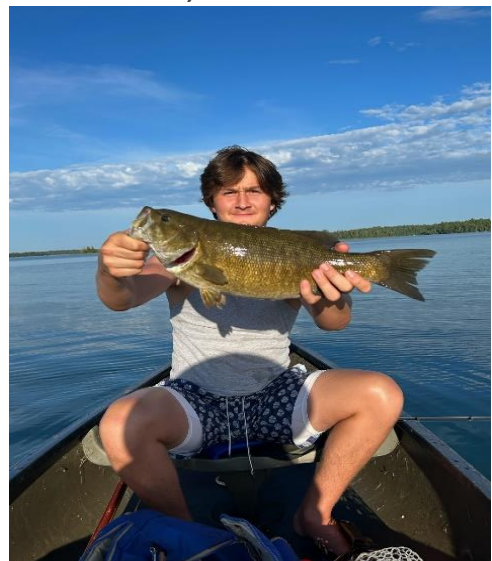
Photo by Sheila Ott



Hummingbird moth *photo by Tom Schafer.*



"Super Moon" rising over Deer Lake *Photo by Don Marier.*



Quite a catch, Aidan Fischer! *Photo by Marcus Fischer*

Closing Comments from Jeff Johnston

I would like to thank you, the DLA membership, for placing your confidence and trust in me to serve as your President. I accept the role of President of the Association for the 2023/2024 term. I will endeavor to represent DLA's best interests.

Being asked to step up to a leadership role in any capacity can be challenging for most of us. We doubt our abilities and worth, and question what we can bring to the table. Yet it is imperative for any organization to have members willing to take steps to take on these duties.

So, this year, it is my hope that we all face our doubts and take on a new and challenging role in the DLA. Let's build on the legacies we recognize and strive for a strong and sustainable association for the future.

Jeff M. Johnston

Remember, all of your purchases and support contribute to keeping Deer Lake clear and building our Deer Lake Community.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you

