



## JULY 2023 Deer Lake Association Newsletter

*Good morning! I'm the new volunteer editor for the DLA Newsletter, and I hope you will find this issue a "good read". We're hoping to make this a neighborhood rag - so if you've got something to share with other readers, send it my way! Abby Marier*  
[absma58@gmail.com](mailto:absma58@gmail.com)



### July 2023 Newsletter President's Message

**The Deer Lake Challenge** is DLA's Shoreland Initiative, meant to help reduce the amount of phosphorus and other nutrients running into Deer Lake. It's phosphorus that drives green algae, undesirable plants, and reduces water clarity. You can participate in the Deer Lake Challenge in one of two ways, via a Self-Assessment or a Shoreland Visit. The Deer Lake Challenge is described in full in an article on **page 3**.

The DLA Deer Lake Firewise brush-pick-up is **ON** for 2023! **Firewise brush Pick-up is Aug 7-10, 2023** for both the north and south sides of Deer Lake.

To participate in the brush-pick-up service, you must fill out a Tracking Form and submit it to one of our Firewise coordinators **before Aug 1**. Brush pick-up is sometime Aug 7-10. For more info, please see the email I sent to all DLA Members, or the post I made to the DLA Facebook page. For those new to Deer Lake or Firewise, the Firewise program

is meant to reduce the danger of wildfires. Firewise attempts to inform and educate visitors and property owners about campfires, to inform and educate property owners about what we can do to protect our properties, and, for DLA Members, offers a free brush-pick-up service. This is an especially useful service if we've had bad spring or summer storms or heavy snow over the winter.

**A new DLA President** will be elected at the **July 14 Annual Business Meeting**. It has been a privilege to serve as DLA president for the past six years. I have enjoyed my time as President, and feel positive about all we accomplished together to improve water quality. I am grateful and thankful for all DLA members who gave of their time, talent, or treasure, including those who helped make DLA AIS, Septic, Shoreland, and Tributaries initiatives a success. Thank you. – *John*



## ***FIREWISE IS BACK FOR 2023!***

### ***Registration and Tracking Form due Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>***

*Tracking Form available on DLA website*

<http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=11054>

***For more info:***

***North side of Deer Lake***  
***Diana Lieftring***  
***[lieffrdl@paulbunyan.net](mailto:lieffrdl@paulbunyan.net)***  
***218-327-5332***

***South side of Deer Lake***  
***Dave Duxbury***  
***[dbduxbury@gmail.com](mailto:dbduxbury@gmail.com)***  
***715-377-2900***

***Lake Pokegama Jay Gould & Little Jay Gould North Star Lake Bowstring Lake  
Ball Club Lake Mississippi River Lake Winnibigoshish Cut-Foot Sioux  
Little Jessie Lake Sand Lake Rice Lake Dora Lake Bigfork River Spider Lake  
Hale Lake McKinney Lake Crystal Lake Trout Lake Holman Lake***

***These are Some AIS INFESTED WATERS NEAR DEER LAKE***

See more complete information in the May, 2023 DLA Newsletter



## The Deer Lake Challenge

By John Davis

**Deer Lake water quality is approaching a critical threshold. Unfortunately, Deer Lake has lost up to 8' of water clarity during the past six years. Here's how you can help reverse this trend.**

Rain, storm, and other water runoff and shoreline erosion delivers phosphorus and other nutrients directly into Deer Lake. Phosphorus reduces water clarity, and drives algae and undesirable weed growth. Deer Lake is highly sensitive to additional phosphorus. *For example, just 100 lbs. of additional phosphorus would decrease water clarity by 9" throughout the entire lake.*

A great way to help conserve Deer Lake water quality is to maintain existing *natural shoreline* and *ice-ridges*. Ice ridges are the "hump" that many Deer Lake property owners see at their shorelines. Ice ridges and natural shoreline are excellent water filtration systems, trapping and filtering runoff. For properties where ice-ridges and/or native shoreline has been removed or breached, owners can add a beautiful natural buffer and low-berm near our shorelines. Buffers and low-berms filter phosphorus and other nutrients from snowmelt, rain, and stormwater before they run into the lake.

How can you help? **Take the Deer Lake Challenge!** You can participate in one of two ways:

1. **Deer Lake Challenge *Self-Assessment*** - DLA offers a simple two-page free guide to help you think through how your shoreline impacts Deer Lake. You can view or download a copy at <https://bit.ly/DeerLakeChallenge> or request a copy from DLA [beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com](mailto:beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com)
2. **Deer Lake Challenge *Shoreland Visit*** - DLA offers a local, objective expert -- someone not trying to sell you something -- who will visit your property at a time convenient for you, listen to your recreational goals, review your current situation, then offer shoreland ideas that both meet your goals and minimize runoff and erosion. This service is free to you. And no obligation.

Either way, property owners who complete the Deer Lake Challenge are eligible to receive and encouraged to display a free Deer Lake Challenge sign meant to increase awareness of DLA's Shoreland Initiative.

DLA invites you to take the Deer Lake Challenge. Contact [beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com](mailto:beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com) to request a shoreland visit or go to <https://bit.ly/DeerLakeChallenge> to download your copy of the self-assessment.

**Your individual action may make the difference to Deer Lake.** Thank you.

# How we restored our shoreline

By Beth Riesgraf-Wyman

When Dick and I bought our East Thorpe lake home on the north shore of Deer Lake in 2005, the shoreline was pretty barren. The prior owners had cut down the trees between the house and the shore except for a few cedars on the sides. Mowed lawn went down to the shore, and much of the ice ridge was breached. All bull rushes and other aquatic plants had been dredged out. YIKES!

Our plan to restore the shore was based on three principles for a healthy lake:

1. Keep your berm/ice ridge intact. It's nature's way to keep runoff from entering the lake. The previous practice to push the ice ridge into the lake with a tractor was abandoned.
2. Restore the shoreline with native plants, shrubs and trees. The land becomes a gorgeous sponge of color/diversity that soaks up runoff and prevents erosion. (Recent studies from Cambridge show that the biomass of invertebrates (insects, worms and spiders) is 25 times that of a mono-culture lawn.)
3. Let the natural aquatic plants grow back and act as a wave buffer, create a home for aquatic animals, and help filter the water. Aquatic plants consume phosphorous and other nutrients that may "sneak in."

We developed a plan after consulting with DLA and other local resources. Fortunately, at the time, Itasca Soil and Water had funds for a cost-sharing program so we did our whole 210 feet of waterfront in natives, including the first 75-100 feet back from the shore.

We had annual battles with some very aggressive weeds and invasives. But we were rewarded with Bee Balm, Boneset, Golden Alexander, Joe Pye Weed, Goldenrod, Bottle Gentian and numerous other native grasses and sedges. Bumble bees, butterflies, frogs, toads and birds moved in and made our shore their home.

We planted a few tamaracks (very deer resistant) and now more than two dozen grace our shoreline. We made fenced enclosures to keep the deer from our red osier dogwood, cedar and maple saplings. White and red pines that we planted are now more than 30 feet tall. We love the results but it is a work in progress.

Some people de-stress with Yoga or meditation, but I walk around in our sedge meadow and am in my special place.



In 2005, runoff could pour right into the lake.



In 2023, runoff soaks in at the end of the drive.

**Joyce Erickson's Blueberry Muffins- easy peasy!**



**Cream one stick of butter, 1/2 Cup (softened)**

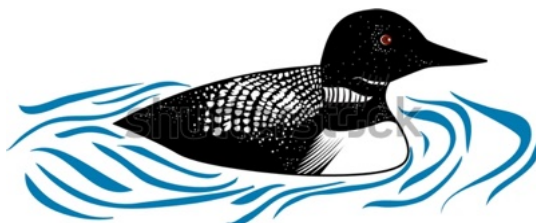
**1 C sugar    Add 1 beaten egg**

**1/4 tsp salt (optional) 1 tsp baking powder**

**1 3/4 C flour   1 cup of dry blueberries. I have used fresh berries, patted dry, or frozen blueberries, which are smaller and easier to mix into the mix into the very thick batter. Mix well so blueberries are well distributed in batter. Put batter evenly into a muffin tin (I use the paper liners which are easy for clean-up).**

**Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes, golden brown on top.**

*This is a very special and easy recipe for delicious Blueberry Muffins. I got the recipe from a very dear friend, who was a wonderful cook and baker. Every time I make these, I think of her. These muffins are simple to make and so tasty. It must be the butter that makes them so flavorful. They are great for dessert, or breakfast/brunch.*



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*Spencer Rettier, DNR Non-game Wildlife Specialist spoke to the DLA membership on June 10th*

**LOONS...LOONS...LOONS!** *By Elise Widen*

**\*LOON FRIENDLY LAKES   \*LOON HABITAT   \*JOINT MONITORING EFFORTS**

These are some of the ways the DNR is working to reduce loon mortality and increase reproduction. Coming right up! Chicks hatch in 27-29 days, around early July. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is a crucial time for chicks due to wave action from boats. They search for clear, deep lakes of 50 acres or more, (Deer Lake)! with abundant fish such as ciscos. Nests are usually on irregular shoreline and islands. **Ways you can help our loon population: use only lead-free tackle &**

**participate in the Deer Lake Challenge (p.3)      Loons have 4 distinct calls:**

**Tremelo: alarm call or during flights    Wail: warning to each other**

**Yodel: only done by male, a defensive or territorial call**

**Hoot: between pairs or parent to their chicks**

**Have you seen a nest or loon chick on Deer Lake?**

## PHOTO GALLERY

*We're looking for photos! Please send them to the editor at [absma58@gmail.com](mailto:absma58@gmail.com). Thanks!*



Left: Green Heron

Right: Midnight visitor

By Jo Landwer

*Beautiful Deer Lake*



## 2023 DLA Calendar of Events

### **July 14, 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. All are welcome

## **DEER LAKE FROLIC PICNIC**

**August 17, Thursday**

**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! All are welcome.**

DLA is grateful to Camp Hiawatha for our partnership and for allowing DLA to use Camp Hiawatha facilities. Please help show our gratitude by parking your car in one of the designated parking areas shown on this Camp Hiawatha map

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/2/edit?mid=1eGleOqMYBR3IDA0F5RRifYeLbLhyLxBi&usp=sharing>

## **DLA Bear Island Trail Maintenance**

**July 7 – Friday 9:00 AM**

**August 4 – 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 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 [usgladerc@gmail.com](mailto:usgladerc@gmail.com) or 763-516-6589.

## DLA "Deer Readers" Book Club

**July 25 (Tues) 4pm: The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek** by Kim Michele Richardson (Leader: Joyce Erickson, Hosts: Dick & Joyce Erickson)

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

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

**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; host provides beverages. Contact Alice Stark with questions [adstark@goldengate.net](mailto: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.

July 18<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday): Pokegama – Tee Off 2pm

August 15<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday): Eagle Ridge – Tee Off 2pm

September 12<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:askeupnorth@gmail.com).