



JUNE 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



PASSING THE TORCH

Dear DLA,

I hope you're excited for another Deer Lake Summer! DLA is planning to hold our **Annual Membership Meeting** 10am Saturday June 10, our **Spaghetti Dinner** and Annual Business Meeting 5pm Friday, July 14, and our **Deer Lake Frolic** social event and picnic 5pm Thursday, August 17, all at Camp Hiawatha. See details in the 2023 DLA Events section below.
Thank you for your membership!

I want to inform you that I have decided to retire as DLA President in July. I have served as DLA Pres for six full years and seven summers, and served on the DLA Board for eight full years and nine summers. I have managed DLA's relationship with the Itasca AIS program and chaired the Deer Lake Frolic picnic for eight summers. I have enjoyed my time as President, and feel positive about all we accomplished together to improve water quality. All good things must come to an end eventually, and, in truth, institutions like DLA endure only with new ideas and fresh legs. *Tempora mutantur.*

I am pleased to inform you that current DLA Board Member **Jeff Johnston** has volunteered to stand for election as DLA President at the 5pm Fri July 14 DLA Annual Business meeting, and serve if elected. Many of you know Jeff. Jeff's long history on the lake, his skill set, judgment, relationships around the lake, and love for Deer Lake make him an excellent candidate. And the fact that he's recently retired doesn't hurt, either!

Finally, I want to thank you personally for your support. You have been a big part of DLA's success because of your membership, and your donations of time, talent, and treasure. Whatever DLA accomplished during my time as President would not have been possible without you. Thank you. - *John Davis*

Meet Jeff Johnston!

Hello and Greeting's to my Fellow Deer Lakers!

Abby asked me to put together a short Bio to introduce myself to the association for the Newsletter, so here goes... 😊

I've been a Deer Lake resident for >60 years, enjoying Summer's "On the Lake" since birth. My Dad purchased the Cabin property from the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota. The land known as 'Minister's Row' was donated to the Diocese by Abby Grey, (Abby Marier's Aunt).

It's a small world after-all! My vocation as an Engineer, working in Design Assurance wit Medical Devices has been rewarding as a career and now in retirement allows me to continue doing some consulting while pursuing

interests in hobbies such as woodworking, hunting, fishing and enjoying my Grandchildren.

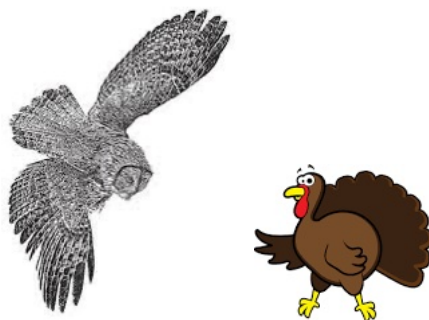
Jackie and I celebrated our 43rd Anniversary this Spring and are also enjoying our time as retirees with travel and more leisure time, though we both seem to find ourselves busy with Family, Rotary and Lake Association Activities.

Our Winter residence is a Townhome in Champlin, MN which technically makes us 'Snow Birds', with a much shorter migration back to the Cabin as soon as possible each Spring.

It suffices to say, this winter has prolonged our Journey North, but we yearn for the beautiful changing colors of the Lake.

I know many of you from involvement with the Association as a Board Member and look forward to meeting and knowing others better as I potentially serve in a new capacity. We (Jackie & I) welcome any and all to drop in and say Hello whenever you're inclined, though you may need to find us as we're about our interests of boating, fishing, skiing, being chased by our dog or our Grandchildren – we're happy to see everyone soon!

Best Regards, - Jeff



Beauty & the Beast

The following story is about a critter attack as viewed from our living room window. It is a tale of beauty - our turkey, Henrietta and the beast, a great gray owl. Henrietta appeared in our front yard last winter and showed up several times each day to eat. We looked forward to her daily visits. One day the beast landed on a branch, and eyed her for about 10 minutes before launching his first attack. Feathers flew! He returned to the branch to

regroup before the next attack. There were 10 separate attacks lasting about two minutes each. Henrietta put up a gallant fight! The beast finally left, and Henrietta labored into the woods her head slowly bobbing up and down. Two weeks later while on my daily stroll, I saw evidence that Henrietta had survived the attack, her tracks were visible in fresh snow and one of her tail feathers was close by. Unfortunately, just beyond the hopeful signs I saw more feathers and fox tracks leading to the edge of the woods. To witness this event was certainly an uncommon and heartbreaking experience. I need to frequently remind myself that this is the balance of nature. - *Jo Landwer*

Speaking of the birds...if you have a "bird list" or have seen a sighting you want to share, let me know! -It would be fun to maintain an on-going "bird list" with our readers.
- Abby



A Winter-Spring Bird List

Winter

Many varieties of Finches

Hairy, Downy, Red Breasted & Pileated Woodpeckers (we supplied them a lot of suet). Pine, Rose Breasted & Evening Grosbeaks. Red, Poll, Purple Finch, nuthatch, chickadee, yellow bellied sapsucker, Blue jay, Hawks, Grouse, Bald Eagles

Spring

Trumpeter Swans Dark Eyed Juncos Merganser Loon Bufflehead

We stopped feeding the birds when we heard that the bears were out of hibernation so less bird watching. -*Elise Widen*



Miniature Yellow Lady's Slippers, photo by Abby Marier

And on the lighter side...

Thanks for inviting me to share a recipe for the DLA Newsletter. The first recipe that came to mind was my Rhubarb Bars, which is always a hit whenever I bring it to a gathering. The recipe was given to me by my brother, many years ago, who had 4 beautiful rhubarb bushes in his back yard. Every spring, I would come over and pick rhubarb for this recipe. Those are fond memories. And who in Minnesota, doesn't love rhubarb? - *Joyce Erickson*



-Joyce Erickson's Rhubarb Bars

CRUST:

2 C flour 2/3 C powdered sugar
1 C butter, softened

Mix crust ingredients well, and reserve 1 cup of the crumbs. Press remaining into an ungreased 9x13 pan and bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

FILLING:

3 eggs beaten 2-1/4 C sugar 1/3 C flour 1/2 tsp salt (optional)
3 C chopped rhubarb 1/2 tsp vanilla extract

Spoon filling over hot crust and sprinkle reserved crumbs on top. Bake at 350 degrees for about 35-40 minute. I have tried this recipe mixing rhubarb with raspberries, blueberries or a mixture of all three. Enjoy!



Trumpeter Swans on Deer Lake
photo by Elise widen

Septic System Best Practices

John Davis

DLA's Septic Initiative encourages Deer Lake property owners to learn more about how our septic systems may impact Deer Lake water quality.

For best Deer Lake water quality results:

- **Pumping.** Accumulating solids must be pumped from your septic tank regularly (usually every three years or as recommended by your septic pumping service). Examples of local septic pumping services that you can call to pump your tank include [Bunes](https://www.bunessepticsevice.com/) <https://www.bunessepticsevice.com/> or [Scooter's](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071710541240) <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071710541240> . If you don't remember how long it has been since your tank was pumped, it's likely time to pump your tank.
- **Filter Cleaning.** Most septic systems have a filter that must be cleaned regularly (usually annually). If you don't know whether your system includes a filter or how to access your filter for cleaning, when your septic pumping service comes to pump your tank, ask them whether your system includes a filter and have them show you how to access it.
- **Septic Compliance Inspection.** The soil underneath the drain-field of your septic system acts like a filter, filtering your effluent before it runs into the water table and lake. Over a long period of time, 20-30 or more years, that soil-filter can become saturated. When your soil filter becomes saturated, pathogens, phosphorus, and other nutrients can run mostly unfiltered from your septic system into the water table and the lake. There are generally no outward signs of that failure. Phosphorus and other nutrients drive the growth of green algae and undesirable weeds. Septic systems 20+ years of age are at risk, and those installed 1996 or earlier are particularly at risk.

To help conserve Deer Lake water quality, once your system is 20 years old DLA recommends property owners order a septic compliance inspection every 5-10 years. Systems installed 1996 or earlier are particularly at risk. If your system was installed 1996 or earlier and has not undergone a septic compliance inspection in the past 5-10 years, DLA recommends property owners order a voluntary septic

compliance inspection now. On average, 50+% of Deer Lake septic systems installed prior to 1996 would fail inspection, are contributing to Deer Lake water quality decline, and need replacement.

What is a septic compliance inspection? A septic compliance inspection is performed by a licensed private inspector. It includes a visual test inside your tank plus a soil test performed near your tank and under your drain-field. It's the same inspection as the one required by law when property is sold or a property owner applies for a building permit that adds a bedroom. Systems that fail inspection must generally be replaced within two years of inspection.

DLA can recommend local licensed septic inspectors and septic replacement contractors.

To learn more, contact beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com

LIFE ON THE LAKE...

Hello everyone, I have been asked to write something about the lake and area. I am not a writer, just an old aircraft maintenance technician, so here goes.

Elise and I are living on Deer Lake full-time now, and we have found that winter is not a boring time of year. Plenty of things to do and get involved in. My winter passion is grooming snowmobile trails, the Clearwater & Soumi trails. We had a great snow year and operated our groomer for 175 hours for the season. I was in the cab for 95 hours. The ALS foundation hosted a fund raiser ride of about 330 snowmobiles going through this area. These riders were really impressed with the Itasca County trails. I have been contacted by numerous riders from the lake about the great riding conditions and made numerous trips to our area due to outstanding trail conditions. It was a great winter for many outdoor sports downhill & cross-country skiing, sledding, ice skating, ice fishing, evening hikes etc. Saw my first dreaded mosquito 5/13/23 so the season starts. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the DLA upcoming events. I'll be grilling at the Deer Lake Frolic on August 17th. – *Doug Widen*

2023 DLA Calendar of Events

June 10, Saturday: DLA Membership Meeting

10AM at Camp Hiawatha, Baldwin Commons. Our featured guest speaker is **Spencer Rettler** from the Minnesota DNR. Spencer will speak about Loons, including declining numbers, causes, and what Deer Lake and other lakeshore property owners can do. 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=1eGleOqMYBR3lDA0F5RRifYeLbLhyLxBi&usp=sharing>

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 Bear Island Trail Maintenance

June 9 – Friday 9:00 AM

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 [us](mailto:gladerc@gmail.com) gladerc@gmail.com or 763-516-6589.

DLA "Deer Readers" Book Club

June 27 (Tues) 4pm: **The Last Green Valley** by Mark Sullivan (Leader: Eric Grimsrud, Hosts: Alice & Dave Stark)

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 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; 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.

June 20th (Tuesday): Blueberry Hills – Tee Off 2pm

July 18th (Tuesday): Pokegama – Tee Off 2pm

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.