

DEER LAKE Association

June 23, 2007 DLA Water Quality Fair!

Come one, come all! The Deer Lake Association is hosting a Water Quality Fair at **Sherwood Forest Camp**, 36359 Sherwood Forest Trail (off Co. Rd. 19) on June 23, 2007 from **10am** till around noon. This event will replace the Shoreland Workshop (May 19) and the June 9th general meeting.

AL CIBUZAR will be in attendance and available *for private consultation of flyover data*. He will bring his computer to privately present slides and analysis of individual properties and to instruct how to implement "Best Management Practices" (BMP) in the management of your specific lakeshore lot. The use of BMP's will result in a decrease of toxic/nutrient loading to the lake, and ultimately higher water quality. *To schedule your session please write to DeerLakeItasca@aol.com or call Janna Nemeth at (218) 246-2403. There are only 10 sessions available so call immediately for your private meeting with Al!*

CHRIS KAVANAUGH, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor will address fragile backwaters, spawning and boat use in these areas along with the new walleye slot limits proposed for Deer Lake. He will explain how the "floor" of Deer Lake is host to plant life essential to fry survival. *Did you know Deer Lake is one of only 44 lakes in Minnesota with a naturally sustained Muskie population?*

DR. MARY BLICKENDERFER (University of Minnesota) who is an aquatic and shoreland vegetation expert will teach us about buffer zones, berms, rain gardens and collecting pools to catch and filter rainwater run-off. The MN Soil and Water Dept. estimates run-off causes lake pollution equal to that of septic seepage pollution. *Imagine the positive impact we could achieve on Deer Lake if we all mowed a little less down by the water and changed our house gutters to drain away from the lake!*

MELANIE PETERSON from A. W. Research Labs will explain the value of individual well water evaluation. *The DLA recently tested water from homes in 3 different areas on Deer Lake and were surprised to find one of them was contaminated with Coliform! The fix was simple and inexpensive. The health risk was not.*

This event is open to everyone. Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations members will be invited as well.

Deer Lake Frolic! August 14 from 4 to 8pm at Camp Hiawatha

Its getting close to summer and so the Deer Lake Frolic extravaganza is on my mind. Tickets will soon be available. Please lend a hand selling them and also with the event. There will be good times and good food for all!

Here are the groups I need volunteers for:

Grill masters (need 4), *Kitchen help* (need 4), *Serving lines* (need 6), *Parking* (need 4), *Games* (Colonel + 1), *Set up and tear down* (about 10)

Please give me a call to let me know who I can count on. Mark Hoffman 246-2011



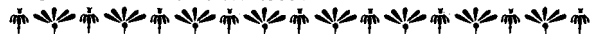
Fishing Contest

The Deer Lake Association announces that starting this year, it will sponsor an annual contest to recognize members who catch the largest fish this summer!

The categories are: Musky, Northern, Walleye, Large Mouth Bass, Small Mouth Bass, Rock Bass (red eyed), Perch, Crappie and Blue Gill.

To be eligible, the fish must be caught by hook and line using either bait or artificial lures, measured in length and weighed. The fish may be kept or released, depending on personal preference, but anyone keeping Rock Bass will receive special commendations from Doug Routt.

The contest will begin June 1 and end August 31. Entries must be reported by email to be eligible. Send your entry to: gbrper@peoplepc.com. If you can take digital photos of your catch, please include that. The time and date for announcing the winners and presentation awards will be announced later on this summer.



University of Minnesota

Shoreland Program Events Schedule

Shoreland Buffers 8/11/2007

Description: During this **one-day workshop**, you will design a simple lake- or river-friendly shoreland buffer. This is a popular course for anyone wanting to understand the relationship between shoreland plants and water quality.

Location: City Hall, Breezy Point, MN

Time: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Contact: Jodi Eberhardt at 218-562-5335,

Email: plpoa@tds.net, Website:

<http://mnlakes.org/PLPOA/>

GET THE LEAD OUT! Lead tackle exchange

Lead poisoning is the 2nd leading cause of loon de major contributor to eagle mortality.

Protect our loons and eagles. There is still time to bring in your lead sinkers and tackle to exchange for non-lead weights and jigs. Bring your tackle to the June 23 meeting of the DLA for exchange or by appointment-

Call Joan and Gerry Ratzlaff (218) 246-9652.

Did you know you shouldn't throw away lead tackle in the trash? Bring them to your local household hazardous waste collection site. Some scrap metal recyclers may also accept lead.

MEMBERSHIP

244 Members in good standing.

Dues (\$25) may be sent to:

George Ritzinger

33422 N. Portage Trail

Grand Rapids, MN 55744

In memoriam...

Jean Palmer died during the night on May 27. She will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts are with the family of Elvera Holmquist as they mourn her passing.

Katherine Johnson, the owner of the Tea Garden succumbed to cancer. She had her original Tea Garden on Crooked Lake then later moved to a spot on County Road 177.

The Loons are Nesting! Do Your Part to Protect Loons

- **Watch loons from at least 500 feet away.** Use binoculars from a safe distance.
- **Use non-lead fishing sinkers and jigs.** Ingesting one sinker or jig will kill a loon.
- **Avoid use of islands before July 15th of each year.** Human activity near a nest can cause the parents to leave it allowing the eggs to cool and die in as little as 15 to 45 minutes.
- **Keep dogs and cats away from loons and nests.** Pets disturb nesting loons and destroy loon eggs.
- **Do not use fertilizer on shorelands.** Fertilizer that finds it's way into the lake through runoff or leaching increases aquatic plant growth, making it difficult for loons to swim and find food.
- **Be a responsible boater.** Never chase loons or run motorboats over areas where loons have been seen. Loons and loon chicks have died from being hit by boats and propellers.

THE **2006 LOON COUNT ON DEER LAKE** was 35 adults and 4 chicks. (One chick was killed in the nest just before hatching.)

Don't forget to look for the loon! If you know of a nesting pair on Deer Lake please notify Joan and Gerry Ratzlaff, (218) 246-9652, or e-mail: JoanAndGer@aol.com



Itasca County Volunteer Loon Survey-2006					
Lake	Acres	Nesting	# of Pairs	Adults	Chicks
Deer	3926	Yes	5	35	4
Dunning	66	Yes	1	2	0
JackHorse	323	No	3	10	0
Jessie	1782	Yes	1	9	2
Johnson	437	Yes	2	5	2
Little Trout	78	Yes	1	2	0
Lorraine	31	Yes	1	2	0
McAvity	247	Yes	1	2	0
Mink	98	Yes	1	2	0
New	66	Yes	1	2	2
Shoal	259	No	0	2	0
Thistledew	317	No	0	6	0
3 Island	280	Yes	2	4	4
Turtle	2066	Yes	1	36	1
Wabana	2146	No	0	23	0

The DNR is planning to collect dead loons again this year and determine the cause of mortality when possible. If you find a dead loon, put it in a plastic bag and chill as soon as possible (freezer is fine) to stop decomposition. Contact Pam Perry- (218) 833-8728 or pam.perry@dnr.state.mn.us she will arrange transport to a DNR office.

Income and property tax forms –

Your opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation to help loons and other wildlife.

District Court Orders Environmental Assessment of Commercial PUD Project On Deer Lake

On April 27, 2007 Judge Maturi ordered an Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Statement process be completed on the Commercial Planned Unit Development (PUD) project for adults, families and children proposed by Living Word Bible Camp (LWBC) located in Kocemba Bay. This project will be built out, in the first stage, at more than 70,000 square feet, concentrated on the first two tiers of shoreland with 150 beds and unlimited populations of daytime and camping, will be one of the largest commercial developments in Itasca County with the possibilities of expansion simply through additional building permits.

The proposed recreational complex is located in an environmentally sensitive area on Deer Lake and is encompassed by a fish spawning area recognized by the MN DNR as a State Aquatic Management Area and State Wildlife Management Area due to the loon nesting and critical habitat of protected species. The DNR claims damage to these areas by increased use of canoes, kayaks, fishing boats and pontoon boats proposed by LWBC can occur anytime the ice is off the lake as well as increased use of the shoreline.

The judge's ruling is consistent with the concerns expressed by many Deer Lake residents and scientific experts. Several limnologists and other scientific experts as well as professional resource managers have voiced their opposition to this project. The vast wetlands in this area are extremely critical to the water quality of Deer Lake.

Among those expressing concerns was **Gunny Gunsolly, President Emeritus of the Deer Lake Association**. She wrote:

"Almost seven years ago a rezoning request was filed in order to build a commercial development on land that was zoned residential - it was and always has been a zoning issue. At a special meeting of the Deer Lake Association, the vote was overwhelmingly to oppose the zoning change. Actually, the whole thing has never been about a bible camp or any other kind of children's camp as I doubt if there are many, if any, residents on Deer Lake who oppose a children's camp (especially me, since I owned Sherwood Forest Camp for Girls for over 40 years).

This is about the environment and the great need to protect Deer Lake. Twenty years ago, I doubt if any of us ever thought that anything could happen to beautiful Deer Lake. Well, that is no longer true and as stated in this article numerous times, the land in question here is one of the most fragile areas of Deer Lake, wildlife, spawning area, etc. etc. And, we must do all we can to not only protect Deer Lake but to protect this particular area."

Al Cibuzar, A.W. Research Labs, gave a presentation to Itasca County depicting the streams, springs and large wetland areas and how they correlate to the site plan. He also demonstrated how the site plan is out of scale and voiced concern that the buildings will not fit on the 23-acre shoreline-building site. He strongly attested that the storm water erosion plan is inadequate and will not protect the lake.

"Deer Lake is classified as 'Oligotrophic' meaning exceptionally high in quality and exceptionally sensitive to impacts. Land use changes will result in increases in runoff volumes as well as increases in the kinds and amounts of pollution carried in the runoff. There are some measures that will minimize these increases in pollution, but there are no measures that will totally eliminate the increases." **Dick Osgood: Limnologist, Aquatic Ecologist/Geologist**

“Habitat destruction occurs from boating and high-use rates. Septic systems set back from the lake only mean the phosphorus takes a longer time to get to the lake. It will get there. No free lunch. Limnologists have known for 40 years that lakes’ water quality declines directly as the number of people in the watershed increases, that the changes occur slowly and can be irreversible, and that lakes like those in Itasca County are particularly susceptible to degradation.” John A. Downing, Ph.D., Iowa State University

“The relationship between human development and lake water quality is well quantified by the science of limnology -- lakes with moderate development will retain their clarity whereas lakes with Planned Unit Developments will be degraded by excess nutrients.” Jack Jones Professor of Limnology, University of Missouri

“Any type of development will have a negative impact on these resources, however, the proposed development is likely to have a much greater negative impact than single family homes and we recommend this Conditional Use Permit should be denied.” Chris Kavanaugh DNR

Another concern is the mismatch between the proposed development and the Itasca County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which is the legal basis for land use decisions. **The location of the proposed development is not compliant with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan**, which encourages recreational opportunities and resort development, however the plan “discourages commercial development of lakeshore, and encourages commercial development in existing commercial areas and designated areas with adequate transportation, sewer and water infrastructure.”

Fact: The zoning ordinance only permits 6 or 7 seasonal homes along the lake. Anything else requires an extensive public hearing process with input from all the state and local agencies. Scientific experts and professional resource managers prefer residential development to commercial development for lake protection. It is far more restrictive and less densely populated and lake use is much less intense.

As we continue to fight the legal battles to protect our lake, it becomes more and more expensive. So, anyone who feels they could and would like to help by making a tax-deductible contribution, it would be greatly appreciated and more than welcome. If you happen to be one of these people, please send your contribution to: **Deer Lake Management Fund, 33422 North Portage Trail, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.** (Winter address: 9042 Sutton Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55347)

The Mission Statement of the DLA states that the organization will act to “provide leadership to preserve and maintain the high quality of Deer Lake, the surrounding land and community.” Both the full membership and the board have passed motions stating that as an organization we were, and remain opposed to zoning and land use changes that would have a negative impact on Deer Lake. Only to this extent does the DLA support the litigation contesting a commercial venture into what has always been a residential zone on the lake. The DLA serves only as a conduit for specially designated funds coming from members and others. No general funds or dues of the DLA have been, or will be spent on this litigation. The litigation itself has been pursued by individuals independent of any role they might play within the DLA. The DLA is not a party to any litigation.

YOUR OPINION IS VALUED

A Questionnaire was sent out with the membership renewals. Many folks have taken the time to fill it out and return it. If you haven't yet sent yours in, it's not too late. Send to: George Ritzinger, 9042 Sutton Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55347, so your opinion can be included.

Let your voice be heard!

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED!!

Your Deer Lake Association has presented \$500 scholarships to 2 local graduating seniors who plan to pursue studies in the field of ecology or science relating to a field in environmental issues or preservation!



Oh What Fun We Had!..

Summer 2006 Activity Reports

DLA Nature Hike-- Hikers enjoyed an interesting tour of the Big Bog State Recreation Area led by the park ranger on the mile long bog walk. We saw many unusual plants and also a No. American Hawk Owl. The tour concluded with a picnic lunch on the shore of Upper Red Lake.

Pontoon Tour-- The Nature Tour by pontoon was led by Jeff Hines our lake resident DNR Wildlife Specialist. 31 of us enjoyed a very informative tour learning about our lake and wildlife. The tour was followed by appetizers and drinks at the Ratzlaff's. Thanks to Jeff for a great tour!

Winter Fun Time Program--This past winter was the first year for the Winter Fun Time program. There were 14 who signed up for cross country skiing, two who signed up for snowmobiling, and two who signed up for ice fishing. Unfortunately, Mother Nature provided very little help to these folks, though there were several groups who went out, some in January and some in March. The latter group reported the snow was great and they saw lots of wild life.

Golf Season Final Event--Sixteen golfers participated in the "Hack & Slice Scramble", the season ending event for 2006, which was played at the Wendigo Golf Course. The competition was intense with only a couple shots separating the four foursomes. When all the shots were counted, the team of Trish Bogenrief, Paul Jorgensen, Pam Brown, and George Ritzinger edged the other participants by one stroke to win the event. As has become the custom, the season ended with a banquet held in the Wendigo dining room.

Hack and Slice want to thank all the participants who made this season such a success, particularly the folks who hosted BBQ's after the events. Hack and Slice The Divot Boys- AKA: Dave Chatterton and George Ritzinger. Check out cool photos of our event at: <http://www.mnlakes.org/deerlake/index.cfm?pageid=3295>



**DEER LAKE ASSOCIATION
INFORMAL BBQ'S - 2007**

**5:30 pm – Bring meat, beverage and passing
dish (see below)**

Hosts will furnish tables, grills, ice, plates, cups
and silverware.

June 13th- Hosted by Weir and Pat Sears
33470 Pine Bay Road (off of Hwy 245)

Co-hosts: Dick & Joyce Erickson;
Jim & Trish Bogenrief

RSVP by June 6th

(Leave a message on voice mail or email)
Trish Bogenrief – 326-3824 or email:

tbogenri@msn.com

Abby Marier – 246-8339 or email:

dmarier1@comcast.net

Passing Dish: A-B (salad)

C-I (dessert)

J-M (potato/rice/bean dish)

N-Z (vegetable dish)

July 11th- Hosted by Pam & Tom Brown
34910 Deer Path Drive (off Hwy 19)

Co-hosts: Russ & Mary Jeckel; Dave Johnson

RSVP by July 4th

(Leave a message on voice mail or email)

Trish Bogenrief – 326-3824 email:

tbogenri@msn.com

Abby Marier – 246-8339 or email:

dmarier1@comcast.net

Passing Dish: A-B (vegetable dish)

C-I (salad)

J-M (dessert)

N-Z (potato/rice/bean dish)



August 8th- Hosted by Bob and Barb Baker
36395 Baker Road (off Hwy. 62)

Co-hosts: Wayne & Jerry Welch;

Stan & Lovelle Meester

RSVP by August 1st

(Leave a message on voice mail or email)

Trish Bogenrief – 326-3824 or email:

tbogenri@msn.com

Abby Marier – 246-8339 or email:

dmarier1@comcast.net

Passing Dish: A-B (dessert)

C-I (potato/rice/bean dish)

J-M (vegetable dish)

N-Z (salad)

September 12th- Hosted by Gunny Gunsolly
36359 Sherwood Forest Trail (off Hwy 19)

Co-hosts: Don & Abby Marier; Dick & Eleanor
Baldwin

RSVP by September 5th

(Leave a message on voice mail or email)

Trish Bogenrief – 326-3824 or email:

tbogenri@msn.com

Abby Marier – 246-8339 or email:

dmarier1@comcast.net

Passing Dish: A-B (salad)

C-I (dessert)

J-M (potato/rice/bean dish)

N-Z (vegetable dish)

SPECIAL THANKS to our hosts and co-hosts
– Hope you can join us!

ATTENTION GOLFERS

Hack and Slice, the Divot Boys want you know that the DLA 2007 Golf season will get into high gear on June 19 at Blueberry Hills Golf Course. Keep your eyes open for the announcement, which will be coming out shortly. As usual, Tee times will begin early afternoon followed by social time and cook out in the evening. Hack and Slice are already dreaming up some devious twists to challenge you all.

Contact Dave Chatterton 326-0827 E-mail Dave at: mdchatt@paulbunyan.net

George Fitzinger 327-4826 E-mail George at: gbrper@peoplepc.com

DLA CALENDAR, 2007

GENERAL MEETINGS.

JUNE 23rd, 10am PROGRAM at Camp Sherwood
JULY 14th, 5pm, ANNUAL MTG, Camp Sherwood
AUG.11TH, 10am PROGRAM at Camp Sherwood

DLA BOARD MEETINGS.

JUNE 16th, 9 am at Tom Nelson's
JULY 14th, 3 pm at Camp Sherwood
AUG. 11TH, 9 am at Camp Sherwood
SEPT. 8th, 9 am at Camp Sherwood

SPECIAL EVENTS

JULY 7th, 12:30 pm Sat. ROCK BASS TOURNEY
AUG. 14th 2nd Annual DEER LAKE FROLIC
SEPT. 1st, 5 pm, SPAGHETTI DINNER

SUMMER GOLF OUTINGS

JUNE 19, JULY 17, AUG. 21, SEPT. 18

BEAR ISLAND CLEANUP

JUNE 8, JULY 6, AUG 3, SEPT 7
Meet on the Island at 9am. Next day if rained out.
Call Barb to RSVP for refreshment count 327-1807
or just show up!

SUMMER BBQ'S

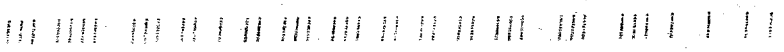
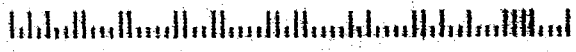
JUNE 13, JULY 11, AUG.8, SEPT.12
(See Page 7 for details)

DLA COOK BOOK

Trish Bogenrief sends out a heartfelt **THANK YOU SO MUCH** for the recipe submissions to the cookbook and (if printing goes as planned) **it will be available for sale at the June meeting!**



Janna Nemeth, JannaLee@aol.com
38763 Oklahoma Hill Rd., Deer River, MN 56636
DEER LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER EDITOR



2nd ANNUAL ROCK BASS TOURNEY

July 7th Fishing from 1pm to 3pm only!
Format will be that same as last year with age groups: 0-5yrs, 6-10yrs, 11-15 and Pro. Most goggle eyes and the largest in each category will win prizes.
Cost will be two bucks per entrant and registration will begin at 12:30 on Sherwood dock. Non-entrants will be ineligible for a prize irrespective of how big their fish or how many they caught. Participants will have only 2 hours to get the biggest and the most Rock Bass possible. **No stinkin' Walleyes, or Muskie's, Crappies or large and small mouth bass will count!** Only the elusive red eyed denizens of Deer Lake. Anyone found throwing sinkers down their Rockies mouth for weight increase or stepping on them for length increase will be summarily dismissed from the contest. Weight will be the determinant for biggest, not length. Just like in humans where girth is the measure of the man not height. All fish should be filleted and consumed in order that we not appear wasteful, however, we will have no way of insuring this caveat. Col. Douglas B. Routt 246-9694