

President's letter-
Tom Brown's Tidbits

DEER LAKE Association

DLA NEWSLETTER
WINTER.2007

Not all of us can be fortunate enough to live on Deer Lake year round. The calendar says we have started another year but the New Year doesn't really begin until we can return to Deer Lake and celebrate the glorious summer. This year your DLA has tried to organize a winter program of events. The DLA recognizes we need to be a year round association and are working toward not just being a summertime entity.

2006 was a great year for your Deer Lake Association. We watched our membership become more involved with its lake community. Monthly bbq's, golf outings, membership meetings and other social events all had more participants. Members connected in more ways and neighbors became more than just the people next door. Members took pride in their lake association and showed it by becoming involved. The Deer Lake Frolic in August was an event attended by more people than any other event in the association's history! Members this year educated themselves on dangerous aquatic plants; through the Lake Flyover sponsored by the DLA they found out more about their septic systems and learned about how to be better stewards of the precious lake environment; they learned more about lake zoning and land use; they became involved in community government; and for many members they learned the only way to keep the status quo or create even a better place to live, work and play was to become active in the decision making process. It is this involvement on a personal level that has been meaningful for so many members.

Several members (including yours truly) were elected to the DLA Board of Directors. All of us realize the responsibility we have to each of you as a member of the association. We want to represent you as best we can. This can only happen if you take the time to communicate with each and every one of us. We need your input. There are challenging times ahead of us and we all need to understand one another. It doesn't mean that we will always agree but it's important we all stay engaged!

As I write these comments my mind is on Deer Lake and the important land issues that will soon be decided by the legal system. The rezoning and the ultimate use of the old Maxeiner property continue to be the focus for many of us. This is a huge issue that needs to be resolved. The future of the lake as we know it is at stake. Please take the time to study this issue. (For more details see the DLA Web Site)

Many lake residents support the DLA in the litigations of issue. To date more than 150 people have made contributions to this fund totaling more than \$90,000 We wish to say "Thank you" to those who have already contributed and hope you can continue to support this cause. We hope we can look to those of you who have not yet contributed to join in the effort to protect the lake. Please send your contribution to the DEER LAKE MANAGEMENT FUND to help pay for legal costs associated with this case to:

George Ritzinger, DLA Treasurer, 9042 Sutton Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Again this year we are actively soliciting membership. For those of you reading this who are currently not members, I ask you this: Where else can you get as good a bargain as membership in the DLA for \$25? Join now and **"Bring a Friend."**

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE REPORT - 2006

By Bob Baker

Purple loosestrife continues to increase in the lake, most noticeably this year on the islands in "Hole in the Wall," on the east side of the lake; also in the northeast end of the lake. There has been noticeable effect on the plants from previous beetle distributions in Echo Bay.

We did three beetle distributions in June in Echo Bay, the lake just south of "Hole in the Wall" (with Gerry Ratzlaff's help), and in the small lake south of the bridge on Ct. Rd. 19. Approximately 1800 beetles collected by Rich Rezanka, MN DNR, were distributed. Rich felt these distributions were significantly effective. He spent two whole days in early August spraying loosestrife everywhere on the lake (entire south side, east islands, Battleship and Grass Islands, north shore of the west end, northeast end, Comfort Cove, north side of Echo Bay). Areas not sprayed included Echo Bay, south side of Star Island (where we did not obtain landowner's permission), west end of lake, and where we had distributed beetles. These sprayings were markedly successful.

Blooms were picked by Lisa Dorn, and possibly some others not known to me. It is not necessary to pick blooms from plants that have been sprayed. Mid August was about the last opportunity to harvest blooms for this year.

Rich Rezanka, DNR's loosestrife specialist for northern Minnesota, operating out of Brainerd has been enormously helpful this year, giving us more than a week of his time. He feels we are getting ahead of our loosestrife problem, but our effort is a ten plus (10+) year project and complacency should be resisted. Rich attended our Deer Lake Frolic last summer and heard many expressions of our appreciation. Beetle distributions are planned for next spring. Watch for announced times and be ready to help. Thanks to all who helped.
Ed.;... and our thanks to Bob Baker.

DLA Bear Island Cleanup 2007

April 27, May 18, June 8, July 6, Aug 3, and Sept 7. We will meet at the Island at 9:00 a.m. If the weather is bad, then we will come back the next day. No reminder calls will be made, but if you are coming please call 327-1807 so we can plan for refreshments. Thank you, Bob Baker. Page 2

ROCK BASS DERBY

The second annual Rock Bass Derby will be held on the weekend of **7 July, 2007**. We are expecting a larger turn out than last year and more elusive goggle eyed Rockies. Hopefully we will get more entrants and bigger prizes this year. However, some of the more serious environmentalists are concerned about the desecration of the Rocky population. I have it on good authority that the potential extinction of the Rock Bass population is not a serious concern at this juncture. Anyone willing to help is welcome and our biggest need is prize donors as well as trinkets and baubles for all participants. Seeya, Doug Roult

DEER LAKE BOOK GROUP

First, thanks to Jan Hill for hosting and leading the Aug. discussion. Good job, as always, Jan!!

BOOK SELECTIONS FOR 2007:

May---"Short History of Nearly Everything" by Bill Bryson. Group meets at Chatterton's home at 4:30 on Wednesday, May 23rd.

June---"Ordinary Wolves" by Seth Kantner

July---"Gilead" by Marilyn Robinson

August---"1421" by Gavin Menzies

Other places to be announced, copies available at the Village Bookstore- happy reading.

LOON COUNT

A late summer gathering before heading south. Generally we may be down some- true in most lakes in the state.

PONTOON COUNT The South Shore Pontoon Census Society has taken the 2006 pontoon count. The count is 138 pontoons with an estimated accuracy of +/- 2 pontoons. Previous studies showed the following counts; 1993 - 54; 1998 - 68; 2002 - 106; 2005 - 128. The trend is steadily upward. We attribute this steadily increasing trend linked to global warming since all other phenomenon seem to be linked to this issue. Dave Chatterton, CPA (Chief Pontoon Accountant)

Deer Lake Association Website will be moving to a new location on the Internet sometime this winter. Our former host, the Minnesota Lake Association has merged with the Rivers Council of Minnesota to form Minnesota Waters. We look forward to a gala re-launching of an improved website as soon as Minnesota Waters has their servers and software in place. An email with the new DLA Website address will be sent out to all our members when everything is ready, so be sure that we have your current email address! Address and email corrections can be sent to DeerLakeltasca@aol.com

Deer Lake Photo Contest continues into its second year! Last year demonstrated that there are many fine photographers among our membership. Prizes for many of the best Deer Lake photos were awarded at the Spaghetti Dinner at Camp Sherwood in early September. All of you that submitted photos last year are welcome again, plus anyone else with pretty pictures to share. Photos should be lake-oriented, but can show people, animals, plants, buildings, and of course, sunsets. Please send your *digital* photos in as high a resolution as possible (right out of the camera with no reductions) to the webmaster, Tom Nelson. nelso885@umn.edu (see below)

Deer Lake Forum on our Website continues to be your venue for Deer Lake activities and information. Please take a look through our many pages, especially those meant to provide a Forum for our membership. If you have any handy tips, announcements, stories or poems, historical information, or other items of interest to the Deer Lake community, please send them in for posting on the DLA Website: nelso885@umn.edu

Nominating Committee is currently calling for nominations for the elected positions of the Deer Lake Association. These include two seats on the Board of Directors (3 year terms), and all of the Officers (1 year terms), including President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Self nominations are encouraged. The deadline is April 1, 2007. The Committee will interview all nominated and then assemble a slate of endorsed candidates for submission to the Membership for a vote at the General Business Meeting in July 2007. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at that meeting. Voting by proxy is permitted; proxy forms will accompany the slate of candidates published in Spring Newsletter. Those wishing to serve on any of the DLA committees can also contact the Nominating Committee (Janna Nemeth, Geo. Ritzinger, Tom Nelson). Please send nominations to Tom Nelson, chair.

NELSO885@umn.edu

Letter to the Editor

I am an angler and proud of it. Why? Because anglers are the most friendly bunch of people. They smile and wave, give the "thumbs up", say hello.

But sometimes they are so friendly they get too close which can be quite dangerous to the other boat. Perhaps they have never been on a small boat and don't understand how their boat's wake can affect others in smaller, more tippy craft like sailboats, canoes and kayaks.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, capsizing and falls overboard are the most common type of fatal boating accidents in the country. In Minnesota, most boating deaths are the result of someone falling overboard or a boating tipping over and ejecting its passengers into the water. Sometimes the victims are good swimmers, but they drown anyway. Without a life jacket, sudden immersion causes a reflexive gasp for air which can draw water into the victim's lungs. Tragically, drowning is the most likely outcome.

As a boater, Minnesota state law says you are legally responsible for your craft's wake and "you may not operate your boat so the wake endangers, harasses, or interferes with any person or property." Also, "Non-motorized craft (sailboats, canoes, etc.) have the right-of-way over motorized craft in all situations, except when the non-motorized is overtaking or passing."

To learn more about this and other boating laws, people can order a free copy of the "Minnesota Boating Guide, a summary of boating rules" by calling the DNR toll free at 1-888-MINNDNR, or emailing info@dnr.state.mn.us.

So remember anglers, when you are heading to your favorite fishing hole, please keep a good safe distance away from smaller boats, especially unpowered craft. But don't forget to wave! The Brandts, Echo Bay on Deer Lake

WANT ADS

FOR SALE- David Bruce Canvas & Daka Docks & Boat Lifts phone: 218-327-3346/Cell 218-244-7136. Email dbfab@paulbunyan.net (DLA Member)

FOUND- Paddleboat found early July along south shore. Contact Dennis and Jeanne Legan, 815-729-2350 or jeannelegan@comcast.net.

Editor's Note: Articles, stories, news items, comments as well as personal ads, and brief letters to the Editors from DLA Members may be sent to the Editor's addresses listed on the back page.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE:

Save Yourself Some Money and Protect Our Water Resources

EDITOR'S NOTE; As a part of our DLA goal **"3 in 20"** to improve Deer Lake water quality increasing the depth of clarity by 3 additional feet over the next 20 years, we have undertaken the major project of identifying problem areas through the Aerial Analysis conducted last year. A special follow-up workshop is planned for this spring. In the meantime the following article provides valuable information on how to maintain our present systems.

Septic systems are designed to treat sewage from homes, cabins, resorts, restaurants and other small businesses and recycle water back into the natural environment for reuse. It is important for all septic system owners to understand how their systems work and the maintenance required keeping those systems working over time. A well maintained septic system is more effective at treating sewage, will last longer, and will be more cost effective over time than a system that is ignored.

Most standard septic systems are designed to capture wastewater from the home, separate the solids from the liquids, and hold the solids in place, then release the liquid into a soil treatment area for breakdown of disease-causing pathogens. Let's take a look at each function of the system and the maintenance issues associated with them.

1. Capturing the wastewater: The plumbing in your house should capture all the wastewater from the kitchen, bathroom, laundry room, sauna, and any other place water is used within the home. The only appliances that should not be hooked up to your septic tank are water softeners, iron removers, high efficiency furnace and air circulation drain lines. The water from these appliances is considered clean and does not need to be treated.

Cut back on water use in the home to reduce the amount of water the system must treat. All faucets and toilets should be low flow and any leaks should be repaired immediately to avoid overloading the system with water. Leaky fixtures can also lead to freezing problems when we have cold winters without snow cover.

2. Separating solids from liquids: This is the job of your septic tank. All wastewater flows into the septic tank where it is separated into three layers; a floating scum layer on top, liquid with suspended solids in the middle, and a heavy sludge layer at the bottom of the tank. The scum and sludge layers in the septic tank need to be removed periodically by a licensed professional pumper. If these layers are not removed from the septic tank, they will build up to the point where they are discharged to the soil treatment area. This will plug the distribution pipes and overload the soil, causing expensive repairs or replacement of the drainfield.

Large amounts of water flowing through the septic system can also cause solids to flush out of the tank before they have a chance to separate into the scum, liquid and solid layers. For example, washing several loads of laundry in one day can overload the septic tank. Heavy water using activities should be spread throughout the day and throughout the week to prevent damage to your septic system. A good rule of thumb is to do no more than one load of laundry per day and to run it at a time when no one is bathing or doing the dishes.

How often you should pump out your septic tank depends on what you send down the drain and how much water you use. If you have a garbage disposal in your kitchen and you live in the house year-round your tank should be pumped at least annually. If you use your home seasonally, don't have a garbage disposal or washing machine, you can pump your tank less often. To help you determine how often you should pump, check out the Pumping Frequency Guidelines and worksheet at:

<http://septic.umn.edu/homeowner/FactSheets/pumpingfrequency.pdf>

No tank should go more than 36 months between pumping or evaluation, your local septic pumper can do both. Tank pumping should occur through the manhole cover, NOT through the 4" inspection pipe. Pumping through the inspection pipe often leaves solids in the tank and can also damage the baffles. Your pumper may charge extra if he has to dig out your manhole cover, make sure you ask when you set up your appointment.

If you have an effluent filter near the outlet pipe, it will need to be cleaned more often than the tank. Frequency of cleaning depends on screen size, water use and homeowner practices. Cleaning the effluent filter can be done by the homeowner or a septic professional, always following the manufacturer's recommendations.

3. Treatment of disease causing pathogens: Final treatment of wastewater occurs in the soil. The soil treatment area, or drainfield, is made up of unsaturated, undisturbed soil into which trenches are built or a mound sits upon. The millions of beneficial bacteria and other organisms in the soil break down bacteria, viruses, and other disease-causing pathogens and remove nutrients from the wastewater.

Because the organisms doing the work are aerobic, or oxygen-loving, there must be a zone of dry, unsaturated soil present where the wastewater leaves the pipe and enters the soil. Generally, there must be 3 feet of dry soil below the bottom of a trench for a conventional, gravity flow trench system to be approved. If the site can't meet those requirements, then there must be at least 1 foot of dry soil for a mound system to be constructed. A mound is an elevated drainfield built with clean sand and works as well as a conventional trench system if it is designed, installed and maintained properly.

It is important that the drainfield remain uncompacted. Do not drive or park on your drainfield or turn your mound into a snowmobile or 4-wheeler jump. In the spring and fall make it a habit to walk over and inspect your drainfield, checking for damp spots that may indicate a leak or plug in the distribution pipes. Make any repairs before winter in order to prevent freeze up.

When it comes to septic system maintenance "Out of Sight, Out of Mind" doesn't work. Just because your toilet keeps on flushing and the tub keeps on draining doesn't mean you can ignore your septic system. Just as you would never dream of driving your car without changing the oil on a regular basis, you should never use your septic system without **pumping the tank** and performing other routine maintenance. Regular maintenance will prolong the life of your system, prevent costly repairs, save you money in the long run and protect our water resources by ensuring proper wastewater treatment.

For more information on septic system use and maintenance or to purchase a copy of the *Septic System Owner's Guide*, visit <http://septic.umn.edu> and click on the "Homeowner" button.

Laurie Brown, Regional Educator, University of MN Extension

.... And don't forget AIR QUALITY MAINTENANCE:

Don't Burn Your GARBAGE—it's Illegal!

It's illegal, it pollutes, it's dangerous, and it wastes resources. Backyard burning of garbage has been illegal in Minnesota since 1969. Burning materials such as plastics, asphalt, rubber and other man-made materials generates hazardous air pollutants that are unhealthy for wildlife and people. Burn barrels often emit acid vapors, carcinogenic tars, and heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and chromium, as well as unhealthy levels of carbon monoxide. The closer you stand to the burn barrel, the more of these harmful chemicals you inhale.

The pollutants not only damage air quality, they also damage soil and water. Open burning is the cause of many grass, brush, forest and structure fires. Many of the items commonly burned could be reused, recycled or composted, such as: newspaper, yard waste, used oil, bottles, magazines, cardboard, food scraps, office papers, cans, lumber scraps. A 1994 study done for the USEPA showed that garbage burned in a burn barrel emits twice as much furans (possible carcinogenic toxins), 20 times more dioxin (an endocrine disrupter) and 40 times more particulate than if that same pound of garbage were burned in an incinerator with air pollution controls. Instead of burning:

- Reduce trash—buy in bulk quantities and demand less packaging on the products you buy;
- Reuse items;
- Recycle newspapers, office paper, cardboard, magazines, aluminum, metal and acceptable plastics;
- Compost leaves, plant clippings and food waste—many local units of government have compost sites;
- Chip brush and clean wood to make mulch or decorative chips, or burn it for home or shop heat;
- Dispose of allowable wastes at a licensed landfill. Take advantage of local collection drives for electronic equipment and other hazardous waste.

DLA CALENDAR 2007

Time to mark it for this **SUMMER**

BRING A FRIEND TO-

GENERAL MEETINGS, Second Saturdays;

JUNE 9TH, 10am PROGRAM at Camp Hiawatha
JULY 14TH, 5pm, ANNUAL MTG, Camp Sherwood
AUG. 11TH, 10 am PROGRAM at Camp Sherwood

DLA BOARD MEETINGS, Second Saturdays;

OCT thru APRIL, 11 am CST. Teleconferences as needed, MAY 12TH, 4 pm at Browns house, or *tba*.
JUNE 9TH, 8 am at Camp Hiawatha
JULY 14TH, 3 pm at Camp Sherwood
AUG. 11TH, 9 am at Camp Sherwood
SEPT. 8TH, 9 am at Camp Sherwood

SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY 19TH, 10am, SHORELAND WORKSHOP
JULY 7TH, 3 pm Sat. ROCK BASS TOURNAMENT
AUG. 14TH 2ND Annual DEER LAKE FROLIC
SEPT. 1st, 5 pm, SPAGHETTI DINNER

SUMMER GOLF OUTINGS

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

OFFICERS and BOARD MEMBERS

President: Tom Brown
Vice-Pres.: Holly Newton
Secretary: Elise Widen
Treasurer: George Ritzinger
Board Members: Bob Baker, Trish Bogenrief, Paul Dealy, Dave Johnson, Janna Nemeth, Tom Nelson, Doug Routt, with Gunny Gunsolly as Board Advisor.

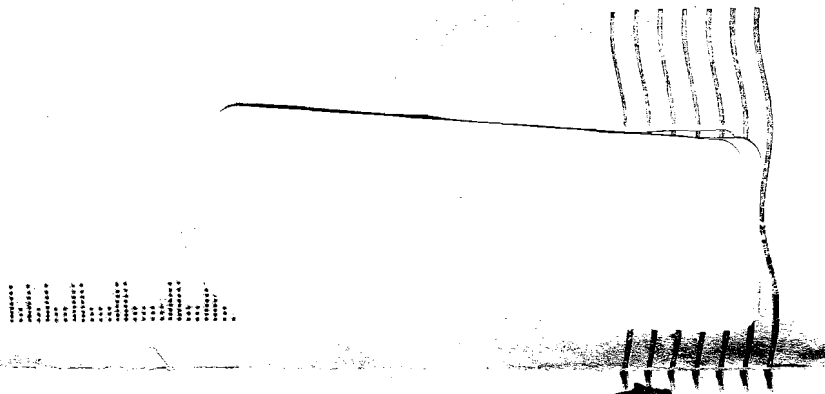
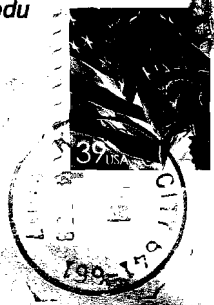
IN MEMORIAM

We extend to the families and friends our sympathies for those Deer Lake residents who have recently passed away: DORIS McNAIRY, JIM NYQUIST, BOB STOKES, RON SCHMIDT, DOROTHY HAGLEY, AND LOUIS (Wimpy) LOYMEYER.May they Rest In Peace.

DEER LAKE Association

DEER LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Lew and Ginny Johnston, EMAIL: vljohnst@ku.edu
2105 Quail Creek Dr., Lawrence, KS., 66047



SUMMER BBQ'S

JUNE 13, JULY 11,
AUG. 8, SEPT. 12 -
Places to announced in
Spring issue of the DLA
NEWSLETTER



DLA COOK BOOK

Trish Bogenrief reports that she still needs lots more recipes. She has received a flood already and wants to expand it to any and all kinds... not just BBQ's that you would like to share. Send as many as you wish. She hopes to have the cook book printed by next summer. You can email them to her at: Tbogenri@aol.com. Or to her, at 33853 Bonnie Point Road, Grand Rapids, Mn, 55744.

