

# DEER LAKE ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 2023

Welcome Fall! 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](mailto:absma58@gmail.com)

Many, Many thanks to Dick Wyman, our newsletter format guy!

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DLA President Jeff Johnston

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

*Henry David Thoreau*

**Here's a "wrap-up" of this season's DLA activities - and a BIG THANK YOU to the many volunteers that make it all happen!**

Dear Members of the Deer Lake Association,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. As we reach the Fall of another beautiful season here at Deer, I wanted to take a moment to share some thoughts and updates with you all.

**First and foremost, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued dedication to our shared vision of preserving and enhancing our beloved lake.** Our association has always thrived on the spirit of community, and it is your involvement that makes our efforts possible. Over the past year, we've made significant strides in our mission to protect the pristine beauty and ecological balance of our lake. Through your generous support and countless volunteer hours, we've been able to:

1. **Water Quality Initiatives:** Our ongoing water quality testing and monitoring programs have provided invaluable data to help us address potential issues proactively. Our commitment to clean water remains unwavering. We are reviewing the accuracy of our data from an independent laboratory that we currently contract with and will be making decisions on our ongoing testing service with them as we also evaluate other options.
2. **Conservation and Wildlife Preservation:** We've collaborated with the Minnesota DNR and local environmental organizations to implement wildlife-friendly "lakescaping" practices and continue to support initiatives to protect the natural habitats surrounding the lake.
3. **Recreational Enhancements:** Thanks to your feedback and financial contributions, we've made improvements to our boat launch, and secured Land for Conservation, ensuring that Deer Lake and its surroundings remain a place for families to enjoy for generations to come.
4. **Community Engagement:** Our annual lake clean-up from Curly Pond Leaf, educational virtual meetings, and the Frolic social gathering have strengthened our sense of community and fostered a deeper connection to our natural surroundings. We will continue to enrich these opportunities next season with planned concerts on the lake and a "Cornhole" tournament, to name a few.

**As we look ahead to the upcoming season, there are several exciting projects on the horizon.** We are planning to launch a "Keep Deer Clear" campaign, along with the Deer Lake Challenge Program to further raise awareness about responsible lakefront living and the importance of preserving our water resources. Additionally, we will explore opportunities to further engage our youth in environmental education programs to ensure a bright future for the Deer Lake Association members and the next generation of memberships.

**I encourage you all to get involved in any way you can,** whether it's through volunteering, sharing your ideas, or simply spreading the word about our mission. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact on our lake and the surrounding community.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new members and express my gratitude to our long-standing supporters. Your commitment to our association is truly appreciated.

In closing, I want to thank you for your dedication to the Deer Lake Association. Together, we are stewards of this precious resource, and our collective efforts will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm always eager to hear from you. My email is [beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com](mailto:beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com) and my phone # is 9524426369.

Wishing you all a safe, joyful, and fulfilling winter and look forward to seeing everyone on the Lake next summer.

Best Regards,  
Jeff Johnston  
President, Deer Lake Association

## ***Deer Lake Frolic***



**On August 17, 200+ neighbors and friends alike gathered at Camp Hiawatha to celebrate a very successful season of the Deer Lake Association! The Frolic brought in >\$14,500 in proceeds from ticket sales, silent auction and DLA Store sales. Many thanks to all contributors!**

**The Frolic serves as both a social get-together for everyone, and as the DLA's major fundraiser for the year. We enjoyed great food, live music, games for adults and kids and a silent auction**

**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.

**A special shout out to volunteers, including (not in any particular order): Rebecca Arons (String Genius), Elise Widen / Jackie Johnston / Holly Bushyager / Barbie Glader (DLA Store), Jack and Susie Jones (Silent Auction), Tom and Pam Brown / Dick Widen (BBQ & Food), Dave Freehauf and (R&R Rental / Tents, Tables and Chairs), David Duxbury, Beth Riesgraf-Wyman, Eric Williams, John Davis, Amanda Glader (Ticket Sales Coordination), Marcus Fuller (Treasury/Administration), John Perkins (Music), Tom Nelson (Shoreline**

Initiative / John Davis Station Commemoration), VLM (Voyagers Lutheran Ministry) Staff ((Food Preparation / Serving)), Brier Nursery (Dan Greer Memorial Tree Donation) and all others who freely volunteered their time for the event - a huge success!

## *Help prevent spread of aquatic invasives!*

**Deer Lake Station** is a free service funded by the Deer Lake Association (DLA): providing self-service tools to help boaters accomplish *Clean, Drain, Dispose, and Dry* as required by law. Deer Lake Station is located at the Deer Lake public access.

Station well-water and hand-tools help boaters clean mud, weeds, and flush standing water from boats, trailers, and recreational gear that transport zebra mussels, starry stonewort, and other aquatic invasives (AIS) from one lake or river to another.

DLA is grateful to Itasca County, the Itasca AIS Program, Fidely Bros Well Drilling, S&S Excavating, Pokegama Electric, Deer River Plumbing & Heating, and Lake County Power for their help in constructing, operating, and maintaining the Station.



DLA is grateful to volunteers John Davis and Eric Williams who maintain the Station. DLA is especially grateful to the Itasca AIS Program who hires and trains paid inspectors who work at the Deer Lake public access all season long, in particular Bill Grantges, Itasca AIS Program Coordinator, Ed Derowitsch, Lead Inspector, and the all AIS Program inspectors who've served at Deer Lake performing inspections and decontaminations this summer. A number of these inspection hours are paid for by the State of Minnesota through Itasca County, and, in addition, DLA pays the Itasca AIS Program to provide additional inspection hours.

Please join DLA in thanking inspectors working to keep Deer Lake free from aquatic

invasives. They work long hours including weekdays, weekends, and holidays. They work when it's 100 degrees, when it's 35 degrees, when it's smoky, and when it's storming. **Thank you inspectors!**

## **DLA GOLF SCRAMBLE** organized by Paul Askegaard

Next 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.



May 21st (Tuesday): Blueberry Hills - Tee Off 2pm

June 18<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday): Pokegama - Tee Off 2pm

July 16<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday): Eagle Ridge - Tee Off 2pm

August 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday): Blueberry Hills - Tee Off 2pm

September 17<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday): Pokegama - Tee Off 2pm

Please watch for emails or Facebook posts in case of changes in course or tee time. Dinner location will be determined the week prior to golf. Non-golfers are welcome to join us for dinner-only if they like. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Askegaard at 651-230-3361 or email [askeupnorth@gmail.com](mailto:askeupnorth@gmail.com).

## **Bear Island Trail Maintenance -**

organized by Paul Askegaard

**We would like to thank John Davis, Jim & Margaret Hodgson, Bob Baker, Jim Herrick, Jeff Johnston, Steve Leboutillier, Rich Anderson, Paul Askegaard, Paul Lussenhop and others who helped out this year.**



## **DLA Hwy 62 Clean-up- please notice the clean roadway!**

Organized by Chad and Amanda Glader.

A hearty group of volunteers joined us for the DLA Hwy 62 clean-up- where we combined community service and fellowship! **Thanks to - John & Donna Davis, Rich Anderson, Bob Baker, Jeff & Jackie Johnston, Jim & Margaret Hodgson, Chad & Amanda Glader (and their son John).**

# DEER READERS

Organized by Alice Stark

## DLA's SUMMER BOOK GROUP

Our group is open to any DLA members. We generally have about 13-19 people attending each meeting. Meetings are monthly during "the season", generally on a Tuesday at 4pm. Members volunteer to serve as hosts and everyone brings an appetizer to share. We generally discuss the book for an hour or so, and then socialize!



## Deer Readers 2024 SUMMER SCHEDULE

**May 28** (Tues 4pm): Democracy Awakening by Heather Cox Richardson, leader Dave Stark, host Jo Landwer

**June 25** (Tues 4pm): GREEN ISLAND by Shawna Yang Ryan, leader Abby Marier, hosts Don & Abby Marier

**July 23** (Tues 4pm): The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict, leader Dick Erickson, hosts Dick Wyman & Beth Riesgraf-Wyman

**Aug 20** (Tues 4pm): LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY By Bonnie Garmus, leader Alice Stark, hosts Eric and Kathy Grimsrud

**Sept 11** (WEDNESDAY 3pm:) The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store By James McBride, leader Jack Jones, hosts Jack and Susie Jones

Each month's book meeting will be at the home of the HOST. Everyone brings an appetizer to share; host provides beverages. **Please contact Alice Stark if you're interested!** [adstark@goldengate.net](mailto:adstark@goldengate.net)

## AUTUMN RECIPE- Joyce Erickson

*Here it is, fall is in the air up in the north woods of MN. I'll bet you are looking for recipes to use all those wonderful fresh veggies from your garden or from the Grand Rapids Farmer's Market. I've got a couple of ideas for you and they are tried, tested and delicious.*

## Tomato, Cucumber and Onion Salad

### Ingredients

- 1-2 Cucumbers, thinly sliced ( I keep the skin on, but you can peel them if you wish)
- 3 garden fresh tomatoes, cut into wedges
- 1 sweet onion, thinly sliced (I use purple onions for color)
- 1 C white vinegar
- 2 Tbsp vegetable or olive oil
- 1/4 C water
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

### Instructions:

1. In a large bowl, combine the cucumbers, tomatoes and onions.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the vinegar, oil, water, sugar, salt and pepper. Pour the dressing over the vegetables and gently toss to coat. Cover and store in the refrigerator (tossing a few times) for at least 1 hour before serving.

If you wish, as an alternative to the dressing above, I have used Newman's Own "Balsamic Vinaigrette" dressing, which is really delicious.

*Here's one more recipe that combines vegetables with sliced pears. The combination of smoky cheese, sweet pear and honey-mustard dressing gives this salad a big flavor. If you don't like arugula, replace some or all of it with baby spinach (which I prefer).*

### Pear Salad

- 3 Tablespoons olive oil
- 3 Tablespoons white balsamic vinegar (If you can't find white balsamic vinegar, substitute white wine vinegar. Do NOT use regular balsamic.)
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 medium-sized fresh pear
- 4 Cups arugula or baby spinach
- 1/2 Cup julienne-cut carrots
- 1/4 Cup thinly sliced red onion
- 1/3 Cup julienne-cut or shredded smoked gouda cheese
- 1/3 Cup coarsely crushed roasted shelled pistachios (Crush pistachios by putting them in a plastic bag and mashing lightly with a rolling pin.)

### Instructions:

Put the olive oil, vinegar, mustard, honey, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Whisk until smooth and set aside. Peel, core and thinly slice the pear, rubbing each slice with lemon juice to keep from browning. Place the lettuce in a medium sized serving bowl, add the carrots and onion, and gently toss with your hands. Arrange the pear slices on top and add the gouda. Drizzle the dressing lightly on the salad and sprinkle with the pistachios. Serve immediately.



## Photo Gallery





**That time of year. Jim Herrick**



**Nothing prettier than a calm day on Deer Lake in the fall! -  
Karen Neal**

## **MIDSUMMERS NIGHT**

## Contributed by Doug Routt

I stayed up late on a midsummer night.  
To wait for the faint specs to become bright.  
The sky was a curtain of black with no light.  
Until the millions of stars came into sight

They dotted the heavens in a dazzling array.  
And the majesty of the universe was on full display.  
I saw in the north a familiar glow.  
As the flickering northern lights started their show

They danced and they grew.  
Then they ebbed and they waned  
The aurora borealis never seeming the same.

Overhead a bright streak of white caught my eye.  
As a meteoroid ignited and burned up in the sky.  
It may have been just some bit of space debris.  
But to viewers on earth it was lovely to see

A satellite slowly tracked its way through the sky.  
The seeming movement of stars playing tricks with my eyes.  
As I marveled the majesty that the night had to show  
It made me aware of how little we know.  
We are a tiny little planet in the great ocean of space.  
And in the vast scheme of things, just what is our place.  
The imponderable questions had no answers in sight.  
But what a wonderful way to spend a midsummers night.