

DEER LAKE ASSOCIATION

FALL/THANK YOU/FISHING 2024

Welcome to end of summer on Deer Lake! 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

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



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

Jeff's comments

Dear Deer Lake Association Members,

Building the Deer Lake Association Community

Creating an ideal lake community is a multifaceted endeavor that requires a blend of thoughtful planning, collaborative leadership, and a shared vision for sustainable living. Our goal is to foster an environment that enhances the quality of life for residents, preserves the natural beauty of the lake, and promotes a sense of community. Here are activities that we are engaged in and encourage:

1. Establishing a Strong Governance Structure

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A robust governance structure is the backbone of any successful community. Establishing clear bylaws and guidelines are essential. The Association should be responsible for managing community resources, enforcing rules, and addressing residents' concerns. The governing body, consisting of the Board and Officers must be transparent, inclusive, and accountable to all members, ensuring that decisions reflect the collective interests of the community.

2. Promoting Environmental Stewardship

A lake is a fragile ecosystem that requires careful stewardship. The community must prioritize environmental sustainability by implementing measures to protect water quality, prevent erosion, and preserve local wildlife. This includes regular water testing, shoreline vegetation management, and responsible waste disposal practices. Residents should be educated about the importance of minimizing pollutants, such as fertilizers and pesticides, that can harm the lake. Sustainable practices, such as rain gardens and permeable pavements, are also promoted to reduce runoff and protect the lake's ecosystem.

3. Encouraging Community Engagement

A strong sense of community is built through engagement and interaction among residents. Regular social events, such as the Frolic, Spaghetti Dinner, barbecues, and musical celebrations, help foster relationships and create a welcoming atmosphere. Organizing our annual volunteer opportunities, such as road clean-up days and tree planting events, bring residents together while enhancing the community's natural environment. Additionally, creating online platforms, such as the DLA website and the DLA Facebook social media group, facilitates communication, keeps residents informed, and provides a space for sharing ideas and concerns.

4. Ensuring Safety and Security

Safety is a top priority for any community. The DLA association is considering organizing neighborhood watch programs and working with local law enforcement to ensure that the area remains safe for all residents. Additionally, promoting water safety through education and signage, at the Public Landing, helps prevent accidents on the lake.

5. Investing in Amenities and Infrastructure

The quality of amenities and infrastructure significantly impacts residents' satisfaction and property values. Well-maintained roads, docks, and communal areas are essential. Offering amenities that cater to diverse interests, from boating and fishing to picnicking and birdwatching, ie., Hummingbirds and Loons, makes the community attractive to a wide range of residents.

6. Balancing Development with Preservation

While development is necessary to accommodate new residents and improve infrastructure, it must be balanced with the preservation of the natural landscape. Zoning regulations must be put kept in place to control the type and extent of development around the lake, ensuring that it does not harm the environment or disrupt the community's character.

7. Fostering a Culture of Respect and Cooperation

Finally, the best lake association communities are those where residents respect one another and work cooperatively. Establishing clear community guidelines on noise levels, property maintenance, and shared spaces helps prevent conflicts. Encouraging a culture of open dialogue, where residents feel comfortable voicing their opinions and working together to resolve issues, is crucial for maintaining harmony within the community.

Conclusion

Building the DLA community requires a combination of effective governance, environmental stewardship, community engagement, safety, and thoughtful development. By fostering a culture of respect and cooperation, investing in quality infrastructure, and prioritizing the preservation of the natural environment, the DLA community can become a more vibrant, sustainable, and desirable place to live and recreate. Through collective effort and shared values, our residents are creating a community that not only thrives today but also preserves its beauty and charm for future generations.

Warm regards,

Jeff Johnston

President, Deer Lake Association

FROLIC



The Annual Frolic was a rousing success! The rain held off and the attendance was very strong, >150 I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all!

The FOOD WAS FANTASTIC! - Many thanks to Tom Brown and his crew on Grill Duty - Steak was delicious! Thanks to Doug Widen, Denny Anderson and the Grill Team!

Special Thanks to Jan and the Camp Hiawatha Kitchen Crew. The corn, beans, salad, and bread were all delicious as well.

Thanks to John Perkins and his Music! We enjoyed listening and it kept a festive vibe in the air all through the evening.

Thanks to Beth Riesgraf-Wyman and Dick Wyman for coordinating the Silent Auction! A final tally will be forthcoming.

Thanks to Doug Routt and the fun time we had with games and commentary - truly original!

Thanks to Jackie Johnston, Barb Gladder, Elise Widen and Nancy Askegaard for a successful Boutique Sale!

Thanks to you all for attending and supporting the Association! We saw many new faces and are delighted to see the next generation growing the membership!

Thanks to God and the Mayo Team for a very favorable health prognosis - guess I will be around for a while!

Thanks for the opportunity to serve this association - truly an honour.

Best Regards,

Jeff

P.S. The Survey Monkey results will be sent out next week. We hear you and are acting on input as we speak

A Walk In WABU WOODS



On Friday, August 23, a group of 12 nature-lovers met at the Deer Lake overlook to learn about and enjoy this special place. A SNA (Scientific Nature Area) is a specially designated, unique piece of land that is maintained in a natural condition by allowing physical and biological processes to operate, usually without direct human intervention. Any unique or unusual biologic, geologic or historic areas can be considered for designation as natural areas. DNR Naturalist Arika McGRaw shared maps showing the two parcels of the WABU woods and discussed their unique features. One parcel at the Deer Lake overlook and the other parcel is north of County Road 19 near Sherwood Forest Trail. After a brief presentation, we embarked on a hike in the woods. Beware the forest floor is very rugged making for challenging hiking. One of the most fascinating facts was the number of species found within the woods. Wildflowers and ferns: 77. Grasses and sedges: 21. Trees and shrubs 39. Did you know? WABU is Ojibwe for little rabbit! -Jo Landwer and Abby Marier

RECIPE-OF-THE-MONTH

Mini-Pizza

by Jo Landwer

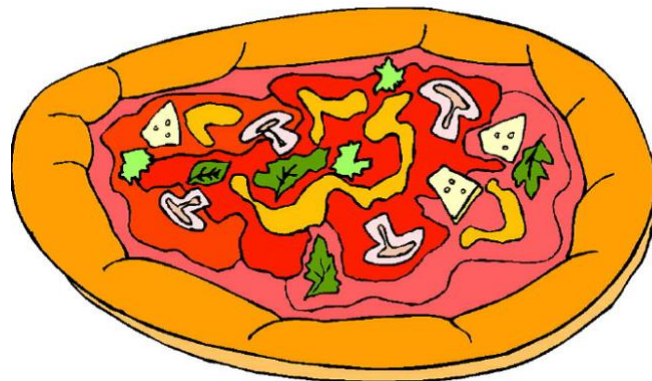
These are easy and delicious!

1 can spam shredded

1 15 oz can hormel chili no beans

2 cups shredded Velveta cheese

1/2 c chopped onion. Mix altogether Place on burger buns or english muffins. Broil 5 to 7 minutes



DLA Golf Scramble

In 2024, the weather dampened our early season golf outings, but not our enthusiasm. The May and June outings were rained out. We were able to increase our participation this year, with eighteen golfers in July and even more for the dinner that followed.

For those who have not participated in this event, our outings consist of playing 9 holes at a local course in the afternoon, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. This is more of a fun, social event, as opposed to a serious competition, so all skill levels are welcome. We use a “scramble” format with a few special rules and contests thrown in. Non-golfers are encouraged to join us for “dinner-only” if they like.

We’d like to increase the participation in 2025. If you think you may be interested, mark your calendars for the following TENTATIVE dates in 2025:

May 20 (Tuesday) – Golf 2pm, dinner after golf

June 17 (Tuesday) – Golf 2pm, dinner after golf

July 15 (Tuesday) – Golf 2pm, dinner after golf

August 19 (Tuesday) – Golf 2pm, dinner after golf

September 16 (Tuesday) – Golf 2pm, dinner after golf

If you would like to be added to golf email/text communication lists or have any questions, please contact Paul Askegaard at 651-230-3361 or email askeupnorth@gmail.com.

BEAR ISLAND TASK FORCE



Bear Island Trail Maintenance took place in June, July and August in 2024. Volunteers met to walk the trail, remove fallen trees and branches blocking the path, pick up trash, etc.

Many thanks to John Davis, Paul Lussenhop, Jim Herrick, Jim Hodgson, Margaret Hodgson, Jeff Johnston, Mike Schultz, Dave Buxengard, Rich Anderson, Laura (Rich's cousin), Derek Routt, Bill Routt, and Paul Askegaard for participating this year. A special thanks to Rich Anderson for always showing up with his "Big Saw" in case we run into any heavy work to be done. Also, thanks to Nancy Askegaard for providing donuts, pastries, beverages, etc. for these hard workers.

Please watch for emails and Facebook posts next spring as we plan for the 2025 season.

DEER READERS WRAP-UP, and ONWARD TO MORE BOOKS!

By Alice Stark

Deer Readers has had a great summer of reading 4 interesting books (so far), sharing thoughts on these books, and enjoying food, drink, and socializing together. The photo shows our group at the August 21 meeting at the Landwer home where we enjoyed a lively discussion of *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict.

We have one more book to discuss on September 11 – *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. The meeting will be held at Jack and Susie Jones' cabin, starting at 3pm.



The September meeting is also when we will choose 5 books for next summer. Here's how we do this. Between now and September 5, each group member may submit a suggested book along with a brief description. This information is distributed to all members of the group prior to the September 11 meeting when we vote. At that meeting we also fill in the 2025 calendar, with people volunteering to lead the discussion and/or host the group each month. Check out the Winter DLA Newsletter to find out which books will be our focus for next year. If you already know you're interested in being part of Deer Readers next summer, just let Alice Stark know and she will make sure you get the list of books, dates and hosts following the September meeting.

For questions or information about Deer Readers, contact Alice Stark. (adstark46@gmail.com)



FISHING DEER LAKE



Luke Koski, age 10



David Dunham 46" muskie



Angie Widen Roche muskie Aug.6



Bill & Doug Routt daily catch Aug. 6



Dan Askegaard walleye



Bill Routt 4 lb smallmouth bass



Paul Askegaard smallmouth bass



John Glader



Peyton Glader



Kelian Glader



The Grand Rapids high school fishing team held an in-house tournament on Deer Lake, July 24th. The winning team of Joey Miskovich & Jean Lui Wishard tallied 17.



Katy Martinson (Brian Gunderson) July 4th



Cole Anderson (Marier) 10 lb. bowfin July 16