

DEER LAKE ASSOCIATION

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AUTUMN 2025 "THANK YOU" ISSUE

SEE PHOTOS INSIDE



Thank you, volunteers!

It's been a GREAT summer!

Hello DLA! Here's a wrap-up and THANK YOU to the many volunteers and their accomplishments that make

the DLA dynamic and effective. More on these inside this issue....

FROLIC - We had a new record attendance at the Frolic this year with over 230 being served dinner. That number is conservative and the gross proceeds also exceeded \$10K, another new record!

Many thanks to Volunteers for the event, including Camp Hiawatha Staff, Nick Brown and the BBQ Crew, John Perkins - Musician, Paul and Joan Lussenhop for the Silent Auction, Jackie Johnston and the Boutique Staff, Nate Loes for Ticket Sales and Coordination, Doug Routt for the Children's Game Hosting and all that attended to make the event so successful!

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS this year included **Beth Reisgraf-Wyman and Jessica Loes for the Firewise Program Coordination, the Conservation Committee for their work on Shoreland Preservation, Forestry Management and AIS abatement efforts, including treatment for Curly Pond Weed by the SWCD and DNR. And Jackie Johnston who takes care of the Boutique and the mailing list (among many other things!) Tom Nelson takes care of the DLA website;**

GRANTS- We were awarded four Grants from the National Philanthropic Society, the Minnesota DNR (Firewise), the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (AIS Prevention and CAP).

HOME TOUR - We hosted a home tour that was very well received and will continue next year with a 'Historic Homes Theme'.
Venues to be announced in Spring after soliciting input from membership.

OTHER EVENTS- during the Summer included Presentations by the DNR at our Membership Meeting, Boat-In Concerts, Book Club, Golf Outings, Bear Island Trail Clean-Up and Hwy 62 road pick-up.

We look forward to next Summer and wish everyone a Safe and Sustaining Winter.

Best Regards,
Jeff

FIREWISE by Beth Reisgraf

Thanks to Jessica Loes for writing the grant, through which we were awarded \$5,000 from the DNR. Many positive comments were received about what a nice job contractor Wes Collett of One Two Tree Service did. Thanks to Beth and Jessica for collecting all the work hours, addresses for brush pick-up, etc.

Here are the numbers:

50 properties requested brush pickup

1260 number of hours reported for fire prevention work around the dwelling

\$7,000 paid to Wes Collect of One Two Tree Service for brush pick up

\$5,000 compensation to DLA from Firewise/DNR program.

ROADSIDE PICKUP by Paul Lussenhop

On May 30 a group of volunteers gathered to clean up the portion of Hwy. 62 that the DLA maintains. Ten volunteers donated their time and effort to walk the three and a half miles picking up winter accumulated trash. The result was a cleaner and more attractive roadside! This is one way the DLA contributes to the community. Thanks, volunteers!

TOUR OF HOMES by Jackie Johnston

The house tour was a BIG success. We had 3 homes on the tour and 32 people attended. Thanks To Tom Nelson, George and Sandra Anderson and Herb and Diana Lieffring for opening their homes! There is no charge, but we ask for a donation to the DLA. We plan to do this again next year,

so if you're interested in opening your home next spring, please reach out and let us know!

BEAR ISLAND CLEAN-UP by Paul Askegaard

Bear Island Trail Maintenance took place in June, July and August in 2025. Volunteers met to walk the trail, remove fallen trees and branches blocking the path, pick up trash, etc.

Many thanks to Paul Lussenhop, Jim Herrick, Mike Schultz, Dave Buxengard, Rich Anderson, Jan Anderson, Lee Anderson, Paul Askegaard, as well as Jeff Johnston, Jackie Johnston and their granddaughter Aimee for participating this year to help maintain this beautiful Deer Lake resource. 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 2026 season.

DLA GOLF FUN by Paul Askegaard

Our 2025 golf season started with 11 hearty souls showing up for a blustery outing on May 20 at Blueberry Hills, followed by dinner there. There were 4 more gold/dinner events this summer attended by 15-20 golfers. Diners that follow often include non-golfers who joined the fun, highlighted by a lively group of 23 on July 15 at Smoke on the Water in Coleraine. Overall, it was a fun summer of golf, dinner and socializing!

For those who are still thinking about it: we play 9 holes (Best ball scramble) at a local course in the afternoon, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant, Golfers of all levels are welcome. Non-golfers are encouraged to join us for "dinner only" if they like.

Here are the TENATIVE Tuesday dates in 2026- mark your calendars!

We do need rsvp about a week prior to these events.

May 19: 2 PM Golf and dinner

June 16: 2 PM Golf and dinner

July 14: 2 PM Golf and dinner

August 18: 2 PM Golf and dinner

Sept. 15: 2 PM Golf and dinner

If you want to be added to the GOLF E-MAIL LIST, or have questions, please call Paul Askegaard at 651-230-3361 or askeupnorth@gmail.com.

DEER READERS BOOK CLUB by Alice Stark

It's been another great season of books and fellowship for Deer Readers. As coordinator of the group, I want to offer a "thanks" for this group; just excellent!

We have 17 active members. Summer is always busy, and not everyone can attend, but whether we have 9 or 17, it's always a great discussion. We meet from 4 to about 6:30pm. The first hour is the book discussion and the rest of the time is socializing and snacking!

Thanks to our members for their book suggestions; to members who offered to host or lead the discussions; thanks to each and every member for sharing delicious treats - and their interesting thoughts about the books we read. Thanks for being open to reading something you might not choose on your own.

New members are always welcome! Just contact Alice Stark at adstark45@gmail.com.



Firewise pickup



Golf outing at Blueberry Hills



Deer Readers



Bear Island Cleanup Volunteers