



# Deer Tales

Deer Lake Improvement Association Newsletter

Summer 2006

## Upcoming Events:

(Dates to be determined.)

- DLIA Board Meeting - August
- DLIA Board Meeting - September
- Winter Party - December

## 2006 Hall of Fame

Four new members were inducted into the 2006 Deer Lake Hall of Fame at the Association's annual meeting. The selection is based on their contributions to improving the quality of life on Deer Lake.

**John Wright** - John is an encyclopedia of information about Deer Lake and is always accessible to share his knowledge. John has served on many committees, including the 'Fireworks Commissioner' where he is responsible for our great 4th of July fireworks display.

**Dr. Mark Thayer** - Mark has been extremely active in pursuing Deer Lake causes. Most noteworthy are water quality issues. Mark has the scientific knowledge that allows him to work with the DNR in developing water and plant treatment programs.

**Jerry Carroll** - Jerry has provided invaluable legal counsel in guiding the Association through a maze of situations as we work to improve the quality of life on Deer Lake.

**Les Swanson** - Les served on the Board of Directors for nine years where he chaired a number of committees. One specific committee was the water purification program which Les worked on for 14 years. This is a committee which is near and dear to all of us.

We congratulate all of these honorees, as well as all of the other volunteers who have given so much in talent and time to make Deer Lake a very special place.

Peter Boo

## Conservancy Corner

Thanks to all of you who chose to spend a hot Saturday morning with us at our annual meeting to hear a bit about our history and where we are heading in the future. We think it's a great story, and encourage you to share it with those who were unable to attend the meeting.

We are pleased that Cal Dinham, Denny Enright and Nita Fronk have joined our board, and that Sandy Bodeau and John Patterson will be staying on for an additional term. We also appreciate and value the contribution and leadership of our other board members, Ann Dowdle, Phillip Foussard, Mollie Keys, John Marinovich, Jim Miller, Dennis Raedeke, Mark Thayer, Joanna Victor and John Wright. Finally, a special thanks and job well done to Roger Foussard, Don Hill and Dick Weber who are leaving our board after many years of valued service.

As evidenced by Jim Miller's presentation, the projects undertaken in our watersheds are having a positive, measurable impact on water quality. In fact, the bar has moved sufficiently that **improving the practices we follow as homeowners, including replacing inefficient septic systems, containing local area run-off and maintaining no-wake zones within 200 feet of the shoreline will be needed to move into the next level of improving water quality.** To this end, a substantial grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is in process to help individual homeowners deal with these issues. Please stay tuned for additional information.

We thank you for your support this year, and hope that you enjoy these remaining weeks of summer. Be safe and let's watch out for one another.

Rob Ilstrup, President  
Deer Lake Conservancy



## Aquatic Plant Management Plan Nears Completion

The Deer Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan, which began with a whole-lake survey of aquatic plants in 2003, awaits final expected approval by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Why so long? Deer Lake undertook aquatic plant management at a time when the rules, guidelines, and resources available for aquatic plant management were undergoing change at the state level. With clearer guidelines now in place, Deer Lake is set to move ahead with its plan.

### Plants Here Now

The whole-lake survey complete in 2003 will be updated this summer. The survey found that Deer Lake has a healthy, diverse native plant community located in a narrow zone along the water's edge. One invasive, non-native aquatic species, curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), was found. Eurasian water milfoil, an invasive, non-native species of concern, has not been found in Deer Lake.

### Plant Management Goals

The 2006 Deer Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan sets out goals and activities for the next several years:

1. Protect and restore healthy native aquatic plant communities.
2. Prevent the introduction of Eurasian water milfoil and other invasive, non-native aquatic species.
3. Rapidly respond to eliminate any newly introduced invasive, non-native aquatic plant species.
4. Reduce filamentous algae density.
5. Reduce levels of nuisance aquatic plants to allow safe, enjoyable recreation such as swimming and boating.

### Activities Underway

The Deer Lake Improvement Association (DLIA) hired UW La Crosse student, Corey Carpentier, to staff Deer Lake's boat landing at high-use times this year. His purpose is to educate boat landing users about the threat of invasive plants to Deer Lake and encourage them to clean plants off their boats and trailers when entering and leaving Deer Lake. He is also assisting with the plant survey. A DNR grant sponsored by the Town of St. Croix Falls and matched by the Deer Lake Improvement Association pays for Corey's work and other expenses related to aquatic plant education. Stop by the boat landing to meet Cory and pick up plant identification materials.

The lake association hired an applicator to spray areas of thick growth of curly leaf pondweed in an attempt to

eliminate nuisance growth. These treatments will be repeated for a minimum of three years. Careful monitoring of treatment effectiveness will follow each season. The DNR permit allows spraying up to 10 acres. Herbicide application is made at low doses early in the season to decrease impacts to native aquatic plants.

### What You Can Do

Limit boating disturbance within 200 feet of the shoreline. Although this is a no-wake zone according to state regulation, some boaters still travel close to the shoreline at high speeds. This activity is strongly discouraged for the following reasons:

- Boats may uproot native plants and break aquatic plants into fragments.
- Bare substrate is more likely to be colonized by non-native species.
- Plant fragments contribute phosphorus to the water as they decay.
- Curly leaf pondweed fragments broken up by boat propellers may root and encourage further spread of this invasive plant.

Waterfront residences can also negatively affect native plant communities by causing disturbance of existing plant beds and altering sediment characteristics. Regular waterfront use like boating, swimming and clearing, removes native aquatic plants. Healthy native plant populations prevent colonization by invasive plants. Erosion and runoff from waterfront property may alter sediment characteristics and encourage the spread of invasive plants.

### Access Corridor Management

Aquatic plants create nuisances for residents attempting to swim and boat from the shoreline. However, it is important that residents are aware of the risks of complete clearing of access corridors. Native aquatic plants provide critical habitat for fish and other aquatic creatures. Corridors cleared of native plants may provide sites for colonization by invasive, non-native species. Invasive species, like Eurasian water milfoil, are likely to grow even more densely creating greater nuisances.

### Guidance for Deer Lake Property Owners:

1. General herbicide spraying of nuisance aquatic plants for boat access and swimming is discouraged because of potential damage to this critical habitat zone.
2. DNR currently restricts control activity in the littoral zone (area where plants grow) adjacent to private residences to a width of no more than 25 feet.

(Aquatic Plant Management - cont. from 2)

3. Residents wishing to control curly leaf pondweed with hand pulling may do so throughout their shoreline area, but must be confident of plant identification and remove all plant fragments.
4. Residents who pull curly leaf pondweed should notify the Deer Lake Improvement Association by June 1 of the same year, so that these sites can be noted in the plant survey. An annual mailing from the lake association will remind residents of the desired control methods and request notification.
5. Nuisance aquatic plant growth in July and August should be controlled in the access corridors using manual means such as plant rakes. Plant fragments should be removed from the lake and placed on an upland area such as a garden or compost pile.
6. Herbicide treatment of access corridors should be used as a last resort.

### Deer Lake Boat Landing Improvements Made

The DLIA teamed up with the DNR and the Town of St. Croix Falls to repair the public boat landing on the northwest corner of the lake. Repairs were needed because of a large drop off at the end of the boat ramp caused by users "power loading" boats onto trailers. The landing ramp was excavated to a greater depth and extended to prevent the hole caused by power loading. A grant to the Town of St. Croix Falls from the DNR supported the project. The DLIA contributed the project match. Thanks to John Wright who coordinated this project for the lake association and to the DNR crew who supervised installation.

#### For More Information:

The Deer Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan is available on CD. To request a copy, send an email to [harmony@spacestar.net](mailto:harmony@spacestar.net), or call our consultant, Cheryl Clemens at 715-268-9992. Mark Thayer supervises aquatic plant management activities for the lake association as Chair of the Environmental Committee.



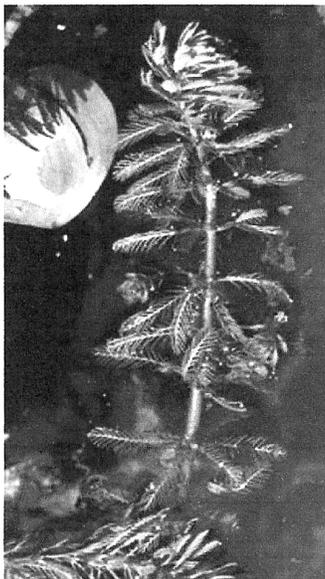
above:  
Curly Leaf Pondweed

*right:*  
Clean plant fragments from boats and trailers to prevent introduction of Eurasian water milfoil.

*below:*  
Steve Schletty on ladder, with Bob Rawlings at the Boat Landing.



below:  
Eurasian Water Milfoil



## Update on the Bauerly Brothers Redi-Mix Plant

In August of 2005, there was an application made for a special exemption regarding a redi-mix plant approximately 3/4 of a mile north of Deer Lake on Highway 35. The planning commission has met multiple times and in the early part of the summer put forth a recommendation for approval. This recommendation was then taken forward to the town board which approved the special exemption for the redi-mix plant. The Board of Appeals next addressed the special exemption for two 75-foot mixing silos to be placed on site, which they will allow.

The Deer Lake Improvement Association and the Deer Lake Conservancy both have concerns regarding the process of the approval for the special exemptions and also a concern about compliance with the open meeting law. Therefore, at this time, litigation is in place regarding the approval by the town board of the special exemption for the redi-mix plant that does not fit the current zoning ordinance and also the lack of open meeting process that was carried out during the deliberations.

Mark Thayer

## Wisconsin's Pier Regulations

### *What you need to know for 2006*

#### **Most piers are "exempt," meaning no permit or fee required.**

Today, most piers are exempt from permitting. An existing or new pier can be placed without a DNR permit or fee if it meets the dimensions added to state law in 2004 (see insert) and a few other requirements. All the exemption requirements are described in the DNR's brochure "Pier Planner," available on the DNR's website: [dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/waterway](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/waterway). A 2005 DNR study showed that 85% of all existing piers already meet these dimensions, so most waterfront owners have exempt piers and don't need to do anything differently.

#### **If you have a pre-2004 pier with a large deck on it . . .**

that deck may be causing harm to habitat, navigation, or your neighbor. None of the proposed law changes would grandfather the very largest decks, so you may want to talk to DNR staff who can help you determine if the deck is causing those problems, and identify ways to modify it to eliminate impacts.

#### **Piers can cause "Side Effects."**

Navigation - piers that are too long or have many boats can block other users' enjoyment of the waterway.

Habitat - DNR research shows that large decks on piers block growth of aquatic plants. These plants are an important food source for fish and wildlife, and prevent algae growth.

**Flags, flowerpots and benches** are all fine to have on a pier.

#### **Sizes for an Exempt Pier**

Width - no more than 6 feet wide

Length - the length needed to moor your boat or use boat lift, or to the 3-foot water depth, which ever is greater.

Number of Boats - 2 for the first 50 feet of frontage, 1 for every additional 50 feet.

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade:

The scene was a cloudless blue sky, a bright golden sun and beautiful Deer Lake. The occasion was the annual 4th of July Boat Parade.

It could not have been more perfect -- the parade started promptly at 1:00 p.m. and the competition was keen, forcing the judges to work overtime.

finally a decision was reached and the Grand Prize was awarded to the "Boston Tea Party" entry created by the Butterfield/Markee families. The "ship" was complete in every detail: a British flag; crates of tea; and colorfully painted colonists made to look like Native Americans.

The Second Place Award went to the wild Wright's "Pirates of the Caribbean." The young Wrights and friends were decked in appropriate costumes and every bit acted like over-zealous pirates.

The Spirit Award was a tie between the historically costumed players of the Munson/Bauman grandkids, and the Aslesen, patriotically dressed ducks, including the family dog. The Aslesens also greeted their fans with hundreds of little rubber ducks.



Again, thanks to the throngs of spectators who lined the shores showing their enthusiastic support.

Also, thanks to the Dalles House for their generous gift certificates given as prizes.

Peter Boo



from the

## Membership Committee

*We need YOU!!!!*

Please consider becoming a Shore Captain for your section of the lake. Our goal is to achieve 100% of lake homeowners as members of the DLIA. The most effective way to do that is with personal contact. The DLIA benefits all homeowners -- we can be more effective if everyone is committed to improving the quality of life on Deer Lake.

Shore Captains could help in the following ways:

- Welcome new homeowners
- Distribute directories and Deer Lake brochures to non-members
- Answer questions and pass on concerns of homeowners to the DLIA Board
- Pass on information about urgent issues regarding Deer Lake (ex: developments regarding the redi-mix plant)

Contact Mollie Keys if you are interested in becoming a Shore Captain: 651-429-4824 or 715-483-9383, or email: [mkeys11291@aol.com](mailto:mkeys11291@aol.com).

Mollie Keys

## Firewood Alert

"He who cuts his own wood, warms himself twice!"

True, but one should be cautious of the wood used. It is recommended that Deer Lakers not burn wood from trees which have been blown down or became diseased and fell elsewhere. They may contain dangerous beetles, which attack ash or pine trees. Upon burning, the insects escape the flames and could move onto the healthy growth. This has been a major problem in northern Wisconsin in the past several years.

The State of Wisconsin DNR has recently banned campers from bringing in their own wood because of this possibility.

Steve Johnson

## DLIA Board 2006

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TBA

### **Secretary**

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Bob Fedderly

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Bob Spinner  
Tom McBride  
Kris McCormack  
Peter Boo  
Mollie Keys  
John Wright  
Mary Coyte  
Steve Schletty  
Mark Thayer

### **Membership Committee**

Kris McCormack  
Mollie Keys  
Denise Sinclear Todd  
Bob Fedderly

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Mollie Keys  
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### **Environmental Committee**

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### **Events Committee**

Denise Sinclear Todd  
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Peter Boo  
Bob Fedderly  
John Wright

### **Deer Tales**

Mary Coyte  
Peter Boo



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