



Deer Tales

Deer Lake Improvement Association Newsletter
Spring 2019



President's Message

Well after the Polar Vortex in January and record snowfall in February, we are now looking at beautiful blue water! Yes, it is time to enjoy the Summer of 2019 on Deer Lake. The Board has been busy setting up the summer social calendar. Please refer to Deer Tales with the dates and times for each event. For more information visit www.deerlakewi.com

The annual dues statements will be arriving soon. Please give generously to the fireworks and Invasive Species/Water Quality funds. As many of you know, the money we receive for fireworks in 2019 will determine the size of the show in 2020. More bucks means more bang!

The water quality of Deer Lake is important to every lake owner. The Association works hard to maintain and improve the lake's quality. Your donation helps ensure the water quality as well as build an emergency fund in the event of a serious threat to the lake.

Interested in becoming a board member or working as a committee member? Please contact any Board Member. Being a Board member or being part of a committee is a wonderful way to meet other Deer Lake residents.

Is there a new owner on your road? Please contact Susie Housh so the new owners are included in the 2019 directory.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Environmental Services Committee meetings or sent emails to the committee. The proposed changes have been tabled at this time.

President's Message (continued on page 5)



Important Dates 2019

Neil McKenzie Youth Fishing Contest

Sat. June 8th 9-3 pm

Light up the Lake Wed. July 3rd 10 pm

Boat Parade Thur. July 4th 1 pm
Register (*Fermanich's dock*) 10-11 am
Meet at Lagoon 12:45 pm
Parade Begins 1 pm

Music on the Lake—Hungerford Pt
(leeward side) Thur. July 4th 7 pm

Fireworks Fri. July 5th 10 pm
(Storm date Sat. July 6th 10 pm)

Pontoon Party Fri. July 12th 6 pm
(off Hungerford Pt.)

Annual Meeting Sat. July 13th 9 am
(Trollhaugen)

Flagstad Farm Family Picnic
Sat. July 27th 6 pm

Music on the Lake—Hungerford Pt
(leeward side) Sat. Aug. 10th 7 pm

Festival Theatre night
(*Crimes of the Heart*)
Sat. Aug. 17th 7:30 pm

**Schedule updates and additions
available at www.deerlakewi.com**

Environmental Updates:

Learn About Invasive Species & The Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program

The DLIA Environmental Committee is hosting an educational session at the Deer Lake Landing off of 140th Avenue on Saturday June 1st from 9 to 10 AM. We will be discussing invasive species – both those in the lake and those we are trying to keep out. See and touch samples of the plant and animal species and learn to identify them from your dock. We will also explain our Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, where we staff the landing to inspect visiting boats. If you are interested in volunteering for this program, training will be provided. Families and children welcome.

Please join us – coffee and donuts provided. RSVP to leedyjoan@yahoo.com with a count and ages of any kids attending.

Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) Treatment Completed in Early May

Once again this spring, the DLIA treated 5 beds of CLP which are all located in the bay. We have documented a reduction in the total acres of CLP which is attributed to these treatments. The treatment typically costs between \$15,000 and \$20,000 of which half is reimbursed to the association through a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Grant.

Keep an Eye Out for Zebra Mussels

Three locations throughout the Deer Lake shoreline have confirmed identifications of zebra mussels. The DLIA Environmental Committee is encouraging lake residents to continue to search for zebra mussels and report any findings. Zebra mussels are an invasive species that attach to boats, clog pipes, out-compete the native mussels and create an imbalance in the food chain. Their razor-sharp shells can be dangerous and detrimental to recreation on the water. We need your help to determine if the zebra mussels in Deer Lake survived the winter and to what extent the population has grown. You can identify a zebra mussel by its small D shaped shell, alternating dark and light stripes and they're typically attached to hard surfaces. If you think you have found a zebra mussel please contact Joan Leedy at 651-230-1177.



Deer Lake Conservancy Website

The Deer Lake Conservancy launched a new website this spring. The address is www.dlcwi.org. Please take a few minutes and look around the new site, there is a great deal of info about the Conservancy and its efforts to keep Deer Lake clean. There are also homeowner resources and suggestions for things you can do to help keep Deer Lake clean. One of the main benefits of the new site is that now you can donate directly to the conservancy online.

Conservancy Corner

Deer Lake Conservancy (DLC) is awarded new Water Quality Grant

DLC was once again recognized by the Wisconsin DNR with a Lake Protection Grant to continue the Direct Drainage program. During the last 10 years DLC has worked with Deer Lake residents to manage and contain runoff on their properties in an effort to minimize pollutants from entering the lake. The program is a cost sharing program in which the homeowner funds 50% and the grant covers the remaining 50%. The new grant for \$137,000 will allow DLC to continue the program which has had a positive impact on water quality. If you have runoff issues and are interested in a free site evaluation for your Deer Lake property, please contact Cheryl Clemens at Harmony Environmental (harmonyenv@amerytel.net or 715-268-9992). She will schedule a visit with you at your property and design projects of interest to help protect Deer Lake.

In Memorium

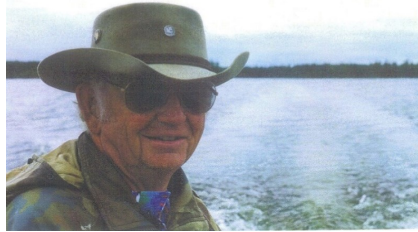


Kevin Nelson

Frank Sunberg

Joanna Victor

16th Annual Neil McKenzie Youth Fishing Derby



Keep Kids Fishin'

Looking ahead to **June 8, 2019**, another memory-making day for kids fishing on Deer Lake as part of the 16th annual Neil McKenzie Memorial Youth Fishing Derby is in the planning stages. This is a kid-focused event sponsored by family and friends of Neil McKenzie (1930-2003) and the Polk County Sportsmen's Club. All fisher-kids (through age 17) **must pre-register by May 25 to participate.**

Do you know a kid or kids who would love to learn how to fish and find a way to connect with nature? Invite the adult in their life to pre-register the fisher-kid(s) so we can reserve a place on a pontoon or in a boat for them and plan for the day. This event takes place "Rain or Shine!"

Each June many wonderful people donate the use of their pontoons, fishing boats, fishing rods and tackle, time, talents, prizes, and trophies to provide

a free day of fishing, learning, and fun for area kids. This has been a legacy of love and pride in our area – a practice continued from how Neil McKenzie interacted with kids and encouraged them to love the outdoors. Please feel free to join in the fun and **pre-register by May 25** to "Keep Kids Fishin'!"

Adults, you are also invited to help the coordinators provide another fun and meaningful day for the kids. "How?" you ask. Fishing guides, boat drivers, parking attendants, and food preparers/servers make this event happen. Your volunteering is very much appreciated.



Kids, please **pre-register by May 25** so we can plan the day! **Use the online registration form at www.NeilMcKenzieYouthFishingContest.org.** Thank you for all you do to "Keep Kids Fishin'!"

HAPPY SPRING

Are you breaking the law?

Many boaters are unaware that there is an age restriction to legally operate a boat in Wisconsin. Wisconsin state statutes require the following:

- Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 is required to complete a boating safety course to legally operate a motorized boat or personal watercraft (PWC) on Wisconsin waters.
- DNR Conservation Wardens recommends all boat operators complete a safety course

Safeguard Your Northwoods Experience

One of the best parts of going to the cabin and getting out of town is our ability to take in the night sky and millions of visible stars and planets. We are even lucky enough that on a clear night we can see the Milky Way. Help protect this Northwoods experience by being smart in your outdoor lighting choices.



You don't have to sacrifice safety and convenience with these best practices to reduce light pollution.

- Solar lights are a great option for those needing light and help save on your energy bill. Most emit less light than electric counterparts and have shields to keep beams pointed down.
- Put your electric lights on a timer or motion sensors so that they automatically turn off at bedtime or when not being used.
- For those looking to maximize efficiency, consider installing a smart home device. Many of these devices feature the ability to turn off your lights remotely for those times when we forget to do so when heading back home!
- Avoid blue lights in the outdoors and turn off unnecessary indoor lights to reduce glare.
- Be aware of your neighbor and those that are across the lake from you when choosing your optimal lighting options.

Spread the word to your neighbors and take time to enjoy some stargazing!

Boating Safety

If you haven't reviewed the boat safety rules for 2019, please take a moment and review the rules listed on the Wisconsin DNR website: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat/>



Here's a quick review of the basics:

- Make sure your boat registration is current
- Always make sure you have enough life jackets on board your boat. You are also required to have at least one U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type IV throw-able PFD, either a ring buoy or seat cushion, on recreational boats that are 16 feet in length or longer.
- Observe the Slow/No Wake zones: within 100 feet of the shoreline or another boat/PWC.
- Know the right of way and who has it.

Lights:

All power boats (including sailboats under engine power) must exhibit the lights as shown below when being driven:

- Red and green sidelights.
- An all-round white light or both a masthead light and a sternlight possibly combined.

These lights must be visible from a distance of at least a mile away on a dark, clear night.

Docking lights are only for docking, not headlights!

Don't ever leave shore without a flashlight. Even if you plan to return before dark, unforeseen developments might delay your return past nightfall.

Specifically for PWC's:

- No person under 12 may operate a PWC.
- Operator must wear a life jacket at all times.
- Observe slow/No Wake within 200 feet of any shoreline and 100 feet from another boat/PWC.
- Operation of PWC can only occur between sunrise and sunset.

Deer Lake Clean Up

Saturday May 11th was a beautiful sunny day for the Annual Deer Lake clean up. With our largest turn out of volunteers so far we were able to pick up trash on about 85% of the roads surrounding Deer Lake. We thank those volunteers for their time and efforts-many hands make light work!

The Deer Lake Improvement Association would like to thank the following for their help: Pictured below: Rick Barghini, Carol Baumgart, Jay & Mary Becker, Steve Berestka, Pat & Sandy Corcoran, Bob



Fedderly, Laurel Fermanich, Chapman & Lohini Mayo, Dennis & Cynthia Raedeke, Jane Sackett & grandson (AJ), Bob Spinner, Mike & Mary Theis, & Kate Wright; not pictured: Don & Paula Knutson, Tom McBride, Jim Miller, John Patterson, & John Wright. If you see them around please express your thanks for our clean area around our lake!

If you were unable to make it please feel free to join us for other events, it's always nice having a lot of participation and it's a good way to meet others on the lake!



Membership News

Your membership statement and magnet will be arriving in the mail shortly. If you don't receive one please call Susie Housh (952-925-4850) and she can make sure that you receive a magnet and statement.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

As always, a reminder concerning boating safety. Please remind your family and friends to follow all boating regulations. A copy of the WI Boating Regs are on the Deer Lake website and copies are available wherever fishing licenses are sold.

I hope everyone has a safe, memory-filled summer. Enjoy the beauty of Deer Lake.

Bob Fedderly
President, Deer Lake Improvement Association



Website/Facebook

We continue to generate a high level of interest in our Deer Lake Facebook Page. We have a total of 550 followers on the page, for you non-facebook folks, those are people who get notified with every post put up on the Deer Lake page. Because some people share posts from our page we actually get more views than just the people who get notifications. For example, the recent post announcing the Schedule of Events reached 756 people.



Our website, while still functional is quickly becoming a static site. The software that has been used for the past decade was discontinued several years ago and is no longer supported. We are currently unable to update the site with anything other than text. The Association will need to make a decision about hiring someone to design a new website and manage it for us. This will be a new expense for the DLIA and will require funding.

Our other alternative is to leave the website as static and rely only on Facebook and Deer Tales for sharing info with the residents of Deer Lake. We realize there are many people who are not on Facebook and do not care to be on Facebook.

So we have some decisions to make and would welcome your feedback and or suggestions on how to best move forward and continue to provide info to Deer Lake residents. Contact any board member if you have an idea.

Deer Lake Tales— A Look Back at Deer Lake In Search of a Dream

By Shirley Brandt Caine

The windows were down and the hot humid wind swept through the inside of the 1951 Buick Sedan as it sped down Highway 8 on the way back to St. Paul.

As usual, Gordy Brandt was at the wheel; the year before he had survived a heart attack with six months in the hospital and had to drop out of law school before starting to sell cars at St. Paul Buick.

Gerry was also in the front seat holding 4 month old Warren. With her eye on the speedometer and trying to feed an always-hungry baby, this protective and caring mother was anxious to get back home.

Four-year-old Shirley had unrestrained access to the whole back seat and was playing with her favorite doll and sitting next to and talking with Great Grandma Clara Brandt. When Shirly was tired of the long drive, she would start fussing and claiming she was “all done” with the ride in the car. Grammy Brandt tried to entertain her and said, “Shirley, look out the window! There is a “moo bossy”. Shirly responded, “That’s not a moo bossy! It’s a cow”.

Having spent the day at a summer family reunion at Uncle Otto’s cabin west of Amery, the clan was undoubtedly well-fed and tired and most interested in getting back to their house on County Road B in Roseville. But on this day, there would be a stop along the way that would change the history of the family for generations to come.

They had been on a mission to find a lot at a lake to build a cabin for their family and friends to enjoy. Driving along Highway 8 on the south side of Deer Lake, Gordy suggested they take a ride around the lake to see if there were lots for sale. “We always drive by this lake and it’s so beautiful”, he said, “let’s see if we can find out how to check out the other side of the lake.” Their quest had been unsuccessful on other trips, and Gerry said, “This is the last time we are looking for a lot with a car full of family—it is just too stressful”. A quick turn north of Highway 35 and a right on the first dirt road led them past several farms before seeing a brick house on the right. Pulling into the driveway, Mr. Huber, resident and local probation officer in the county, greeted them and told them to go down to

the next dirt road as that right turn will take you to a large white farmhouse — he had heard the old Swedish farmer was selling some lake lots. A glimmer of hope.

Winding through dense trees on this narrow dirt road, they bounced around for a quarter-mile, coming into a clearing and seeing a magnificent white two-story farmhouse with a long sweeping porch. This farm extended for about a half mile along the south shore of Deer Lake. The neighbor’s advice proved true and the 97 year-old father of the farmer said that there were lots for sale. Their timing was perfect. The surveyor had just staked out lots east of the farmhouse and the grandfather said, “I would be happy to show the nine lots and you are the first to see them for sale”.

In their search for the perfect lot, Gordy and Gerry had three criteria to meet before a decision could be made. One was the lot orientation to the west with a great view of the lake. Two was having a fairly level backyard for games and swings and activities. Three was making sure the water was clear, and the beach and swimming area were sandy, and not muddy, and safe without a severe drop off. A quick walk down the lots, they knew what they wanted to buy but wanted to verify the third criteria. The grandfather said he would hold the lot on a handshake and a check for \$20. Gordy heartily shook his hand and Gerry wrote the check, as she always carried the checkbook. They left the lake and drove home with a stop at the Dairy Queen in Osceola knowing their dream was getting closer to reality.



Front yard facing Deer Lake

Gordy and brother Harold came back to walk the Deer Lake shoreline and swam out into the water to check the lake bottom and elevation changes. All the criteria were now met with lot #3, including being down from the curve in the road and Pop learned the lake was spring fed. Now was the time to return to the farmhouse and make the purchase. The 100' lot at \$10 per foot would be \$1,000!

Shirley & Warren Brandt



Given their young family and health considerations, there must have been several discussions as to whether this was a wise financial decision. But it was made, the deal was sealed and a check was written by Gerry for a total of \$1000. (To put it into

today's cash values, \$1000 in 1951 would be equivalent to \$10,050 in 2019. If you could find an empty lot similar to lot #3 now anywhere in Polk County, the cost would be over \$200,000). Again it looks like the timing was perfect.

Gordy Brandt in his first boat.



Gerry's father, Edward, a Swedish immigrant himself who became a very successful contractor in St. Paul, committed to build a cabin that would be closed up and secure by December. He was working on the roof one day in the fall, and all of a sudden, he hears someone coming up the ladder. Surprised and concerned and maybe alarmed (how do you say in Swedish—OMG), he sees emerging, the head of the same elderly 97 year-old father of the farmer, who had stopped over to complete an "informal inspection" of the three-

room house with a screened porch. With an outhouse installed up by the road, with running water available to the house from a well, and snow falling on the trees and grass...



Brandt Lake Cabin Version 1951 was a dream come true, (pink cabin with brown trim)!

Information for Deer Lake History

The article "Deer Lake Tales—A Look Back at Deer Lake", is made possible by the residents of Deer Lake who are willing to share their stories with others.

If you have pictures, stories, memories, etc. that you would be willing to share with others please feel free to send them to Laurel Fermanich. Any stories/information is appreciated.

Send Information, questions, and corrections to:

Laurel Fermanich

Email : laferm@comcast.net

Mail: 8267 Horizon Dr.

Shakopee, MN 55379

Phone: 612-810-8832 (cell)

Keep Your Information Updated!

If you didn't receive a copy of Deer Tales in your email, we don't have your current email address.

To add, change or delete your email or any of your other information please send an email to deerlakeassn@gmail.com and we'll update our database.

DLIA Board 2018-2019**President**

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Tom McBride 651-483-1887

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