



Deer Tales

Deer Lake Improvement Association Newsletter
Spring 2022



President's Message

Hello Deer Lake residents, and hello spring!

It was beginning to look like a winter to summer kind of season change this year, but spring snuck in just in time to get all the docks, boats, and watercrafts in the lake.

Let's have a fun time on the lake and remember to follow the "Basic Boating Rules" on this page.

Thank you for your continued contributions to the Deer Lake Improvement Association! Please watch your emails and mailboxes for the annual dues' statements. Your contributions help in so many ways, including treating the water from invasive species and allowing us to have the annual events such as Music on the Lake and the amazing fireworks display. Check out all the upcoming events in this edition of Deer Tales or on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/DeerLakeWI>.

Deer Lake is part of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program to help keep our lake clean and pristine for many years to come, more details available on page 2.

Speaking of clean, John and Kate Wright headed up another successful Deer Lake Clean Up Day! Check it out on page 5.

Any new neighbors on your road? Help get them connected to the Deer Lake emails and directory by contacting Pam Libertini at 612-578-7163, membership@deerlakewi.com.

As you may have heard or experienced, there are address changes taking place on Deer Lake. Please direct any questions you may have concerning the changes to Polk County. Jason at (715) 554-7733, jason.kjeseth@polkcountywi.gov

Would you like to become a member of the Deer Lake Improvement Association Board? You can start out by helping with a committee of your interest (Environmental, Events, Membership or Marketing). Contact someone currently on the board at <https://www.deerlakewi.com/contacts/> to let them know you are interested.

Let's stay connected on Deer Lake and enjoy it to the fullest with family and friends!

Renee Graves
President, Deer Lake Improvement Association

Basic Boating Rules

Safety comes first on Deer Lake, so let's be courteous of all the boaters so we can have a safe and fun time. Two easy Wisconsin boating rules to remember, the 100 Foot Rule and the 200 Foot Rule.

- **The 100 Foot Rule:** While operating a motorboat, Slow-No-Wake speed is required when within 100 feet of a raft, pier, buoyed restricted area and lake shore, and when within 100 feet of any other boat, including other PWCs.
- **The 200 Foot Rule:** While operating any (PWC) Personal Watercraft, Slow-No-Wake speed is required when within 200 feet of the shoreline.
- **Slow-No-Wake:** Moving as slow as possible while still maintaining steerage (control of boats direction).

2022 Schedule

Mark your
calendar!

Fireworks (Storm date)	Sat	July 2 nd 10 pm
	Sun	July 3 rd 10 pm
Light up the Lake	Sun	July 3 rd 10 pm
Boat Parade	Mon	July 4 th 1 pm
Music on the Lake—Hungerford Pt (leeward side)	Mon	July 4 th 7 pm
Pontoon Party & MORE	Fri	July 8 th 6 pm
DLIA/DLC Annual Meeting (In Person Meeting)	Sat	July 9 th 9 am
Flagstad Farm Event		TBD
Music on the Lake—Hungerford Pt (leeward side)	Sat	Aug 6 th 7 pm

Schedule updates and additions available
at www.deerlakewi.com

Environmental Updates:

Volunteers Wanted for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program (CBCW)

The Clean Boats Clean Water program is continuing in 2022 to help educate lake users on the rules and regulations of launching boats in WI. We have hired 4 part-time interns to work the landing throughout the busy season, if you see them say a friendly hello. The DLIA runs this program, and the Wisconsin DNR covers 75% of the costs. We are also soliciting volunteers to supplement our efforts. Please consider taking on a few shifts this summer, it's a great way to give back and get your kids and grandkids volunteer hours while spending quality time together! Training will be conducted in late May and it is easy to sign up online (<https://signup.com/go/EkFyxbd>). If you are interested, please contact Kate Wright at wrig5807@gmail.com.

Zebra Mussels

You may be aware that zebra mussels have been found at several locations throughout the lake. To date, they have not been found in abundance and our hope is the lake is not a particularly conducive environment for them and their numbers remain sparse. However, this may not be the case and we could see more of them in the coming years. The DNR has stated that Deer Lake will not be able to obtain a permit for treatment since they have been found throughout the lake.

It should be noted that currently Deer Lake is the only lake in Polk county that has zebra mussels. Please make sure that you and your visitors take special care to clean, drain, dry boats and equipment when moving them to another lake. This is especially true with wake boat ballast tanks.

Aquatic Management Plan

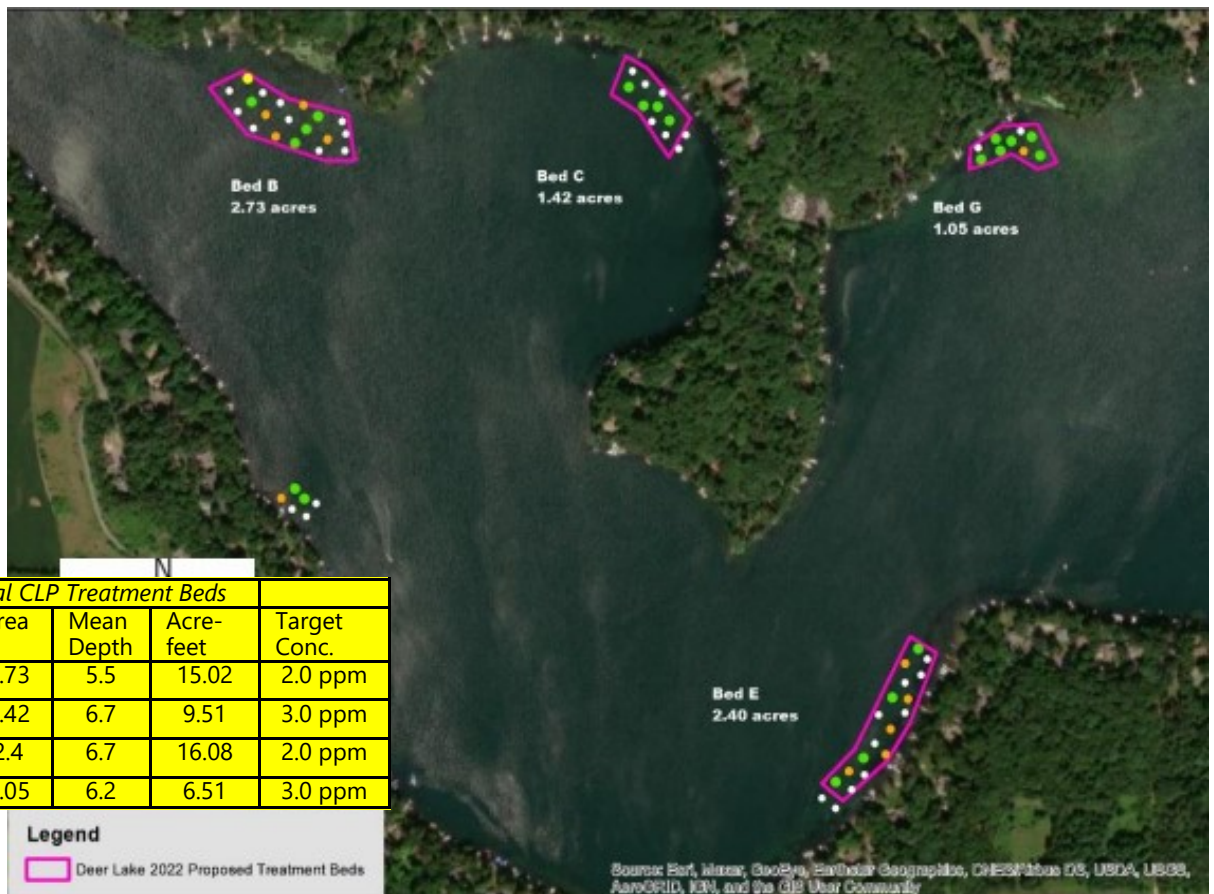
The Deer Lake AMP will be updated in 2023. This is a plan we write and update every 5 years. It is required that we have this AMP in order to be eligible for grant money.

We will be looking for lake resident volunteers to help with the plan. It will require 6 to 8 hours of meeting time and is a great way to learn more about the lake and invasive species. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kate Wright at wrig5807@gmail.com.

Curly Leaf Pondweed

As in past years, we are treating four Curly Leaf Pondweed beds totaling 7.6 acres in May. This treatment will cost approximately \$8,150, of which half is covered by a DNR grant.

Please note the target concentrations differ by the bed size (2 ppm in beds > 2 acres and 3 ppm in beds < 2 acres)



Deer Lake Shoreland

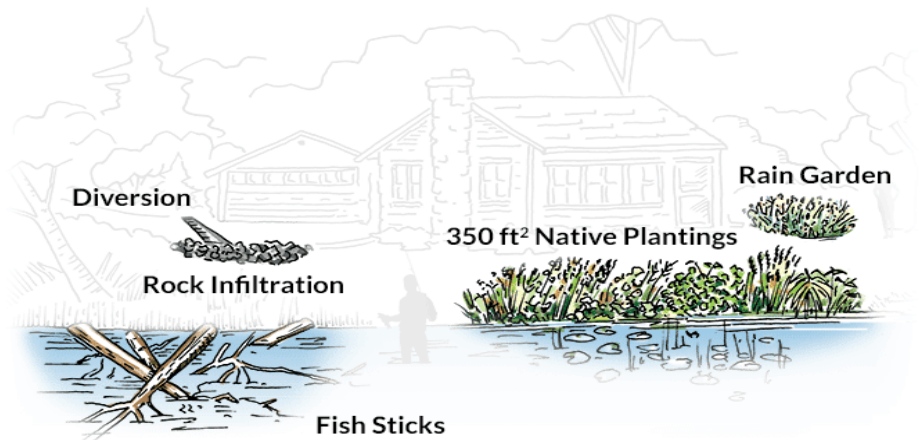
Shoreland, the area adjacent to the water, is critically important to the health of Deer Lake. As an owner of Deer Lake shoreland, you have the opportunity take action to protect and improve lake health.

Features of a Well- Vegetated Natural Shoreland

- Includes native plants, shrubs, and trees
- Provides habitat (food, shelter, and a place to bear young). Ninety percent of all lake life is born, raised, and fed in the littoral zone, the area where land and water meet. Eighty percent of plants and animals on the endangered species list in Wisconsin live all or part of their lives near the shoreline.
- Absorbs runoff which carries nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants to the lake
- Along with improvements further back in the watersheds, protects and improves water quality. High water quality results in higher property values
- Creates a peaceful, north woods setting

How to Create a Healthy Shoreline

- Allow the shoreline edge to grow or plant native plants for shoreline stabilization. Deep roots of native plants help to prevent erosion along the water's edge. Lawn grass roots are only a few inches deep, while native plant roots can extend several feet into the soil.
- Allow fallen trees to remain in the water. They provide habitat for fish and turtles.
- Minimize removal of plants in the water. Herbicide use in the water is illegal without a DNR permit.
- Create areas on your lot where water can soak in and divert water to those locations. Water can be directed to well-vegetated areas, rain gardens, and rock infiltration areas. Join the dozens of Deer Lake property owners who have completed projects on their properties!
- Minimize areas of bare soil on your lot. If you are building, seed a temporary cover of oats or annual rye until your construction project is complete. Install silt fence to minimize runoff from construction sites.
- Inspect and maintain your septic system.
- Reduce hard surfaces like paved driveways, sidewalks, and roof tops to minimize runoff to the lake.



Ask for Assistance

The Deer Lake Conservancy provides free consulting services for shoreline health improvements. Almost half of Deer Lake owners have taken advantage of these free visits! Partial funding is also available for installation of some projects with support from WI DNR grants. Contact Executive Director, Cheryl Clemens, for more information or to schedule a visit: dlcdirector@dlcwi.org

For More Information:

Protecting Your Waterfront Investment 10 Simple Shoreland Stewardship Practices

<https://healthylakeswi.com/best-practices/#more>

To Evaluate Your Shoreline:

<https://survey.healthylakeswi.com/>

Boating Safety

If you haven't reviewed the boat safety rules for 2022 please take a moment and review the rules listed on the Wisconsin DNR website: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat/>



When bored at night feel free to read "The Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities," <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf>

Here's a quick review of the basics:

- 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.
- Some residents have placed buoys in Deer Lake. Any placement of informational and regulatory buoys must be approved by the local DNR Conservation Warden and by the local unit of government. To



apply for a permit to place a marker buoy, visit [Waterway Markers](#) for permit applications.

Paddle Boards:

- Fastest growing water sport in the world.
- Requires same safety precautions as kayaking or canoeing.
- Have a life jacket on the board for each person, preferably wearing it!
- Be a competent swimmer.
- Carry a whistle
- Know how to tow another board
- Paddling course available: <https://www.boaterexam.com/paddling/>



Personal Water Craft's (PWC / Jet-ski)

- 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.



Barking Up the Wrong Tree ... #@!\$

FYI lake residents. Beavers have been especially active this last year. Many trees have been lost that are so vital for the protection of our shoreland. Two lake owners have contacted trappers. The good news is that 6-8 beavers have been trapped near their lodge, near the boat launch ... and the trappers are still setting traps. Apparently with verification from the trappers of their bounty, the DNR can be contacted and further help in controlling the beavers could happen with the DNR's help.



You too can help. If you have any trees lost to a beaver, please consider wrapping other nearby trees with hardware cloth [heavy duty wire mesh] to slow their destruction. It all helps.



SPRING!!!



Neil McKenzie Memorial Youth Fishing Contest

****on hold for 2022****



Thank you to all who have participated in the Neil McKenzie Memorial Youth Fishing Contest in the past. This year's derby is on hold for 2022. Neil always enjoyed hearing about kids' fishing adventures, so families and friends are encouraged to **Keep Kids Fishin'** any way you can!

Several surrounding lakes and rivers have public fishing piers or county parks with water access. If you're going fishing, whether on land or in a boat, ask your neighbor kid to come along or invite one of your child's classmates to go fishing, too! Everyone will have a great time and the kids will have stories to tell. (You know the kind... tales of fish that get longer each time the stories are told).

Wishing you all a wonderful summer; and, as always, thanks for doing what you can to **Keep Kids Fishin'**.

And to the kids, **Keep Tellin' Your Stories...** Neil would be proud!

Water Ski Course

A Deer Lake resident has purchased a water ski slalom course and will be setting it up on the lake this summer. It will be set up in accordance with Wisconsin Lake Laws, including removing it by sundown. If you are interested in skiing the course, we'd like to get an email list going to notify skiers of days it will be set up and the location – if interested, text your email address to 651-230-1177. We encourage anyone to use the course.

Successful Deer Lake Clean-Up

Saturday, May 7th, marked another successful Deer Lake Clean-Up. Over 30 residents got their hands a little dirty and helped give back to the lake that gives us so much. Five truckloads of garbage were removed from the roads surrounding the lake, including some "interesting" finds. If you missed the cleanup day you may still participate by picking up trash while out for a walk, removing items from the water, and educating your family and guests on the importance of leaving this place better than you found it.

A special thank you to those who signed in at the landing: Carole Baumgart, Renee Graves, Dawn Johnson, Ed Krengel, Becki and Joel Long, Cindy and John McGuire, Dan and Ellen Kroehler, Rod Johnson, Pete and Julie Ketchum, Pat and Sandy Corcoran, Jay and Mary Becker, Joan Leedy, Pam Libertini, Jim Miller, Adam Ross, Erik and Carter Iwen, Jeanne Foussard, Bob and Jane Fedderly, The Knutson's, and John, Denise, and K.C. Wright. If you helped and are not listed, thank you!



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!

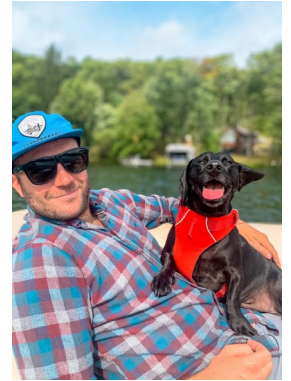
Fireworks News

Friends and neighbors, we hope you have enjoyed our annual fireworks display. We realize our annual fireworks display has become a family tradition for many on the lake and it is our hope that this tradition will continue for future generations. We have maintained the requested donation for over ten years. In order to provide you the same quality display as you have come to expect, we will be requesting a donation of \$50.00 per household. Without at least the modest increase of \$15 each, the quality and duration of the display will suffer.



We hope you agree to continue funding this fun family activity. Of course, feel free to donate more. Thank you for your continued support.

Reasons We Love Deer Lake



Deer Lake Tales—A Look Back at Deer Lake

A Fond Farewell

"It is the nature of stone to be satisfied. It is the nature of water to want to be somewhere else." — Mary Oliver

Twenty years on Deer Lake is ending soon for us, as we move somewhere else ... closer to our family in the cities. Many a grandparent has felt that way, and so we are ending our adventure on the lake. Starting a tradition of swimming on Memorial Day faded quickly as we realized that not all summers start on time and the water can be overwhelmingly chilly. Just sunning on our pontoon with friends became the new tradition.

Deer Lake and the network of trails, has given so much joy to our family. Oh how we'll miss the wildlife and nature.

A giant bear print in the snow, a fox walking by the window, bear claw scratches on the deck when we forgot to remove a bird feeder, frolicking otters and muskrats, waking up to the loons, sleeping with the hoots of an owl, seeing eagles clutch overhead, witnessing 2 muskies swimming like stealth submarines under the dock. It's not city life. It will be missed.

We are trading creeping charlie for manicured lawns, but also new friends to make, and new fun with our family. Thank you Deer Lake for the memories. We are called to be somewhere else.

Steve & Kris McCormack

Communication Emails

We now have dedicated emails for all the officers/committees to make it easier to reach us!

You may still use deerlakeassn@gmail.com as the general email for the Association.

- President@deerlakewi.com
- Vicepresident@deerlakewi.com
- Treasurer@deerlakewi.com
- Environmental@deerlakewi.com
- Membership@deerlakewi.com
- Events@deerlakewi.com
- Deertales@deerlakewi.com



Information for Deer Lake Tales

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 or information is appreciated.

Email: deertales@deerlakewi.com

Data Privacy Protection Policy

The Deer Lake Improvement Association Board of Directors established a Data Privacy Protection Policy for the Association. We continue to protect your data, and do not sell data to third parties. Association member data is separate from Deer Lake Conservancy and there is no crossover, member contributions/donations to either organization are private.



We also remind members receiving a Deer Lake Directory not to sell or distribute copies to anyone including landscape companies. A copy of the policy can be viewed on the website.



DLIA Board 2021-2022**President**

Renee Graves 612-750-5642

Vice President

Tom McBride 651-483-1887

Secretary

Pam Libertini 612-578-7163

Treasurer

Joe Thayer 651-307-8207

Executive Committee

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Pam Libertini	Tom McBride

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Keith Bakke	651-261-0135
Diane Barghini	513-309-6527
John Dowdle	612-805-5353
Laurel Fermanich	612-810-8832
Renee Graves	612-750-5642
Joan Leedy	651-230-1177
Pam Libertini	612-578-7163
Tom McBride	651-483-1887
Steve McCormack	715-557-0117
Joe Thayer	651-307-8207
Mark Thayer	715-483-9102
John Wright	651-442-5598
Kate Wright	715-294-0223

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Diane Barghini**Environmental Committee:**Kate Wright, Chair
Joan Leedy
John Wright
Steve McCormack
Keith Bakke
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Diane Barghini
Renee Graves**Deer Tales Committee:**Laurel Fermanich,
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