



Summer Newsletter

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Don Janes

701-371-6509

Vice President: Ward Arntson

847-227-7242

Secretary: Terry Janes

701-371-9671

Treasurer: Craig Lund

218-758-6204

Newsletter: Donna Arntson

847-533-4488

Finance: Stephanie Johnson

Membership: Diane Lund

At Large: Carolyn Reynold's,

Jim Hatelevig, Larry Ewer

Jim Hatlevig, FunRaiser Liaison 2020

| 218-758-2458



DEAD LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

are held the second Monday of each month at 10:00 am at the Senior Center in Dent.

Notes from the Chair -

Save The Date! Dead Lake Annual Meeting, Dinner & Fundraiser!

Two events will be combined into one session. Due to the busyness of the summer the Dead Lake Association board is combining the annual meeting and social dinner into one evening. **August 5th at The Cactus in Perham** is the evening. Starting at 5 PM a streamlined annual meeting will start. For those present at the beginning of the meeting will have the chance to receive a special door prize. Following the meeting there will be a social hour with visiting and fun games, with prizes. At 6:30 PM a two-meat buffet will be served. Again those attending the dinner will have the chance to receive a special door prize.

Please spread the word, let your friends and neighbor know of the event. Invite them to attend.

A Dinner Ticket order form is included in this newsletter. Please note that your form must be submitted by July 24 as The Cactus staff needs to know how many meals to prepare.

Volunteers Always Appreciated

The Dead Lake Association is an organization of volunteers who give their time and often personal resources for the safety and well-being of Dead Lake and Dead Lake residents. The association board appreciates the good work of our lake's volunteers. Here are some excellent examples of volunteer work that is being done on the lake.

Jim Hatlevig, Denny Trudell and Roger Cullen collect monthly water samples and do secchi disk reading to help monitor the water quality and clarity of our lake. All three have been providing this service for many years.

Roger Cullen, Mark Seaton and Chad Van Watermulen put out the rock markers each year. This service also includes repairing rock markers, providing line and anchors for rock markers, and even retrieving rock markers when they are blown free by acts of nature.

All of these volunteers donate their time because they value the lake and want to contribute to the safety and health of others. They use their own boats or pontoons and provide material for the repair of equipment. These volunteers contribute time in addition to many life activities such as jobs, running resorts, training dive rescue officers, remaining active in the community and remaining active with their families.

The next time that you are out on the lake and a warned by a rock marker or enjoy time in and on the water recognize the contributions these volunteers have made. Join the Dead Lake Association in thanking these volunteers for their commitment and service.

The Dead Lake Association encourages and supports the efforts of these volunteers by maintaining permits for water sampling and placing markers in the lake. The association also purchases rock markers when needed.

Greetings from the Dead Lake Association

I am writing about Dead Lake and the role of the Dead Lake Association. Dead Lake is a unique natural environmental lake and the Dead Lake Association's role is that of conserving the lake's well-being. The quality of our lake affects the amount of enjoyment we get from the lake and is reflected in the value of property around the lake.

The Dead Lake Association is a 501c3 non-profit organization. It is not a governmental organization; the lake association is not the police. It is a voluntary organization that looks after the welfare of the lake. Members consist of people who live on and near the lake. The Dead Lake Association contributes to the well-being of Dead Lake by promoting sound shoreline management, monitoring water quality and facilitating community participation to preserve the lake's plant and wild life.

I have lived at Dead Lake for almost 8 years. Each year, my appreciation for the lake increases. With the exception of some interesting and powerful storms, Dead Lake is a pretty comfortable place to be. The lake offers a wealth of beautiful, natural and undeveloped shoreline as well as areas where some fine homes, resorts and cabins have been built. I have talked to many people from other lakes that complain about the noise, the crowds and the chaos on their lake. By comparison, Dead Lake is less crowded and fairly quiet. Recreational watercraft, fishermen and sightseers can enjoy the lake without getting into one another's way.

The viability of Dead Lake affects all of us as well as the health of fish and wildlife in and around the lake. Stable and natural shorelines contribute to the beauty of the lake and natural trees and plants help to keep the water clean. Clean water makes the lake attractive and a place where we can enjoy being in and on the water. Property value on Dead Lake is enhanced because the lake is clean and healthy.

The Dead Lake Association represents you and your participation in the association is necessary in order for the association to do its job. I became involved in the Dead Lake Association because others encouraged me to participate. My participation has given me an opportunity to learn about the lake and the people who live here. It is an amazing place.

Volunteers are also needed to help monitor aquatic invasive species, to help communicate with others about the lake's needs, to monitor water quality, to place and maintain rock and wake markers, to provide feedback about wildlife in and around the lake and to help solve problems that inevitably occur. Please join! Please participate! Dead Lake is your lake and the association needs your involvement.

Don Janes
Dead Lake Association President

THE CALL OF THE LOON

One of the eagerly awaited first signs of spring is the return of the Loon. What does the melancholy call of the Loon tell us?

WAIL: The wail is most people's favorite Loon call. Much like the howl of a wolf, the wail defies the haunting, mysterious and stately essence of the Loon. Although many people think this melancholy call comes from a loon who has lost its mate, this call is usually used for communication - by adults to call the chicks or to call the mate to exchange nest responsibilities.

TREMOLO: The call most frequently heard and synonymous with north woods lake country is tremolo. It is often described as a quavering laugh. This all indicates anxiety or is a signal of distress. It is often accompanied by the spreading of wings and rushing across the water.

YODEL: The yodel is a loud call given only by males. This call is a series of high and low sounds and usually is a sign of aggression given to other males or when a "stray" loon flies overhead.

HOOT: The hoot is a one note call with a soft sound like a flute. It is not often heard and is used when Loons are not threatened. It can be heard when adult Loons are feeding the chicks or when they are interacting peacefully within a group.

Our majestic state bird with its melancholy call is a symbol of northern wilderness and an integral part of the lake experience in Minnesota. Because loons hunt for fish by eyesight, they prefer our clear lakes. Loons are great swimmers but have trouble walking on land because their legs are set so far back. Loons require a long runway to become airborne, but once aloft they can fly at speeds of 60+ mph!

According to Stan Tekiela in his book, "Birds of Minnesota Field Guide", the name Loon comes from the Swedish word "lom", meaning "lame" for their awkward way of walking on land. Tekiela suggests that the unique call of the loon sometimes sounds like the wild laughter of a demented person; thus leading to the phrase "crazy as a loon!"

After spring migration which can be up to 1500 miles, the female arrives about a week later than the male and the spring courtship begins. The crude loon nests are always near the water's edge and usually hold 2 large olive-green eggs with small brown flecks. The pair share egg-warming duties through the month long incubation.

Baby loons are ready to leave the nest only one day after hatching and follow their parents to a shallow protected cove where they eat, sleep, and spend most of their time on their parent's backs. The chicks grow quickly and are nearly full-grown at 10 weeks.

A summer highlight for lake residents and vacationers alike is the sight of baby loons hitching a ride on the backs of the swimming parents!

Q and A:

Question: Is salt the best way to remove leeches?

Answer: NO! Removing a leech that is attached by sprinkling salt on it can cause the leech to regurgitate into the wound when detaching from the wound which can increase the likelihood of infection. An infection caused by a leech recently happened to a Dead Lake resident.

Do not use salt, fire, shampoo, bug repellent, or pull the leech.

The best way to remove a leech according to healthline.com is to follow these removal steps:

- 1. Locate the head and mouth.** A leech's head is smaller and slimmer than the rest of its body. Look for the narrowest part of the leech to locate its mouth. This is usually the part attached to your skin.
 - 2. Pull the skin under the leech taut.** Use one hand to gently pull your skin under the leech until it is taut.
 - 3. Slide a fingernail or credit card underneath the mouth.** Gently slide a fingernail under the leech's mouth to separate it from your skin.
 - 4. Flick the leech away.** Use your fingers to flick the leech away before it reattaches.
 - 5. Clean the wound.** Clean your wound with rubbing alcohol or a first aid cleanser to help avoid infection.
 - 6. Bandage your wound** You will see a lot of bleeding when you remove the leech. Clean the wound and then use a sterile bandage to cover it. Change the bandage frequently for the first few hours until bleeding stops.
-

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WATER?

1. How much of the earth's water is fresh water?
a. 5% b. 10% c. 3%
 2. True or False? There is less water today than 100 years ago.
 3. How much of the human body is water
a. 35% b. 60% c. 75%
 4. What part of the home uses the most water?
a. Bathroom b. Kitchen c. Laundry
 5. What's the most common lake name in Minnesota?
ANSWERS:
 1. 3% of all the water on the earth is fresh water, but only 1% is available for our needs.
 2. False. The same water is on earth today as when it was formed.
 3. 60% of the human body is composed of water.
 4. 75% of a household's daily water use is in the bathroom
 5. Mud Lake is the most common lake name, used 261 times.
-

DNR Public Access

Jeff Fjestad, Park and Water Access Area Supervisor for MN DNR asks that lake residents and other users of public access contact him at 218-671-7964 if they notice any problems such as damage or unsettled docks at a public access site. Once notified of an issue he will issue a work order for repair.

Dam Water Level

Each year we get questions about whether or not the dam between Indian and Dead Lake could be adjusted so the water level of Dead Lake could be higher. According to Julie Aadland from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Dead Lake dam was a WPA project and is at a fixed level. Altering the water flow would have an impact on water levels upstream from Dead Lake as well as affect Indian Lake and other bodies of water downstream.

In the past, unknown persons have attempted to raise the water level in Dead Lake by putting a plank in the dam. DNR then removes the plank. Tampering with the dam is a misdemeanor. The ordinary high water level of Dead Lake from 1961 to our current date is available at dnr.state.mn.us on the LakeFinder link.

Lake Outlet Dams



PERMIT REQUIREMENTS TO CHANGE RUNOUT ELEVATIONS

The following steps are not all-inclusive but do list *essential* permit application requirements, under Minnesota Statutes 103G, for changing the runout elevation of a dam.

Permit Application. A permit application must be signed by a majority of riparian owners requesting a permanent change in runout elevation.

Flowage Easements. Purchase or donation of flowage easements and consent from *all* owners of riparian land abutting the lake, as well as any connected waters that would also be affected, are required.

Environmental Assessment. An environmental assessment must be prepared that documents impacts on wetland habitat, fish spawning areas, waterfowl and songbird nesting areas, as well as strategies to address shore erosion due to wave action and winter ice push.

Engineering. Engineering plans must be prepared that show the proposed physical changes to the dam.

Hydrology/Hydraulics. A hydrologic/hydraulic analysis must identify anticipated changes in lake levels and stream flows.

Surveys. Surveys must be prepared that show all shoreland and existing development that would be affected by the proposed change. These surveys must identify compliance with shoreland ordinance standards for both the existing and proposed runout in terms of lot size, structure and sewer system setback, and structure and sewer system elevations above the highest proposed water elevation.

Outlet Dam Maintenance

DNR Waters owns and maintains more than 300 lake outlet dams in Minnesota. The primary goals for dam maintenance are to protect existing shoreland owners' rights and downstream owners' rights to water available within natural precipitation variations.

Maintenance involves ensuring that each dam is safe and functional, operates at the authorized runout elevation, and provides free-flowing conditions. Inspections of dams are conducted to ensure that the stop logs are at the authorized setting, to repair or replace damaged or worn equipment, and to remove obstructions as necessary.

Historical Operation of Outlet Dams

Most lake outlet dams, which were built in the 1930s to conserve water, *generally* feature several 5-foot-wide openings, called bays, with provisions to add and remove wooden stop logs. The runout level of a dam depended on the number of stop logs placed in each bay. Stop logs were managed by local observer/operators at each lake for 10-12 years after the dams were built. When precipitation suddenly (and unpredictably) returned to normal and above normal, flooding occurred around many lakes resulting in claims for damages by lakeshore property owners. It became apparent that stop log operation by local observers could not maintain uniform lake levels.

Thereafter, department engineers inspected each dam, examined the shore of the affected lake, and analyzed all water level records and other available information about each lake. A decision was then made to set an authorized stop log level for each dam. The goal was to set the stop logs at an elevation that would retain as much water as possible yet eliminate complaints of high water and the associated claims of damage from flooding. The authorized stop log setting is maintained by DNR Waters as the legal runout elevation.



Outlet dam.

Lake Outlet Dams



DNR maintenance specialist replacing wooden stop logs with steel channels at the Island Lake outlet dam in Crow Wing County (photograph by Ron and Judy Rolfe).

Changing a Runout Elevation

It is the goal of DNR Waters to maintain existing flows and water level conditions at lakes with outlet dams to the maximum feasible extent. However, shoreland owners on a lake may have varied and differing opinions about “desirable” lake water levels. Proposals to change water levels are difficult to accomplish due to legal, environmental, and financial realities (see details in sidebar on page 1).

Potentially serious consequences may result from changing a runout elevation, such as navigation problems, shore erosion, water quality degradation, ice damage, and flooding. Changing a runout to solve a problem may create new problems that are unacceptable to other owners or to future owners. Regardless of the runout elevation of a lake, water levels will fluctuate because of variations in precipitation, which cannot be controlled.

Legal Considerations

Unauthorized tampering with set runouts is an ongoing problem at dams in Minnesota. According to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103G, it is unlawful to change the runout elevation of a dam without prior permit authorization from the DNR. Persons found to be responsible for unauthorized changes to a dam are subject to criminal enforcement action. Along with the criminal action is the potential of lawsuits brought by aggrieved shoreland owners for flooding, lack of access, or downstream damages due to flow changes resulting from the illegal tampering.

The state cannot legally alter a stop log elevation in response to individual requests because of high or low water level conditions. To raise a runout would cause water to cover land it did not previously cover, which may be a “taking” of land without compensation. It is unconstitutional for government to take private property without due process. DNR Waters’ position and legal obligation is to maintain the authorized stop log setting and allow water levels to fluctuate in response to precipitation that falls within a lake’s watershed.

A formal permit process exists for those shoreland owners who may wish to pursue a permanent change in runout elevation (see sidebar, page 1). It must be clearly understood that no permit decision by the DNR is required until complete information is provided by the applicant(s). Costs associated with design, engineering, flowage easements, and structural improvements are the responsibility of the applicant(s), or a local governmental unit acting on behalf of the applicant(s).

©2004 State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. Prepared by DNR Waters.

DNR Contact Information



DNR Waters website lists Area Hydrologists:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters

DNR Waters in St. Paul:
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032
(651) 296-4800

DNR Information Center

Twin Cities: (651) 296-6157
Minnesota toll free: 1-888-646-6367
Telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD): (651) 296-5484
TDD toll free: 1-800-657-3929

This information is available in an alternative format on request. Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, age, or disability. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to Minnesota DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

2023 Dead Lake Association Property Owner's Survey

The Dead Lake Association Board of Directors wants input from you to help us understand the issues you feel are most important to consider when we update the lake management plan. Please take a few minutes of your time to answer these questions and return the survey to us so we can consider your concerns.

1. How long have you owned your lake property?

☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-20 years ☐ over 20 years

2. Where is your property located? ☐ North Bay ☐ Southwest Bay ☐ Southeast Arm

3. What do you like most about Dead Lake? (Please rank with 1 being the most important)

☐ Undeveloped rural setting

☐ Wildlife

☐ Family and friends

☐ Boating and water sports

☐ Fishing and/or hunting

☐ Peace and solitude

☐ Clear and/or clean water

4. Thinking about what you like most about Dead Lake, what are the strengths and threats to keep this lake healthy for your enjoyment?

Strengths: 1) _____
2) _____
3) _____

Threats: 1) _____
2) _____
3) _____

5. What issues are most important to you? Please number the following in order of importance with 1 being the most important.

☐ Maintain fishing quality

☐ Protect Dead Lake from other aquatic invasive species

☐ Advocate for property development practices that are good for the lake

☐ Provide educational opportunities for lake property owners

☐ Preserve or improve water quality

☐ Maintain or restore natural shoreline habitat

☐ Other (Please explain) _____

6. What has changed about the lake since you have had your property?

7. Are you a member of the Dead Lake Association? ☐ Yes ☐ No If no, please tell us why _____

8. There are many opportunities to volunteer. Would you be willing to:

☐ Help with the newsletter

☐ Collect water samples

☐ Welcome new property owners

☐ Learn about aquatic invasive species ☐ Attend meetings about lake health/ecology ☐ Help with fundraising

☐ Help with the annual meeting ☐ Serve on the DLA Board d Directors ☐ Inform neighbors about DLA events

☐ Put out rock markers

☐ Provide clerical support

☐ Update DLA website

Please provide your name, address and phone number so a board member can contact you:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please return your completed survey to any board member or mail to the address below.

Dead Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 127

Richville, MN 56576

Thank You!



Return Service Requested

Dead Lake Association Board of Directors Election

Each year several association board members terms in office expire. There will be several empty seats this year. Election of new board members is an important part of the annual meeting.

Elected board members serve for a three-year term. They may be elected for an additional three-year term. They may not serve more than two consecutive terms. They may serve additional terms after being off the board for a year.

The board meets monthly during the summer. During the winter they meet only when important issues need to be addressed.

In the past the board has tackled some very important issues. The Blue Heron Bay development probably was the biggest. Ongoing projects include placing the rock markers and completing the summer monthly water sampling. They have initiated many fund raising events when funds were needed to address issues. The board strives to stay on top of possible issues as they come up. Zebra Mussels and Spiny Water Fleas are current possible issues on the radar.

With that said please consider serving on the board. If you know of a Dead Lake resident who would make a good board member encourage them to serve. Please contact Ward Arntson @847-227-7242.