



Deer Lake Watershed News

Deer ♦ Pickerel ♦ Battle ♦ Poplar ♦ Five Island
♦ Mirror ♦ and many other lakes!



*A majestic loon carrying the Sachs family wins the
2019 DLWA 4th of July Flotilla
Photo by Gail Blackmer*

Our Mission:

*To protect, maintain and improve the natural
resources of the Deer Lake Watershed for
current and future generations*

Winter 2020

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President's Message

By Bill Cromell

The past year has seen many positive improvements internally to the DLWA and externally to the watershed environment due to efforts by many volunteers. We are fortunate to have an active, forward thinking board and residents willing to utilize some of their valuable time to help maintain and protect the environment. I will only touch on a couple of high priority topics from the last year and then move forward.

Mark Smith's Continuous Outflow scheduled boat runs

led to an open outflow all year until fall when the heavy rains came in. Reminder: The northern Minnesota average rainfall is under 30". The outflow will only handle about 6" of rain per month before the lake levels begin to rise. Fortunately the outflow was open, flowing and ready for an above average period of precipitation. Nice work by a diligent group of volunteers!

Due to just plain hard work and rare skills in today's

Continued page 5

How Can DLWA Help Prevent the Spread of AIS?

By Chris Fischer, DLWA Vice President

If you happen to be like me and you finally have that time to enjoy on the lake, your thoughts go right to getting the boat backed in the lake as quickly as possible, throw in your gear and refreshments, and you're off!

Well, I have finally slowed down my sense of urgency to get on the lake as fast as possible and now my first thoughts about going to the lake is, "Has my boat been cleaned properly to prevent the spread of AIS? And, "Have

I done my part to make sure I am not the next person infecting the lake with aquatic invasive species?" I have been fishing for 50 years now and this really hit home with me a few years ago when I started seeing how many lakes in Minnesota have been infected with AIS, and across the U.S., and what a negative impact it has caused.

Continued page 2

AIS Continued

It was startling when I started to look at this issue more closely. We all hear the term AIS, but what is its meaning?

It means (non-native) aquatic organisms that invade ecosystems. This includes both plants and animals. What are natural water ecosystems, rivers, creeks, ponds, and lakes? Any time an ecosystem changes from its natural state, the result has many more negative results than positive results. AIS introduction is likely to cause economic or environmental harm. It threatens recreation (boating, swimming, water sports, fishing, etc.); it can cause health issues; and it has effects on the economy and our environment by taking over native plants and starving out aquatic life.

The history on AIS is that it began in North America back in the 1980's. The Zebra Mussel, which is one of the most widely known aquatic invasive species to our area and across the U.S., is native to western Russia and entered North America back in 1988. This was likely from the release of ballast waters in ships traveling from the sea to the Great Lakes. It was first discovered in Lake Erie and once into the Great Lakes, it soon traveled through connected waterways. AIS became such a significant environmental issue that the National Invasive Species Act went into effect October 26, 1996.

The spread of AIS has become alarming and there is now over 250 non-native aquatic invasive species in the United States that are from other continents. Since the 1980's, there is now legislation in place at both the federal and state levels. The state level is a handful of states at this point with specific legislation in place, and AIS programs are in place at many states within the Department of Natural Resources.

So, what is happening within the State of Minnesota? Let's start with water quality of our bodies of water. Based on a recently released 2019 study, 56% of Minnesota lakes, rivers and streams are considered "impaired", which means they fail to meet water quality standards for protecting aquatic life and human health. The 56% of waterways is made up of 3,416 bodies of water out of the state's inventory that is updated every two years. These lakes have a variety of issues including pollutants, struggling fish and insect populations. When looking at the AIS issue within the state, there is currently about 8% of Minnesota's 11,000+ lakes infested, and 214 lakes and wetlands have Zebra Mussels. To find a complete listing of infested lakes by the MN DNR visit:

<https://www.eddmaps.org/midwest/tools/infestedwaters/>

Most importantly for our DLWA, what is the status of Itasca County waters and why do we need to take action now to prevent the spread of AIS within the watershed? There are 37 lakes and rivers infested, and 20 have been infested over the last five years. This shows a trend of how quickly it is spreading to our lake bodies. So, what is the main cause of lakes becoming infested? It is outdoor enthusiasts like you and me, not nature! It is due to the movement of equipment from lake to lake. This includes boats, pontoons, canoes, kayaks, boat lifts, swim rafts, jet skis, paddle boats, water skis, float tubes, etc.

AIS continues to move north in our state and closer to our Deer Lake Watershed. Infested lakes nearby include Blandin Reservoir (2018), Pokegama (2019), North Star (2017), Dora (2017), Bowstring (2015) and Sand Lake (2013). We are seeing more and more boat traffic on our lakes that may have recently been in AIS-infested lakes. This, of course, brings a call to action to do our part in monitoring our lakes as much as possible, with the resources we have available to us, including our member volunteers.

Now that we have identified what is happening, what invasive species are the biggest threat to the Deer Lake watershed bodies of water? Itasca County has identified the Starry Stonewort; a grass-like algae that forms massive mats that is easily transferable. The Zebra Mussel; which is about the size of a fingernail and feeds on tiny plankton that feed fish communities (larval fish) which alters the ecosystem, creating less food for native fish. They also filter water which can be aesthetically more pleasing, but can have a negative impact on waters specifically which have walleyes, as they thrive in stained water. The Spiny Water Flea; which feed on zooplankton required for most minnow and panfish species. Nearby lakes infested with Spiny Water flea include Lake Vermillion and Mille Lacs Lake. In addition, Eurasian Milfoil and Curly Pond Weed are already in Itasca County and are again big threats. These both form dense mats that are easily transferrable from lake to lake.

All aquatic invasive species have negative impacts in one way or another on the water ecosystem. What it means to

AIS Continued

avid recreational enthusiasts and lake property owners is impactful. As a property owner, you can expect to see the value of your property decrease and potentially much more difficult to sell. Let's face it, a lake that is now green in the summer due to poor water quality; has fish numbers decreasing; has massive mats in the lake which prevent boat traffic; and where recreational lake activities can no longer take place and swimming is no longer possible; certainly will not add value to your property or allow for recreational fun.

What can we, as DLWA members, do to work towards the goal of preventing the spread of AIS within our watershed? Our mission statement says it all, ***"To protect, maintain and improve the natural resources of the Deer Lake Watershed for current and future generations."*** The following list is some of the things we should be doing:

- **Clean plants, animals and mud off all equipment**
- **Drain live well, bilge and other water containers**
- **Dry everything for five days or wipe it down**
- **Dispose of unwanted bait and fish parts in the trash**
- **Talk to people and your guests about AIS**
- **Use a mobile decontamination unit if the situation warrants**
- **Use five star service providers, who are DNR certified and have agreed to apply AIS best practices and safeguards**

These are great steps for us as individuals and good stewards to execute day in and day out. However, we also need to take steps as a watershed by monitoring our lakes. On July 30, 2019, DLWA members Bill Cromell (President), Mark Smith (Board member) and Donna Childers (Member volunteer) participated in a 5-hour training to become our first AIS certified inspectors.

I am excited to report that this first large step resulted in the DLWA's first AIS inspection taking place at the Deer Lake public boat access from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on August 31, 2019!

Our next step in addressing the AIS issue is to develop a short and long-term plan for monitoring the watershed lakes. A meeting will be held soon with Bill Grantges, Itasca County AIS Director. The goal of the meeting is to find out what grant money and additional support may be available to DLWA in this area.

In the meantime, we need help from our DLWA members as the plan is developed. The first step is for you to become an AIS certified inspector. Once this takes place, you may volunteer to perform boat inspections at one of the watershed lakes. At our annual meeting in August 2019, feedback received from our members through the annual survey was that AIS is one of the most important initiatives we need to focus on.

If you are interested in becoming an AIS inspector and can help with inspections this year, please contact us at

deerlakewatershed@gmail.com or talk with one of our board

members. Our hope is that many members will be able to donate volunteer time to help with this important initiative.



*Bill Cromell, DLWA President and
Mark Smith, DLWA Board member
Photo by Chris Fischer*

AIS Continued

Want to find more information on AIS? Below is a listing of links to key organizations where more information and data is available.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.
StopAquaticHitchhikers.org

Itasca County AIS You Tube Video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkOjL4Q-ggU>

Itasca County AIS - <https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/562/Aquatic-Invasive-Species>

DLWA AIS Page - <https://www.deerlakewatershed.org/ais>

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers - <http://stopaquatichitchhikers.org/>

MN DNR - <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/index.html>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife -

<https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ANS/ANS.html>

Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations - <http://itascacola.org/>

Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates -

<http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org/>

Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District -

<https://www.itascawcd.org/programs/aquatic-invasive-species>

DLWA Partners who help fight AIS



References:

- *State action on invasive species article July 12, 2016 - National Conference of State Legislatures*
- *Star Tribune article - November 13, 2019*
- *MN Department of Natural Resources - Aquatic Invasive Species*
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife - Aquatic Invasive Species*
- *StopAquaticHitchhikers.org*
- *Itasca County - AIS You Tube Video*
- *Itasca County - Aquatic Invasive Species*

Mark Your Calendars for these DLWA Sponsored Events in 2020

Saturday, May 2 – MnDOT Adopt a Highway program. Volunteers participate in a roadside cleanup of a two mile stretch of MN Hwy #1. Meet at Deer Lake Charlie's at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 4 – Flotilla and Root Beer Float Social – Tour Deer Lake in a parade of vessels. Meet in Hide-Away Bay at noon, circle the lake and return. Bragging rights for decorated boats.

Saturday, August 1 – DLWA Annual meeting and Pot Luck. All members invited to the annual business meeting for the Association. Meet at Carpenter Hall from 5-7 p.m.

President's Message Continued

world, Rick Jensen, Dan Gallagher, Larry Blackmer and Jay Dolinich kept the outflow and surrounding creeks and lakes free of beaver dams and high water. These guys are basically volunteers, so thank them when you see them!

Due to marine outboard designs steadily advancing, what appears to be needed on the outflow creek as a more functional navigation tool is a new surface drive outboard that is built to run through aquatic vegetation. Two of the manufacturers are Beavertail and Go-Devil. Food for thought. Please review Mark's article on the boat runs, volunteers and looking towards spring.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) has been a hot topic in the county, state and nation for quite some time. I must admit that I am on a fast track to catch up and educating myself whenever I can. Three DLWA members, myself included, trained to be volunteer AIS boat inspectors last July. The AIS training session that our lake association members attended at Turtle Lake was very well organized from beginning to end with a DNR expert as the trainer. Both classroom and hands on instruction outdoors with an actual boat were provided, along with veteran inspectors providing support during our first day inspecting boats at our Deer Lake public access. Professional training! Very educational and comes highly recommended if any members are interested in becoming certified. Chris Fischer has grabbed the flag and is helping to pave the way with an excellent article on AIS.

Deer Lake's first water testing project in many years was completed last summer with the required five samples taken monthly from May through September. The trend line results were not as favorable as we had hoped for, but are still well within the state standards. The experts will need to recommend what the next steps should be. See the graphs containing the test results for phosphorus and chlorophyll on page 7. More on lake water quality later in the year.

Another related topic to our DLWA mission has become more visible over the past few years, that being "environmental stewardship" within our local watershed. As residents, DLWA members and most importantly, as outdoor sportsmen and sportswomen, we need to consider the consequences of our actions. It is important to be respectful of the rights of others, private properties and the environment. The DLWA newsletter is not meant to be a publication for opinions on the law or dictating to members and

residents what they can and cannot do. The association is about education and awareness that help advance environmental protection. The existing laws are put in place to protect residents and the environment from behaviors that harm. Multiple complaints surfaced this past year, so support has gradually increased to create an awareness of a few negative behaviors affecting many. Please review Denny Carlson's stewardship article in this newsletter.

The board fully understands the need and readily supports having additional trips or visits by law enforcement to our watershed. The DLWA will again be requesting increased exposure by DNR Conservation Officers at least a few times per year to check boats on the lake and roads in the fall. In defense of the DNR, the CO's have a tough job, huge land areas to cover and not enough bodies to get it done. More residents sending letters or calling in might help our area. Use the TIP line at 800-652-9093, if needed. Local CO Jayson Hansen encourages residents to email him immediately with details of negative or illegal behavior at jayson.hansen@state.mn.us.

Reminder: Per contact with the DNR Fisheries Department, the walleye regulations for 2020 are not yet finalized for our lakes, but I will be sending out an email update as soon as Dave Weitzel, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor contacts us on a final decision by the state legislature. The majority of our DLWA member responses on a local survey and local communications are asking for a four fish daily limit on walleyes; no matter which one of the three slot options are put in place within the state. Stay tuned in February!

With such an active, productive board and volunteer group, we are looking forward to another busy and productive year. Please keep in mind that we do have a need for additional volunteers. Thanks to everyone for their past and future support.

We look forward to seeing you on the water!



*Bill Cromell, Larry Blackmer and Skylar Jensen
prepped for a boat run down Deer Creek
Photo by Val Cromell*

DLWA Continuous Outflow Project 2019

By Mark Smith, DLWA Board Member



Mark Smith at the rock dam on Deer Creek in August 2019 removing the beginnings of a beaver dam and checking the outflow channel for obstructions. Thanks Mark and all the creek runners!

Photo by Bill Cromell

First of all, the DLWA board would like to thank all of the volunteers who participated in the 2019 Continuous Outflow Project. It was a great success due to the efforts of the volunteers who participated. We made an organized effort to manage the outflow of the creek by implementing a plan to minimize the beaver population; consistently remove any beaver dams being built; and incorporating a schedule for boat runs up and down Deer Creek on a regular basis to maintain a clear path for flowing water.

At the same time, we learned quite a bit about what still needs to be done. The trappers did a terrific job in reducing the beaver population to a more manageable level. Due to the 2019 trapping efforts, keeping the population down will be easier and more efficient in 2020. As far as the scheduled boat runs went, we learned we do not need as many runs early in the season, but do need to ramp up efforts later in the summer when the vegetation is more aggressive.

The DLWA needs more volunteers to make boat runs up and down Deer Creek in 2020. Assuming we have the same volunteers for 2020 as we did in 2019, we will start the year with 13 volunteers. Given the amount of runs we need to stay ahead of the growing vegetation, we would like to see the number of volunteers double. If we get enough help throughout the summer, each boat will have to make no more than two runs during the summer and fall.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering for the Continuous Outflow Project can contact Mark Smith,

who is coordinating these efforts. He may be reached at markcoreyjake@hotmail.com and can explain what is entailed in making the trip to ensure you are correctly prepared. There was some interest last spring by a few individuals to have a "test run" down the outflow creek to the rock dam and back up with those who have done it before; to ensure new volunteers are comfortable with making a run. We can certainly schedule this, if there is interest.

For those who haven't ventured down Deer Creek before, it takes two to three hours round trip, depending on the condition of the creek and the water level. If you enjoy the wilderness, there is a lot to see on the creek such as deer, swans, turtles and a variety of different birds and waterfowl. It really is a scenic trip and gets you up close with nature!



October 2019 - Denny Carlson cutting and removing a huge bog mass that plugged over 1/3 of the creek flow at the rock dam. Thank you for your continuing support and all you have done over the years!

Photo by Bill Cromell



DLWA Continuous Outflow volunteers July 2019

Deer Lake Water Quality Testing Summary - Summer 2019

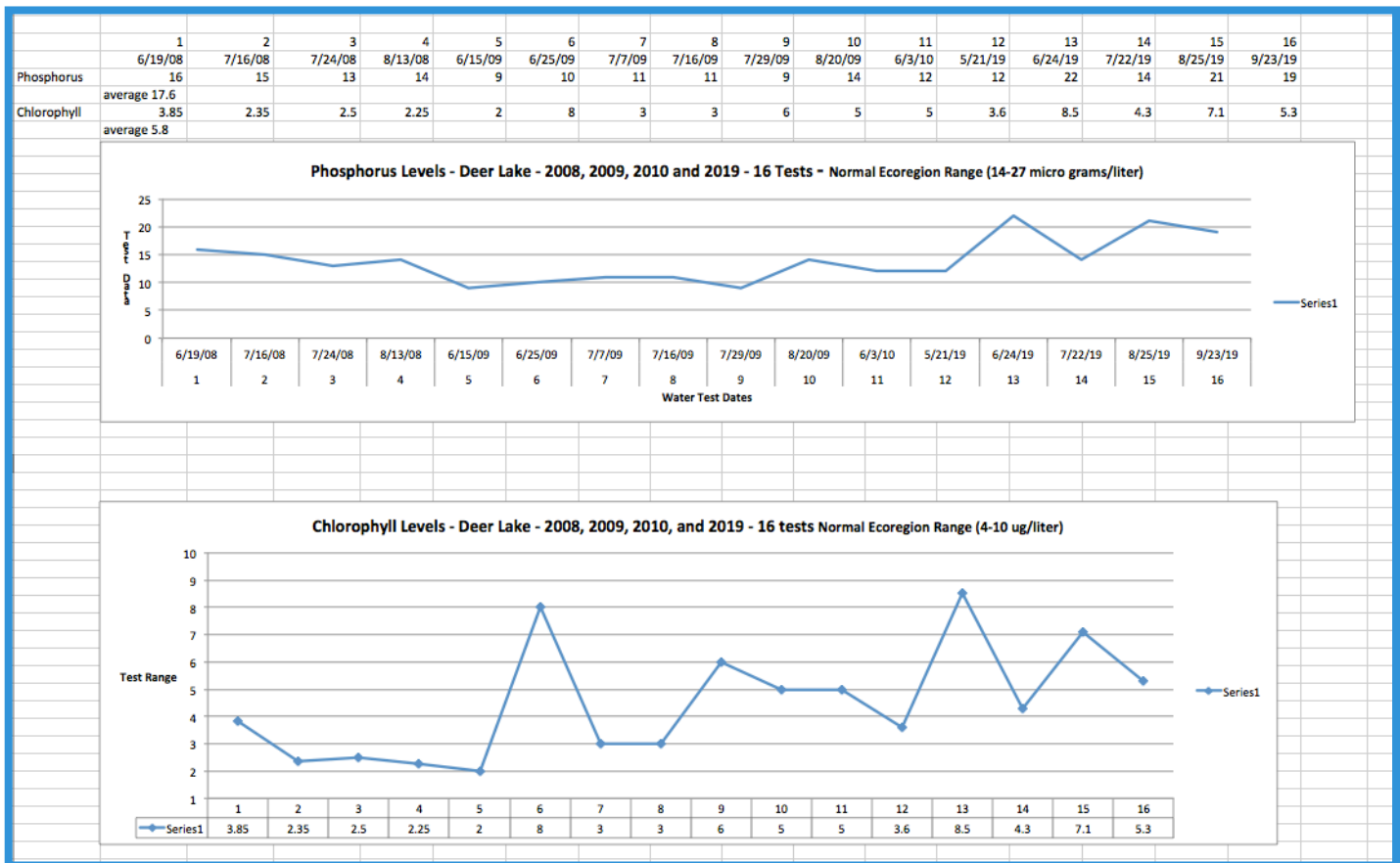
By Bill Cromell

Water Quality Tests must be completed according to MN State Standards utilizing recommended procedures and sampling vessels. The five samples tested during 2019 seem to indicate a slightly more negative trend. The positive news to go with the slightly downward trend is the averages for the tests fall well within the accepted ranges for our region.

Phosphorus Northern Range = 14 thru 27; Deer Lake test average is 17.6.

Chlorophyll Northern Range = 4 thru 10; Deer Lake test average is 5.8.

The MPCA requires one 5-month set (May – Sept) of test results from each lake to be viable for its data bank, following recommended procedures. The actual testing site is to be the same identified site for each test. The Deer Lake site is #203, per documented latitude/longitude point, which is also the deepest area on Deer Lake. The five samples taken monthly from May through September 2019 were delivered to the RMB Laboratory in Hibbing within 24 hours of each sample drawn. The graphs below show the results for the 2019 Deer Lake samples. The DLWA has a strong need of volunteers for water quality testing this coming summer. Training will be provided. Email us at deerlakewatershed@gmail.com if you can help!





Ethical Behavior by the Sportsman Promotes Positive Stewardship for the Deer Lake Watershed

By Denny Carlson

Our Watershed Association seems to be thriving, with good board leadership and direction. As a gentle reminder, I would like to emphasize the important role we all play to complement our board's sound direction as being good stewards of the watershed. Even though we understand the stewardship concept, it's easy to "slip" and take that extra fish or bird, or commit even more flagrant violations. As you can see, I'm directing these violations towards our sportspeople who do most of the hunting and fishing, and can be the most obvious perpetrators of game and fish violations.

This doesn't mean that the person who burns garbage and plastic isn't as bad and degrades our total stewardship. How about the wild ricker who tries to harvest rice before it is ripe and goes through and mangles the crop? We all know we can't drain our septic into the lake, or throw garbage out the window of our vehicle; however, it is the sportsman who is more visible, and who can be an ethical role model and have a positive effect on our stewardship. With more population, more technology, (cell phones, GPS, etc.) and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) encroachment, we all must work toward sustainable stewardship.

We all must be aware of our own behavior, and be alert to violations. The following concerns and violations have occurred in our watershed, through eye-witness or anecdotal reports:

- Shooting at deer that are too far or too fast to make a killing shot will possibly only wound the deer
- Shooting deer on private land without permission
- Dumping deer gut piles near the road or by the roadside
- Leaving deer carcasses on private land without permission to hunt there
- Hunting ducks on Deer Lake by chasing and shooting from a moving boat, and a pontoon boat
- Shooting at ducks after sunset or legal shooting hours
- Building and using a duck blind too close to an existing blind (200+ yards)
- Shooting at ducks completely out of range
- Shooting at deer with a cross bow from the road right of way and after dark
- Shooting at game too close to a house or barn (500 feet)
- Double-dipping of fish; catch a limit, bring them in and then go out for a second limit the same day
- Keeping only the largest fish
- Keeping more than your legal limit
- Killing small northerns, perch and panfish that you catch, but don't keep
- Fishing with two lines during open water season
- Leaving fish in your livewell to spoil
- Ignoring the MN walleye and northern regulations
- Fishing too close to another fisherman or his marking buoy
- Cruising at high speed next to a fishing boat
- Waterskiing, tubing or knee boarding too close to fishing boats
- Operating jet skis too close to docks or fishing boats, and/or during prime fishing time (dawn to 10:00am, and 7:00pm to sunset, unless isolated far from boats)
- Removal of emergent or submerged vegetation, which cannot be cut or removed without obtaining a state permit
- Not taking seriously, or not learning and obeying all the rules concerning the spread of aquatic invasive species. We all need to study the rules and laws intended to minimize the introduction and spread of invasive species to our lakes and streams. Please see the article on AIS in this issue.

Promoting Stewardship Continued

- Operating four-wheelers and ATV's in a manner that destroys back roads and trails by purposely mudding and rutting them; deep ruts erode and destroy access for other riders
- Leaving garbage on the land, water or ice after fishing or hunting

To use a quote from iconic environmentalist, ecologist and conservationist Aldo Leopold (1887-1948):

"A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to approve or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his acts, they are dictated by his conscience, rather than a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact."

The vast majority of Deer Lake Watershed users and members are conscious of displaying and promoting good stewardship for our watershed. We all have a stake in its sustainability for our future generations. However, with the concern voiced by several of our DLWA membership regarding the witnessing and anecdotal reports of these violations, I felt this reminder of ethics in our stewardship would help us all meet the challenge.

I wish you all a healthy and sustainable 2020!

Federal/State/County/Public/Private Property Boundaries

By Bill Cromell

We all enjoy the wilderness of the north woods and the vast expanse of public property available to us. It is a virtual playground for both in and out-of-state residents. Everyone is welcome and we can always find a piece of solitude, which is why we are drawn to it. It centers us, and brings us back in balance with nature. A quote by John Burroughs reflects this feeling well, "I go to Nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order once more."

Showing respect for privately-owned land by knowing the boundaries between public and private properties is just following the golden rule. Here are two simple ways you can identify who is the owner:

1. Go to the [parcelinfo.com](http://www.parcelinfo.com) website and click on Itasca or Koochiching County "user". The software is powerful and will bring up the current owner of each property, and has Lake Finder information as well. This option is best utilized for research prior to exploring in the woods. Please visit <http://www.parcelinfo.com/>
2. The second option is to purchase a hard copy of the most recent Itasca County (2018) or Koochiching County (2019) Plat Book. They are highly recommended by sportsmen and women to know where they can hunt, hike and wander, and helpful to any outdoorsperson in the woods. You may find them at the L&M Fleet Supply Store in Grand Rapids in the sporting goods section. Or, they can be purchased online with the current pricing and postage listed. Please visit:
<http://mn-itascacounty.civicplus.com/354/Plat-Books>
<https://koochichingswcd.org/plat-book/>

It is always good to know where you are and who owns the land! Thank you.

Chloride: Impairing our Lakes and Environment?

By Bill Cromell

What happens to sodium chloride (salt) after it has been applied to our winter roads? How does this chemical affect our lakes and the environment? The tonnage of sodium chloride used on our roads statewide is staggering. Minnesota has begun to test lakes and rivers for chloride pollution. Dozens of lakes are showing up on the impaired list due to high levels of chloride. Many more are close to ending up on the list. The vast majority have not been tested for chloride levels to date.

I agree winter safety on the roads is a #1 priority. But might there be responsible alternatives based on temperatures such as straight sand, or sand and salt mix that would provide equivalent safety protection from slippery roads? Or other materials? From information reviewed it does appear that our state is looking into alternatives, and is also sponsoring workshops on winter salting and de-icing and how to minimize its impact.

Sodium chloride, also known as rock salt (NaCl), and calcium and magnesium chlorides are extensively used in snow and ice control. And, all three have a corrosive effect on metal. I am aware of three vehicles in our local area that had rusted-out frames within 15 years; the vehicles basically junked with average, or below-average miles on them for this day and age. When one of the vehicle frames broke while driving, it very nearly caused an accident before getting it stopped and off the road. The frame deterioration was attributed to a pocket that collected salt and wasn't being cleaned out under normal car washing.

My intent is to create a local awareness regarding County Road #533 which runs adjacent to Deer and Pickerel Lakes, and that the sodium chloride being applied on multiple stretches may leach into the lake water. Is there an opportunity to responsibly reduce the chloride application and still provide the same level of driver safety? Calcium chloride can dissolve ice at extremely low temperatures, and is more effective than sodium chloride in preventing and melting ice on roads. It is relatively harmless to plant life, but because it costs more, it isn't as commonly used. Calcium chloride is currently being applied on some of our gravel roads during the summer as a dust suppressant. It suppresses dust by trapping moisture, which helps to compact the dirt and reduce dust blowing. What effect does it have on the roadside and nearby water? Food for thought.

One tablespoon of salt pollutes or impairs five gallons of water, and at this point in time it is difficult to reverse. Minnesota began using salt on the roads in the 1940's, and then in earnest during the 1960's. The negative effects in populated areas with heavy salt usage are starting to surface through state water testing, data from monitoring wells, and the chloride-impaired lakes list. Statewide, shallow monitoring wells are showing elevated chloride levels over the last few decades. How do elevated chloride levels in our lake water and on our roads affect our fish, invertebrates, insects, frogs, night crawlers, snakes, turtles, aquatic vegetation, etc.?

If you would like to research and ponder the issue further, please review the reference articles and information below. I recommend a recent article in the DNR's Jan-Feb 2020 issue of the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer Magazine entitled "Hold the Salt" by Emily Sohn.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/issues/2020/jan-feb/chloride.html>

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/chloride-101>

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/chloride-salts>

<https://www.wrc.umn.edu/chloride>

<https://www.twincities.com/2018/01/13/50-minnesota-lakes-and-streams-impaired-because-of-road-salt/>

<http://www.startribune.com/minnesota-lawmakers-aim-to-reduce-salt-runoff-from-sidewalks/507355842/>

http://stopoversalting.org/Downloads/SOS_ChlorideBooklet_18.pdf

<https://www.hunker.com/13425143/types-of-road-salt>

<https://www.oxycalciumchloride.com/highway-ice-melting/best-practices/managing-impact>

Donor and Volunteer Recognition

By Val Cromell

The DLWA Board of Directors is pleased to acknowledge the following members for their donations to our watershed fund accounts in addition to their membership dues; and the member volunteers who have worked hard to further our mission since our last newsletter publication. Thank you!

DLWA Member Donations (April 2019 - January 2020) \$1,925.00

Jay Bedard, Larry Blackmer, Jim Brewer, Denny Carlson, Gretchen Carlson, Bill & Val Cromell, Todd & Suzanne Doyle, Jeff Dunlap, Martha Dunn, Tony & Missy Ebnet, Dave & Joni Fischenich, Tim Friese, Dan & Mary Kay Gallagher, Greg & Libby Gearey, Marilyn Gibbons, Dennis Gilbertson, John & Wendy Gustafson, Jeff & Lisa Hansen, Hawkinson Construction; Itasca County Historical Society; Dave & Carol Hoffman, Bruce & Shelley Martinson, Loey & Peter Master, Keith & Sue Pearson, Charles & Cindy Running, Dave & Patty Sachs, Bob Steichen, Stitts Ranch (Pete Boelter, et al.); Tom & Kay Super.

Continuous Flow Fund	\$825.00
Water Protection Fund	\$355.00
General Fund	\$555.00
CCC Camp Preservation Fund . . .	\$190.00
	\$1,925.00

**THANKS FOR
DONATING!**

DLWA Water Protection Volunteers - *Water Quality Testing and/or Secchi Disk Reading*

♦ **DEER LAKE** - Bill Cromell, Denny Carlson, John McCoy

♦ **PICKEREL LAKE** - Jim Kush ♦ **BATTLE LAKE** - Sheila Vorland ♦ **FIVE ISLAND LAKE** - Jim Brewer

DLWA AIS Volunteers - *Aquatic Invasive Species Education, Training, Inspections, Signage*

Donna Childers, Bill Cromell, Chris Fischer, Mark Smith

DLWA Continuous Outflow Volunteers - *Help keep watershed creeks open and flowing*

Larry Blackmer, Denny Carlson, Bill & Val Cromell, Jeff Dunlap, Chris Fischer, Buck & Dan Gallagher, Jeff Hansen, Alex & Rick Jensen, Skylar Jensen, Dan Kehren, Jim Kush, Art Lind, Dave Nerka, Jerry Pratt, Tom Schwartz, Mark Smith, Jeff Stimac, Galen Vorland.

DLWA Roadside Clean Up Volunteers - *Two-mile clean up on Hwy 1 the first Saturday in May*

Gail Blackmer; Tom & Sandra Boland; Denny Carlson; Val Cromell; Greg, Libby, Irene, Annie and Greta Gearey; Art Lind; Ron Root.

Special Note to Our Members - We are **ALWAYS** in **NEED** of **MORE VOLUNTEERS** for the activities listed

above, and also need **Committee Coordinators for Fundraising and Special Events**. Email DLWA at deerlakewatershed@gmail.com if interested in any volunteer activities!

DLWA Membership Data/Information

- Total number of current **DLWA memberships** is at **128** households!
- Total **Lifetime Memberships** is now at **eight (8) households**. Thank you to our two newest Lifetime Members; Todd & Suzanne Doyle, and Dan & Sheila Kehren!
- Current **Website Business Advertisers** is at **five (5)**; including Hideaway Resort, Itasca County Historical Society, Lind Industrial Supply, Up North Storage and Services and RingBill's Custom Painted Decoys and Duckin' Stuff!

DLWA Website Business Advertising

By Chris Fischer, Website Administrator

It has been my privilege to be the website administrator for the new DLWA website in 2019 and develop a custom webpage for each of our business advertising members. I would like to thank each of our business advertising members for their annual membership and supporting DLWA. We currently have five business advertising members which includes Hideaway Resort, Lind Industrial Supply, Itasca County Historical Society, RingBill's Custom Painted Decoys & Duckin' Stuff, and Up North Storage & Services.

Our new business advertising membership continues to grow. If you have a business and have not yet considered becoming a business advertising member, now is the time! When you become a business advertising member you will be advertising to 120+ member families, obtain your own custom webpage on the DLWA website, have your logo on the DLWA website home page, and can be contacted directly through the website by customers. Your \$30 membership will pay for itself in no time! If you are interested in finding out more about business advertising membership, please contact me at chrisf64752@yahoo.com.

DLWA Website Apparel

By Chris Fischer

I would like to thank all of our members for their purchase of DLWA apparel that was available this past summer. We offered for the first time custom embroidered DLWA logo, T-shirts and hats for both Men and Women. All proceeds for this event went towards funding the new website and we hope you enjoyed each of the items purchased.

We will have another apparel event in the near future, where new items will be offered. Please keep an eye out for this event and we will be sure to send out a notification to all members.



Custom embroidered DLWA hat

How Can I Get Help?

- **DNR Regional Office**
218-328-8780
- **DNR Information Center**
651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367
- **DNR Local Enforcement Bigfork Enforcement Area**
Jayson Hansen, Conservation Officer
Email address: jayson.hansen@state.mn.us
Radio Call: K252
- **DNR Turn In Poachers (TIP) Hotline**
To report a violation, call 800-652-9093 24 hours a day.
You may also fill out an online form at the DNR general website
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>
- **DNR General Email Address**
info.dnr@state.mn.us
- **Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District Office**
Help with Water Quality Testing, Shoreline Alterations and Design, Erosion, or Aquatic Invasive Species topics
218-326-5573
- **DNR Regional Fisheries Supervisor Dave Weitzel**
218-328-8836
- **Itasca County Sheriff's Office non-emergency**
218-326-3477
- **Itasca County Highway Engineer**
218-327-2853
- **Itasca County Environmental Services**
218-327-2857
- **County Commissioner Ben DeNucci District 5**
218-348-0592

Our Mission: To protect, maintain and improve the natural resources of the Deer Lake Watershed for the current and future generations.

DLWA

DLWA OFFICERS

Bill Cromell
President

Chris Fischer
Vice President

Gail Blackmer
Secretary

Sheila Vorland
Treasurer

Mark Smith
Board Member

Val Cromell
Alternate

Jeff Dunlap
Alternate

Denny Carlson
DNR Liaison

DLWA Active Committees 2020

Continuous Outflow Committee: Bill Cromell, Chair
Alex Jensen, Mark Smith

Newsletter Committee: Gail Blackmer, Coordinator
Sheila Vorland, Publisher

Membership Committee: Valerie Cromell, Chair
Sheila Vorland, Bill Cromell

Anyone wishing to be involved in the committees please contact a board member via deerlakewatershed@gmail.com.

Treasury Report 12-31-2019

General Fund Balance: \$4,306.05
Continuous Outflow Fund: \$2,034.34
Water Protection Fund: \$595.81
CCC Camp Savings Account: \$190.00