



STAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors

Gary Miller
President

Dick Fultz
Vice President

JoLene Kerr
Treasurer

Gail Hagen
Secretary

David Kaser
Director

Arnie Schenck
Director

Tamara Pream
Director

Mailing Address:
SLPOA
PO Box 115
Dent, MN 56528

Website:
starlakeassociation.com

Table of Contents

- President Letter ...P1
- Pres. Drop-OffsP2
- Financial Rpt P3
- COVID UpdateP4
- Classifieds.....P5
- Amazon SmileP5
- Lakescaping.....P6
- Adopt A Hwy.....P7
- Member Form.....P8

Spring 2020 President's Newsletter Message

After another Minnesota winter, it is truly uplifting to see the grass begin to grow, the trees take on new leaves, and the birds return to the open water of Star Lake. It is all part of the cycle of life that we take part in. As one of the few property owners that spend much of their winter on the lake, it certainly is a time for quiet reflection. Along our entire 380th Street road, there are very few active properties during the winter. With the large amount of snow on the ice, this was an especially quiet winter for activity around the lake. Although human activity was low, it was supplemented by the many deer that spent their winter around the lake (it keeps my security cameras busy, as they literally will look right in our front door!) Watching them, along with the occasional rabbit, squirrel, fox, and crow reminds me that winter is a challenging time for all of God's creatures.

As we prepare for another summer of activity at Star Lake, I want to make sure to tell you about the "blue light." If you immediately start thinking that the lake association has a special deal with K-Mart for a special buy, or that Sanford has opened a hospital on the lake, or some alien force was seen hovering over the lake, you would be on the wrong track. If you spend time on the main Star Lake ice in the winter, you can relate to the blue light to which I am referring. Late in the day or through early morning snow, fog, or mist, this blue light is visible. It shines brightly over a very white

and very silent winter lakescape. Sometimes it appears to just be suspended in the air by itself.

So, what am I referring to? On top of the chapel at Camp Joy there stands a lighted blue cross of Christ. It shines distinctly for those creatures moving along the winter lakescape. It serves as a simple but powerful reminder of all the creations we have been given to enjoy. The lake, the wildlife, the time with friends and family, the wonder of wonder in our lives. The true power of something far greater than ourselves. I hope you get the opportunity to see the "blue light" on a crisp winter (or spring, summer, or fall day). May it serve to remind us that we are all on the same journey and have been entrusted with such natural beauty to both care for and enjoy!

As we transition from winter to spring, I wish you and your family the best summer ever on Star Lake! Your lake association will continue to try to be good stewards of not only the funds you provide but also the great natural resource that is Star Lake! May the blue light shine upon all who enjoy the lake!

- Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President

President's "Drop-Offs"

With the fluid nature of the corona virus pandemic, it is difficult to plan for our 2020 summer. I can only imagine that business owners are in the same situation. So, here are some items to report on:

1. **ANNUAL MEETING:** We are targeting Saturday, June 20th, 2020 at Camp Joy for our annual meeting. It will be subject to the then effective state rules for gatherings, what Camp Joy may be planning for its campus, and if a useable drug therapy to reduce the risk of the virus is available or social distancing guidelines have been changed. We could certainly try to meet outdoors, we could do some type of on-line meeting, or we could just cancel for 2020. As more becomes known, I will share it with you.
2. **SMALL NORTHERN TOURNAMENT:** This is like the annual meeting. Tentatively, we are targeting Saturday, June 6th, 2020 (D Day) for the event. Camp Joy has decided to not host this event, so we will need to find an alternative host site and qualified organization (not-for-profit) to take any donated northern fillets. We are open to any ideas you may have in that regard.

Unfortunately, in North Dakota all fishing tournaments have been cancelled through May and could be extended for the summer. Thus far, the Minnesota fishing season is scheduled to start on May 9th, 2020 even though the Governor's Opener has been cancelled. I have not seen anything in Minnesota relative to fishing tournaments. If you see more, please pass it along. We will continue to monitor and update members on the small northern tournament as well. (P.S. We will need several volunteers besides the Board members to conduct this event.)

3. **WATER LEVELS:** Just a reminder that once the ice is off the lake, we will report water levels every two weeks and post it on the SLPOA website. The water level charting from 2019 is posted there currently.
4. **SLPOA MEMBERS DIRECTORY:** We plan to have our 2020 lake directory complete and printed before the annual meeting in June. BUT, print shops are closed currently. Much depends on when they are allowed to return to work and tackle any accumulated workloads. Who thought a couple months ago that printing would be impacted by a global pandemic?
5. **INVASIVE SPECIES:** Just a reminder that like the corona virus, we DO NOT want to spread invasive species like zebra mussels into Star Lake. Although the DNR lists Star Lake as a site because of potential upstream contamination, there has been no colonies of zebra mussels identified in Star Lake. Let's continue to try to keep it that way!
6. **MEMBERSHIP** (for full disclosure I am borrowing much of this language from Peggy Maasjo's Spring 2019 article on membership): All organizations like SLPOA are only as strong as its members make it. Our Board of Directors is very proud that we represent 229 members. It is our highest total ever! THANK YOU for your trust!

... continued

As we see more and more proposed development on Star Lake, it is important that we preserve and protect the lake for future generations. We are all in this together! There is only one Star Lake. The more members we have, the better chance we have of working together to accomplish our mission. There is power in numbers.

Our annual membership dues are \$30.00. With that money, your association maintains water safety buoys, monitors the water quality of the lake, updates members with two annual newsletters, maintains an updated website, reviews and interacts with government on projects, sends out emails on urgent matters concerning the lake, works to improve the fishery, hosts a lake wide picnic in conjunction with a volunteer member, and hosts an annual meeting which allows members to vote on bylaws, projects, and issues concerning the lake.

With our fluid virus battle, PLEASE renew your 2020/2021 membership dues as soon as possible. There is a membership form on the last page of this newsletter as well as on the SLPOA website. It really helps if you share your current email address with your renewal! It speeds getting correspondence to you and keeps our mailing cost low.

- 7. BOARD INVOLVEMENT:** Finally, I have enjoyed serving as your President. My term ends in June 2020. As a staunch believer in term limits for both political posts and corporate boards, my service will end in June. I certainly plan to stay active. We have some dedicated and terrific Board members to carry the organization forward. But, we do need some additional Board volunteers. If you are willing to serve, please let me know. There are some exciting and challenging things ahead for SLPOA!!!

With a small commitment of your time, you can help fulfill the mission and continue to keep Star Lake the tremendous resource that it is! THANK YOU!

-Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President

Treasurer's Report

As of April 14th, 2020, we have 229 members (I believe that is our highest total ever!)

Checking Account:	\$ 8,952.33
Money Market:	\$ 10,013.02
Lake Protection Fund:	\$ 960.00
Total Funds Available:	\$ 19,925.35



-JoLene Jean Kerr, SLPOA Treasurer

Corona Virus 2020 Message

As I write this on Sunday, March 29th, 2020, it is evident that the entire world has been impacted by a virus too small to be seen without a microscope. It has closed our schools, changed the way we not only do our work, but interact with our fellow human beings. It has wrecked small business that was their life work for many. It has crippled some large corporations (Boeing, Carnival, Hilton Hotels) and allowed others to get even bigger (Amazon, Walmart, 3M). Fortunately, it seems to be sparing the very young and attacking the older and medically vulnerable among us, although none of us are immune.

Having spent my career in healthcare and having run a major healthcare system, I know that NOBODY was prepared for a rapidly spreading virus like corona. We conducted monthly emergency drills to prepare for tornadoes, fires, airplane crashes, and even floods. We had a “stockpile” to deal with such events. But, the ability of the local hospital systems, state systems, and federal systems to deal with a global scale pandemic of this type has NEVER existed.

Should we have learned more from the SARS, MERS, West Nile, Ebola and H1N1 outbreaks? The reality is that we did and some changes were made but nobody was going spend the dollars to have the mountain of supplies and equipment necessary to deal with such an outbreak. The truth is that both

political parties had their chances over decades, as did the healthcare industry. None of them got this completely right. (Maybe we could suspend the political sniping for now?) We are truly all impacted in some way by this virus.

So, with that being said, I have great faith that we will get the virus under control. Our healthcare workers are true warriors. Like in WWII our manufacturing power once geared up will help overcome this and finally our science will conquer it in time. In some ways my President’s message written before the outbreak applies even more now than it did then.

Because of the uncertainties, it is difficult to try to set a date for things like our small northern tournament and SLPOA annual meeting. As this “fluid” situation becomes more of a solid one, I will keep you updated. In the meantime, please go to the SLPOA website and print a copy of the membership renewal form to submit. We need as many of them turned in before the annual meeting as possible (late June is typically when we hold our annual meeting). You will be receiving a separate letter in that regard as well.

Take good care. The good news is the fishing is somewhat easy to do while “social distancing.”

-Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President, SLPOA



SLPOA is pleased to announce that we have added a section to our website titled CLASSIFIEDS where you may list items to sell, trade, or find the owner if you have found an item that needs to be returned.

The listing can contain one picture and up to a fifty word description. Your request should contain:

- Your name
- Your contact information (phone number, email, etc.)
- Description of the item (fifty words or less)
- One picture of the item (in digital format)
- Asking price if for sale



Ads

Please be aware that SLPOA is not responsible for the condition of the item, the payment or exchange of funds for any transaction agreed upon, the items title or rightful ownership by the poster, or accepts any liability for what is posted in this CLASSIFIEDS section of its website. The section is strictly provided as a free service for members.

Please email your ad/item to SLPOA President at: president@starlakeassociation.com. If approved, your item may remain on the website for up to 30 days. Please notify us if the item has sold or been claimed and no longer needs to be listed.

-Gary P. Miller, SLPOA President

Amazon Smile Program



“It’s Free, It’s Free!” How many times have you heard that and thought – SURE- what’s the catch? Announcing a new program that truly is free and has no catch for you. Want to support SLPOA? You can now do that by simply ordering items through Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your lake every time you shop, at no cost to you. You will find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and shopping ease as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to SLPOA!

If you currently use Amazon.com or Amazon Prime, you can order the same products at the same prices, but benefit your lake by selecting STAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (identifier number 80-0594188). The value of your purchase will be credited to SLPOA and, at the end of each month, Amazon will donate a percentage of the total purchase value to our lake association. Any donations received will be credited to our “lake protection fund.” That fund is restricted to projects that directly benefit the lake.

That’s it! No fees, no obligations, no catch for you to help support your lake. All you need to do is select SLPOA as your charitable organization when you first sign in to Amazon Smile. After that, shop away!

We have put a link on the SLPOA website to enable you to access the Amazon Smile site as well. EASY, SIMPLE, IMPORTANT as we continue to try to find ways to increase our revenue and our ability to have the funds needed to help maintain Star Lake as the tremendous resource it is.

THANK YOU for your support!

Lakescaping Grant Program (SLPOA)

The Star Lake Property Owners' Association (SLPOA) and its Board of Directors are committed to preserving this natural resource to include but not limited to:

- Its excellent water quality
- Its bountiful fishery
- Its natural wildlife haven
- Its ordinary and proper development

To fulfill and enhance its mission, the SLPOA offers a lakescaping shoreline restoration grant program to members with support from the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District Office. The grant program is aimed at creation of natural shoreline buffers and erosion control projects on and around Star Lake. The program promotes the use of native plants, grasses, and trees.

GRANT PROCESS

- To be considered, the project partner must be a current member in good standing.
- The potential project partner must submit a written application with a full description of the project being considered. The description should include a complete project location, project needs listing, and the type of native plants, grasses, or trees to be included in the shoreline restoration.
- The SLPOA Board of Directors will review the written application and project description and ask for information to move the project forward as necessary.
- If the project description is deemed to meet SLPOA requirements, the SLPOA Board will work with the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District Representatives to assist the member in completing the Conservation District's cost share and other appropriate program documents.
- The SLPOA Board retains full right to approve or deny the project application based not only on the merits of the project but also the current financial position of the Association.
- All applications are to be submitted to the attention of the SLPOA President

GRANT CRITERIA

- A written grant application with the project description is required to be submitted
- If approved, the grantee is expected to maintain the location for the project for a period of at least 10 years
- The SLPOA may inspect or appoint someone with the required expertise to inspect the project upon completion and annually thereafter if desired
- 50% of the grant will be paid at the time the project is approved and 50% will be provided upon completion of the project inspection and approval by the SLPOA Board of Directors.
- The grant amount can be up to a maximum of \$2000.00 per project. Partial funding of projects will be considered.
- If an approved, funded, and completed project is abandoned or radically altered before the end of the 10 year commitment period, the SLPOA will receive a prorated refund amount of its cost share amount for each year not completed (ie: if the project has existed for 6 years and radically changed, the Association will be entitled to receive 40% of the grant amount in the form of a cash refund)
- Rip Rap Rock is not encouraged for grant dollars but may be considered if erosion control is clearly enhanced by its inclusion in a project
- The project partner will be responsible for maintenance of the site

... continued

Native shoreland buffers are a valuable tool for maintaining and improving water quality and riparian ecosystems. These buffers are designed to filter pollutants from stormwater runoff, reduce erosion, and provide habitat for a variety of aquatic and terrestrial species. Your lake association is proud to be able to offer this program to its members!

For more information, you might also want to view the Otter Tail County Lakeshore Landscaping Manual found on the EOT SWCD website: <http://www.eotswcd.org>



Adopt A Highway - Spring 2020

Spring is here and warmer weather is just around the corner! With that comes ice out, fishing opener, and Ditch Clean-up.

Once again, SLPOA will be cleaning the ditches on Highway 41 from Bell's Resort to 380th St.

We are tentatively scheduling this for Saturday, May 16 (however this may change). We will gather at Bell's Resort at 9 am. Safety vests and garbage bags will be provided. The more people, the less time it takes to complete the project.

The SLPOA feels this is a worthwhile project. It shows our continued concern for the environment and helps us preserve the beauty of Otter Tail County. Come join us as we clean the ditch. It would be great to have a good turnout!



SLPOA Membership Form

Star Lake Property Owners' Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 155, Dent, MN 56528

2020/2021 Membership Information Form (New _____ or Renewal _____)

**Please note: SLPOA Membership runs from June Annual Meeting to June Annual Meeting.*

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Legal Mailing Address: _____

Star Lake Street Address (if different): _____

Email Address **: _____ Phone(s): _____

***Please consider providing your email address – it will help reduce costs. Email addresses will not be sold or given to others, and will not appear in our directory without your written permission.*

I/we certify that we *ARE* *ARE NOT* Star Lake property owners.

Dues: \$30 -Star Lake Property Owner: Individual, Family, Corporation, Partnership. (Voting Membership)
\$25 -Associate Member: Non-Property Owner supporting the objectives of The Association. (Non-voting Membership)
\$ _____ Lake Protection Fund Donation. Consider making an additional donation to help us protect the interests of Star Lake. Funds donated to this account will only be used for projects directly tied to lake improvement.

I am interested in volunteering in Association activities as follows:

- 1. I/we would be interested in working on the following SLPOA Projects:
 - a. Water Testing
 - b. AIS Monitoring
 - c. Membership & Publicity
 - d. Water Safety (Buoy placements)
 - e. Adopt A Highway Project
 - f. Shoreline Restoration
 - g. Fisheries Improvement

 2. I am interested in serving on the board of Directors.

 3. I want to be a member, but prefer not to volunteer at this time.

Ideas or comments for the board of directors: _____

USE BACK OF FORM IF NECESSARY

<i>This authorizes the Star Lake Property Owners Association to utilize my/our email address for official SLPOA communications.</i>	
Signature(s)	Date

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM & MAIL WITH DUES PAYMENT TO THE SLPOA, P.O.BOX 155, DENT, MN 56528. It would be greatly appreciated if dues were paid by mail PRIOR TO the Annual Meeting. Thank You.