



# STARlights

Highlights from Star Lake for Members of the SLP0A

Spring 2022

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## Star Lake Property Owners' Association

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*Dick Fultz*  
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*Steve Roth*  
Vice-President

*JoLene Jean Kerr*  
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*Gail Hagen*  
Secretary

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Director

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**By Dick Fultz, President**

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!.....Maybe. Well, I thought it had. But Mother Nature can sure remind us that control is not in our hands.

Yesterday I experienced 90 plus degree weather, and this morning it is 36 degrees. Yesterday it was t-shirts and shorts and today my hunting gear looks more appropriate. Don't get me wrong - here in Kansas (where I have a house and spend winters) we have had a very mild and dry winter. Our biggest snowfall - 7 inches which lasted all of Saturday to the following Thursday. We are also having a mild spring, with no moisture. Wildfires in the grasslands are a real concern and there have been many - even yesterday (April 12th).

Not so at Star Lake! Snow and cold were, if I can quote JoLene (our treasurer) BRUTAL! Hopefully the cold and snow will result in raising the level of Star Lake. I, like many of you, could have skipped putting my boat lift in last year. The water level was so low I could not use it anyway. So I'm counting on Mother Nature to help refill our most beautiful lake - she has come through before and I trust she will again.

I am looking through flower catalogs, veggie books and outdoor projects to plan my summer. The peonies I've been planting the past five years suffered last year with little to no rain and hot temperatures. So this year I will replace the ones that didn't make it and be optimistic about its success. In addition, I'll go through a couple gallons of paint for my cabin, and work on other projects. I have a full summer planned - auctions (which I really enjoy), the coffee group on weekends at duCharme's Corner Store, all-you-can-eat pizza night (also at duCharme's), entertaining discussions with Pierre at duCharme's, Phelps Mill Festival, Sacred Heart's annual feed and fund raiser, camping, and sitting on my deck enjoying a refreshment while the grill heats up supper (or maybe the new pellet smoker I am considering).

For your Lake Association, it will also be a busy summer.

- ◆ **Adopt-A-Highway:** Mark your calendars for May 21st and plan to spend an hour or so collecting trash along our roadways. See the details in this newsletter on how YOU can help. It is a fun, non-stressing way to get exercise and help keep our Lake clean.

(Continued on Page 2)

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (Continued)

- ◆ **Annual Membership Meeting and Breakfast:** Camp Joy has again opened its facilities to us on June 11th and will be cooking up a great breakfast of pancakes, sausage, Camp Aquila real maple syrup, fruit and coffee. Matt and his staff do a great job. We will have an election of Board members (consider donating some of your time to being a Board member). We welcome new folks, new ideas, and good discussion of how the Association functions and what we could be doing. Consider running for a Board position. We will also have presentations by several folks with full details coming later. Just 3 hours of your time and FREE BREAKFAST! Plan to attend now. \*\*\*Remember, Camp Joy, on 380th, will be blocked from the North by the Bridge construction so plan on a little extra time to get there via the detours.
- ◆ **The 3rd annual Swamp Shark Tournament:** Mark your calendars for June 18th (one week after the annual meeting) for participating in the Swamp Shark Tournament. Check out the details of this fun fishing event hosted by your association and led by Past President Gary Miller and current Vice President Steve Roth. Enjoy prizes, t-shirts, Bell's Gift cards and a fun morning of fishing with a friend or family member all while improving the fishery in Star. See the newsletter article for more details.
- ◆ **SLOW DOWN:** During the annual meeting we will be asking you to vote yes on our Association entering into an agreement with local government to put two RADAR speed signs on Hwy 108 in an effort to slow folks down along the north shore, before someone is injured. MnDOT has basically said yes, but we need the support of Dora township officials to complete the process.
- ◆ **Star Lake Annual Picnic:** Our lake-wide picnic was a great success last August and we want to repeat that success this year. Plans are just starting and we will have details in future emails as well as our website and Facebook page.

Well - that is just the start. Lots more is going on. Check out the articles in this newsletter on water quality, water safety, fisheries, and more! Most of all - enjoy the beauty and serenity of our beautiful Star Lake. I have been blessed with being able to enjoy Star Lake since 1972 and I hope to keep on enjoying for many more years. We are part of a special group of people that have been able to enjoy the beauty, tranquility and peace of Star Lake - something we all should work hard together to preserve.

See you on the lake this summer!

Dick

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By JoLene Jean Kerr, Treasurer

The account balances for SLPOA (as of April 15, 2022):

Regular Checking Account	\$ 5,769.51
Money Market:	\$25,185.79*
GRAND TOTAL	\$30,955.30



\* The Lake Protection Fund is included in this amount and totals \$18,117.95.



# duCHARME'S CORNER STORE

By Gail Hagen, Secretary



If you've been on Star Lake for any time at all, you know about duCharme's Corner Store – it's perfectly located on probably the busiest intersection around Star Lake – the corner of Highway 108 and County 41. duCharme's is the store that has everything, and "if they don't have it – you don't need it"! It seems like duCharme's has been there forever, and it almost has! The original building was a fraction of the size that it is now, starting out as a Drive-In (like the old A&W's). Pierre and Mary leased the building and reopened the Drive-In, running it until sometime in the 1980's. After the building changed hands a few times, Pierre had the opportunity to buy it (19 years ago) and, once again, opened duCharme's Corner Store.

Pierre will be the first one to tell you – they didn't know much about running a store – they learned from scratch. Many of the items you can find in the store today are there because customers asked for something (his rule of thumb was 3 times), or Pierre saw a need. When he added Star Lake visors and T-Shirts, they sold out the first day. When his suppliers wanted minimum orders, he and his grandson purchased a vinyl cutter and started making and selling their own customized clothing items.

The biggest success for them was when they added a concession stand and started cooking (Pierre doesn't cook). Pierre gives all of the credit for the success of their amazing food to his wife Mary, their long-time employee Shirley, and the "Ice Cream Maidens." Tuesdays are big for them – it's all you can eat Pizza night! If you want any of their famous caramel rolls, make sure you get there early! And don't forget the ice cream! Some of their most special moments is seeing the young ones have their first ice cream cone at duCharme's.





## duCHARME'S CORNER STORE (Continued)

When you stop at duCharme's Corner Store, Pierre will most certainly have time to tell a few stories. Especially since his daughter and son-in-law (Yvette and Dale Lewis) will be taking over most of the duties at duCharme's Corner Store. Ask Pierre about the NDSU Bison football, basketball or baseball teams (he bleeds green)... and he lettered at NDSU in all three sports. Or he might tell you about his high school football years, playing for Barnesville. You can't miss the twinkle in his eyes when he talks about the Friday night team they played in Perham, and a very pretty Perham cheerleader (named Mary) caught his eye. He pointed her out to a fellow player, who happened to know Mary, and jumped at the opportunity to be introduced to her. After the game, he skipped his shower so that he had time to meet the pretty cheerleader - Mary. There just happened to be a sock hop so they danced. His coach had to drag Pierre off the dance floor by his ear to get him to leave with the team. He must have been smitten - Pierre and Mary will celebrate their 60th Anniversary this summer.

Spending summers on Star Lake and working at the store are memorable for the entire duCharme family - their 5 kids, 14 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. But it didn't start with Pierre and Mary's store - many (including Mary) cleaned cabins and helped with other chores at Frank's Lodge (owned by Mary's parents).

duCharme's Corner Store offers something for everyone, whether you are 2 or 92, and is often referred to by Pierre as the "Star Lake Mall". You will find clothing and accessories in the "Kohl's" section of the store; first-aid, personal care and gift items are in the "CVS" section; grocery and food items will be in the "Hornbacher's" section of the store; and, of course, their famous ice cream is in the "Dairy Queen" section!

Yvette and Dale are very excited about their future with continuing the legacy that Pierre and Mary have built at duCharme's Corner Store. You can expect to see some new items with their food offerings, in addition to everyone's favorites. If you happen to know **anyone** that needs a summer job or could use some extra spending money - send them over to see Yvette. It will be an experience that they will enjoy and will never forget!

duCharme's Corner Store will open in time for the Minnesota Fishing Opener (with limited hours) and expand the hours beginning Memorial Day weekend. Stop in, say hello, have a cup of coffee, see what's new, take a photo in the big Adirondack chair, and stay awhile! Don't let the County Rd 41 bridge construction keep you away! You won't be disappointed!



# COMMITTEE UPDATES

## Membership

By Gail Hagen, Secretary

It is the time of the year when we ask you to join or renew your membership with the Star Lake Property Owners' Association (SLPOA). We completed our 2021-2022 membership year with 242 paid memberships, 9 of those as Associate Memberships. We are very fortunate to have so many of our property owners that have made the decision to support us with their membership!

This newsletter is being mailed to all Star Lake Property Owners, as well as property owners within 100 feet of Star Lake (obtained from Ottertail County). We hope you take the time to read about our association, check out our website ([www.starlakeassociation.com](http://www.starlakeassociation.com)) and Facebook Page, and choose to either continue your membership or join our association.

Membership is \$30.00 for property owners, and \$25.00 for Associate Member (non-voting), supporters of the objectives of the Association. Membership forms and fees can be mailed or completed on our website.

The current year membership form is included in this newsletter along with a reply envelope. We really appreciate your response prior to the June 11th Annual Meeting.

Thank you for your continued support!

## Communications

By Gail Hagen, Secretary



Staying connected with our membership is a big priority for the Star Lake Property Owners' Association. To accomplish this, we offer you the following options to stay informed:

- ◆ Newsletters – We publish a newsletter two times each year, in the fall and spring. All of the board members and committees contribute articles for these newsletters. The newsletters are mailed to our membership and are also available to download on our website. Last fall, we started a new format and include a “Spotlight” article. If you have any suggestions for us to include in the newsletter, please let us know.
- ◆ Website – The Star Lake Property Owners' Association maintains a website: [www.starlakeassociation.com](http://www.starlakeassociation.com). Lots of information is available on our website including contact information for the Board of Directors, BOD Meeting dates and minutes, DNR Fishing Reports, Star Lake history, Star Lake water testing results, links to resources such as Otter Tail County Land and Resource, etc.
- ◆ Email – If you have chosen to provide your email address (which is NEVER shared) on your Membership Form, you will receive periodic email communications from SLPOA. We utilize email to communicate information about the Annual Meeting, Star Lake Picnic, opportunities to order Star Lake clothing, OTC County meetings related to Star Lake, and other information that we think will be of value to our membership.

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## Communications (Continued)

- ◆ USPS Mail – sometimes hardcopy and the mailbox are the best way to get information out to everyone. The Board of Directors went through the process of obtaining a Non-Profit Mailing Permit, so we are able to utilize the lowest post-age rates available when we prepare a bulk mailing. The Newsletters will be mailed, as well as Membership Forms. The mail may also be used as needed.
- ◆ Facebook – We recently started utilizing a Facebook Page and Facebook Group for The Star Lake Property Owners' Association. To be honest, it has been a challenge to be consistent with creating posts that are relevant for everyone – especially when its winter and you're down South! If you have an interest in helping us out – we could use it! Just let us know!
- ◆ Meetings – The Board of Directors meets once a month from April or May through October. The dates, times, location, agenda and minutes are posted on our website and anyone can attend. In addition, there is an Annual Meeting held in early June. This meeting is the kick-off for the new membership year.
- ◆ Membership Directory – A directory is published once every 3 years (the next one will be 2023) and is distributed to all active members. The directory includes the names, mailing addresses and phone numbers of all SLPOA members. It also includes the Star Lake Property Owners, addresses and maps as provided by Ottertail County. The cost to produce this directory is primarily covered by the revenue from advertisers.

It is not an easy task to keep up with all of the various ways to communicate with our membership! We're not perfect – but we strive to improve. If you would like to volunteer to help with our communication efforts, please let us know!

Thank you!



## Fisheries

By Steve Roth, Vice President



As this is being written, I am expecting the formal written results of the July 2021 test netting results are being posted. Hopefully by the time of this mailing, the results are available at:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/lake.html?id=56038500>

The raw results are available and have been reviewed by a number of interested individuals including past SLPOA President Gary Miller. His comments on overall fisheries and the effects of the annual Swamp Shark tourney have been included here:

- ◆ The Swamp Shark Tournament has had little to no impact on small Northern numbers. The netting results show a continued high number. Star Lake's number of 9.67 puts us in the 90+ Quartile for lakes in our class.
- ◆ Test netting had 108 Northerns taken that were under 22 inches. That puts us at 94% under 22 inches. The largest Northern netted was 33 inches.
- ◆ The weight per northern was 1.45 lbs. That puts our Northern population under the 10th Quartile for size. Basically, the results seem to indicate we have lots of small Northerns that are not growing very fast. Star Lake has Northerns and smaller Northerns than our compare group lakes.
- ◆ Perch numbers were 35th Quartile for number of fish and 20th Quartile for average weight. That is a slightly better outcome than past netting results.

(Continued on Page 11)



# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

## STATE OF STAR LAKE REPORT - APRIL 2022

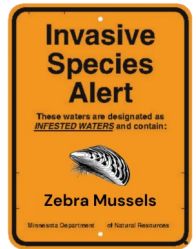
### (PULLOUT SECTION)



*This update has been prepared by the AIS Committee of the Star Lake Property Owners Association Board. The update is meant to provide an accurate AIS status (as of April 2022) for the waters of Star Lake and provide property owners with critical knowledge, language, and actionable steps to manage existing AIS and prevent (or prolong) the introduction of additional AIS into our waters.*

#### **A New Reality (2019)**

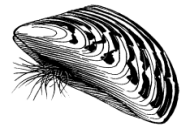
The dreaded scourge that many MN lake property owners have heard about, perhaps researched a bit, and, if on Star Lake, are likely experiencing – or soon will; **Zebra Mussels**. In 2019 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) placed those hard to miss ORANGE SIGNS at the public boat accesses on Star Lake declaring the lake as being infested with Zebra Mussels (ZM). This also happened to Round, Dead & Walker Lakes as all are downstream from West McDonald lake which was infested earlier. Otter Tail Lake was also infested earlier because of upstream infestation. The Otter Tail River of course flows eventually to the Red River and on it goes....



According to Otter Tail County (OTC) AIS Specialist Spencer McGrew, as of Dec 2021 OTC currently has 92 water bodies designated as infested with AIS, 89 of which have ZM and 3 have Flowering Rush (FR). Nine of the ZM infestations were new in 2021 – which computes to an OTC annual growth rate of plus 10%. **The good news is that OTC has no Eurasian Watermilfoil, Faucet Snails, Starry Stonewort, or Spiny Water Flea; other AIS of concern in MN.** We all need to practice due diligence to keep it that way!

#### **Zebra Mussel Present in Star Lake (2021)**

Last fall (2021) Star Lake Property Owners may have discovered ZM on their docks or lifts. In some cases, they were located under steps or in shaded areas away from the sun. Unfortunately, ZM will likely get worse before they will get better. It seems ZM abate a bit after 3-5 years (this from discussions with local lake service providers vs. any scientific data). Star is a clear water lake already, but ZM consume plankton which usually makes water clearer, thereby allowing sunlight to penetrate deeper, thereby promoting more plant growth at increased depths.



Zebra Mussel  
(*Dreissena polymorpha*)

#### **A Growing and Nearby Risk: Curly-Leaf Pondweed (CLP)**

CLP is an old but persistent invasive plant introduced in the U.S. in the 1800's likely from Eurasia, Africa, & Australia. This is an AIS that begins its growth cycle in late summer & grows well in cold water under the ice. This gives it an early spring growth advantage over competing plants. It thrives in water 15' or less and completes its growth cycle in late spring, with stalks disappearing by mid-July after flowering and dropping seed. Like most AIS there currently are no efficient methods to eradicate. However, CLP can be controlled via annual herbicide applications.



Did you know that 60% of the 4,721 acres of Star Lake water surface is 15' or less. This puts at risk most of the south arm, a good portion of the west arm, and certainly both sides of the channel at the Hwy 41 bridge. According to an article in the Pelican Press the terrible algae bloom on South Lake Lida in 2018 was attributed largely to CLP. It resulted in the waterway under Hwy. 108 becoming nearly impassable to boat traffic. Annual herbicide treatments in 2018-19-20 were funded by the POA at approximately \$20,000/year. The proposed annual budget for the new Lake Lida LID is \$50,000, of which \$30,000 is now designated for CLP control.

#### **Curly-Leaf Pondweed is a significant risk to Star Lake.**

Curly-leaf Pondweed is a prohibited invasive species in Minnesota, which means it is unlawful (a misdemeanor) to possess, import, purchase, transport or introduce this species except under a permit for disposal, control, research or education. View this interactive map to see how many of the lakes around Star Lake have CLP contamination. Most notable are Lizzie, North and South Lida, Dead, East Spirit, Otter Tail, Pine Lakes, West Battle, Clitherall, and many others. [www.eddmaps.org/distribution/viewmap.cfm?sub=6219](http://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/viewmap.cfm?sub=6219)

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) Continued

**Read below for simple steps that you can take to manage the spread of AIS into or out of Star Lake.**

### YEAR ROUND AIS AWARENESS

- ◆ Use this link to obtain a copy of MNDNR's current list of infested waters; then consult it PRIOR to your trip: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html)
- ◆ To learn more about AIS current events, visit the following websites:
  - ⇒ Star Lake Property Owners' Association (SLPOA): [www.starlakeassociation.com/invasive-species](http://www.starlakeassociation.com/invasive-species)
  - ⇒ Minnesota Lakes & Rivers (MLR) [www.mnlakesandrivers.org](http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org)
  - ⇒ Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations: <https://ottertailcountycola.org>
  - ⇒ Otter Tail County AIS Department: <https://ottertailcountymn.us.department/aquatic-ivasive-species/>
  - ⇒ Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center: [www.maisrc.umn.edu](http://www.maisrc.umn.edu)
  - ⇒ Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/index.html)

### IN TIMES OF TRANSITION (FALL/SPRING)

- ◆ If hiring someone to install or remove your dock and lifts, please ensure they are a certified "Lake Service Provider" (LSP). THIS IS A STATE LAW. Ask to see their LSP Certification Card. Also LSP's should have a window sticker on the lower left side of the windshield of their vehicle.
  - ⇒ See link for list of authorized LSP's: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/lsp/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lsp/index.html)
- ◆ If transporting water based equipment or motor craft that have invasive species attached, OTC requires you to obtain a permit that authorizes the transport of that equipment or motor craft.
- ◆ You may use one of the following general permits if you own a boat or equipment that requires transport to a location away from the water access for cleaning, repair, or storage. You may also use one of the following general permits if you are a shoreland owner transporting aquatic plants to a disposal location. These permits:
  - ⇒ Are for non-commercial use only (commercial users may need a Lake Service Provider Permit);
  - ⇒ Authorize the one-way transport of a boat, equipment or aquatic plants; and
  - ⇒ Are valid only one day.
- ◆ Contact OTC Land & Resource to download and print related permits:
  - ⇒ [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais\\_transport.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais_transport.html)
- ◆ A tip on cleaning zebra mussels from your equipment at the end of the season: let them dry for several days and then brush them off.

### IN TIMES OF ACTIVE LAKE USE (FALL/SPRING/SUMMER)

- ◆ When practical, do not leave anything in the water for an extended period of time. Zebra mussels attach to hard surfaces and occasionally to plants. Once attached to an object, zebra mussels rarely move, and if they do only a few feet.
- ◆ When leaving boats on lifts, raise your motor out of the water.
- ◆ Always practice **\*CLEAN\*\*DRAIN\*\*DRY\*\*DISPOSE!**
- ◆ Discourage "lake jumping". Likely not a popular proposal to some, but if you do visit another lake, plan on leaving your boat on the trailer and allow for it to dry for a minimum of five consecutive "dry days" prior to relaunching in Star Lake or any other lake.



## PULLOUT TO COMPLETE THE REVERSE MEMBERSHIP FORM

### To: **Star Lake Property Owners and Advocates**

Please consider renewing your membership or becoming a new member with the Star Lake Property Owner's Association (SLPOA) for June 2022 to May 2023.

**Our Vision:** Star Lake is a remarkable gift of created beauty and natural resource. The Star Lake Property Owners' Association and its Board of Directors are dedicated to its protection and enhancement for all citizens who wish to enjoy its benefits in this generation and for generations to come.

**Our Mission:** The Star Lake Property Owners' Association and its Board of Directors are committed to preserving this natural resource to include but not be limited to:

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

### **What does your membership fee provide?**

- ◆ It helps us continue our monitoring and testing of water samples for water quality
- ◆ It helps us buy, maintain, and place twenty-six water safety buoys (and we just purchased 6 more) in dangerous spots around the lake – thank you volunteers!
- ◆ It allows us to have members involved with aquatic invasive species training
- ◆ It allows us to promote and financially support shoreline restoration through a grant program
- ◆ It helps us support our volunteers for such projects as roadside cleanup, attendance at lake coalition meetings, and training sessions
- ◆ It helps us monitor and support the lake's fishery
- ◆ It allows us to maintain an information-packed website and communicate by email and Facebook on a regular basis with all membership keeping them posted on current events and items of interest
- ◆ It helps us publish two newsletters each year and an updated Membership Directory every three years that includes a listing of Star Lake property owners as provided by Otter Tail County
- ◆ It helps us hold an annual meeting and other social events during the year, such as the Swamp Shark Tournament in June, and a Star Lake Picnic in August

SLPOA organization is a not-for-profit entity. There are no paid staff - all work is completed by volunteers. The association exists only through your support. Please consider supporting our mission by becoming a member. Our membership year runs from June to May of each year.

Please return your completed Registration Form (on the reverse of this page) in the envelope provided, or complete the form and pay the membership fee on our website. Visit [starlakeassociation.com](http://starlakeassociation.com) and click on the **Registration** link to join or renew online.

May your summer of 2022 be filled with many memorable times with family and friends on Star Lake!

Regards,

Board of Directors  
Star Lake Property Owners' Association

**Star Lake Property Owners' Association, Inc.**

PO Box 155, Dent, MN 56528

**2022/2023 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 Quality
- \_\_\_ b. AIS Monitoring
- \_\_\_ c. Membership & Publicity
- \_\_\_ d. Water Safety (Includes 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 such newsletter articles, Spotlight features, Facebook or website changes, etc: \_\_\_\_\_

**USE BACK OF FORM IF NECESSARY**

This authorizes the Star Lake Property Owners Association to utilize my/our email address for official SLPOA communications.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM & MAIL WITH DUES PAYMENT TO:**

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!**

## Fisheries (Continued from Page 6)

- ◆ An area of concern is while test netting puts our number of walleyes at the 70th Quartile, we are only at the 25th for size. Of the Walleyes netted, 89% were less than 19 inches. Age class analysis shows it takes Walleyes 6-7 years to reach 19 inches. The largest netted approximately 23 inches.

Overall, I believe the DNR feels our Walleye population is solid. A comparison to prior years seems to indicate that the Walleye population is not as strong as prior years. Could it be from the Impact of too many small Northerns? Are zebra mussels starting to impact the food supply? Is the current stocking by the DNR enough to offset the quantity of fry that the Northerns and other predator fish consume? Should we be stocking fingerlings in the years the DNR does not stock fry?

I will be reaching out to the DNR and will have follow up with them. As Gary noted, there are some slight changes from the previous year's netting data that will be important to review. Our discussions with the DNR will help us understand the changes so that we can develop plans for managing the fishery to be as successful as possible.



## Fishing Ethics and Stewardship

(Source: MN DNR)

Fishing is more than catching. It is also important for anglers to be good stewards of Minnesota's natural resources. This means doing your part to support healthy lakes and rivers, preventing the spread of unwanted aquatic invasive species, practicing catch-and-release fishing and more.

Consider non-lead tackle: Many fishing lures and weights have been made from lead because of its relatively low cost, moldability and high weight-to-size ration. These days, however, many jigs, sinkers and other forms of tackle come in non-toxic alternatives. You should give these serious consideration because lead is toxic when ingested by humans, waterfowl, and other aquatic animals. Lead has adverse effects on the nervous and reproductive systems of animals. It takes only one lead sinker or jig to terminally poison a loon.

Environmentally safer alternatives to lead include materials such as tin, bismuth, steel, ceramic and tungsten-nickel alloy. If your fishing tackle provider does not stock lead alternatives, request that they do so. The Minnesota DNR website offers a list of manufacturers and retailers of nonlead tackle.



# Adopt-A-Highway

By JoLene Jean Kerr, Treasurer

Star Lake Property Owners' Association participates in Otter Tail County's Adopt-A-Highway Program. Twice a year, volunteers gather and pick up litter along County Highway 41 from South of 380th going North to the intersection with Highway 108.

This Spring, the ditch clean-up will be Saturday, May 21st. We are asking all volunteers to meet in the parking lot of Bell's Resort at 9:00 AM to receive trash bags.

Let's all take this opportunity to pick up all of the roadways, driveways and ditches surround Star Lake. A litter free Star Lake says "Welcome" to visitors, takes only a short amount of time, and makes us proud to be on Star Lake.



## Water Safety

By Tamara Pream, Director



Open water season is upon us, we are all looking forward to the enjoyment that brings. The SLPOA wants to remind everyone, due to low water levels still expected in 2022, we have added additional buoys for your safety. Please be diligent and careful on the water since we cannot predict what the water level changes will look like in 2022.

We also want to inform everyone there are times a buoy could break free. If you see buoys that have detached or floated to shore please contact a SLPOA board member as noted on our website: <https://starlakeassociation.com/contact>). All board members are happy to notify the appropriate volunteers to help get the buoys picked up and back into place.

Enjoy your time on the water this summer, we look forward to a great water sports season and catching up with many of you at the Annual Meeting!

## Dangerously Cold Water

Early season boating means you're on extremely cold water. Prepare for an unexpected fall overboard by always wearing a life jacket.

Over 30 percent of boating fatalities in Minnesota happen in cold water with a victim not wearing a life jacket. Falls overboard and capsizing are the most common causes of boating fatalities in the state. Males between the ages of 20 and 60 are the most likely to drown while boating, and are the least likely to be wearing a life jacket. Falling into icy water can be deadly because many boaters do not think about the effects of cold water immersion. Wearing your life jacket could be the single most important factor in surviving cold water. Without a life jacket, most cold water victims die long before they become hypothermic.

## Minnesota Personal Watercraft Laws

### You Must:

- ◆ Wear A USCG-Approved Life Jacket
- ◆ Travel at slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 of Nonmotorized boats, shore, docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat
- ◆ Operate only from 9:30 AM to 1 hour before sunset
- ◆ Use the cutoff lanyard properly
- ◆ Obey operator age and permit laws for those younger than 18 years old

### You Must Not:

- ◆ Chase or harass wildlife
- ◆ Jump the wake of another boat within 150 feet of the craft
- ◆ Operate a personal watercraft in a manner that endangers life, limb or property

# Shoreline Restoration

By JoLene Jean Kerr, Treasurer

As members of the SLPOA and property owners on Star Lake it is everyone's duty to be good stewards of our precious lake. That is why the Association established a program to help offset some of the costs when members address shoreline issues. The Lakescaping Grant Program information is located on our website ([www.starlakeassociation.com](http://www.starlakeassociation.com)), on the News and Events Page, with links in the upper left column. This program is funded in part from the generosity of our members through donations. Thank you to all that have donated in the past and to those that will donate in the future.

As the committee head of our program, I am going to provide two links for our members to access. These links give you ALL the information you will need and more.

- ◆ **East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District** manages the Shoreline Program and is your resource to help you assess your concerns on our property, come up with a planting design, and possibly cover up to 75% of the cost of installation, all at no cost to you. You can check out their services on their website, [www.eotswcd.org](http://www.eotswcd.org). It is fortunate for us that this wealth of information is at our fingertips.
- ◆ **Land and Resource Management** of Otter Tail County updated the Shoreland Management Ordinance effective July 1, 2021. This information is available on their website (<https://ottertailcountymn.us/>) and contains links to the online permit application process. Please familiarize yourself with this site. It covers every issue a lake property owner may run into and lists phone numbers to get assistance.

The SLPOA believes in and supports shoreline restoration. That is why we implemented our own program, the Lakescaping Grant Program, to help offset some of the costs of those wanting to improve shoreline issues. Once a property owner has developed a plan with the assistance of East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District, and all necessary permits have been approved by Land and Resource Management, the SLPOA member submits a formal request along with copies of their plans to the SLPOA President. Approved projects will receive up to \$1,000.00 with 50% paid at onset of the plan and 50% paid at the completion of the plan.

Shoreland restoration can return many desirable features to our shoreline:

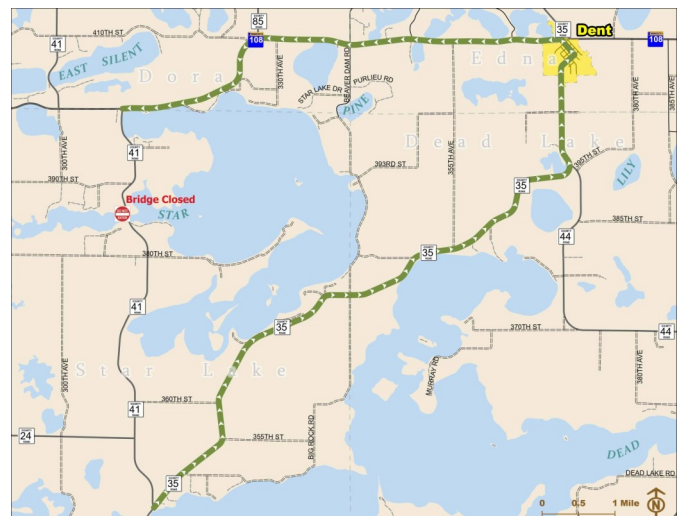
- ◆ Provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife
- ◆ Filter out pollutants and runoff that degrade water quality
- ◆ Prevent shoreline erosion by absorbing wave action
- ◆ Enjoy abundant nature: flowers, shrubs, trees, aquatic plants, fish, insects, birds
- ◆ More leisure time to relax and enjoy the nature of life at the lakeshore.

Enjoy the upcoming summer of 2022!



## STAR LAKE BRIDGE

The rebuild of the County Highway 41 bridge at Star Lake, began April 4, 2022. The bridge will be closed for the duration of construction and the public is asked to use the traffic detour. "Having to replace this bridge is unfortunate for our community," said Assistant County Engineer Matt Yavarow. "This is a well-traveled route for vehicles and watercraft. We ask for patience and to avoid the channel crossing when workers are present." Since they were able to start earlier than expected, he is anticipating they will complete the bridge sometime in July.



# SWAMP SHARK TOURNAMENT 2022

By Steve Roth, Vice President

BACK FOR #3! Returning for the third year will be the Star Lake "Swamp Shark" (small Northern) tournament. The tournament will be held on Saturday, June 18th, 2022. We will be able to accommodate up to 50 teams this year per the Minnesota DNR permit. The following are details:

1. The tournament may register up to 50 (2) person teams. At least one of the team members must be a currently paid SLPOA member. Membership is only \$30 for Star Lake property owners, and \$25 for Associate Membership.
2. We highly encourage helping children participate. The only restriction on family teams is that only two lines can be fishing at any one time. That means Dad/Mom, Dad/Daughter, Mom/Son, Son/Son, Daughter/Daughter, etc. You can certainly, rotate the people fishing and/or adults may act as guides for children during the tournament.
3. The tournament will be a catch and keep format per the MN Permit. All small Northerns (22 inches or less) caught must be cleaned or properly disposed of after check-in. They are not to be released to the lake.
4. Advance registration is required. There is no fee for entry. Watch for details to be posted on the SLPOA website.
5. You may begin fishing at 9:00 am anywhere on Star Lake that you select. You must check-in by 4:00 pm on tournament day.
6. Cash prizes (see below) will be awarded for the first ten teams to check-in with their twenty small Northern limits.
7. Each team that checks in with 20 Northerns will receive \$20.00 in Bell's Resort gift cards.
8. All teams will receive a Swamp Shark logo gift for participating in the tournament.
9. Each team member will receive a Swamp Shark Tournament T-Shirt. Sizes can be selected when submitting the tournament registration form. You MUST register to be eligible for prizes. You will be given a registration number when your registration is accepted. Additional T-Shirts will be available for purchase. Details will be posted to the SLPOA website.
10. All Northerns must be 22 inches or less to qualify. There will be an additional \$25.00 paid for the SMALLEST northern checked-in by an adult and \$25.00 paid to the youth (12 and under) checked in at the end of the tournament.
11. When you register, we encourage you to create a "unique" team name. There will be a \$25.00 cash award presented to the team the SLPOA Board judges to be the most unique.
12. Each person fishing is responsible for having the proper fishing license and safety equipment. SLPOA is not responsible for any fines or accidents related to the tournament.

Last year, the scheduled test netting by the MN DNR showed the continued growth of the number of small Northerns, which are the target of this tournament. Comparing the results to the 2018 test netting prior to the start of this tournament actually shows a growth in population of the targeted species.

The tournament is a fun way to utilize the abundant resources of Star Lake and not harm (and possibly improve) the overall Lake fishery. More information including the tournament registration form will be posted on our website, Facebook Page and distributed by email.



<b>1st Place:</b> \$150.00	<b>6th Place:</b> \$25.00
<b>2nd Place:</b> \$100.00	<b>7th Place:</b> \$25.00
<b>3rd Place:</b> \$75.00	<b>8th Place:</b> \$25.00
<b>4th Place:</b> \$50.00	<b>9th Place:</b> \$25.00
<b>5th Place:</b> \$35.00	<b>10th Place:</b> \$25.00



# ANNUAL MEETING

By Dick Fultz, President



Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 11th, 2022 and plan to attend the Star Lake Property Owners' Annual Meeting at Camp Joy. Don't eat breakfast before you come as Matt Larson from Camp Joy and his crew will have it all ready for you! They are planning to prepare scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages, fruit and coffee. And we'll have the award-winning Camp Aquila Pure Maple Syrup to enjoy with our pancakes!

Check-in and breakfast will begin at 9:00 AM, with the meeting running from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Drawings for the many door prizes will take place after the business meeting has adjourned. You must be present to win the door prizes.

One of our confirmed guest speakers is Kevin Scheidecker, Otter Tail County Assessor, who will share information about the function of the Assessor's office and the process that occurs to set evaluations for properties within Otter Tail County (specifically lake properties).

More information about the Annual Meeting will be sent out by email, posted on Facebook and our website.

See you at the meeting!



## AMAZON SMILE

By JoLene Jean Kerr, Treasurer



Remember to support the Star Lake Property Owners' Association when you shop on Amazon! Simply sign in to Amazon through [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your lake at no cost to you. You will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and shopping ease that you experience on Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a percentage 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 as the charitable organization. At the end of each month, Amazon will donate a percentage of the total purchase value to SLPOA. That's it! No fees, no obligations, no catch for you to help support your lake. We have a link on the SLPOA website to enable you to access the Amazon Smile site. AmazonSmile is available for Amazon customers with the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on their mobile phone, including Android devices. To activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app, simply tap on "AmazonSmile" within the Programs & Features menu or Settings and follow the on-screen instructions.

Thank you for your support!

### Grilled Walleye Recipe

I'm always looking for new ways to cook walleye or crappie that we've been lucky enough to catch on Star Lake. But my go-to method is very simple, yet delicious. You only need 4 ingredients: your favorite fish, olive oil, Roasted Garlic and Herb seasoning (I prefer the Weber brand, and pepper. That's it!

Just place your fish filets on a sheet of foil in a single layer, drizzle them with olive oil (you don't need very much), and season them with Roasted Garlic and Herb seasoning. Fold up the foil so that it

is completely sealed, creating a loose tent. Cook them right on your grill for about 10-12 minutes or until the fish is opaque (cooking time will vary based on the thickness of the filet).

The same seasonings are also great on fresh vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower, carrots or zucchini and they can be cooked on the grill in foil as well. Allow for about 20 minutes for the vegetables.

It's a quick and delicious meal that everyone is sure to enjoy!

# STAR LAKE APPAREL

By Gail Hagen, Secretary

We love Star Lake and don't mind showing it! In August of 2021, we launched an online store in partnership with LongWeekend Sportswear in Perham. Our Star Lake online store had a wide variety of apparel available such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, ¼ zips, pants, and caps in many color options. Sizes ranged from youth to 4XL.

Based on the level of interest from our membership, we are again opening up the online store. The online store will be open for approximately 3 weeks with clothing options for the summer. Orders will be shipped directly to customers in about 2-3 weeks after the store closes.

The online store will open prior to the Annual Meeting. We will alert you through email, Facebook, website and at the Annual Meeting. The store is not active now, but here is the web address:

<https://starlakesummer22.itemorder.com/>

Thank you!



## CALENDAR EVENTS

- May 14th** Fishing Opener for Walleye, Sauger and Northern Pike
- May 21st** Adopt-A-Highway Ditch Cleanup (Meet at Bell's Resort Parking Lot at 9:00 AM)
- June 11th** Annual Meeting, Camp Joy, 9:00: Breakfast; 10:00: Meeting
- June 18th** Swamp Shark Tournament
- Late August** Star Lake Picnic (Date in and location will be communicated)

STARlights

Editor: Gail Hagen

Send Address Corrections to:

SLPOA

PO Box 155

Dent, MN 56528-0155

[www.starlakeassociation.com](http://www.starlakeassociation.com)

Email: [secretary@starlakeassociation.com](mailto:secretary@starlakeassociation.com)

